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10 Soldiers Killed In Doda Highway Mishap

Vehicle was carrying troops for anti-terror operation



KO Web Desk

Bhaderwah- An armoured vehicle of the army carrying troops for an anti-terror operation plunged into a deep gorge in Doda district on Thursday, killing 10 soldiers and injuring 11 others, officials said.

The accident took place at the 9000-foot-high Khanni top along the Bhaderwah-Chamba interstate road around noon when the driver of the bullet-proof vehicle, Casspir, lost control and the vehicle plunged into a 200-foot-deep gorge.

The Casspir, also known as 'Casper', is a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle, designed to keep troops safe while navigating hostile environments with high mine or IED threats.

The Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps described the incident as "unfortunate" and said the | [More on P6](#)



PM Modi

"Deeply anguished by the mishap in Doda, in which we have lost our brave Army personnel. Their service to the nation will be remembered forever."



President Murmu

"The news of the death of Indian Army soldiers in a road accident in Doda is extremely tragic. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families."



Amit Shah

"I am deeply pained by the road accident in Doda. The injured jawans are being provided with the highest level of medical care."



LG Sinha

"Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of 10 of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate road accident in Doda. We will always remember their outstanding service and supreme sacrifice. My deepest condolences to the grieving families."

PM, President, Others Express Grief

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he was "deeply anguished" over the death of 10 Indian Army personnel in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district. The accident occurred around noon at Khanni Top, located at an altitude of about 9,000 feet along the Bhaderwah-Chamba interstate road, when | [More on P6](#)

Fresh Encounter Breaks Out In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A fresh encounter broke out between security forces and holed up terrorists during the ongoing search operation in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Thursday, officials said.

The operation was launched

in Sonnar village near Mandral-Singhpora in Chatroo belt on Sunday, leading to a gunfight that left one paratrooper dead and seven other soldiers injured.

A fresh contact was established with the holed up terrorists in the dense forests of Singhpora this morning, the officials said. | [More on P6](#)

Roofs Blown Off, Walls Collapse: Strong Winds Wreak Havoc In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Strong and gusty winds caused widespread damage across parts of north, south and central Kashmir on Thursday evening, with reports of roofs being blown off houses, vehicles damaged and power infrastructure disrupted, officials and locals said.

A sudden spell of high-intensity winds damaged several residential structures in parts of north and central Kashmir, including the Tangmarg and Khag belts, where roofs were ripped off houses and boundary walls and portions of buildings collapsed under the force of the gusts.



Similar damage was reported from parts of Pulwama, Kulgam, Budgam, Baramulla and Srinagar districts. Officials said electric cables were torn apart in several areas, leading to power outages in affected localities. The winds struck without

prior warning, triggering panic among residents. Several families rushed out of their homes fearing further damage as debris was scattered across residential areas. Preliminary reports indicated that no injuries were reported. | [More on P6](#)

Forest Fires Rage Across Kashmir

Multiple forest fires, driven by strong winds, erupted at multiple locations across

KPDCL Issues Advisory As 80% Power Supply Disrupted

Gusty winds that swept across the Kashmir Valley late Thursday evening disrupted

Srinagar Horror: Son On Umrah Watches Mum Killed On CCTV

KO Web Desk

Srinagar- A son's worst nightmare allegedly played out on a phone screen thousands of miles away, as Rashida Begum (65) of Srinagar's Nowshera area was brutally murdered on Thursday, January 22, 2026 — with her son in Saudi Arabia performing Umrah and reportedly watching helplessly on CCTV.

Police said Rashida, wife of Lateef Ahmad Gangoo, was alone at her home in Mud Bagh, Nowshera at the time of the attack. Her son was away in Saudi Arabia for Umrah,



RASHIDA LATEEF (65)

while her husband was at his shop in Lal Chowk.

According to an official, the domestic help allegedly hit

Rashida with a bat, leaving her unconscious, and later slit her throat. The accused then fled with Rashida's mobile phone.

Narrating the horrific incident, Rashida's son-in-law Shafat told local news agency KNO that Rashida had been in contact with his wife until 11 am. "After lunch, I sent the children and my wife to her house and by the time they arrived, she was lying in a pool of blood with her throat slit," he said.

"I received a call from my wife regarding the incident. When I arrived, I saw the horrific scene,

Rice Rolls In Anantnag Welcomes Its First Full Goods Train

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Northern Railway's Jammu Division transported a 42-BCN goods rake loaded with rice to Anantnag from Sangrur (Punjab) in 24 hours, boosting freight movement in the valley, an official said on Thursday.

Senior Commercial Manager Jammu, Uchit Singhal, said the successful arrival of the full rake of food grain wagons

from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is a "historic moment" for Jammu and Kashmir.

"The first 42-BCN rake strengthens regional logistics capacity and is set to improve the availability of essential commodities for traders and the general public," he said.

In the coming times, he said, the operation of FCI food grain trains by the railways will play a major role in providing a | [More on P6](#)

CM Chairs Cabinet Meet, Okays Excise Policy No New Liquor Vends, Rs 127 Cr Revenue Target



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet on Thursday cleared the Excise Policy for 2026-27, approving a

proposal under which no new vends will be opened, sources said.

The Cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah | [More on P6](#)

To Meet MLAs For Pre-Budget Inputs

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Finance portfolio in Jammu & Kashmir, will consult Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to seek their suggestions and inputs as part of the pre-budget exercise for 2026-27.

According to the schedule, the Chief Minister will hold separate meetings with MLAs representing North Kashmir, South Kashmir, | [More on P6](#)

Silver's Surge Rewrites Old Markets in Kashmir & Beyond

As prices rise from ₹20,000 to over ₹3,00,000 a kilogram, silver's return links downtown workshops, family cupboards, digital trading, and a global industrial squeeze.

Irshad Mushtaq

Srinagar: Manzoor Zargar stands behind a low wooden counter in Srinagar's downtown, turning a dented silver plate slowly in his hands.

Faded floral patterns catch the light, recalling years when the plate appeared at weddings and family gatherings before spending long stretches wrapped away.

The shop carries the smell of metal dust and polish. Shelves behind him hold bowls, trays,



begin by asking for the rate that now determines the value of a metal once taken for granted.

The path to this moment unfolded over years.

Around 2011, silver climbed toward ₹55,000 to ₹57,000 per kilogram before cooling between 2015 and 2018 to roughly ₹37,000 to ₹41,000.

After 2020, prices crossed ₹60,000, moved toward ₹80,000, and then accelerated into what analysts describe as a super cycle, shaped by industry and investment.

"This rise rests on fundamentals," said Anil Mehta, a Mumbai based commodities analyst who tracks industrial metals. "Silver now sits at the center of energy, electronics, and finance at the same time."

What appears on rate boards in Srinagar reflects forces far beyond the city.

Industry now accounts for more than half of global silver demand, according to data from international commodity research firms.

Electronics | [More on P6](#)

SMVD MBBS ROW

Relief For Students As BOPEE Fixes Counselling Date

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major relief for 50 MBBS students affected by the revocation of permission granted to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) has announced January 24 as the date for fresh counselling to adjust them in government medical colleges across the Union Territory.

Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah said the government has resolved the college allocation issue for the affected students. "With BOPEE now issuing the counselling schedule, the selected candidates can move ahead with their studies," the Chief Minister's Office said in a post on X.

According to a notification issued by BOPEE Controller of Examinations Prof Gurvinder Raj Verma, the 50 supernumerary seats will be allotted strictly on the basis of the candidates' NEET-UG merit and their preferences. | [More on P6](#)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT OFFICER. CHADOORA

Subject: Extension of date of receipt of application forms for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centre's of Poshan Project Chadoora Phase 4th.

Reference: This office Advertisement Notice No. 02-of 2025 dated 31-12-2025 issued under endorsement No.CDPO/Poshan/Chd/2025/Adv/1300-1311 dated 31-12-2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to poor response to this office above referred advertisement notice No.02 of 2025 dated 31-12-2025, where under application forms were invited for recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) against the vacant posts already published vide above mentioned advertisement notice. In this context it is hereby informed to all concerned candidates who are interested to apply against the said posts that the date of submission and receipt of application forms is hereby extended for a period of 10 days and the last date of receipt of application forms shall be up to 31-01-2026 at 4.00 PM from the date of publication of this public notice.

The other terms and conditions shall remain same as per above referred advertisement of this office.

Sd/=
 Child Development Project Officer
 Chadoora.

No.-CDPO/Poshan/Chad/2026/Adv/53-66
 DIPK-10267/25
 Dated: 22-01-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE SHOPIAN
PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Launch of SHe-Box Portal and Constitution of Internal Complaints Committees (ICC).

The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, has launched the SHe-Box Portal on 29th August 2024. This portal is designed to function as a centralised repository for monitoring complaints and data related to sexual harassment of women at the workplace, in accordance with the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

In light of the above, all Government and Private Offices/Establishments in district Shopian including educational institutions, are hereby requested to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at their respective workplaces as mandated under the Act.

Further, the complete details of the constituted ICC (including names, contact details, date of constitution/reconstitution) may be shared at admshopian-jk@jk.gov.in within a period of one week from the issuance of this Notice.

This initiative is aimed at ensuring a safe and dignified work environment for women.

Dated: 21.01-2026

DIPK-10286/25 dated: 22-01-2026

Sd/- Dr Zakir Hussain,
 JKAS Addl. District Magistrate Shopian

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name Mahjabeena Maqsood to new name Syed Mahjabeena Maqsood . In future I will be known as Syed Mahjabeena Maqsood. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the PASSPORT OFFICE SRINAGAR within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Syed Mahjabeena Maqsood
 W/O Syed Eazaz Nasir BMG
 R/O Syed Mohalla Narbal Magam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, JAVID AHMAD PANDITH R/O SAIL, hereby inform the general public that I am applying for the issuance of Birth Certificate of my daughter. Her Name and Date of Birth has been wrongly mentioned in the Aadhaar Card as Sania NOWBHAR DOB:-11-09-2008, instead of his correct detail, SANIA NAWBHAR PANDITH DOB:- 11-08-2008.
 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:- SANIA NAWBHAR PANDITH
D/O:- JAVID AHMAD PANDITH
R/O:- SAIL
DOB:- 11-08-2008

NOTICE

I, Fancy Jan, R/o: Pokhrabal Botakadal, Srinagar, do hereby inform the general public that I had opened a Savings Account with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Lalbazar Mouli Stop Branch, bearing Account No. 15101040100013399, under the name Fancy Fayaz. I now intend to change my name from "Fancy Fayaz" to "Fancy Jan" in the records of the said bank.
 If any person has any objection to this change, he/she may approach the concerned bank branch or the relevant authority within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained and the change shall be deemed final.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name ABDUL RAHMAN LONE S/L..ABDUL GANI PARRAY R/O HAIL THINDIMA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001262 wants to be registered on my FAYAZ AHMAD LONE S/O ABDUL REHMAN LONE R/O HAIL THINDIMA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name..FAYAZ AHMAD LONE
S/O... ABDUL RAHMAN
R/O..HAIL

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بھائی انگریفٹ زیر کزن یومر نمبر 0206010006507 جو کہ میرے دادا کے نام پر یعنی محمد انور علی گھم بیگ کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام پر یعنی محمد انور علی گھم بیگ کے نام پر کر دینا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایک بیکوٹیکوٹو نمبر یعنی ڈی ڈی بی ڈی گام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ مینا گڈرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 ظہور احمد بیگ ولد عبد الصمد سٹاک سٹاک نال چل بڈ گام
 فون۔ 9622675482۔ MBC_

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بھائی انگریفٹ زیر کزن یومر نمبر 0206010006507 جو کہ میرے دادا کے نام پر یعنی محمد انور علی گھم بیگ کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام پر یعنی محمد انور علی گھم بیگ کے نام پر کر دینا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایک بیکوٹیکوٹو نمبر یعنی ڈی ڈی بی ڈی گام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ مینا گڈرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 محمد انور علی گھم بیگ
 سٹاک سٹاک نال چل بڈ گام فون۔ 7006749205۔ MBC_

AI is the Biggest Shift Ever—Work as We Know it Ends: Cisco

Press Trust Of India

Davos— Calling AI the most profound platform shift in human history, a top Cisco executive said it will change the way we live our lives, but there are some constraints that need to be addressed.

Speaking to PTI here during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, the technology giant's President and Chief Product Officer, Jeetu Patel, said every job will get reconfigured, and every workflow is going to change due to AI. But most people grossly overestimate the impact of these technologies in the short term, while in the long term they tend to massively underestimate it, he cautioned.

He listed three major constraints: infrastructure, trust, and data gaps.

"The first constraint is you just don't have enough infrastructure; there's not enough power, computing and network bandwidth in the world to fulfil the needs of AI. The second big constraint is there's a trust gap. What I mean by the trust gap is that if you can't trust these systems, you're not going to use them. And so security and safety become prereq-



The first constraint is you just don't have enough infrastructure; there's not enough power, computing and network bandwidth in the world to fulfil the needs of AI

uisites for the adoption of these systems," he said.

"And then the third area is what we call the data gap, as so far these AI models have been trained on human-generated data that's publicly available on the internet. While that'll continue, we are starting to run out of human-generated data being publicly available on the internet," he said. "So what people are doing is that these models are evolving to have

synthetic data, and then you also have machine data, which will be a very, very prominent area because as agents get more and more prolific, you'll have the agents generating logs of activity. That'll go into machine data, and so you'll have a lot of time series data that you need to make sure that you factor in and merge that with human-generated data so you can have additional insights that come out," he said.

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Trip Tonic Kashmir S

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Rubeneena Bano W/o Mudasar Ahmad Darzee R/o Pattan intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S trip tonic kashmir s under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate , Qualification Certificate, pan cardr \ Experience Certificate(Minimum 5years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

/ Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :-2093 2006 6479 has been wrongly mentioned as Rafeeqa Begum instead of Rafiqa Banoo . Now I am applying for its Correction as per J&K BOSE DOB Certificate and Domicile Certificate . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Rafiqa Banoo.
 D/O.Gh Ahmad Kalo
 W/O. Mohammad Shaban Sofi
 R/O :- Kohru ,Tehsil :- Langate
 Distt :- Kupwar. Pin Code:- 193302 J&Kashmir

fko

از نیابت بومی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب محمد عبداللہ چو پان ولد غلام محمد چو پان ساکنہ تھری پھلی بار بمبراد عطا لگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بجتن ہر او بیس

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملمندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمرہ چو پان چویش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی چو پان ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن تھری پھلی بار میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ ساکن کا کنڈیڈیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے محمد عبداللہ چو پان ولد غلام محمد چو پان مزدوری 65 سال
 ہاجرہ بیگم زوجہ محمد عبداللہ گھریلو کام 60 سال
 اویس احمد پسر زیر تعلیم 22 سال
 عبداللطیف پسر 30 سال
 ظہور احمد پسر 26 سال
 محمد اشرف پسر 28 سال

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کنڈیڈیل ممبر آرمڈنی 6,000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیار یا عزیار ہو تو وہ بعد مشہور اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عزیار عزیار عزیار حد اکوفٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عزیار عزیار قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
NEW CAMPUS BEMINA, SRINAGAR

The candidate whose photograph is reports that she lost her qualification certificate having the following description Roll No.890491,Class:10th year/session: Dec-1997 Regd.No S-95-37307-8139,Name Shahnaz Parentage: Gulam Ahmad Sheikh / Asha, D.O.B:11-07-1980, Bachi Darwaza, Srinagar. Now the candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate qualification certificate. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained. (Besides, the "qualification certificate " bearing serial no 778884 is/are treated as "cancelled"



Sd/-Deputy Secretary Certificates,KD.

از نیابت بومی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب عبدالرشید قاسم ولد عبدالملک ساکنہ سیلو بمبراد عطا لگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بجتن صاحب رشید

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملمندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC FOR سرٹیفکیٹ چویش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی قاسم ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سیلو میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ ساکن کا کنڈیڈیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے عبدالرشید قاسم ولد بدل سلام مزدوری 50 سال
 ہاجرہ بیگم زوجہ عبدالرشید گھریلو کام 45 سال
 شافیہ رشید دختر زیر تعلیم 33 سال
 شازید رشید دختر 18 سال
 صاحب رشید پسر 17 سال
 صاحبہ رشید دختر 13 سال

سائل مذکورہ OBC حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کنڈیڈیل ممبر آرمڈنی 6500 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیار یا عزیار ہو تو وہ بعد مشہور اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عزیار عزیار عزیار حد اکوفٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عزیار عزیار قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

از نیابت بومی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب غلام قادر چو پان ولد غلام محمد چو پان ساکنہ تھری پھلی بار بمبراد عطا لگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بجتن اولادان تبسم قادر شاہ بہتہ قادر

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملمندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمرہ چو پان چویش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی قادر ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن تھری پھلی بار میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ ساکن کا کنڈیڈیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے غلام قادر چو پان ولد غلام محمد مزدوری 55 سال
 سعیدہ بیگم زوجہ غلام قادر گھریلو کام 53 سال
 تبسم قادر دختر زیر تعلیم 21 سال
 شاہ بہتہ قادر 21 سال

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کنڈیڈیل ممبر آرمڈنی 6,000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیار یا عزیار ہو تو وہ بعد مشہور اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عزیار عزیار عزیار حد اکوفٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عزیار عزیار قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

Private Diagnostic Labs Warn of Closures Over 'Excessive' Sanitation Fees

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Private diagnostic laboratories in Srinagar have raised serious concerns over what they describe as arbitrary and excessive sanitation and pollution-related charges, warning that the mounting financial burden is pushing many small laboratories to the brink of closure.

The Kashmir Private Diagnostic Centres Association (KPDCA) has now sought the urgent intervention of Minister for Health Sakeena Itoo, demanding immediate relief and a rollback of what they term as "unaffordable and unjustified" fees.

According to the association, the sanitation fee imposed by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was increased manifold in 2019, with no corresponding improvement in services.

Before September 2019, diagnostic laboratories were paying around Rs 1,800 annually as sanitation charges. However, a revised tariff issued on September 18, 2019, fixed the sanitation fee at Rs 2,000 per month, amounting to Rs 24,000 per annum, irrespective of the size or scale of the laboratory, the association said.

The sanitation fee has effectively been increased more than tenfold at a time when our businesses were already battered by economic slowdown," a member of the delegation representing diagnostic labs told KNO. "For small labs earning only a few thousand rupees per month, this is nothing short of financial strangulation."

The association has questioned the logic behind charging diagnostic centres hefty sanitation fees when most of their waste is already being handled by licensed biomedical waste management companies.

"Our major waste is biomedical, not household garbage," said Rouf Rangrez, State President of KPDCA. "We already pay around Rs 16,500 annually to biomedical waste han-

dlers—Rs 7,000 as collection charges and Rs 800 per month as service fee. Despite this, SMC charges us another Rs 24,000 annually. We are effectively paying twice for the same service."

Rangrez further questioned what additional services the municipal corporation is providing to justify such charges. "If our biomedical waste is collected by a Laspipora-based agency, what extra sanitation service is SMC giving us?" he asked.

The association has also highlighted the imposition of pollution control fees, stating that before 2019, Kashmir enjoyed certain exemptions that protected small healthcare establishments from excessive compliance costs.

"Today, diagnostic centres are forced to pay more than Rs 13,000 annually to the Pollution Control Department, without receiving any tangible service in return," the association stated in a representation. "We request the government to reconsider and restore the earlier exemptions that were in place before 2019."

KPDCA has pointed out that diagnostic laboratories in other states and Union Territories pay significantly lower sanitation charges.

"In states like Punjab, Goa, and Himachal Pradesh, labs pay barely Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,500 annually as a sanitation fee," Rangrez said. "Why is Jammu and Kashmir being singled out and asked to pay as much as Rs 36,000 per year under different municipal heads?"

He said that earlier, diagnostic units were paying around Rs 2,400 annually as municipal charges, which have now increased to an unaffordable level post-2019. "This rule seems to apply only to J&K. Elsewhere, the charges are nominal," Rangrez added.

The association has appealed to the Health Minister to intervene and address the grievances of diagnostic centres, many of which cater to low-income patients.



Men, Machinery on Standby as Srinagar Prepares for Snowfall

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to gear up the District Administration and allied machinery to effectively deal prevailing winter conditions and the current weather advisory, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb on Thursday convened a meeting of District and Sectoral Officers here at the Conference Hall, Kashmir Haat.

The meeting was attended by Commandant SDRF, Masroor Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner/CEO DDMA, Aadil Fareed, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Director IMD, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, SDM East, SDM West, Executive Engineers of KPDC, PHE, R&B, MED, SMC, Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, BDOs, AC Food Safety, AD FS&CA, besides other senior officers from Traffic Police and Civil Administration.

At the outset, the DC and SMC Commissioner reviewed and finalized the arrangements for timely snow clearance across the district to ensure uninterrupted vehicular movement. A comprehensive review of winter preparedness was also conducted including healthcare facilities, power and water supply, availability of medicines,

A comprehensive review of winter preparedness was also conducted including healthcare facilities, power and water supply, availability of medicines, ration, fuel, LPG, and other essential services."

ration, fuel, LPG, and other essential services.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on taking measures well in advance so that routine functioning at all essential installations, besides trade, transport, essential supplies and other public services remains unaffected during snowfall.

Special instructions were issued to ensure adequate arrangements for the observance of Friday following Shab-e-Meraj at major shrines, including Dargah Hazratbal, as well as for the smooth conduct of Republic Day celebrations in the district.

All the line departments were asked to keep men and ma-

chinery on standby to promptly address any possible issues in water supply, electricity, and road connectivity caused by snowfall. Directions were also given on fully making functional control rooms across the district to ensure swift redressal of winter-related public grievances. In addition, the stress was laid to ensure a prompt response system in place to ensure hassle-free supply of essential services to the people.

The meeting was informed that sufficient hi-tech snow clearance machinery has been deployed by R&B, SMC, and the Mechanical Engineering Department at vital installations, with additional machines kept in reserve for emergencies. Permanent and mobile dewatering stations operated by SMC, along with UEED pumps, are also functional to tackle waterlogging and to meet any exigency during heavy snowfall.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to ensure availability of medical staff, medicines, ambulances, and proper functioning of central heating systems in all hospitals. Engineers of KPDC were asked to maintain uninterrupted power supply, especially at essential installations, and ensure quick restoration in case of outages.

It was further informed that Jal Shakti schemes are functioning smoothly, with adequate backup arrangements to maintain uninterrupted water supply.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
2-Shaban
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 07
ZUHR	12:42
ASR	4: 12
Magrib	5:53
ISHA	7: 17

Paras Srinagar Performs Kashmir's First ICG-Guided Axillary Mapping



Riddhi Verma

Srinagar: Paras Health Srinagar has performed what it described as Kashmir's first fluorescence-guided Reverse Axillary Mapping (RAM) using Indocyanine Green (ICG) dye during complete axillary nodal clearance in breast cancer surgery. The procedure was carried out under the leadership of Dr. Shabnam Bashir, Director - Surgical Oncology, at Paras Health Srinagar. Hospital officials said the technique represents an advance in precision breast cancer surgery aimed at reducing post-operative complications, particularly arm lymphedema.

Axillary lymph node removal is commonly performed in breast cancer surgeries but can affect lymphatic drainage from the arm, increasing the risk of lymphedema, a long-term swelling condition. According to the hospital, ICG-guided RAM enables real-time visualisation of lymphatic pathways, helping surgeons differentiate lymph nodes draining the breast from those maintaining cancer control.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date: 16.02.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
20.01.2026	02.02.2026	16.02.2026 & 15:00 Hrs

Tender No.	Details of Tender		
223-2025-26-DEN-TRACK-FZR	Supply of 30,000 cum 65 mm gauge stone ballast (Mechanically broken) and loading into rail rakes/BOBS at the goods siding, Hoshiarpur on JRC-HSX section under ADEN/JRC.		
Advertised Value ₹	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
3,42,98,700.00	3,21,500.00	60 Days	06 Months

Similar Nature Work: "Supply of machine crushed stone ballast for Railways/Highway/Roads".

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 223-2025-26-DEN-TRACK-FZR Date: 21.01.2026

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE 233/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Aadhaar card bearing No. 792998509206 as Naaza Begum instead of my correct name Naziya Bano. Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file them in the concerned Aadhaar Centre within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained. Naziya Bano W/o Fayaz Ahmad Ahangar R/o Diver Yakhmanpora fko_r

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION KAKAPORA (I & F C DEPARTMENT)

Notice inviting e-Tender Short term e-NIT No:- 29 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in single Cover System) on percentage (%) basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with the J & K Government for the following work to be opened by the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora;

S No	Name of work	Estt. Cost (in lakh)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of Doc. (in.)	T/M.H of Account	Time of Completion	Class of contract
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
1	Construction of flood protection work on both sides of Trichal Branch of sasara Nallah at Tenghar RD 2450m (Latitude 33° 51' 50"N, Longitude 74° 55'20.50"E). (Fresh of e-NIT No 25 of 2025-26 (Sr No 01))	19.54	39080/-	800/-	UT Capex Budget DMRRR Pulwama	(20 days)	BEE/CEE
3	Construction of flood protection work by way of toe crates on Right side of Lar Nallah at village Narwa RD 3200m (Latitude 33° 51' 13.50"N, Longitude 74° 55'05 "E). (Fresh of e-NIT No 25 of 2025-26 (Sr No 03))	6.32	12640/-	300/-	UT Capex Budget DMRRR Pulwama	(15 days)	CEE/DEE
3	Construction of flood protection bund on both sides of Trichal Branch of sasara Nallah at village Danger Mohalla Tenghar RD 3830. (Latitude 33° 51' 46.50"N, Longitude 74° 55'42.50 "E). (Fresh of e-NIT No 25 of 2025-26 (Sr No 04))	11.42	22840/-	500/-	UT Capex Budget DMRRR Pulwama	(15 days)	BEE/CEE/DEE
4	Restoration of Sloughed embankments BWO18.09 Earth filling on right side of River Jhelum at Khankah bagh at Spots RD 56Km	18.09	36180/-	800/-	UT Capex Budget DMRRR Pulwama	(20 days)	BEE/CEE
5	Restoration of damaged spots on left side of Sasara Nallah at Chatripora RD 150m	4.99	9980/-	300/-	UT Capex Budget DMRRR Pulwama	(15 days)	DEE

No of works:- No.05 No's
Position of AAA:- Accorded by DDC Pulwama vide order Issued No.DCP/2SDRF/PUI/2355-63 dated 22-12- 2025 (Sr No (01 to 03) & DCP/2025-26/SDRF/PUL/2421-427 dated 15-01-2026 for Sr No 04 & 05)
Technical Sanction: Sanctioned vide this office order No.15 of 2025-26 issued under No.FCDK/6874-80 dt.26-12-2025 (Sr No 01 & 03) Order No 017 of 01/2026 dated 22-01-2026 (Sr No 01 & 02) .
Position of funds: Budgetary Provision 2025-26

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	22/01/2026 from 1800 Hrs
2.	Date of start of downloading	22/01/2026 from 1800 Hrs.
3.	Bid submission start Date Technical/Financial	22/01/2026 from 1800 Hrs.
4.	Bid Submission end date	29/01/2026 up to 1800 Hrs.
5.	Date & Time of opening of Tenders	30/01/2026 at 1100 Hrs.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non-Refundable/ Non-transferable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan/ receipt (mentioning therein NIT No, S No of work and Adv. Cost of work) & date on it must not be prior to date of issuance of this tender Notice, and Earnest Money Deposit (2% of the Advertised cost) in the shape of the CDR at the time of tendering, both to be pledged to Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora. All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

Sd/-
No. FCDK/CS/ 495-508
DIPK-10302/25 Dated:- 22-01-2026
(Er. Farooq Ahmad Ganie)
Executive Engineer
Flood Control Division Kakapora

In the Memory of Deceased Mother

18th December 2025

Mother's courage: Her Fight against Cancer

The battle fought was long & deep with strength and faith you bore the pain of Cancer. Days filled with pain, exhaustion, and uncertainty, yet you faced each one with quiet determination. Even when your body weakened you remained strong you endured countless treatments, hospital visits and long nights, never losing sight of what mattered most—your family. Mother you are free from all the earthly strain. Cancer took you away. Rest Now O soul at peace

Gulshan Syed daughter of Mir Syed Saeed Hamdani Son of Mir Syed Hussain Hamdani whose lineage directly connects to Mir Syed Mohd Hamdani (RA) son of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (Ameer Kabeer)™.

Born into a respected Syed ancestry, her life reflected the values passed down through generations humility, patience, faith This heritage was not something she spoke of often, but something she lived every day through her character and actions.

Few Stanzas from a poem of Dr Sir Muhammad Iqbal which I am dedicating in the Memory of my Deceased mother.

The Universe is bound by fate

Every Particle in existence is chained by destiny
What we call human planning & effort
Is often only a disguise for helplessness
The sky, the sun & the moon are all bound
Even the swift stars move only
Along paths laid down for them.

Death as a universal teacher

Death does not single out the weak alone
It is the law written over all creation
Every living thing must bow to it
From kings to beggars from stars to mothers.

Faith beyond the grave

If there is life beyond this dust
Then her kindness has not vanished
If deeds endure
Then her love still breathes.

A Mothers love as Moral Formation

She taught me without speeches
Guided me without commands
Her tenderness formed my conscience
Her faith anchored my soul

The sons Vulnerability

Without her, the world feels colder
Success tastes thinner
The heart stands more exposed
Before life's storm

Submission, Not Despair (Closing Resolution)

I accept your decree, lord yet my tears still fall
Grant me patience without numbness
Faith without hardness
Strength without forgetting love.

Tajamul Farooqi (Son)

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Screened Lives

Kashmiri mothers today speak a new language of care. Conversations revolve around online classes, digital worksheets, learning videos, and enrichment apps that promise sharper minds and brighter futures.

Parenting now feels organised, informed, and modern, but doctors across Srinagar are seeing a different picture emerge inside their clinics.

Eye specialists describe a steady rise in children arriving with tired eyes, blurred vision, headaches, and early signs of strain that once appeared much later in life.

The push toward constant digital engagement, meant to give children an advantage, is beginning to pull them toward discomfort and fatigue.

This shift did not appear overnight. The pandemic reshaped homes into classrooms and offices at the same time. Screens became teachers, colleagues, and companions. Even as schools reopened and offices resumed partial physical work, habits stayed.

Children returned home to tablets and phones. Parents continued remote jobs. Evenings that once held outdoor play and long walks now lean toward glowing screens that rarely switch off.

Eye doctors in Srinagar say children arrive earlier and more frequently than before. Many struggle to focus on distant objects. Some complain of burning eyes and recurring pain.

Clinics in areas such as Karanagar and other parts of the city have expanded or opened anew, responding to growing demand. The spread of these facilities reflects medical enterprise as well as a wider health signal that deserves attention.

The issue stretches beyond children. Young adults now crowd orthopaedic and ophthalmology clinics, speaking about stiff necks, shoulder pain, and constant headaches. Laptops sit low on beds. Phones stay tilted near chests. Hours pass without movement.

Bodies carry the cost of workdays spent leaning forward and nights spent scrolling further. Doctors describe posture-related strain as a regular feature rather than an exception.

Screens no longer sit outside daily life. Work, learning, payments, and communication depend on them. A healthier balance still needs space. Eyes require distance and rest, muscles need movement and alignment, and minds need variation across the day.

These ideas sound simple, but daily routines often ignore them. Many families remain unaware of how habits shape health until discomfort arrives. A society that normalises frequent illness linked to routine choices pays a heavy price over time.

Productivity weakens, healthcare costs rise, and children grow into adults carrying physical strain that began early.

Conversations around parenting and progress need to include physical wellbeing alongside academic success.

Doctors across Kashmir increasingly share the same message. Screens demand discipline rather than constant use. Breaks, outdoor time, posture awareness, and limits matter across ages. Families, schools, and workplaces all shape this environment together.

A healthier future depends on recognising that care also means knowing when to look away.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Markets in Motion

How everyday investors can approach MCX and NCDEX markets with strategy and insight.

Irshad Mushtaq

Tradable commodities like gold, silver, copper, and crude oil online on exchanges such as MCX and NCDEX has captured attention in recent years.

These platforms let traders buy and sell contracts based on underlying commodities without holding the physical goods. The appeal lies in the ability to benefit from price movements while investing only a fraction of the contract value.

Each contract comes with a set expiry date. Traders can choose to close positions, roll over contracts, or take delivery as deadlines approach.

Margins, usually between six and ten percent of the total contract, determine the initial investment, while gains and losses are calculated on the full value.

Mini contracts open doors for smaller investors, making participation accessible. Daily mark-to-market settlements ensure positions reflect current prices, requiring active attention to maintain margins.

Options trading adds another layer. Investors can hedge against potential price swings or speculate within a controlled risk framework.

Success depends on careful planning, strong market knowledge, and awareness of geopolitical events that shape commodity prices. Companies and individuals alike use options to manage exposure and protect against sudden cost increases. High rewards come with significant challenges. Studies show most traders face losses due to weak strategy or limited understanding. Effective approaches rely on disciplined money management, clear risk planning, and staying updated on regulations governing MCX and NCDEX.

Consider gold futures: buying a contract at eight percent margin allows gains from full contract movement, rather than just the invested margin. Crude oil options illustrate hedging: rising prices increase option value and offset costs.

Commodity derivative trading is an intricate market that rewards informed and deliberate action. Investors who approach it with curiosity, strategy, and continuous learning can explore opportunities while handling its complexities responsibly.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Worn Thin in the Ward

As patient fees rise, private hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir pay nurses below legally mandated wages, defying Supreme Court and Health Ministry directives and fuelling a silent workforce crisis.



Ummar Jamal

H healthcare workers here and across India watched closely as the Government of Jammu and Kashmir issued a formal order in December 2023 to revise pay and working conditions for nurses in private hospitals.

This was meant to align local practice with a decade-old judicial mandate and service rules developed by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The committee formed under that order was to offer guidance within thirty days.

But many months later, its findings and recommendations have not appeared in any public record. And this absence has amplified a long-standing issue that deserves sustained public focus.

Nurses are the frontline of patient care. They respond to emergencies, calm anxious family members, and perform critical procedures through long shifts.

In large private facilities nationwide, the average nurse earns between 20,000 and 50,000 per month depending on experience and hospital type.

But in Jammu and Kashmir, reported average pay for a nurse is approximately 22,000 per month. Some private duty nurses here are documented at similar rates.

Even those figures tell only part of the story. Independent salary surveys across India show private hospital pay widely varies by city, bed strength, and ownership. Smaller clinics and nursing homes often maintain much lower wages.

In many such facilities the baseline can sit well below 20,000, creating a stark contrast with government hospital scales that often start above 30,000 for comparable roles.

This contrast was at the heart of a landmark judicial step taken on 29 January 2016, when the Supreme Court acknowledged widespread wage disparities and work-condition issues among nurses in private healthcare institutions.

The Court directed the Health Ministry to form a High-Level Committee to study these conditions and propose solutions.

Acting on that order, the Ministry convened a panel in February 2016. Its mandate was to gather data from states and union territories to advise on fair pay scales and standardised service terms that would protect nurses working in private settings.

After deliberation, the committee reached firm conclusions. It said private hospitals often lacked structured pay scales for nurses, a reality that failed to reflect their critical role in patient care. Bed strength formed the basis for proposed pay frame-

works. For hospitals with more than 200 beds, the panel recommended salaries equivalent to those of state government nurses holding the same grade.

Facilities with 100-199 beds were to offer pay within 10 percent of government rates, while those with 50-99 beds were to stay within a 25 percent margin.

All establishments, including those with fewer than 50 beds, were to provide at least 20,000 per month, with working conditions, leave entitlements, and ancillary benefits aligned with government standards.

The committee's recommendations also explicitly covered working conditions. Hospitals were to ensure duty hours, leave provisions, medical care, and transportation support that matched or approached the standards enjoyed by government nurses.

Those well-considered suggestions formed a roadmap designed to make private healthcare systems more equitable and professionally sustainable for nurses and by extension for patients.

However, implementation has not followed with corresponding vigour or reach.

Kashmir's private health sector runs on informal pay and fragile contracts, a system that strips nurses of bargaining power and leaves them taking whatever wages hospitals decide to offer.

Many young professionals join the workforce with degrees, diplomas, and specialised training only to find earnings lower than the national esti-



Private hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir, like many across India, operate in competitive, high-cost environments that demand rapid service turnover. When this market pressure is combined with weak regulatory action on wages and work conditions, the system puts upward pressure on patient bills while offering downward pressure on employment terms.

mates of 20,000 and far below government scales for equivalent jobs.

These trends matter beyond paychecks.

Numerous peer-reviewed studies from within Indian hospitals show that work-life quality among nurses directly correlates with those with structured support and clearer remuneration.

In one hospital survey, private hospital nurses with wages between 5,000 and 20,000 per month reported significantly lower job satisfaction and higher burnout compared with those with structured support and clearer remuneration.

A pervasive outcome of this differential is workforce instability. High turnover, frequent job hopping, and the loss of experienced nurses to either government service or opportunities abroad weaken the overall quality of care.

Facilities that claim high "nursing charges" in patient bills often fail to link those charges transparently with compensation for nursing staff.

Reports from larger Indian cities show examples where total daily rates billed under nursing categories far exceed the monthly salaries nurses actually receive, indicating financial flows that bypass direct remuneration for caregivers.

Private hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir, like many across India, operate in competitive, high-cost environments that demand rapid service turnover.

When this market pressure is combined with weak regulatory action on wages and work conditions, the system puts upward pressure on patient bills while offering downward pressure on employment terms.

The government order of late 2023 was a step toward recognition of these imbalances and a move to align local practice with national commitments.

The delay in producing actionable guidelines and transparent enforcement structures deprives nurses of predictable career pathways, reinforces wage gaps, and sustains a model that undervalues essential caregiving skills.

A sustained commitment to implementing existing frameworks, including transparent monitoring and periodic review of pay scales tied to cost of living and professional growth, would reflect both policy coherence and practical respect for those who serve at the heart of health systems.

The author is the National President of the J&K Students Association. He can be reached at umarjama1968@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Autos Are Connecting Rural Kashmir Like Never Before

In the remote lanes of Kashmir countryside, auto-rickshaws have become part of daily life. These villages once felt distant, but now vibrate with movement as these small vehicles carry people, goods, and ideas along winding paths.

Long walks turn into smooth rides, and trips that once took hours now fit into daily routines. Each ride opens doors that used to remain closed.

Reaching a school, market, or hospital used to take hours along trails through hills, forests, and fields. Elderly people, women, and children faced the longest journeys, and rough terrain often slowed travel.

Families organized their days around walking, and simple chores demanded

careful planning. Opportunities were always within reach, but reaching them required strength, and time.

Today, autos are changing that pulse of life. Students reach campuses easily, farmers move fruits and vegetables efficiently, and patients arrive at hospitals with speed that saves precious moments.

Each ride brings safety, comfort, and a chance to take part fully in modern life. Daily errands turn into manageable routines, and the whole community feels the change.

These vehicles also speed up a larger story of transformation.

Roads, electricity, and internet access connect villages to towns and cities, while social media and digital tools allow people to learn, interact, and explore op-

portunities. Children can access education and skill-building almost as easily as students in urban areas. Adults discover ways to earn, innovate, and contribute to the local economy. The world opens, and villagers begin to imagine futures filled with possibilities.

India's progress in agriculture, entrepreneurship, science, and technology inspires young people even in the remotest corners. The Chandrayaan mission in 2023 shows that ambitious goals are within reach. Autos make those dreams practical by connecting communities where larger vehicles cannot go.

They steer narrow lanes, operate at low cost, and create work for drivers and mechanics, strengthening village economies.

The story of autos in Kashmir is about connection, opportunity, and hope. Every ride reflects communities stepping forward, bridging distances that once seemed far away, and linking people to education, work, and new experiences.

Transport changes daily life, shapes aspirations, and brings villages closer to the wider world.

These small vehicles carry big possibilities and a brighter path for everyone in the valley.

Sincerely,

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

If Shakespeare Were Writing The Winter's Tale in Kashmir

Amid prayer flags, frozen lakes, and hissing forests, the Bard of Avon's timeless tale of jealousy, love, and reconciliation comes alive in Kashmir.

Dr Ratan Bhattacharjee

If Shakespeare were writing his classic in Kashmir, the story would open beside a frozen Dal Lake, where shikaras rest under a low sun and chinar leaves blaze red against the falling snow.

Winter in Kashmir would watch and listen, shaping the lives it touches. The air would keep its secrets, holding footprints in the snow until they vanish.

Shakespeare's presence in India stretches back to colonial times, when Kashmiri and Urdu playwrights like Agha Hashr Kashmiri began weaving his plots into local music, verse, and cultural patterns.

These adaptations made Shakespeare accessible to South Asian audiences, and the influence continues.

Kashmiri artists reinterpret his works to explore the social and political currents of their time.

Themes of ambition, revenge,

into reality.

Hermione would speak with the measured calm of Kashmiri grace, her presence as warm as kahwa in porcelain cups. When accused, she would remain like a chinar in snow, upright and unshaken.

Polixenes would arrive from the plains beyond the Banihal Pass, bringing memories of summer and sun. Their boyhood vows beside rivers would reverberate through the play's music, with santoor strings recalling days before suspicion.

Jealousy would arrive like a sudden storm, blinding and relentless, and the king would find his mind locked against reason.

The oracle would speak from a shrine high above the valley, where prayer flags flutter in the wind and pilgrims climb icy steps to ask the mountain what it knows. Its verdict would resound across the ravines, reaching the king only when loss teaches him to listen.

Mamillius would fade like De-



ences, showing that global classics can illuminate regional realities.

Kashmiri theatre groups have also brought creativity to stage adaptations.

MAAG, a verse adaptation of Macbeth staged at Tagore Hall in



BEYOND LITERATURE, SHAKESPEARE'S RELEVANCE IN KASHMIR CONTINUES IN THEATRE AND CINEMA. Vishal Bhardwaj's film *Haider* reimagines Hamlet in Kashmir, turning the rot of Denmark into a reflection of local turmoil. The adaptation made Shakespeare accessible to modern audiences, showing that global classics can illuminate regional realities.

Srinagar under Arshid Mushtaq, presented ambition and moral collapse in the Kashmiri language.

These performances demonstrate that Shakespeare is beyond a relic of classrooms.

The Bard of Avon is a living art, bridging tradition and modernity.

—The author is an International Tagore Awardee and former Affiliate Faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University. He can be reached at prfratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

KASHMIRI THEATRE GROUPS HAVE BROUGHT CREATIVITY TO STAGE ADAPTATIONS. MAAG, a verse adaptation of *Macbeth* staged at Tagore Hall in Srinagar under Arshid Mushtaq, presented ambition and moral collapse in the Kashmiri language. These performances demonstrate that Shakespeare is beyond a relic of classrooms. The Bard of Avon is a living art, bridging tradition and modernity.

love, and mortality find resonance in a land shaped by history, hostility, and humanity.

Cinema, stage adaptations, and earlier dramatizations prove that Shakespeare's stories remain a mirror for Kashmiri society.

Leontes would become a king of the valley, a man whose authority rises with the rivers and fades in the cold. His jealousy would grow from whispered fears and border tensions, from a dread of loss imagined

ember light, and grief would fall heavier than snow on rooftops already burdened.

Exile in Kashmir would extend beyond geography.

Perdita would be left at the edge of a forest, where deodars whisper old laws. The bear, emblem of judgment, might appear as a shadow in snowfall, as the valley remembers how myth and reality walk together.

A shepherd would find the child, hands scented with wool and

woodsmoke, a man who understands the moods of weather better than the moods of kings.

Time would enter like a chorus in a pheran, smiling at the audience with snow in his beard.

Sixteen years would pass with the patience of a thaw. Perdita would grow among alpine meadows where spring arrives briefly and fiercely, and crocuses push through last year's sorrow.

Her beauty would emerge from life itself, luminous and earned.

The sheep-shearing festival would become a fair, alive with saffron sellers, apple growers, and songs that blend Persian melancholy with folk joy.

Florizel would fall in love within a land steeped in history. Love in Kashmir understands the cost of seasons and blooms with attention.

Disguises would succeed easily, as even kings and princes know the necessity of humility.

Flight from discovery would fol-

low ancient paths, through pine tunnels and mountain passes, away from watchful eyes.

The return to the court would bring winter again, softened by repentance.

Leontes would age, his voice thin and frost brushing his beard. He would move through the palace like a pilgrim circling regret.

The statue of Hermione would rest in a hall open to the garden, light falling through latticed windows, snowmelt tracing its own rhythm.

Paulina would guard truth with the force of a winter wind, refusing to let it fade.

When the statue awakens, it would feel inevitable, like the turning of seasons.

The valley knows resurrection as a cycle, rather than a miracle. Reconciliation would arrive gently. Forgiveness would fall like the first snowfall after a drought, sufficient and astonishing. Father and daugh-

ter would recognize each other in the spaces between words. The court would breathe once more.

Shakespeare in Kashmir would write a play in which statecraft lurks in every glance without naming itself, jealousy becomes a shifting weather, women instruct through presence, and time heals even as it shapes.

Mountains would offer their soliloquies, understanding tragedy and mercy better than men.

When the curtain falls, winter would stay, older than kings, kinder than suspicion, waiting for the valley to remember how to become spring.

But beyond literature, Shakespeare's relevance in Kashmir continues in theatre and cinema.

Vishal Bhardwaj's film *Haider* reimagines Hamlet in Kashmir, turning the rot of Denmark into a reflection of local turmoil.

The adaptation made Shakespeare accessible to modern audi-

Double Blessing

Twin daughters showed that blessings often come in pairs and in unexpected ways.

Bashir Ahmad Dar

AS CELEBRATION FILLED THE HOUSE, MY THOUGHTS RETURNED TO MY FATHER'S WORDS FROM YEARS AGO. His question resounded with new meaning, shaped by lived truth rather than argument. Twin daughters had brought double happiness, double pride, and double reason to believe that faith combined with love never goes unrewarded.

In 2008, my elder brother became the father of twin daughters, and their arrival brought both joy and fear into our home.

The girls entered the world weak and silent, barely able to cry. Their tiny bodies struggled to announce their presence.

Doctors saw them again and again in those early days, as my brother searched for reassurance that they would survive.

Fear guided our days then, and names felt premature, as if naming them too soon might tempt fate.

Though born together, the twins looked so different that even strangers could tell them apart from a distance.

One had fair skin and thin, lightly coloured hair that seemed slow to grow, and she came to be called Aayina.

The other appeared weaker at birth, but her scalp carried thick, full hair, and her strength began to show sooner than anyone expected. She was named Irtiqia.

Life, it seemed, had already decided to tell two different stories through two small bodies.

As often happens in Kashmir, relatives arrived with concern that carried an old social bias beneath polite words.

Twin daughters, some said, meant double responsibility, spoken in the language of worry rather than affection.

A few even suggested adoption, presenting the idea as

help, though it sounded more like pity than kindness.

Such thinking never found space in our home, because our family had always raised daughters with pride and care.

Anxiety lived only in their health, never in their gender.

During one such visit, a couple sat with my father and spoke at length about the twins, their future, and the supposed burden they carried.

My father listened without interruption, then spoke in a tone that closed the discussion without raising his voice.

God, he said, does not give life without planning its survival, and blessings never arrive without sustenance.

Twin daughters, he asked them, deserved to be seen as double joy, rather than double worry, because where there are daughters, there is light in abundance.

Time did what time does best. The girls grew stronger in body and sharper in mind. Their laughter filled rooms that once held worry.

Schooldays passed with scraped knees, ink-stained fingers, and the innocent games of childhood. Grass blades and dock leaves became gifts for imaginary guests, matchboxes turned into bricks baked under the sun, and pebbles transformed into meals shared during play.

Those scenes stayed with me, even as the girls moved from one class to another.

When the JKBOSE Class 10



THIS MOMENT BELONGED TO THE GIRLS, BUT IT ALSO BELONGED TO EVERY PARENT WHO CHOSE FAITH OVER FEAR, and to every child whose worth was measured by courage rather than custom. Daughters deserve celebration not as exceptions, but as blessings in their own right, worthy of honour simply for being who they are.

results were announced a few days ago, the moment carried meaning beyond marks. Matriculation no longer holds the prestige it once did, often reduced to paperwork for future

forms, but this year it felt different. The results stood as proof of years shaped by effort and belief. The same children who once built worlds from dust

now stood on the edge of adulthood.

Technical problems delayed the results, and the family gathered in the kitchen, where tea cooled untouched as minutes

passed. Conversations faded, eyes moved toward phones, and hope filled the room like incense before prayer.

When the results finally appeared, joy swept through the space with a force no one could contain.

Smiles broke into laughter, arms reached out, and pride found its voice.

Both girls scored above 95 percent, with Aayina topping the village at 97 percent and Irtiqia following closely behind.

As celebration filled the house, my thoughts returned to my father's words from years ago.

His question resounded with new meaning, shaped by lived truth rather than argument.

Twin daughters had brought double happiness, double pride, and double reason to believe that faith combined with love never goes unrewarded.

Old sayings often hold their power because they survive experience, and one rang especially true that day: where daughters thrive, homes prosper.

This moment belonged to the girls, but it also belonged to every parent who chose faith over fear, and to every child whose worth was measured by courage rather than custom.

Daughters deserve celebration as blessings in their own right, worthy of honour simply for being who they are.

—The author is a teacher by profession and can be reached at darbashir1234321@gmail.com.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

10 Soldiers Killed

vehicle slipped off the road while navigating treacherous terrain in bad weather.

A joint rescue operation by the army and police recovered the bodies of four soldiers, while 17 others were evacuated to a hospital in an injured condition, the officials said. The vehicle was badly mangled by the rescue team.

Later, six more injured soldiers succumbed to injuries.

While 10 of the injured were airlifted to Udhampur command hospital for specialised treatment, one more soldier is under observation in Bhaderwah sub-district hospital and his condition was stated to be "stable", the officials said.

"We have lost 10 soldiers with 11 others injured in the unfortunate accident involving an army vehicle," Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Sumit Kumar Bhutyal told PTI.

"In an unfortunate incident, an army vehicle carrying troops for an operation slipped off the road while navigating treacherous terrain in bad weather in the general area of Doda. There are multiple casualties, including fatalities. The injured have been evacuated for further treatment," White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed grief over the accident.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Doda in which we lost 10 brave soldiers of the Indian Army. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," the defence minister said in a post on X.

Singh said the injured soldiers are receiving medical care, and all necessary directions have been given to ensure the best possible treatment.

Abdullah lauded the swift rescue and evacuation efforts. He also conveyed condolences to the families of the soldiers who died and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

LG Sinha, in a post on X, said, "We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers."

"In this moment of profound sorrow, the entire nation stands united with the bereaved families in solidarity and support," the LG said, adding he had directed the senior officials to ensure the best possible treatment.

Expressing sadness over the accident, Congress president Kharge called for strengthening road safety measures to prevent such deaths.

"My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and loved ones. The nation stands united with deep sorrow and our thoughts and prayers are with the injured for a speedy recovery."

"Several such instances have happened in the past. There is an urgent need to strengthen road infrastructure, improve mobility in difficult terrain, and road-safety measures to prevent such heartbreaking losses," he said.

Democratic Progressive Party Azad said, "My deepest condolences to the bereaved families, and I pray for the swift recovery of those injured."

The army's Northern Commander said the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, and all ranks of the Command salute the bravehearts and express heartfelt condolences on the untimely demise of soldiers who lost their lives in the unfortunate vehicle accident.

"Northern Command fraternity stands in solidarity with the bereaved families and wishes speedy recovery to those injured in the accident," it said in a post on X.

PM, President, Others

the driver of a bulletproof vehicle lost control and the vehicle plunged into a nearly 200-foot-deep gorge, officials said. "Deeply anguished by the mishap in Doda, in which we have lost our brave Army personnel. Their service to the nation will be remembered forever," the prime minister said in a post on X. He also wished a speedy recovery to the injured and said all possible assistance was being extended to those affected.

President Droupadi Murmu expressed deep sorrow over the deaths and extended condolences to the bereaved families. "The news of the death of Indian Army soldiers in a road accident in Doda is extremely tragic," she said, praying for the early recovery of those injured.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said he was "deeply pained" by the incident and informed that the injured soldiers were being provided the highest level of medical care.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the entire nation stood in solidarity with the bereaved families. He said 10 injured soldiers were airlifted to hospital and senior officials had been directed to ensure the best possible treatment.

"Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of 10 of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate road accident in Doda. We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers. My deepest condolences to the grieving families," a post by the official X handle of the LG Office said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed deep grief over the tragic accident. He conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to those injured, lauding the swift rescue and evacuation efforts.

Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on also expressed grief and wrote, "Deeply saddened to hear the tragic news from Doda, where an army vehicle met with an accident, claiming the lives of 10 brave soldiers and leaving several others injured. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, and prayers for the swift recovery of the injured."

Earlier, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh and Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla also expressed grief over the loss of lives.

Roofs Blown Off,

though property damage was substantial in certain pockets. Locals said household belongings were damaged after roofs were torn off and walls gave way under pressure from the winds.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department issued an orange alert for several districts of Jammu and Kashmir for a brief period, warning of thundershowers, lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 50-60 kmph, accompanied by moderate rainfall.

An official said the strong winds also uprooted trees, damaged rooftops in several residential areas across the Kashmir Valley and parts of the Jammu region, and triggered forest fires at a few locations.

The MeT department said Srinagar and Jammu airports recorded gusty wind speeds of up to 83 kmph and 37 kmph, respectively, in association with a fresh western disturbance.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said the winds were not localised or temperature-driven but were linked to a dynamically strong western disturbance carrying intense wind fields within the system.

The forecaster said while gusty winds may ease in a few areas over the next few hours, many places are likely to continue experiencing strong winds till the early morning hours on Friday.

An official said police personnel were deployed on the ground to clear roads and assist residents after strong winds caused roofs of several houses, complexes and buildings to cave in at various places.

"Police teams from the concerned stations are ensuring smooth traffic movement and providing timely assistance to affected residents," the official said.

In view of the prevailing inclement weather and adverse forecast, the Srinagar district administration advised people to refrain from venturing out unnecessarily and avoid movement on roads.

The public has been asked to contact the District Emergency Operation Centre Srinagar or the Police Control Room in case of any exigency and to strictly follow the advisory.

Forest Fires Rage

Kashmir Valley, officials said on Thursday. High-velocity winds are rapidly spreading wildfires in several areas, particularly in south Kashmir, officials said.

Mohammad Ashraf Katoo, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kulgam, who is holding additional charge of Anantnag, said that forest fires are raging at two locations in Anantnag district—Manzmoh and Verinag—while three spots in Kulgam district, including Lammer, Akhal and Pranhah have also been affected.

He said teams of the forest department have been pressed into service and efforts are underway to contain the blaze.

KPDCL Issues Advisory

electricity supply in more than 80 per cent of the region, officials said.

An official said that the power supply was severely affected due to high-intensity winds, forcing the department to curtail electricity as a safety measure. "Due to the gusty winds, we are supplying nearly 300 megawatts against a demand of around 1,900 megawatts," the official said.

The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) had earlier issued a weather advisory warning of possible temporary power disruptions across parts of Kashmir due to strong winds.

In a statement, KPDCL said electricity supply may be suspended intermittently to prevent accidents and damage to the distribution network during adverse weather conditions. The utility urged residents to remain cautious and avoid contact with loose or hanging electric wires, electric poles, transformers or fallen power lines. People were also advised to unplug electrical appliances during voltage fluctuations.

Officials said multiple 33 KV and 11 KV lines developed faults across the Valley due to the winds, while several feeders were deliberately tripped as a precautionary step. The 33 KV Shadimarg line was reported down after damage caused by a collapsed rooftop, while all 33 KV lines from the Lassipora and Shopian grid stations were under fault.

The official said all feeders were off in Shopian, and all 33 KV lines emanating from the Awantipora grid were affected. In Gulmarg, the Nihalpora-Gulmarg 33 KV line was tripped due to heavy winds in Tangmarg and adjoining areas.

Several other grid stations across north and central Kashmir also witnessed outages, resulting in shutdown of 11 KV feeders in multiple localities. However, officials said electricity supply to essential services was being maintained.

"KPDCL field teams are on high alert. Restoration work will be taken up on priority once weather conditions improve and it is safe to resume operations," the official said.

The power utility appealed to consumers for patience and cooperation, stressing that precautionary shutdowns were being carried out strictly in the interest of public safety. (KNO)

Rain, Snowfall

warned of the possibility of heavy rain or snowfall accompanied by gusty winds and hailstorms in some districts of the Pir Panjal range, Chenab Valley and south Kashmir. An advisory has been issued cautioning about the risk of landslides at a few vulnerable locations.

Meanwhile, independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said a strong western disturbance is likely to impact the region from Thursday afternoon, bringing widespread

rain and snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the update, the system is expected to first affect higher reaches of north Kashmir before spreading to most parts of the Union Territory by night. There is a high probability of snowfall across the Kashmir plains and parts of Poonch, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Kathua, while the Jammu plains may receive moderate to heavy rainfall.

Although the western disturbance is expected to weaken within 24 hours, snowfall intensity could remain high during this period due to elevated moisture levels. The peak impact is likely from late Wednesday night till Thursday afternoon, with residual rain or snow possible in some areas until the morning of January 24.

The forecast also warned of a sharp drop in temperatures, which may trigger a cold wave and lead to prolonged cold conditions across the region for the remainder of the month.

Separately, weather expert Sonam Lotus said weather conditions would remain largely normal during the day but are expected to deteriorate from late Thursday evening with the onset of widespread rain and snowfall.

Lotus said the plains of Kashmir may receive snowfall ranging between five to six inches, while upper reaches are likely to witness heavy snow accumulation. Higher-altitude areas, including Zojila Pass, Gulmarg and parts of Kupwara, are expected to receive two to three feet of snowfall, he said.

He added that the Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal region are also likely to experience heavy snowfall during the spell. Lotus advised people to remain alert and take necessary precautions, particularly those travelling through mountainous routes, warning that surface and air transportation could be disrupted.

He further cautioned that electricity supply in several areas may be affected due to heavy snowfall and strong weather activity, urging residents to remain prepared for possible inconveniences during the coming days.

Multi-Layered Security

the strengthened security grid, police personnel have been deployed at strategic points across the Valley, with particular focus on Srinagar.

Special checkpoints and mobile patrol units have been activated, where thorough checking of vehicles and individuals is being carried out. Officials said night patrols and surprise inspections have also been intensified to maintain heightened vigilance and deter any attempt to disturb public order.

Additional deployments have been made in sensitive areas, with security agencies closely monitoring suspicious movement, they added.

The police have appealed to the public to cooperate during security checks and verification procedures and urged people to immediately report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station or the Police Control Room.

Over 3,600 Killed

Atal Dulloo to review the implementation of road safety measures recommended by the Supreme Court.

Dulloo sought a detailed assessment of compliance with the apex court's directions and stressed the need for extensive use of GIS-based data to identify vulnerable and accident-prone road stretches.

"Such data-driven identification will enable focused technological and physical interventions to significantly reduce road accidents, especially in hilly districts," he said.

Briefing the meeting, Transport Department Secretary Avny Lavasa said that since the operationalisation of the Integrated Road Accident Database (i-RAD) portal in June 2022, a total of 20,135 road accidents involving 32,819 persons have been recorded in the Union Territory.

These accidents resulted in 3,688 deaths and 29,131 grievous or minor injuries, he said. Lavasa said data analysis showed that most accidents occurred between 3 pm and 9 pm, while rash driving and over-speeding accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the mishaps reported during 2025.

Sharing enforcement statistics, he said 40,197 challans were issued in 2024 and 52,543 in 2025, with fines amounting to Rs 10.15 crore and Rs 15.88 crore respectively. Major violations included riding without helmets, driving without seat belts, use of mobile phones while driving, over-speeding and jumping red lights.

In 2025 alone, 1,528 vehicles were seized, 1,641 driving licences suspended, 10,439 vehicles blacklisted, 1,192 registration certificates cancelled and 300 route permits revoked, he added.

Inspector General of Police (Traffic) M Suleman informed the meeting about the surveillance camera network and traffic signal systems operational in Jammu and Srinagar.

He said the Traffic Police issued 14,92,591 e-challans in 2025, 15,03,901 in 2024 and 12,36,380 in 2023. Fines collected amounted to Rs 85.16 crore in 2023 and Rs 145.12 crore in 2025. Besides, 15,947 vehicles were seized in 2025 for violations of the Motor Vehicles Act.

According to an official spokesperson, the chief secretary directed departments to leverage traffic and accident data to guide targeted safety interventions, including engineering corrections at identified black spots.

Road construction agencies, including the National Highways Authority of India, Public Works Department and Border Roads Organisation, were asked to brief the administration on the removal of accident-prone black spots.

Dulloo also reviewed the installation of safety signage and speed-limiting devices in school buses and called for strict enforcement against habitual violators to ensure deterrence. (PTI)

Srinagar Horror:

and the police arrived soon after," he added.

Shafat said Rashida's son was informed about the murder while he was in Saudi Arabia for Umrah. "When he was informed about the incident, he accessed the CCTV footage linked to his phone and helplessly watched what had happened," he said.

He also said Rashida's husband was not present at home at the time, as he was at his shop in Lal Chowk. "He later returned home after being informed," Shafat added.

Meanwhile, one of Rashida's neighbours said he first heard about the incident around 4 pm and rushed to the house, where cries and chaos filled the area. He said eyewitnesses had seen the domestic help first hitting Rashida with a bat, leaving her unconscious, and then slitting her throat.

Police said the accused Gorab Malakar, resident of Assam, was traced using the mobile phone he had taken from Rashida after the murder. Rashida's body was found inside her home and later shifted to SKIMS Soura for a post-mortem and other legal formalities.

A team from the Soura Police Station launched a manhunt to apprehend the suspect. "The accused has been arrested and further investigation is underway," police said, adding that a case has been registered. - With inputs from KNO

Fresh Encounter

They said heavy firing between the two sides was going on when last reports were received and efforts are on to neutralise the terrorists operating in the area.

A major terrorist hideout was unearthed near the scene of the encounter on Monday and several individuals were picked up for questioning, the officials said.

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

Anantnag Welcomes

strong foundation for the economy. "Such successful initiatives will boost the grain supply chain and the distribution network in the valley," Singhal said.

Public Relations Inspector of the Jammu Division, Raghvender Singh, said a food grain goods train of the FCI with 21 BCN waggons had earlier reached Anantnag Goods Terminal on December 21 from Ajitwal Goods Shed of the Firozpur division. It carried approximately 1384 tonnes of weight, he said.

Strengthening this food supply chain further, he said, a full rake of rice, weighing 2768 tons, was loaded from Sangrur Goods Shed of the Ambala division on January 21, reaching its destination within 24 hours without any hindrance and in much less time compared to road transport.

He said the railways and the FCI have jointly initiated this food grain goods train service for Kashmir.

CM Chairs Cabinet

at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed key administrative proposals ahead of the forthcoming budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Sources said the Excise Policy approved by the Cabinet is expected to generate additional revenue of Rs 127 crore during the next financial year while maintaining the existing number of vendors across the Union Territory.

The Cabinet also discussed the address to be delivered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on February 2, the opening day of the Budget Session of the Assembly. As per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the lieutenant governor addresses the Assembly at the commencement of the first session of each year.

Besides the excise policy, the Cabinet authorised the Tourism Department and the Public Works (R&B) Department to sign an extended Memorandum of Understanding with the Border Roads Organisation under Project Beacon for completion of pending works on the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra track.

Sources said the Cabinet also gave its nod to the creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to undertake operation and management activities of the proposed Urban Water Transport System on the River Jhelum.

In another decision, the Cabinet approved the construction of a residential school for the wards of the pastoral population at Doombwani in Shopian district. The project will be executed at an estimated cost of Rs 27 crore, sources added.

To Meet MLAs For

and Central Kashmir on January 23 and 24. As per the meeting notice, Omar Abdullah will tomorrow chair a meeting with MLAs from Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Budgam districts at the Civil Secretariat between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM. On January 24, the Chief Minister will first meet MLAs from Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, and Pulwama districts between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

Later in the day, he will hold consultations with MLAs from Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora districts from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The Chief Minister is also expected to hold similar meetings with MLAs from the Jammu region next week to seek inputs for incorporation into the budget.

Silver's Surge

rely on silver for connectors and circuit boards used in phones, appliances, and communication equipment. Solar energy depends on silver paste applied to photovoltaic cells, tying demand directly to renewable expansion.

Electric vehicles and modern power systems consume more silver per unit than earlier technologies, while medical applications continue to expand through coatings and

hygiene products.

"Silver moved from display shelves to supply chains," Mehta added. "That shift tightened demand in ways traditional markets were never built to absorb."

Supply has struggled to keep up because most silver comes as a byproduct of mining copper, lead, zinc, or gold, so production cannot rise quickly when prices climb.

New mining projects take years to start, and as industrial use grows alongside investor demand, shortages continue, pushing rupee prices higher after currency conversion and duties.

"Silver reflects how economies change," said Renu Khanna, an economist who studies commodities and energy systems. "It links household savings, manufacturing pressure, renewable targets, and investor behavior into one piece."

Back in Srinagar, those global forces reach kitchen tables and family discussions.

Farah Tariq, a homemaker from the old city, recently brought a pair of thick silver bangles to a local dealer after hearing daily updates on rates. The bangles came from her mother and sat untouched for years.

"I never thought of them as something valuable," she said. "Now everyone looks at silver with new eyes."

Households across the city share that realization.

Scrap payouts remain lower than headline prices because buyers account for refining costs, impurities, margins, and risk.

Plain, heavy items such as solid bangles or utensils fetch stronger rates than ornate pieces with stones or mixed materials.

Even so, the amounts involved have shifted how families think about what they own.

"Our elders always said silver would help the household," Farah said. "For a long time, that sounded like an old belief. Today the numbers explain it clearly."

Silver holds deep roots in Kashmiri life.

Families once displayed silver bowls, trays, samovars, and utensils during weddings and gatherings. Women wore silver jewellery to achieve richness without the cost of gold. Artisans engraved chinar leaves, floral motifs, and calligraphy, turning everyday objects into heirlooms.

That culture weakened as tastes changed and gold gained attention.

Many silversmiths survived on repairs and small commissions. The recent price surge has reopened conversations about foresight.

"People talk about what their grandparents saved," said Farooq Bhat, a jeweller who works in Saraf Kadal. "Those choices look thoughtful today."

Rising prices have also reshaped daily use. Solid silver utensils have given way to copper, brass, and stainless steel. Jewellery buyers often choose plated designs that offer shine while limiting exposure to price swings.

"Silver has moved from daily use to ceremony and long-term holding," Bhat said. "It is becoming the new gold."

Financial markets have added speed, with silver-linked funds and exchange-traded products letting people invest without worrying about storage or purity.

These options have drawn younger buyers who might never step into a traditional shop. They now take part in the rising silver market alongside longtime customers and families bringing inherited pieces.

"Digital access changed who enters the market," said Mehta. "That participation supports liquidity and confidence."

Economists describe silver as a signal metal.

"It reflects how energy systems, manufacturing costs, and savings behaviour align," Khanna said. "Few commodities connect personal choices and national priorities so directly."

Inside Zargar's shop, the global story narrows to individual moments. He weighs another bundle, records the figure, and watches as a customer decides whether to sell or hold. "Some sell because they have to," he said. "Others decide to keep what they own."

As evening settles, Zargar arranges the remaining pieces on shelves that have seen years of neglect and revival.

"Silver came back after a long time," he said. "This time, it came back with purpose."

Relief For Students

among seven government-run medical colleges.

As per the notification, eight students will be accommodated in Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, while seven seats each have been earmarked for GMCs Baramulla, Doda, Handwara, Kathua, Rajouri and Udhampur.

BOPEE said it will conduct a physical round of counselling on January 24 at its offices in Srinagar and Jammu. Candidates unable to attend in person have been allowed to authorise a blood relative, in the prescribed format, to participate on their behalf. The authorised representative must carry a valid identity document, including an Aadhaar card.

Supernumerary seats are additional seats created beyond the sanctioned intake to accommodate students under exceptional circumstances.

Earlier this month, the National Medical Commission's Medical Assessment and Rating Board withdrew permission granted to SMVDIME for non-compliance with minimum standards, stating that students admitted to the institute would be accommodated in other medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir through supernumerary seats.

The issue had triggered protests in Jammu, with a group of organisations demanding cancellation of the admissions. Amid the controversy, the chief minister had assured that the education of the 50 students would not be allowed to suffer and that they would be adjusted in government medical colleges close to their homes.

REPUBLIC DAY 2026

Peaceful, Incident-Free Republic Day Our Priority: DGP



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP), Nalin Prabhat on Thursday reviewed the security situation and anti-terror operations in the southern districts of the Valley, and stressed the need for heightened alertness to ensure peaceful and incident-free Republic Day celebrations.

Chairing a meeting at DPO Anantnag, the director general of police (DGP) held a detailed review of law and order management, counter-terrorism preparedness, crime control measures, and security arrangements for January 26.

He also assessed the ongoing anti-terror operations in Anantnag, Kulgam districts and Police District Awantipora.

Prabhat stressed the need for heightened alertness, fool-proof security planning, intensified area domination, and strong intelligence-based operations to ensure peaceful and incident-free Republic Day celebrations, a spokesperson said.

PRABHAT STRESSED THE NEED FOR HEIGHTENED ALERTNESS, FOOL-PROOF SECURITY PLANNING, intensified area domination, and strong intelligence-based operations to ensure peaceful and incident-free Republic Day celebrations."

Addressing the officers, the DGP issued clear directions to deal firmly and decisively with anti-national elements posing threats to public safety, peace, and tranquillity.

According to PTI, he reiterated zero tolerance towards activities inimical to national security and emphasised the importance of sustained and focused operations against such elements.

Div Com Extends Open Invitation To Public Invites Public to Attend Event At Bakshi Stadium

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In preparation for the forthcoming Republic Day celebrations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Thursday visited Bakshi Stadium, the main venue for the event, to review the status of arrangements and ensure final readiness.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner assessed key arrangements including the podium, sound systems, seating, sanitation facilities, and other logistical aspects. He directed all concerned officers to ensure top-notch preparedness and emphasized glitch-free functioning of sound systems managed by the Information Department, Police, and R&B, given the significance of the national event.

Keeping in view the prevailing inclement weather conditions, the Divisional Commissioner instructed for the installation of waterproof



canopies over the stands and directed concerned agencies to ensure adequate manpower readiness for snow clearance from the ground, if required.

The Chief Engineers of KPDCL, MED, R&B, and PHE briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the progress and preparedness of their respective departments. He also inspected the video walls installed around the stadium to ensure clear visibility of the programme for participants and attendees.

Also, the Divisional Commissioner reiterated instructions regarding timely distribution of refreshments,

proper sanitation of bathrooms and green rooms, strict adherence to the National Flag unfurling protocol, and compliance with prescribed timelines for cultural programmes.

Meanwhile, the Div Com extended open invitation to general public for the participation and celebration of National Festival at Bakshi Stadium.

According to KNO, the Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC, SSP Srinagar, SSP Security, and other senior officers from civil and security departments.

Sindh Nallah Water Quality Improves

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The water quality of Sindh Nallah from Wayil to Sonamarg has been found to meet Class-B primary water standards, but the presence of sewage discharges from various drains continues to threaten the river's health.

According to KNO, a report submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JK-PCC) to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) highlights ongoing pollution sources despite overall acceptable water parameters.

As per the report filed in connection with the case titled "Sindh Nallah Polluted, Trout Habitat Threatened", several drains, originating from tourist hotspots and municipal areas, are discharging domestic sewage and solid waste directly into the river. These discharges were observed at key locations, including Kangan Main Market, 254 Transit Camp Sonamarg, and near Thajwas Hotel.



While the physico-chemical and biological parameters of Sindh Nallah currently fall within permissible limits, the report highlights that sewage inflows from secondary sources and small rivulets near Wusan, Mamer, and Kulan are contributing to surface runoff and intermittent pollution.

The JK-PCC has assured the NGT that measures are being taken to impose environmental compensation on those responsible for polluting the waterway. The committee has sought four weeks to submit a detailed action plan and further reports.

The Sindh Nallah, stretching from Wayil to

Sonamarg, falls under the jurisdiction of the Block Development Officers of Kangan and Gund, as well as the Sonamarg Development Authority. Notices have been issued to these agencies for violations of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and for environmental compensation.

In particular, show cause notices have been served to the Block Development Officers of Kangan and Gund, with references dated October 25, 2025. Both officers are respondents in ongoing legal cases concerning plastic pollution and environmental violations affecting the region's water bodies.

JKPSC Rejects Allegation of Bias in Judicial Services Exam

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission on Thursday rejected allegations of bias and manipulations in the Civil Services Judicial (Main) examination, asserting that the process was fair.

The commission issued the statement after the Apni Party, headed by former minister Altaf Bukhari, expressed concern over the disproportionate shortlisting of candidates in the examination and called for a probe into the matter.

"JKPSC puts on record that the examinations are conducted in a completely fair manner with no scope for bias, manipulation, or external influence. The selection and recruitment of individual candidates are made strictly as per merit and under rules irrespective of their religion, region, language etc," it said in a statement here.

The commission said the examinations are conducted with complete fairness and full transparency, strictly in accordance with established rules and procedures.

"Every candidate is treated equally, and the process is governed by robust safeguards that leave no scope for bias, manipulation, or external influence. The evaluation process is conducted at the highest possible standards of confidentiality and security.

"It is designed to be completely impenetrable, ensuring that the evaluator cannot, at any point, ascertain

the identity of the candidate whose answer sheet is being evaluated, thus ensuring a fool-proof process," the statement said.

JKPSC asserted that strict anonymity and an uncompromising framework of the commission guarantee complete objectivity and leave no room for influence, interference, or bias. "The commission embodies integrity, fairness, and moral responsibility in both letter and spirit," it said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Judicial (Main) exam was held from November 16 to 26 in Jammu and Srinagar.

The statement from the commission came close on the heels of Bukhari questioning the fairness of the exam.

"It is a matter of serious concern that only 13 out of 124 candidates from Kashmir have been shortlisted for the viva voce stage of the Civil Services (Judicial) Mains Examination, while the remaining 111 candidates belong to the Jammu division," he said.

Demanding a fair probe into the matter, he said, "The candidates from the Valley who have been dropped have rightly alleged serious irregularities and a lack of transparency in the examination results."

"Given the stark regional imbalance reflected in the results, these concerns cannot be dismissed and deserve fair and impartial investigation," he said and sought L-G Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's intervention in the matter.

NIA Court Sentences LeT Recruitment Accused To 10 Years

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI- A special NIA court has sentenced a person to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for being involved in radicalisation and recruitment of youngsters for Lashkar-e-Taiba, a terror outfit based in Pakistan, said an official statement issued on Thursday.

The NIA special court in Kolkata on Wednesday sentenced Sayad M Idris, a resident of Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district, who was convicted under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment, the statement said.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 70,000 on the accused, it added.

The NIA had taken over the case from the West Bengal Police in April 2020 and arrested Idris along with Altaf Ahmed Rather of Jammu and Kashmir during the course of the investigation.

According to the agency, investigations revealed that Idris and Rather had conspired with Tania Parveen to form a LeT module by recruiting local youngsters in West Bengal.

Union Minister Reviews Udhampur Airport Flight Operations

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday reviewed the progress of a project to start air services from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, and announced that civilian flights will commence within the next seven months from an interim terminal building at the Air Force station.

Chairing a high-level review meeting in Udhampur, the minister said a proposal for the acquisition of additional land is being pursued with the support of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government to enable the development of a full-fledged airport at Udhampur in the coming years.

"With existing facilities and interim arrangements, flight operations are targeted to be operationalised within the next 6-7 months," he said, lauding a close coordination between the IAF and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to expedite the process.

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Sameer Kumar Sinha, Secretary, Civil Aviation, Government of J&K, Naveen S L, AAI Chairman Vipin Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Executive Director (Planning) Nandita Bhatt, besides other dignitaries, attended the meeting.

Singh, Minister of State at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), highlighted that the Chenab region has received focused attention after 2014, with close monitoring by the prime minister, reflecting the government's initiative for inclusive and regional development.

The minister reiterated that a series of proactive meetings led by the secretary, civil aviation has helped fast-track decisions and resolve inter-departmental issues.

Highlighting the multiple benefits of enhanced air connectivity, the minister said the initiative will significantly ease travel and increase socio-economic activity across the entire Chenab region, benefiting four districts in particular.

"Similar connectivity initiatives are being taken up in Kishtwar under the UDAAN scheme, further expanding regional access," he said.

He said his home constituency Udhampur is emerging as a major connectivity hub, with multi-modal options including air, railways and road.

He said the Udhampur railway station has been developed as an Amrit railway station, and the region is also being connected through an express corridor, enabling convenient travel to Delhi and other major cities. (Observer News Service)

LoP Sharma Holds Talks with Amit Shah

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma on Thursday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and held a detailed discussion on the upcoming Assembly session, the prevailing political scenario, the security situation, and developmental priorities of Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, LoP Sharma according to KNO apprised HM Shah of the ground-level political dynamics in J&K and conveyed the expectations and aspirations of the people from the forthcoming Assembly session.

He emphasized the need for meaningful and constructive deliberations aimed at strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring effective governance, and promoting people-centric policymaking in the Union Territory.

The security scenario in J&K was discussed at length, with a focus on maintaining peace, countering terrorism, safeguarding civilian lives, and ensuring the safety and morale of security forces.

On the occasion, Sharma lauded the sustained efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and security agencies for their decisive role in improving the overall security environment and restoring normalcy across the Jammu & Kashmir.

The discussions also covered key developmental issues, including infrastructure development, employment generation, youth empowerment, revival of tourism, healthcare, education, and the timely implementation of central welfare schemes.

LoP Sharma stressed the need to fast-track development projects to ensure balanced and inclusive growth across both Jammu and Kashmir regions, with special attention to far-flung, border, and underserved areas.

According to the statement issued to KNO, Home Minister Amit Shah gave a patient hearing and reiterated the Government of India's unwavering commitment to peace, development, and inclusive progress in Jammu & Kashmir.

"He assured that the issues raised would be examined carefully and that necessary steps would be taken to further strengthen security, governance, and development in the Union Territory," it reads.

The meeting reaffirmed the BJP leadership's resolve to work in close coordination with the Central Government to ensure a stable, secure, and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir, in line with the aspirations of its people. (Observer News Service)

Two Private Schools Booked for Functioning from Same Campus

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora has ordered strict action against two private educational institutions—Symbiosis Model School and Al Huda Public School—for illegally operating from a single premises under one name-board, in clear violation of prescribed government norms.

Taking serious note of the matter, the CEO, in an official communication to the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Bandipora, observed that both schools were functioning from the same building instead of their duly approved locations, leading to administrative confusion and regulatory non-compliance.

According to officials, the two schools allegedly merged their operations due to low enrollment. "To project inflated enrolment figures and mislead both the public and the authorities, the schools have unlawfully merged," officials said.

The CEO has directed the ZEO to issue show-cause notices to the management of both schools and ordered them to return to their original premises

within three days, with a compliance report to be submitted to the CEO's office.

Further, the CEO has ordered issuance of a public notice stating that no admissions will be allowed for the upcoming academic session unless both institutions relocate to their sanctioned locations and secure valid registration as per norms.

Seeking accountability, the CEO has also instructed the ZEO to obtain written explanations from the present management for violating established rules and creating administrative ambiguity.

A detailed joint inspection has been ordered in coordination with the concerned Cluster Head. The inspection report will include verification of Basic Feasibility Files, original habitations for which the schools were sanctioned, registration certificates, approved and present management details, CID verification of management, official bank account details, latest audit reports, and inspection reports required for registration extension.

According to KNS, the CEO directed that all records and registers be thoroughly scrutinised and a comprehensive inspection report with clear recommendations be submitted at the earliest.

Terming the matter as "most urgent and of serious concern," the CEO warned that strict action would follow on the basis of the inspection findings and recommendations.

GOVT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER WULLAR-MANASBAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MANASBAL - GANDERBAL

Email: wmdaauthority-gbl@jk.gov.com

NOTICE FOR INVITING E-BIDS

Wullar Manasbal Development Authority invites e-Bids through GeM portal for outsourcing of various assets. Reliable/Resourceful and experienced agencies/ persons who fulfill the eligibility criteria (Pre - qualification) as per the terms and conditions laid down in the auction notice will be eligible to participate in the e-bidding process.

For details / instruction, the information can be had from this office or through contact Numbers 7889411013, 8803073080.

CEO/WMDA/2026/1450-52
Dated:- 22/01/2026

DIPK-10305-25
DT: 22/01/2026

Accounts Officer
Wullar-Manasbal
Development Authority

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT SHOPIAN

NOTIFICATION

The Date of receipt of applications for the post of sanginis (Anganwadi worker) and sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) advertised vide notification number's CDPO/SPN/ADV/2025-26/2177-90 dated:31-12-2025 and CDPO/POSHAN/ADV/2025-26/2191-2203 dated: 31-12-2025. Respectively is hereby extended up to 15.02.2026.

No:- CDPO/POSHAN/SPN/ADV/2026/52-66
Dated:- 22/01/2026

DIPK-10304-25
DT: 22/01/2026

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Shopian



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**Extension Notice to the Advertisement Notice No: 04 of 2025 Dated: - 31-12-2025
and Advertisement Notice No: 01 of 2026 Dated: - 01-01-2026**

This is for the information of all concerned that the last date for submission of applications for the posts of Finance Officer, Deputy Registrar, Deputy Finance Officer and for the posts of Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in various Departments / Centres of the University, advertised vide above said notices are hereby extended as under:

- Last date for submission of online application forms: 06-02-2026 (4.00 PM).
- Last date for submission of hardcopies of the application forms: 10-02-2026 (4.30 pm).

The detailed advertisement notices are available on the University website www.iust.ac.in.
No: IUST/Reg/Adm/ADV/26/16
Dated: 21-01-2026

DIPK-NB-3077-25
DT: 22/01/2026

Assistant Registrar (Recruitment)

Bangladesh Shun India Matches, Still Seek ICC Justice

Press Trust of India

DHAKA: A defiant Bangladesh on Thursday refused to send its national cricket team for next month's T20 World Cup in India after the ICC rejected its demand for a change of venue, effectively paving the way for Scotland to take the country's place.

Bangladesh had been served an ultimatum by the world body on Wednesday to either agree to travel to India or risk being replaced as there was no credible threat to the safety of their players, officials or fans there.

The country was given time till Thursday to make its decision. Scotland is next in line based on team rankings for the tournament starting February 7.

However, taking a hard-line position Bangladesh's sports ad-



visor Asif Nazrul, after a meeting with national team players, announced that the ICC's assessment was not acceptable to them.

"While our cricketers have worked hard to qualify for the World Cup, the security risk regarding playing in India remains unchanged. This concern is not

based on abstract analysis..." Nazrul said in a press conference while declaring that the country won't play in India.

"...we are not convinced that they can ensure the safety of our entire team, journalists, and spectators.

"We are not giving up hope

yet; our team is ready. We expect the ICC to provide justice by considering our genuine security risks and allowing us to play in Sri Lanka," he added.

Bangladesh are due to play four games in India (three in Kolkata and one in Mumbai). The country raised security concerns after pacer Mustafizur Rahman was ousted from the IPL on BCCI's instructions for unspecified "developments all around."

"It is crucial to weigh the loss of not playing against the potential catastrophe of pushing players, fans, and journalists into a risky regional political situation. This is a government decision, as the state is responsible for determining whether its citizens face security risks abroad," Nazrul asserted.

The ICC on Wednesday re-

fused to accept its security concerns, saying that the Bangladesh Cricket Board was repeatedly linking its participation in the tournament to a "single, isolated and unrelated development concerning one of its player's involvement in a domestic league."

"In the absence of any independent security findings that materially compromise the safety of the Bangladesh team, the ICC is unable to relocate fixtures," the ICC had stated.

"Doing so would carry significant logistical and scheduling consequences for other teams and fans worldwide, and would also create far-reaching precedent-related challenges that risk undermining the neutrality, fairness, and integrity of ICC governance," it added.

IUST bags five medals in the 3rd Chancellor's Tournament



AWANTIPORA: In the State Level Tournament organized by the University of Jammu which saw participation of nineteen institutions across the North Zone, IUST's contingent bagged five silver medals in the Table Tennis Category.

Congratulating the participants Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo said that IUST places immense importance on the extra-curricular activities adding that IUST has the distinction of creditizing extra-curricular activities thereby incentivizing student's participation. He also added that the university has framed a sports action plan catering to setting up of standard infrastructure besides envisaging engagement of Nationally and Internationally recognized sports persons as Professors of Practice.

I/C Sports, Mr. Mursheed Ahmad Khan congratulated the contingent led by Dr. Hilal Ahmad Rather, Assistant Director Sports. (Observer News Service)

Dal Lake Teen Kayaker Mohsin Ali Eyes Olympic Dream

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Mohsin Ali was about seven when he decided that a kayak paddle and not a shikara oar would shape his future on the pristine waters of Dal Lake.

A decade later and with solid backing from his trailblazing coach Bilquis Mir, who fought many uphill battles to sustain the sport in Srinagar, the now 18-year-old is headed in the right direction as he gears up to be on Kartavya Path this Republic Day.

The lanky teenager from Srinagar's Kand Mohalla, a hamlet within Dal Lake that houses "people of water", will be on Jammu and Kashmir's tableau during the January 26 parade, adding a sporting touch to the Union Territory's identity that largely revolves



around tourism.

Although Mohsin has been an active competitor since 2018, his biggest moment came last year when he won the men's 1000m kayaking race gold medal at the Government's flagship Khelo India Water Games, drawing the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I am the first sports person in my family and all I want to do is to make the country proud with an Olympic medal at some point. I have won 17 medals so far in my career," Mohsin told PTI over a telephonic

interview in eager anticipation of his big moment on Monday "that will rank right up there" with the high he felt during a five-minute chat with Modi on "Mann ki Baat" last year.

"That (conversation with the PM) made me famous here (in Srinagar). When I take out the Shikara, people recognise me," said the youngster, who has finished his schooling and now spends a lot of time training at an academy in Koteswar, Uttarakhand for the upcoming trials for the World Championship in April.

Bayern Advance, Barca Win

Liverpool, Chelsea, Newcastle Chase UCL

AP

MANCHESTER: Premier League teams are powering ahead in the Champions League with five of England's top flight clubs in position to advance to the round of 16.

Arsenal top the standings and have already secured their place in the next round, while wins for Liverpool, Newcastle and Chelsea on Wednesday saw them move into the top eight automatic qualifying positions with one game of the league phase to go.

Tottenham are fifth, with Manchester City the only English team in the playoff positions going into next week's matches.

Liverpool are fourth after a 3-0 win at Marseille. Newcastle beat PSV Eindhoven by the same



score and Chelsea won 1-0 against Pafos.

Bayern Munich are second and joined Arsenal in advancing to the round of 16 with Harry Kane scoring twice in a 2-0 win over Union Saint-Gilloise.

Barcelona are in ninth place after a 4-2 win at Slavia Prague and risk having to go through the playoffs to advance.

But there is much to play for in the final round of league phase games with just three points separating third place Real Madrid

and Juventus in 15th.

The top eight qualify directly to the round of 16. Teams placed from nine to 24 enter a two-legged playoff to advance.

Final day drama

Prepare for a dramatic final round of games before the knockouts.

While the remaining six automatic qualification spots are still up for grabs, just two points separate the last of the playoff places and Ajax, placed 32nd in the standings.

India Bids for 2028 World Indoor Athletics Meet

NEW DELHI: India is pitching in for two big-ticket global athletics events in 2028, with the national federation bidding to host the World Indoor Championships in Bhubaneswar, besides the World U20 Championships in Ahmedabad.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had already made the bid to host the 2028 World U20 Championships in Ahmedabad when World Athletics chief Sebastian Coe visited the country towards the end of 2024.

In the latest development, the AFI has also bid for the World Indoor Championships in 2028 at Bhubaneswar. A two-member team from World Athletics visited the state-of-the-art indoor facility at the Kalinga Stadium Complex in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday.

The World Athletics Vice-President and former AFI chief Adille Sumariwalla and Odisha government officials were present during the inspection visit.

The World Athletics will announce the hosts of the 2028 and 2030 editions of Junior World Championships in March. The host city of the World Indoor Championships is also likely to be announced in the same month.

Meanwhile, New Zealand had also expressed interest to host the 2028 World Indoor Championships.

"A World Athletics team was there in Bhubaneswar earlier this week in relation to the World Indoor Championships bid. They have also visited Ahmedabad to take stock of the facilities regarding India's bid for the 2028 World U20 Championships," Sumariwalla told PTI. (PTI)

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