

First Snow Brings Valley Life To A Halt



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Snowfall across Kashmir on Friday disrupted normal life, affecting air and surface connectivity as large parts of the Valley received fresh accumulation, officials said.

While the plains recorded light to moderate snowfall, upper areas and higher reaches witnessed moderate to heavy accumulation.

Officials said uptown areas of Srinagar received around 2 inches of snow, though most parts of the city received only light snowfall. Areas around the Srinagar airport recorded 3 to 4 inches.

In central Kashmir, Budgam district recorded some of the season's heaviest snowfall. Pakherpora received between 1.5 and 2 feet of snow, while Charari-Sharief saw **| More on P6**

Roads Shut, Flights Cancelled

Fresh snowfall across large parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday brought road, rail, and air connectivity to a near halt, with authorities enforcing closures and issuing advisories amid worsening weather conditions. Officials said several key routes linking the Kashmir Valley with other regions were shut as a precautionary **| More on P6**

Snow Eludes Srinagar, Memes Take Over Online

Syed Mohammad Burhan

While much of Kashmir has been draped in a fresh blanket of snow over the past few days, Srinagar continues to wait for what many residents call the season's defining moment. **| More on P6**

Restore Roads & Power At The Earliest: CM To Officials



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday evening chaired a high-level meeting to review the situation across Jammu and Kashmir amid inclement weather triggered by widespread snowfall, gusty winds, and snowstorms.

During the review, the Chief Minister took a

detailed assessment of the impact of heavy snowfall, rainfall, and high-velocity winds that have prevailed since Thursday evening. Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu briefed him on the prevailing ground situation and progress made in restoration efforts.

This was followed by district-wise **| More on P6**

True Faith Lives In Selfless Service: LG



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that true faith is reflected in selfless service and compassion, as he addressed the silver jubilee commemorative event of the Shri Baba Kashi Vishwanath Seva Samiti in Varanasi.

Hailing the Samiti's 25-year legacy, the Lieutenant Governor praised its sustained commitment to

service and its role in translating faith into action. "True faith lives in selfless service; real devotion is found in compassion," he said.

Sinha said the Samiti's service to pilgrims at the Chandanwari Base Camp during the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra exemplifies how spirituality and action can be meaningfully bridged. He said the organisation has set a societal example by **| More on P6**

Avalanche Warning For 6 Districts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir issued a high-danger avalanche warning on Friday for six districts following fresh snowfall across the region, officials said.

They said avalanches carrying a high danger level are likely to occur above 2,300 metres in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir over the next 24 hours. A similar warning has been issued for areas above 2,500 metres in Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, and Ramban districts in the Jammu region, as well as Kupwara district in north Kashmir.

Officials urged residents, trekkers, and travellers to remain cautious and strictly avoid movement in **| More on P6**

Severe Winds Knock Out Power Across Kashmir

Over 80% Power System Operational: KPDCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Power supply across large parts of Kashmir has been partially restored after a severe windstorm triggered widespread outages across the Valley, with officials saying 80 to 85 percent of the electricity system was operational by Friday evening.

The disruption followed a powerful windstorm that battered Kashmir on Thursday, knocking out electricity supply and crippling essential services. Officials said the power system had nearly collapsed at its peak, with active load plunging to less than 100 megawatts



against the Valley's average daily requirement of around 1,700 megawatts.

Authorities said almost all 33 kV feeders, including those

supplying emergency services, shut down after high-speed winds uprooted trees and damaged overhead transmission lines, plunging most areas into darkness and compounding public hardship amid harsh weather conditions.

Teams of the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited were rushed to the field to begin restoration work. However, continuous strong winds, poor visibility, and road blockages slowed repair efforts. Alongside restoring electricity, authorities prioritised clearing major roads to enable access for repair teams, with priority routes opened **| More on P6**

Karnah Records Rare Snowfall After 2 Decades

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The snowline dropped below 1,000 metres in parts of north Kashmir on Friday, triggering an unusual spell of snowfall in areas that rarely experience it, independent weather observer Faizan Arif said.

In Karnah Valley of Kupwara district, snowfall was recorded in the Seemari Teetwal belt at elevations between 1,000 and 1,200 metres. The area saw over two inches of snow, marking the first such accumulation since 2005. Even a one inch snowfall is considered rare in this belt due to relatively warmer conditions.

Snow was also reported from Doda town at an elevation of around 1,400 metres, while Poonch town **| More on P6**



Government of India



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India Home to World's Second Largest Diabetes Population in 2024: Study

Press Trust Of India

At 90 million, India ranked second in the number of adults living with diabetes in 2024. China was first at 148 million and the US ranked third at 39 million, according to a study published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology journal.

Researchers, including those from the International Diabetes Federation in Belgium and the India Diabetes Research Foundation and Dr A Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospital in Chennai, said countries with large populations, such as China, India, the US, and Pakistan, contribute a very large share of the number of people with diabetes worldwide. They projected that Pakistan could

surpass the US by 2050. The eleventh edition of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Diabetes Atlas provides national, regional and global diabetes prevalence estimates for 2024, with projections to 2050. Estimates were provided for 215 countries and territories after analysing 246 studies conducted between 2005 and 2024. Over 11 per cent of the world's adult population, or 589 million adults aged 20-79, were affected by the metabolic disorder in 2024 and nearly 13 per cent (853 million adults) are projected to be affected by 2050, the study said. "In 2024, one in nine adults worldwide was living with diabetes. The number of adults with diabetes in 2024 exceeded 500 million and is projected to rise to close to 900 million by 2050," the

authors wrote. "In 2024, the largest number of adults with diabetes aged 20-79 years was in China (148 million), followed by India (90 million), and the US (39 million)," they said. Over four-fifths of the world's diabetes population, or 80.64 per cent, were estimated to be living in low and middle-income countries in 2024. The countries could also be expected to see more than 95 per cent of the global increase in cases by 2050. The increase reflects population growth, population ageing, and ongoing urbanisation, all of which contribute to the rising number of cases of the chronic condition, the researchers said. Monitoring diabetes burden around the world requires support for data collection in resource-poor settings, which are expected to experience sub-



stantial increases in diabetes prevalence, they said. Prevalence was found to peak at nearly 25 per cent among the world's adults aged 75-79. Diabetes prevalence was also higher among men than women, and in urban than rural areas, the study found. Middle-income countries had the highest prevalence (11.46 per cent of adults aged 20-79), followed by high-income (10.21 per cent) and low-income countries (7.47 per cent). The team added that the diabetes epidemic has continued unchecked since the turn of the millennium, and stronger efforts are needed to slow its progression, with strategies tailored appropriately across countries and population groups.

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلترہ

درخواست منجانب سائل اعجاز اطرباؤن دفتر نظام ہی دین اون ساکن شہنچہ رطلیل بارہمولہ، برادر حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خند

استشہار بمسراوا گاہی ہر حصاص وعسام

ماملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑائیں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑائی طاقت سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے کب سے عیاں ہوتا ہے سائل مطلع سائل شہنچہ روکر بری میں رہائش پزیر ہے سائل کے کنٹریکٹ سالانہ آمدنی 410600 تگے یہ سائل دھڑ کورکا مستقل باشندہ ہے۔ سائل کا گنبدہ بذیل افراد مشتمل ہے

1. نظامی دین اون سربرہ 58 سال مزدوری
2. جینا سارا زوجہ 45 سال آنکھو اڑی پلہر
3. اطرباؤن اپPLICANT دختر 23 سال زیر تعلیم
4. جنید احمد لون پسر 21 سال
5. اوریشی دین پسر 19 سال
6. مصروفہ منجی دین دختر 17 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتلایا گیا مطابق سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو مزور یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا مزور یا اعتراض ساتھ دن کے اندر اندر پیش کریں معاذ گزرنے کے بعد کوئی مزور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the name of my daughter in DOB certificate from Nahita Bashir to Natia Bashir as per aadhar. If anybody having any objection may contact the concern authority within a period of seven days, after that no objection will be entertained.

Bashir Ahmad Dar
 F/o: Natia Bashir
 R/o: Mulphaq, Burzhama, Srinagar

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he/she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Raisa Mukar Ahmad Shah
 Paretname:- Peer Mukar Shah
 Residence:- Kanikadal Chotta Bazar Srinagar
 Registration No: 10637-G-96
 Certificate/s lost:- B.COM Ist. 2nd Year 3rd Year
 Roll No/s:-
 Session/ Year 1st year-1997- 2nd Year 98/99 3rd yr 2000/2001

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled

No: F(Duplicate/ MC-6th Sem/PA /KU/ Assistant Controller of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name in my Aadhar Card has been wrongly entered as HA-JIRA BEGUM while my correct Name is RAFEEQA BANOO. Now I want the same to be corrected if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the General Manager Ranbir Government Press Jammu, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rafeeqa Banoo
 C/O Manzoor Ahmad Wani
 R/O Kanchloo Kanthchoo Kund Kulgam
 JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on Aadhar Card, PAN Card & Domicile Certificate from SHOWKAT HUSSAN S/O GHULAM HASSAN SHEIKH to MOHAMMAD SEHRAN MAGLOO S/O GHULAM HASSAN MAGLOO, if anybody has any objection in this regard He/ She may file his /her objection in the Office of the Concerned Authority, within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

MOHAMMAD SEHRAN MAGLOO
 S/O GHULAM HASSAN MAGLOO
 R/O FATEHPORA ANANTNAG
 JNA7780878931

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that the name of my new born son has been mistakenly recorded in his birth certificate as Fa-heem Iqbal instead of Hazim Iqbal. Now I am applying for its correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of Registrar, Births & Deaths govt District Hospital Budgam within the period of Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Iqbal Bhat
 Father of Hazim Iqbal
 R/O Lani Lab Mujpathry, Budgam
 inf

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Ruby Jan, Spouse name Haris Tantray, Mother's name Jawahira to (new name) Ruby Jan, Spouse name Haris Izhar, Mother's name Jamila Akthar. In future I will be known as (new name) Ruby Jan. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Rahil Qayoom while my correct name is Rahil Qayoom Ganaie. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..

Rahil Qayoom Ganaie
 S/o Abdul Qayoom Ganaie
 R/o Ussan Khoie Pattan
 fko

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr. DEE/TRS/LDH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 2025-26-15. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 18.02.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDRs etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (₹)	Cost of tender form (₹)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money (₹)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
2025-26-15	Comprehensive repair/ Overhauling of E-70 brake system in 3-Phase electric locos.	6,20,18,147.88	0	Upto 18.02.2026 15:00 Hrs.	4,60,100/-	24 Months	18.02.2026 at or after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No.: 230-Elect/TRS/LDH/WC/E-70/2025-26/15 Dated:- 22.01.2026 248/2026

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KU Registers Major Success in JKCCE Mains

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir (KU) has achieved a notable academic milestone, with 17 candidates from the first batch of its Civil Services Residential Coaching Programme qualifying the Jammu & Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKCCE) 2024 Mains and advancing to the interview stage.

The results, announced recently, mark a significant success for the varsity's Centre for Career Counselling & Placement (CCCP), underscoring the effectiveness of the newly launched residential coaching initiative.

Congratulating the successful candidates, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, termed the outcome deeply encouraging and commended the CCCP team for its dedication and professionalism. She said the achievement reflects the University's commitment to empowering youth through quality academic support and structured guidance.

"I have personally monitored the programme and made frequent visits to the Centre to ensure that the vision we set is effectively implemented on the ground," Prof. Khan said.

The Vice-Chancellor also lauded the efforts of the programme's Overseeing Committee, headed by Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan

Bhat, and comprising Registrar KU Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Director CCCP Prof. Nazir Ahmad, Special Secretary to the VC Dr. Ashfaq Zarrî, and Chief Accounts Officer/FA KU Zafira, for their sustained monitoring and guidance.

The Civil Services Residential Coaching Programme was launched to address a long-standing demand for institutionally supported civil services coaching in Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on economically underprivileged and female aspirants. Designed as a fully residential initiative, the programme offers a structured academic ecosystem aimed at improving preparation standards and success rates.

Under the initiative, students are provided free accommodation, round-the-clock access to an air-conditioned library, uninterrupted high-speed internet connectivity, structured test series, continuous mentoring, and comprehensive academic support. The fully supported residential model makes it a first-of-its-kind initiative in the region.

The faculty and staff of the Centre for Career Counselling & Placement extended heartfelt congratulations to the 17 successful candidates, noting that their dedication and perseverance have brought pride to the University. The varsity also wished them the very best for the forthcoming interview stage.

Tourist from Gujarat Found Dead

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A tourist woman was declared brought dead after being rushed to a private Hospital in Khayam from a hotel in Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

The woman has been identified as Jyoti, wife of Sailesh, a resident of Gujarat, aged about 53 years. Officials said she was brought to the hospital from a hotel in the

Rajbhag area for a medical check-up after her health reportedly deteriorated.

According to KNT, doctors at the Hospital examined the woman on arrival and declared her brought dead. The exact cause of death was not immediately known. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated necessary medico-legal formalities as per procedure.

Factory Worker from Kerala Dies in City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A labourer working at a factory in the Khanmoh area of Srinagar was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Friday, officials said.

An official said the man was found lying unconscious in his room at the cement factory premises in Khanmoh. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for medical assistance, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased has been identified as Pradeep Kumar, son of Rajvan M.K, a resident of Kerala, aged about 51 years. Officials said he was discovered unresponsive in his room before efforts were made to shift him to the hospital.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated proceedings to ascertain the exact cause of death. Medico-legal formalities have been set into motion, and further investigation is underway. [KNT]

95% Power Restored in City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Power supply across large parts of Kashmir has been largely restored after widespread disruptions caused by gusty winds and heavy snowfall, with authorities reporting significant improvement in electricity availability, particularly in the summer capital.

Managing Director of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mehmood Ahmad Shah, said on Friday that the power system across the Valley is now "largely operational."

Speaking to KNS, Shah said Srinagar— which accounts for nearly 40 per cent of Kashmir's total power consumption— has

witnessed restoration of about 95 to 96 per cent of electricity supply. Across the rest of the Valley, around 65 per cent of the power system has been restored, resulting in near-normal power supply for most consumers.

He explained that the usual power load during this time of the year ranges between 1,700 and 1,800 megawatts, while nearly 1,100 megawatts is currently being supplied to consumers. "This clearly indicates that around 65 per cent of the system has been restored and most people are receiving near-normal power supply," Shah said.

Restoration efforts are continuing in remaining affected areas as weather conditions improve, officials said.

Srinagar Police Activate 24x7 Helplines Amid Bad Weather

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid ongoing inclement weather and forecasts of further deterioration, Srinagar Police on Thursday activated round-the-clock emergency helpline services across the district to safeguard public safety.

Police said the helplines are aimed at ensuring quick assistance and timely response to distress and emergency situations. Citizens can reach the Police

Control Room, Srinagar, through landline numbers 0194-2477567 and 0194-2477568, or mobile numbers 9596222550 and 9596222551.

Residents have been urged to remain vigilant, adhere to safety advisories and avoid unnecessary travel during the adverse weather spell. The police said all senior officers, police stations and posts in Srinagar have been placed on high alert to ensure prompt assistance and effective response.



Gusty Winds Damage Homes & Infrastructure Across City

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Gusty winds on Thursday evening and during the intervening night created havoc across Srinagar city, leaving a trail of damage to residential houses and public infrastructure, with congested downtown areas bearing the brunt of the severe weather.

Residents from several localities reported damage to rooftops and structures as strong winds swept through the city. Areas including Karan Nagar, Mehjoor Nagar, Rajouri Kadal, Nawa Kadal, Zadibal, Ashaibagh and Saida Kadal witnessed damage to houses, while on Boulevard Road a transmission line was hit due to the force of the winds. Officials said many households reported partial damage, particularly to rooftops and temporary structures.

Residents recounted a night of fear as powerful gusts uprooted tin sheets and dislodged wooden panels. "The winds were extremely strong. Part of our roof was blown away, and we were terrified the entire night," said Ghulam Hussain, a resident of Alamgari Bazar, whose house was damaged.

In Saida Kadal, another resident narrated a similar experience. "There was a sudden loud noise, and a portion of our rooftop col-

lapsed. We rushed our children to a safer corner of the house," said Ghulam Mohammad.

Explaining the weather conditions, Director Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Mukhtar Ahmad, said that gusty winds were experienced across many districts of Kashmir. He said the intensity of winds in Srinagar was also high, with wind speeds touching 84 kmph in the city.

"In the Kashmir division, the highest wind speed was recorded in

Kashmir, including Srinagar, during this period.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday urged residents to immediately report any distress caused by the gusty winds.

"If anyone is facing distress of any kind in any area and requires assistance from the Srinagar administration or the SMC, they may call or inform us immediately," Labroo said.

Director Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Mukhtar Ahmad, said that gusty winds were experienced across many districts of Kashmir. He said the intensity of winds in Srinagar was also high, with wind speeds touching 84 kmph in the city,"

Shopian at nearly 155 kmph, while in other districts winds blew at speeds ranging between 40 and 60 kmph," Ahmad said.

He further said that Srinagar recorded around 40 mm of rainfall during the spell. "From January 26, a moderate western disturbance will affect Kashmir, but such high intensity is not expected. However, gusty winds are likely between January 26 and 27," he said, adding that there would be no significant snowfall in central

Labroo further said that predictions of strong winds had come true, affecting areas across the city, including Mehjoor Nagar, Karan Nagar and Boulevard. "In response, joint teams from SDRF, R&B, SMC and the District Police worked tirelessly night after night to clear roads and remove fallen debris," he said.

Labroo said the district administration continues to monitor the situation and remains ready to provide assistance wherever required.

- 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


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- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

4- Shaban
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	6: 07
ZUHR	12:42
ASR	4: 15
Magrib	5:56
ISHA	7: 20

This Day In History

- 1118- Giovanni Caetani, Chancellor to Pope Paschal II, is elected as his successor, takes the name of Pope Gelasius II
- 1458- Matthias I Corvinus chosen King of Hungary
- 1556- Mughal emperor Humayun trips and falls down the stairs of his library, dies three days later
- 1644 - Parliamentary army wins battle of Nantwich, Cheshire, English Civil War
- 1722 - Tsar Peter the Great begins civil system
- 1892- Battle of Mengo, Uganda: French missionaries attack British missionaries
- 1900 - Battle of Tugela-Spionkop, South Africa (Boers vs British army)
- 1901 - Denmark and the US sign a treaty under which Denmark will sell the Danish West Indies to the USA for \$5 million, but the sale will be postponed until 1917
- 1924 - Benito Mussolini disallows non-fascists work union
- 1969 - Students protest the erection of steel gates around the London School of Economics
- 1972 - Japanese Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi is found hiding in a Guam jungle, where he had been since the end of World War II.
- 1975 Fastest Earth-bound object, 7200 kph, in vacuum centrifuge, England.
- 1977 Massacre of Atocha in Madrid: five labor lawyers murdered by fascists in Madrid during the Spanish transition to democracy.
- 1979 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1983 - Hulk Hogan pins Iron Sheik for World Wrestling Federation title
- 1984 - Apple Computer Inc unveils its revolutionary Macintosh personal computer
- 1985 - 15th Space Shuttle (51-C) Mission-Discovery 3 is launched.
- 1986 - South Yemen Premier Haydar Bakr al-Attas becomes interim-president
- 1986 - Voyager 2 makes 1st fly-by of Uranus (81,593 km), finds new moons
- 1993 - Soyuz TM-16 launches
- 1997 - The Swiss government and several banks and businesses agree to create a memorial fund for victims of the Holocaust
- 2003 - The United States Department of Homeland Security officially begins operation
- 2006 - Walt Disney International and Bob Iger announce it is buying computer animation film studio Pixar for \$7.4 billion
- 2011 - At least 35 died and 180 injured in a bombing at Moscow's Domodedovo airport.
- 2017 - President Trump withdraws the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)
- 2019- Thierry Henry is dismissed as head coach of Monaco
- 2019- US government recognises Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido as the country's President
- 2022- Coup in Burkina Faso as military announce

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SCAN FOR LOCATION

Ashraf Medical Hall,
Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Timing: 6:00 P.M to 8:00 P.M

Ashraf Medical Hall,
Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar

For Appointments, Call
+91 9419005778

For Appointments, Call
+91 9419005778

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-III/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-13.02.2026 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. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
21.01.2026	30.01.2026	13.02.2026/15:00 Hrs.
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	255-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR	Under water repair to cracks at various piers of important Br. No. 63 by grouting on JUC-ASR section.
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
	74,99,987.31	1,50,000.00 60 Days 06 Months
	Similar nature of work:- "Repair using epoxy/epoxy based chemicals."	

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.
No.: 225-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 22.01.2026 249/2026

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KO VIEW

Sanctuaries for Minds

Shrines have always been more than spiritual spaces in the valley. They offer a place where people come to rest their minds and find a calm that is hard to find elsewhere.

People gather in the lawns or sit near the sanctum, letting the stillness of the place allow their thoughts to settle. People do not always speak. They simply sit, watch, and become part of the space, finding comfort in the presence of others.

These sacred spaces bring a sense of connection, a place where being together without words becomes its own form of relief.

Earlier, many Kashmiris relied heavily on chemical treatments and medications to regain mental calm. Such approaches often focused on controlling symptoms instead of allowing the mind to restore itself naturally.

Gradually, more people have started returning to traditional practices that nurture both body and mind.

Sufi traditions have long valued the power of gathering, listening, and sitting in reflection. Shrines have always combined spiritual and social life, offering a natural support for mental well-being.

Today, visits to sanctums have taken on a deliberate role in wellness.

Young women, in particular, come to cope with different pressures and stress. Jobless youth spend hours on lawns or inside sanctums, letting the space around them offer a pause from constant tension.

Many do not attend formal prayers or sessions. They simply walk through gardens, sit in the shade, or observe the movement of others.

Being present in the space provides a silent, steady comfort that works like therapy without the need for medication.

Life at these shrines is alive with ordinary moments. Conversations happen naturally, small gestures of care appear, and people find themselves part of a shared experience.

Seeing others carry their own challenges allows a sense of perspective to grow.

Over time, the simple act of sitting in these spaces, noticing daily life unfold, and being part of a community helps restore calm and mental clarity.

Shrines teach a lesson in how heritage can support well-being. They show that traditional spaces can act as retreats, that culture itself can be therapeutic, and that simply being present with others can reduce dependence on medicine.

Sitting on a lawn, walking through a garden, or spending time in a sanctum offers a form of restoration that feels both timeless and relevant.

These spaces remind people that calm and clarity are often found in shared presence, reflection, and the silent life of a community.

Snow, Smile, & Slog

The end of a dry winter should have felt like a moment of calm. Instead, the season's major snowfall once again showed how unready the valley remains for what it knows will come every year.

Ahmad Ayaz

Snow arrived in Kashmir after weeks of worry and whispered prayers.

The dry winter had unsettled farmers, orchardists, and anyone who depends on rivers and springs.

When the snow finally fell, it softened the hills, filled the air with relief, and restored a feeling many here had been missing.

Winters without snow feel wrong in the valley, almost like a broken promise. This snowfall seemed to set things right.

But that feeling lasted only briefly. As flakes settled on rooftops, another scene played out, one that has become painfully familiar.

Roads shut down, flights vanished from schedules, power lines went dark, and daily life stumbled almost at once.

The same snow that eased fears about water and crops also reflected a deeper problem that refuses to go away: Kashmir still treats snowfall as a shock rather than a certainty.

The dry spell earlier had raised real alarms. Rivers were running low. Groundwater levels worried experts. Apple growers spoke openly about chilling hours and poor yields. Saffron fields carried the same anxiety.

Snow matters here, as it feeds glaciers, fills reservoirs, supports hydro-power, and shapes the summer ahead. Its arrival felt like rescue, both practical and emotional.

That rescue collided with systems that buckle every winter. The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway shut down once again. This road remains the valley's single reliable surface link to the rest of the country.

Every season brings promises of widening, tunnels, and modern fixes, and each season ends with the same result.

Snow or rain leads to closures, landslides, and long hours of uncertainty.

Air travel offered little help, as Srinagar airport, which runs dozens of flights even in winter, saw cancellations pile up. Passengers waited, supplies slowed, and the valley felt cut off, again.

Such scenes no longer surprise anyone here, which may be the most troubling part.

Electricity failed even faster.

Large areas lost power soon after snowfall began. In many neighbourhoods the dark stretched on for hours. Rural areas waited longer.

Kashmir produces power, but winters bring shortages when heaters, lights, and water pumps matter most.

Snow-laden lines, falling trees, and aging networks reveal a system that never seems ready, despite decades of



“If winter planning stays reactive, the valley will continue swinging between relief and disruption every year. Systems must adapt to Kashmir's climate, or a natural season will keep being treated like a recurring emergency.”

experience with harsh weather.

Families in Budgam, Kupwara, and parts of south Kashmir spoke of cold homes and stalled routines. Students struggled to study. Patients faced real risk. Older residents endured long nights without heat.

Such outages reach far beyond discomfort. They shape health, safety, and trust in basic services.

Road clearance followed the same uneven script.

Main streets in Srinagar saw machines early. Villages and interior roads waited. In far-off areas, people picked up shovels themselves. Ambulances crawled or stopped, while workers mostly stayed home.

Snowfall is predictable. Every year, winter plans are laid out in advance.

But roads remain clogged, machinery sits idle, and coordination fails.

The question isn't whether snow will fall, it's why some areas are prioritized while others are left behind.

Snowfall isn't the problem. The real problem is treating it like one.

Places with far harsher winters function because systems expect snow and work through it. Kashmir does the opposite.

Each storm brings official surprise, rushed action, and visible strain. This pattern points to a deeper failure of planning.

Infrastructure remains weak, built for fair weather, patched rather than rebuilt with winter in mind.

The economic costs follow quickly, as highway closures disrupt supply chains. Vegetables, fuel, medicines,

poultry, and cooking gas grow scarce or costly.

Prices rise, hoarding begins, and daily wage earners feel the hit first and hardest. Winter price spikes have become routine, accepted almost as tradition.

Tourism tells a similar story.

Snow draws visitors, but uncertainty drives them away. Canceled flights and blocked roads turn a chance for income into a gamble many travelers avoid.

What should help the economy of ten ends up hurting it.

Rail connectivity has long been offered as the answer to isolation. Work has advanced, and bridges and tracks stand as proof. The link, however, remains incomplete.

Until trains run reliably through all seasons, the valley depends on a highway and an airport that both surrender to weather.

A region this vulnerable cannot afford a single point of failure.

Officials speak often of readiness. Statements list machines, teams, and monitoring rooms. But reality speaks louder.

Power fails within hours, roads stay buried, and travel collapses.

These outcomes reflect a systemic problem, rather than a few bad days.

Real preparation would look different. Power lines would be built for snow. Clearance would reach villages as quickly as cities. Backup routes would exist. Departments would act together. Communication would be clear and honest, telling people what to expect and when.

Public acceptance of breakdowns may be the quietest warning sign. Many Kashmiris now expect outages and closures as part of winter life.

And with that, expectations sink, and accountability fades. But basic services should not feel optional because snow falls.

Snow remains a gift to Kashmir. It feeds land and livelihoods. It restores balance and hope after dry weeks. That gift comes with responsibility.

Each winter tests whether systems match the land they serve.

This year's snowfall ended a worrying dry spell and brought relief across the valley. It also exposed, once again, the cost of unpreparedness.

If winter planning stays reactive, the valley will continue swinging between relief and disruption every year. Systems must adapt to Kashmir's climate, or a natural season will keep being treated like a recurring emergency.

The author is a political analyst, television debater, and columnist. The views expressed are personal. He can be reached at ahmadayaz08@gmail.com.

Every morning in Kashmir, cigarettes are lit on homes, shopfronts, and street corners. The habit offers a brief sense of relief while reducing health and household income.

More than one in five adults in Jammu and Kashmir uses tobacco. Small daily spending on cigarettes adds up to a significant financial loss, while the same amount directed toward saving or investing can strengthen a family's financial future.

Tobacco use in the region ranks among the highest in India.

Between 20 and 24 percent of adults smoke regularly. Men account for most users. Districts such as Kupwara show consistently high smoking rates.

Research from conflict-affected areas shows children starting at younger ages. Social stress, unemployment, and political tensions influence young people toward early tobacco use.

Tobacco habits shape public health and influence the productivity and longevity of youth.

The financial toll of cigarettes compounds silently but dramatically.

A pack may feel like a small, routine purchase, but over weeks, months, and years, the sums grow fast.

National studies put India's economic loss from tobacco at more than one percent of GDP each year, factoring in medical costs and lost productivity.

For every 100 the government earns from tobacco taxes, society pays roughly 816 in economic and health costs.

At the household level, spending 100 to 300 per day adds up to 3,000 to 9,000 a month, or 36,000 to 1 lakh a year.

This is money that could fund education, home ownership, or a solid emergency fund.

Hospital bills, medicines, and missed workdays push the real cost far higher, turning a habit into a slow bleed on family finances.

Health consequences reinforce the economic drain in a place already grappling with myriad illnesses.

Tobacco is a major cause of heart disease, stroke, chronic lung conditions, tuberculosis, and cancers.

Lung cancer rates are climbing in Kashmir,

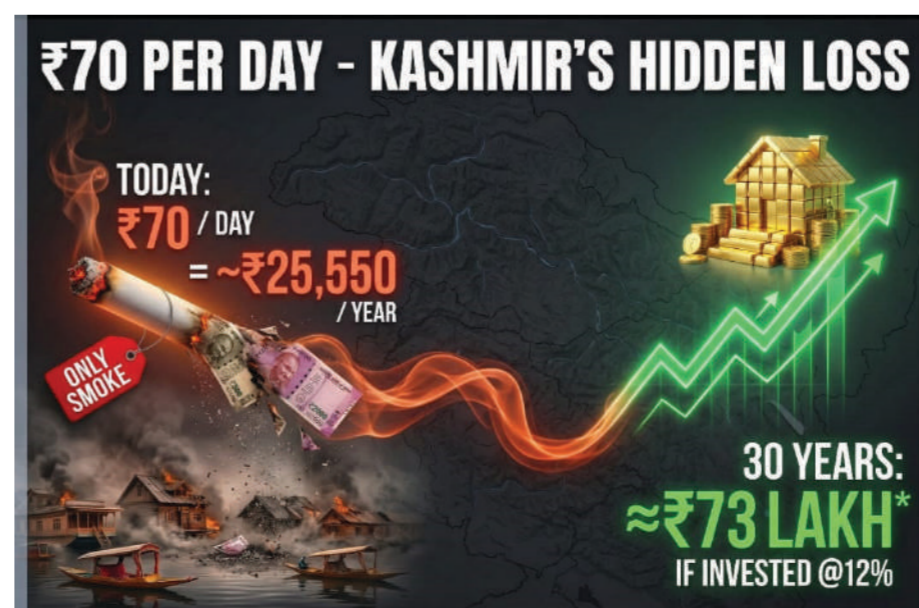
“Turning smoke into savings offers Kashmiri families the chance to reclaim crores currently going up in smoke and invest them in tangible, long-term wealth. The decision made today will define whether the valley faces decades of illness and debt or a future illuminated by financial and physical health.”

and smoking links strongly to these cases.

Combustible tobacco causes nearly 900,000 deaths in India each year and leads to countless serious illnesses, costing trillions of rupees.

These health and financial pressures touch individual households as well.

In a typical Kashmiri home, families use in-



come, take on debt, or sell land and gold to cover medical care, and children's education often suffers as a result.

Over time, the financial and emotional effects ripple through families, leaving lasting scars that no insurance plan can erase.

Household savings have become the back-

bone of India's economic growth, funding much of the nation's investment and driving wealth accumulation.

Indian families are moving beyond informal savings and physical assets, turning to mutual funds and SIPs to fight inflation and grow wealth over decades.

Savings Up in Smoke

Over 20 percent of adults smoke in the valley, risking illness, lost income, and long-term financial stability.

Irshad Mushtaq

With secure jobs in short supply in Kashmir, even small and regular savings can protect families from illness, job disruption, and political uncertainty.

SIPs offer a practical route for smokers to convert daily indulgences into long-term wealth.

A fixed monthly investment, even as small as 500, can benefit from compounding and rupee-cost averaging, growing steadily into meaningful portfolios over years.

Spending 170 to 300 a day on cigarettes, when redirected into a SIP, can build a secure asset base instead of leading to smoke, hospital bills, and lost earning potential.

Reducing tobacco use in Kashmir carries an economic upside.

A 2024 study modeling India's economy found that cutting tobacco consumption by just 10 percent could increase GDP and generate over a million jobs in five years.

Every household that quits smoking and invests the money instead contributes to stronger incomes, more productive local businesses, and a community where spending supports education, tourism, and entrepreneurship rather than cigarettes and costly medical treatments.

Kashmir stands at a crossroads. The cigarette once seen as a harmless companion to chai now emerges as a drain on health and wealth alike.

With youth smoking rising, households face the choice between escalating cancer wards and eroding finances, or a future shaped by education, investment, and economic security.

Each pack not purchased becomes an installment in a SIP, and each craving resisted adds to a child's education or a secure retirement.

Turning smoke into savings offers Kashmiri families the chance to reclaim crores currently going up in smoke and invest them in tangible, long-term wealth.

The decision made today will define whether the valley faces decades of illness and debt or a future illuminated by financial and physical health.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Two Faces of Womanhood in Kashmir

The lives of rural and urban women in Kashmir reveal how poverty and patriarchy combine to limit freedom, healthcare, and choices for the majority of women.

Aabroo Hussain

Last summer, I went to Naidkhai, a small village in Bandipora, hoping for a refreshing break from Srinagar.

Every morning before sunrise, I watched women leave their homes and enter the fields, carrying heavy bundles, bending over the crops under the heat for hours at a time.

Their hands were calloused and their backs permanently curved from constant labour. Some bore injuries that had never healed properly.

Bandaged wrists, swollen ankles, and deep cuts testified to lives filled with relentless work.

When I asked one woman why she had not seen a doctor, she explained that the government hospital was too far and private clinics too expensive.

Another told me she could not afford to miss a day of work, and her household duties left her no time to seek care.

Their health was visibly poor. Pale faces, persistent coughs, untreated infections, and chronic pain shaped the daily lives of these women, and still, they carried on without complaint.

They worked every day, sustaining families and communities, while their own bodies bore the consequences.

Standing there, I realized how hollow discussions of women's empowerment sound when basic healthcare remains out of reach.

A few days later, I met some of Kashmir's most accomplished businesswomen in Srinagar.

Startup founders, executives, and professionals spoke confidently about careers, independence, and ambition. They travelled freely, studied at top institutions, accessed the best hospitals, and earned respect in male-dominated spaces.

I admired them deeply, but I could not stop thinking about the women of Naidkhai.

The contrast made one truth unavoidable: equality in Kashmir often depends on money.

Wealthier women enjoy freedom, healthcare, education, and social capital, while poorer women remain invisible in discussions of empowerment.

This disparity reflects structural



inequalities that extend beyond culture.

Gender inequality in Kashmir is economic, political, and institutional. Some scholars observe that female literacy in the region lags far behind male literacy, and rural women face the greatest disadvantage.

Poverty, early marriage, domestic labour, and the perception that educating daughters is a poor investment push girls out of school at an early age.

The lack of accessible healthcare deepens this inequality.

Women in villages like Naidkhai live miles from government hospitals, and private facilities remain financially inaccessible. Research by a Kashmiri scholar notes that female health often receives little attention, as families prioritize male members. Women face chronic illness, malnutrition, and reproductive health challenges in silence, and infant and child mortality rates remain higher among girls than boys.

The women I observed in Bandipora embodied the patterns documented in these studies, turning statistics into lived experience.

Participation in public life also remains limited. Politics, administration, business leadership, media, and academia continue to be male-dominated spaces. Only about 18 percent of Kashmiri women are employed, compared with more than 75 percent of men.

Female-headed households experience higher poverty and economic vulnerability. Land and asset ownership remains rare among women, with just 27 percent holding any property.

Economic dependence shapes choices, limits mobility, and constrains every aspect of life.

The long-standing strife in Kashmir has deepened these inequalities. Many women have lost family members or been left to raise children alone, often without legal or financial support.

The absence of male family members has deepened poverty and

social marginalization, forcing women to face extreme hardship without institutional support.

Fertility trends in the region further reveal the pressures on women.

Falling fertility rates are linked to unemployment, delayed marriages, and economic insecurity. Many women delay motherhood, because survival and material stability have become uncertain.

Feminism in Kashmir often assumes a universal experience of oppression, but the lives of urban and rural women differ dramatically.

The entrepreneur in Srinagar and the woman harvesting paddy in Bandipora live in separate realities.

One debates glass ceilings, while the other worries about feeding her children and accessing healthcare.

Observing only urban women risks overlooking the vast majority of the population.

Feminism in the region cannot ignore class.

Marxist feminism provides a lens to understand these differences.

Women's oppression exists not only in cultural practices but also in economic exploitation. Poverty and patriarchy operate together, producing layered oppression.

When women perform unpaid domestic labour, toil in fields without wages or legal protection, or lack ownership of property, they face systemic injustice beyond patriarchal norms.

The lessons from Naidkhai remain vivid. Gender equality without economic equality offers little real change.

Women cannot access empowerment if they cannot afford healthcare, education, or time away from survival work.

Representation alone does not compensate for structural exclusion.

Addressing this inequality needs action beyond legal rights or symbolic gestures. Land ownership, fair wages, healthcare, education, and redistribution must guide policy. Rural healthcare must improve, girls' education must be accessible,



FEMINISM IN KASHMIR MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AS A FIGHT AGAINST BOTH PATRIARCHY AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICE.

True commitment to women's rights demands attention to both freedom and material security. Until economic inequality is addressed, empowerment remains incomplete, and most women continue to live under compounded burdens of poverty and gender discrimination.

economic opportunities for poor women must expand, and legal protections for female workers must strengthen.

Women should control their labour, access credit, and hold property to create meaningful independence.

Feminism in Kashmir must be understood as a fight against both patriarchy and economic injustice.

True commitment to women's rights demands attention to both freedom and material security.

Until economic inequality is addressed, empowerment remains incomplete, and most women continue to live under compounded burdens of poverty and gender discrimination.

—The author hails from Srinagar and can be reached at aabroo@starturkashmir.org.

A Day for Every Girl

The day highlights the reality and aspirations of Kashmiri girls beyond symbolic recognition.

Irfan Jaffer

Every year, January 24th comes around as National Girl Child Day, and every year I find myself thinking about what it really means.

On the surface, it celebrates girls, their potential, and rights. There are speeches, programs, and messages that highlight what girls can do and what they deserve. And yet, I keep asking myself whether these celebrations reach the girls themselves, the ones living in homes and villages where opportunities are limited and choices are often made for them.

For me, this day is a mix of hope and reflection. It is a reminder that recognition matters, but it is not enough.

I have spent years talking to girls across Kashmir, and I have learned how their daily lives shape who they are.

At home, chores and family responsibilities come first. Girls cook, clean, care for younger siblings, and adjust to expectations that put their own dreams on hold.

Decisions about what they study, where they go, and even how they use their own time are often made by others. Their ambitions are expressed in hushed tones, careful not to demand too much, because they know the world has a way of asking them to wait.

Outside the home, challenges grow. Poverty limits options. Schools can be far, travel can feel unsafe, and missing sanitation facilities make classrooms inaccessible.

Social expectations often discourage education. Many girls leave school before completing basic grades, because barriers keep stacking against them.

Adolescence, which should be a time for exploring, learning, and understanding oneself, can become a period of restriction and anxiety.

Mental health adds another layer to this daily pressure.

Constant expectations, fear of judgment, early responsibilities, and exposure to abuse take a serious toll. Many girls carry stress and worry silently because speaking up is not encouraged.

I have seen how living under these pressures shapes confidence, self-perception, and the way girls relate to the world.

Menstrual health makes things even more complicated. Access to sanitary products, hygienic facilities, and accurate information is limited. Girls miss school, withdraw from social spaces, and internalize shame around their bodies.

This is the reality behind a celebration that claims to honor their growth and potential.

Thinking about all of this, I keep returning to one question: what happens after National Girl Child Day ends?



what happens after National Girl Child Day ends?

True change begins when we create spaces where girls can speak, learn, and grow without fear.

Initiatives like the Adolescent

Learning Centers by the Human Welfare Voluntary Organization in Pattan, Bijhama, and Boniyar offer a model.

These are spaces designed to help girls explore life skills, understand mental well-being,

learn about their bodies, and recognize forms of abuse.

They are asked for their thoughts, opinions, and feelings. For many, this is the first time they are invited to speak and be heard.



NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY IS A REMINDER TO LISTEN, ACT, AND INVEST IN SPACES WHERE GIRLS CAN TRULY THRIVE.

Recognition matters, but girls need respect, opportunity, and room to make choices about their own lives.

The difference this makes is visible.

Girls who had dropped out of school due to family pressure or gaps in learning begin to re-engage with education. Some prepare to return to formal schooling, while others explore alternative pathways through skill-building and confidence.

Education becomes a way to reclaim a sense of self, and direction.

Over time, the impact extends beyond the individual. Girls who understand their rights and bodies make informed choices and grow into young women who can advocate for themselves and others.

Families reconsider expectations, communities slowly adjust, and norms shift through confidence and understanding.

Change becomes a persistent movement that extends well

beyond January 24th.

National Girl Child Day is a reminder to listen, act, and invest in spaces where girls can truly thrive. Recognition matters, but girls need respect, opportunity, and room to make choices about their own lives.

Every encounter I have had with girls in Kashmir reinforces that celebration without action is empty, and action without space is incomplete.

The goal is to make every day a step toward creating an environment where every girl can grow, learn, and imagine her own future.

—Irfan Jaffer has done M.A. Gender Studies and is working in Human Welfare Voluntary Organization as Community Lead. He can be reached at jaffurirfan77@gmail.com.

Corporate Fraud: SC Issues Fresh Notices to Anil Ambani

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to file status reports in a sealed cover within ten days on their ongoing investigations into alleged massive banking and corporate fraud involving the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) and its group companies.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi also issued fresh notices to Anil Ambani and the ADAG on a PIL seeking a court-monitored probe into the alleged fraud.

It took note of the fact that Anil Ambani and the ADAG had already been served with the notices of the PIL filed by the petitioner and former Union secretary E A S Sarma.

On November 18, the bench issued notices to the Centre, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), ED, Anil Ambani and ADAG on the PIL.

The bench, however, said it was granting them one last opportunity to appear and file their responses in the case.

The bench asked the Bombay High Court's Registrar General to ensure service of notices on Anil Ambani and the ADAG and file a compliance report.

The top court asked the CBI and the ED, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, to file status reports in a sealed cover in ten days on their ongoing probes into the alleged fraud.

During the brief hearing, lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the PIL petitioner, alleged that more than Rs 1.50 lakh crore of debt of these companies has been written off, and the money was siphoned off through many shell companies.

He said this was the "largest bank loan fraud in the country". Bhushan said the company



and Ambani have not entered an appearance before this court despite being aware of the fact that "this was highly reported in the media, it's not that they do not know, they are watching".

The solicitor general said that he was not opposing Bhushan and an FIR was lodged pursuant to a forensic audit conducted by the State Bank of India (SBI).

Earlier, Bhushan alleged that the probe agencies are not investigating the alleged complicity of banks and their officials in the huge banking fraud.

He sought a direction to the CBI and the ED to file respective status reports with regard to the probe against banks and their officials in the case.

Bhushan said the instant case is "probably the largest corporate fraud in India's history".

The FIR was registered in 2025 though the fraud was going on since 2007-08, the lawyer alleged.

The PIL alleged systematic diversion of public funds, fabrication of financial statements and

institutional complicity across multiple entities of the Anil Ambani-led Reliance ADAG.

It said the FIR registered by the CBI on August 21, along with the connected ED proceedings, addresses merely a small segment of the alleged fraud.

The petition claimed that despite detailed forensic audits flagging serious irregularities, neither agency is probing the role of bank officials, auditors or regulators, which the petitioner called a critical failure.

Issue a Writ of Mandamus or direction for a court-monitored investigation by the CBI and the ED to conduct a thorough, impartial and time-bound investigation into the financial fraud perpetrated by Respondent No. 4 (Anil Ambani) and Respondent No. 5 (ADAG), the plea said.

It also sought a direction to the respondents for the constitution of a special investigation team (SIT) comprising officers from the CBI and the ED to conduct a thorough, impartial and time-bound investigation.

Issue appropriate writ or direction that the investigation into the affairs of ADAG, its promoters/ directors and connected entities be monitored by this honourable court so as to ensure that the probe is fair, independent, comprehensive and free from any external influence, and that no aspect of the financial or criminal misconduct revealed in the forensic and audit reports is left outside the scope of inquiry, it said.

The plea also sought a comprehensive, coordinated and judicially supervised probe, asserting that the ongoing investigations by the CBI and the ED were inadequate and deliberately restricted to a narrow FIR filed by the SBI in August 2025.

It said between 2013 and 2017, RCOM, Reliance Infratel (RITL) and Reliance Telecom (RTL) borrowed Rs 31,580 crore from a consortium of banks led by the SBI.

The SBI lodged the FIR on August 21, alleging criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and misconduct involving an alleged loss of Rs 2,929.05 crore, it said.

The plea said the FIR was based on a forensic audit commissioned in 2019, covering suspicious fund flows, diversion of bank loans, fictitious transactions and the alleged use of shell companies.

The investigating agencies, in the present matter, have overlooked the five-year delay in filing the FIR by the bank, which clearly indicates involvement of bank officials and other public servants whose conduct enabled, concealed or facilitated the fraud, it said.

The CBI and the ED have entirely failed to investigate this institutional angle, and excluded from scrutiny the very public officials whose complicity or willful inaction forms an essential part of the criminal conspiracy, it said.

Three to Four Suicides Daily in Bengal Over SIR: Mamata

Press Trust Of India

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday claimed that three to four people are dying by suicide everyday in the state, due to anxiety over the ongoing SIR exercise.

Banerjee, addressing a programme at Red Road here on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, asserted that the Election Commission and the central government must take responsibility for the deaths.

"More than 110 people have already died; everyday three to four people are dying by suicide out of SIR anxiety... 40 to 45 more people are fighting for their lives in hospitals. After all these years, we have to prove whether we are citizens of this country?" the CM said.

The special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is underway in the state ahead of the upcoming assembly polls.

Banerjee also accused the BJP of conspiring against Bengal, and claimed that icons of the country like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Bose, B R Ambedkar and Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar were being insulted.

"We are noticing that attempts are being made to distort the history of India... Insult, intolerance, ingratitude towards them and an affront towards language; all these lie ahead of us," she alleged.

She accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of having abolished the Planning Commission, "which was envisaged by Subhas Chandra Bose", and replacing it with the Niti Aayog.

Banerjee also said it is unfortunate that Bose's birthday has not yet been declared a national holiday.



She said that dreams of the country's icons are being "broken to pieces", alleging that the saffron brigade's version of history was forced upon people.

"This has no relation to the history of the country," Banerjee, also the TMC supremo, said.

"People's rights are being taken away and democracy is being crushed," she said, asking on a sarcastic note whether Bose would have been summoned for an SIR hearing in the name of logical discrepancy had he been alive, and "questioned about his Indian citizenship".

Claiming that 1.38 crore people have been summoned by the EC for the SIR hearings over logical discrepancy, she said that already 58 lakh names have been deleted in the draft rolls.

"The total number is two crore," the chief minister asserted.

Banerjee alleged that the BJP's top leadership use teleprompters to say a few words in Bengali during their speeches before elections, and "insult the intelligentsia of Bengal by doing so".

Noting that Bengalis spell their surnames in different ways, giving her own example that her surname is spelt as both Banerjee and Bandopadhyay, Banerjee wondered why "this is not known by those conducting the SIR exercise".

"On account of such mistakes, 1.38 crore people have been given notice," she said.

The CM also claimed that elderly people were made to come for the SIR hearings, and questioned why celebrated economist Amartya Sen was sent a notice in this regard.

"They (BJP) will now decide whether children will be born or not; already they are dictating what people will eat and what they shall not," she alleged.

Asserting that humanity is having to fight against inhumanity today, she said, "We are battling against the Kauravas", drawing a parallel with the clash between good and evil in the epic Mahabharata.

Referring to Bose's famous slogan 'Dilli Chalo' (March to Delhi), Banerjee said it should be raised once again to "re-establish humanity".

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

First Snow Brings

around 1.5 feet. South Kashmir bore the brunt of the intense spell. Shopian district reported 1.5 to 2.5 feet of snow in the plains, while higher reaches accumulated between 2.5 and 4 feet.

Pulwama district also saw heavy snowfall, with areas such as Drabgam and Rajpora recording around 1.5 feet.

In north Kashmir, Gulmarg recorded about 2 feet of snowfall. Kupwara district received heavy accumulation, with Hachmarg getting around 2.5 feet, while Deditoke and Tangdhar recorded nearly 2 feet each.

Higher reaches of the Karnah Valley above 2,000 metres saw snowfall ranging from 2.5 to 4 feet.

Snowfall also extended to the Jammu region and Ladakh. Loran Mandi in Poonch received 7 to 8 inches of snow, while Banihal recorded over 5 inches.

In Ladakh, the Suru Valley in Kargil district received 3 to 4 inches.

Weather officials said the snowfall followed a sharp pressure drop on Thursday, triggering strong gusty winds across the region.

Shopian recorded wind speeds of up to 150 kmph, while parts of Poonch, Reasi, south Kashmir, and Srinagar also experienced strong winds, leading to uprooted trees and precautionary power cuts in several areas.

Trees Uprooted, Rooftops Damaged
Strong winds accompanying the snowfall lashed several areas, uprooting trees, damaging rooftops, and snapping power lines in parts of the Valley. Officials said electricity supply was disrupted in several areas, though restoration work was underway.

Flight operations at the Srinagar airport were suspended as snow accumulation rendered the runway unavailable. Airport officials said all flights were cancelled due to bad weather.

Surface connectivity was also hit, with the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway closed due to snowfall and rain at several stretches. The Mughal Road, which serves as an alternate link between Kashmir and Jammu, was also shut. The Srinagar-Leh highway remained closed due to snowfall along the Sonamarg and Zojila axis. Rail services were affected, while district administrations and police established control rooms and helplines to assist the public. Authorities pressed men and machinery into service to clear snow from priority roads, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department said the current weather system is likely to persist till Friday evening, with the possibility of heavy rain or snow accompanied by gusty winds or hailstorm over parts of the Pir Panjal range, Chenab Valley, and south Kashmir.

Authorities advised people to avoid unnecessary travel, particularly towards higher reaches, and to follow official traffic and weather advisories.

Roads Shut,

measure following snow accumulation and slippery road conditions. The Sinthan-Kishtwar road, Mughal Road, and the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri axis were closed to traffic, while movement on several interior roads in

hilly areas was severely affected.

Traffic officials said around 35 heavy motor vehicles remained stranded along the highway, while light motor vehicles were turned back from the Qazigund side to avoid congestion and risk. In view of forecasts predicting continued snowfall and rain, police advised commuters to strictly adhere to cut-off timings and travel advisories, particularly on hilly routes.

Authorities urged travellers heading towards Jammu, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Ladakh, Pahalgam, Gurez, Karnah, Machil, and other vulnerable areas to confirm road status before starting their journey. Vehicles without anti-skid chains were barred from hilly roads, and only registered vendors were allowed to fit chains at designated points to prevent traffic jams.

The Traffic Department later announced that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway would remain closed for vehicular movement on Saturday. Movement between Nagrota, Chenani, Patnitop, Ramban, Banihal, and Srinagar was suspended in both directions. Commuters from Katra, Reasi, and Udhampur were advised to carry photo identity cards to facilitate regulated movement where permitted.

Rail connectivity was also hit. Train services on the Banihal-Budgam section were largely suspended after snowfall at multiple locations along the track. However, railway officials said a limited number of services, including the Vande Bharat train from Katra to Srinagar, continued to operate despite adverse conditions. The Baramulla section remained completely suspended, while a few services were operated cautiously on other stretches.

Air travel faced the sharpest disruption. Flight operations at Srinagar Airport were suspended after continuous snowfall led to snow accumulation on runways and poor visibility. Officials said more than 26 flights were cancelled, with some earlier services diverted to Jammu before air traffic was fully halted in the interest of passenger safety. Operations at Jammu airport continued, though delays were reported.

In a post on X, Srinagar Airport authorities confirmed the suspension of all flights, citing ongoing snowfall and adverse weather conditions en route. Passengers were advised to contact airlines for updates and re-accommodation.

Authorities said the situation was being monitored closely and urged residents and travellers to avoid unnecessary movement until weather conditions improve.

Avalanche Warning

avalanche-prone areas during the warning period.

The advisory was issued after moderate to heavy snowfall was recorded across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir earlier in the day. Authorities said weather conditions continue to be closely monitored and further advisories would be issued if required.

Severe Winds

first, followed by secondary and interior roads in phases.

By Friday evening, officials said nearly 60 to 65 percent of the Valley's electricity system had been restored. Managing Director KPDC, Mehmood Shah, said Srinagar, which accounts for about 40 percent of Kashmir's total power consumption, witnessed nearly 95 percent restoration.

An official said 100 percent of 33 kV feeders had been restored in three districts, including Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Anantnag. Of the total 135 33 kV lines, 112 were functional, while restoration work was underway on the remaining 23.

Of the 1,302 feeders of 11 kV, the official said 803 were functioning smoothly, 287 were under fault, while 212 feeders remained off due to outages in 33 kV lines or faults at receiving stations.

The official said that till 7 pm on Friday, the department was supplying nearly 1,050 megawatts of electricity against a requirement of around 2,000 megawatts across the Kashmir region.

However, electricity restoration in far-flung and upper-reach areas continues to remain affected as several roads are still blocked due to heavy snowfall, restricting access for repair teams. Officials said restoration efforts in these areas would begin once snowfall subsides and road connectivity improves, likely by Saturday morning.

The Valley usually records a power load of around 1,800 megawatts during this period, while the system is currently supplying close to 1,100 megawatts. Shah said this indicates that a substantial portion of the infrastructure has been brought back online within a short time.

He said the damage to the power network was caused primarily by an unusually intense windstorm rather than snowfall, calling it the most severe such event in many years. Despite advance preparedness based on snowfall forecasts, Shah said wind-related damage proved far more destructive.

According to Shah, the power utility has suffered losses estimated at Rs 5 to 6 crore due to damage to poles and transmission wires. A final assessment is still pending as several affected areas remain inaccessible.

He said KPDC had adequate buffer stock and reserves to respond to the emergency and credited the pace of restoration to preparedness and the efforts of ground staff working under extremely difficult terrain and weather conditions.

Shah added that electricity supply in the Valley has remained stable over the past two years, with improvements in both availability and quality, and said further improvement in power supply is expected by the end of 2026.

Karnah Records

received three to four inches of snow. In contrast, several higher elevation areas of south and central Kashmir, including Downtown Srinagar, Tral, Awantipora and Anantnag town at around 1,600 metres, did not record snowfall during the same period.

Weather observers described the drop in snowline as an uncommon winter event,

highlighting the unusual spatial variation in snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir.]

Snow Eludes Srinagar,

From north to south Kashmir, several districts have recorded significant snowfall, disrupting daily life and bringing the familiar winter stillness. The summer capital, however, has largely missed out, except for a few pockets on its outskirts.

Residents in parts of uptown Srinagar, including Humhama, woke up to a modest spell of snowfall measuring a couple of inches, offering a fleeting glimpse of winter. Across most neighbourhoods of the city, however, the much-anticipated snowfall remains elusive, leaving Srinagarites both hopeful and restless.

"Every winter, snowfall is what truly announces the season for us," said Umar Farooq, a resident of Rajbagh. "When we see snow in other districts and nothing here, it feels like Srinagar has been left out. We are still waiting."

For many, snowfall is not just a weather event but an emotional marker that shapes winter routines, childhood memories, and the rhythm of the city. "Snow changes the mood of Srinagar," said Nighat Ara from Hawal. "Even a few inches bring joy, especially for children. This year, we keep checking the sky and weather updates."

In Humhama, where light snowfall did settle briefly, residents described it as a teaser rather than the real thing. "It was nice while it lasted, but it melted quickly," said Ghulam Muhammad, a local shopkeeper. "We thought the city would finally get proper snowfall, but it stopped."

Anantnag town in south Kashmir also largely remained aloof from heavy snowfall, even as surrounding areas recorded substantial accumulation.

The absence of snow has also turned Srinagar into the subject of online humour. Social media platforms have been flooded with memes, jokes, and sarcastic posts capturing the city's collective impatience. Users have shared images of snow-covered districts across Kashmir alongside bare Srinagar streets, poking fun at the city's luck this winter.

WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram have become informal weather forums, where screenshots of forecasts mix with humour and frustration. For many young residents, memes have emerged as a way to process disappointment while keeping the winter spirit alive.

One video circulating widely online shows a man selling snow in Srinagar, loading chunks onto a load carrier and claiming it was brought from Sonamarg. He is seen offering the snow at Rs 100 per kilogram, drawing laughter, disbelief, and sharp humour from viewers.

Another widely shared post summed up the city's mood with a line tinged with irony, "Lukh aes wanan sheen pay, ati pay teen," loosely translating to "People kept saying it would snow, but instead the roofs gave way."

"People are laughing, but there is longing behind it," said a college student from Nowhatta. "The memes are funny, but they also show how badly people want snow."

Restore Roads &

assessments by Deputy Commissioners, focusing on the status of essential services, including electricity supply, drinking water, road connectivity, and other basic facilities affected by snow accumulation and strong winds.

The Chief Minister appreciated the Divisional and District Administrations for their swift response in minimising public inconvenience. He directed officials to maintain a high level of preparedness and coordination in view of the prevailing weather advisories to ensure uninterrupted functioning of essential services.

Emphasising priority restoration, the Chief Minister said road connectivity and power supply must be restored at the earliest to prevent public hardship. He also sought regular updates on restoration measures to ensure seamless delivery of public services.

The Chief Minister further directed the concerned authorities to carry out a timely assessment of damages caused by the inclement weather so that affected families can be provided immediate assistance.

The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat here, was attended by Minister Satish Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary R&B Anil Kumar Singh, IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Faz Lul Haseeb, heads of key departments, and other senior officers. The Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Deputy Commissioners from districts in the Kashmir Valley and Jammu division joined the meeting virtually.

True Faith Lives

servicing devotees in difficult terrain and harsh weather conditions.

"For 25 years, the Shri Baba Kashi Vishwanath Seva Samiti has embodied the principle that faith manifests through service," he said, adding that serving pilgrims amid high altitude, severe weather, and physical hardship is not merely organisational work but a form of spiritual discipline.

The Lieutenant Governor said spiritual consciousness plays a vital role in maintaining balance in today's times by fostering compassion and empathy. He said spiritual prosperity helps build value-rooted citizens, which in turn strengthens society and the nation.

Referring to the volunteers serving at Chandanwari, Sinha said their efforts dismantle barriers and create connections rooted in human compassion. "Each time a volunteer extends help without waiting to be asked, they reinforce the spiritual foundation of our nation," he said.

He congratulated Shri Dilip Singh, president of the Shri Baba Kashi Vishwanath Seva Samiti, along with its office bearers and volunteers, for making service a way of life. Calling for collective responsibility, the Lieutenant Governor urged people to integrate service into daily life. "Let us translate our spiritual beliefs into tangible actions and work together to build a society founded on kindness, mutual support, and peaceful coexistence," he said.

Snowfall Disrupts Life in Jammu's Higher Reaches

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Moderate to heavy snowfall was experienced in high-altitude areas, including the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in the Jammu region, leading to the suspension of traffic on key roads and disruption of air and rail services.

More than 100 stranded persons were rescued from snow-bound areas in Poonch and Udhampur districts, while moderate rains lashed the plains, including Jammu city, bringing an end to a dry spell that had lasted for over two months.

As predicted by the meteorological department, it started snowing in most high-altitude areas late Thursday evening, preceded by gusty winds, while intermittent rains lashed the plains, including Jammu city, throughout the night, officials said.

Intermittent snowfall continued in the upper reaches of Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Udhampur and Kathua districts, officials said.

Snowfall ranging from a few inches to over two feet accumulated in some areas.

The higher reaches had recorded snowfall in the last week of December. The fresh precipitation brought relief to the people, especially farmers and tourism stakeholders, ending the dry-spell in the region.

A police official said that 70 people, stranded at Totagali in



Mendhar area of Poonch district, were rescued despite adverse weather conditions, ensuring their safety and comfort. Another 30 passengers who were stranded due to heavy snowfall in the Krishna Ghati area were also safely evacuated, he said.

Amid inclement weather conditions, police conducted another rescue operation and saved 12 persons, including women and children, who were stranded in a heavy snowstorm at Chochru Galla in the Basantgarh area of Udhampur district, the official said.

Meanwhile, in a post on X, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board said, "Season's first snowfall at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan (atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district). Devotees were blessed to witness breathtaking weather

as fresh snow gently adorned the holy surroundings of Maa Vaishno Devi Bhawan and Bhairon Temple, filling the atmosphere with serenity, devotion, and divine bliss."

The yatra was temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure from both the Tarakote and Banganga tracks, but it has now been restored.

The traffic on the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was suspended following fresh snowfall. Thousands of vehicles have been stranded.

"Traffic movement has been stopped in both directions -- from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice versa on Jammu Srinagar national highway (NH-

44) due to fresh snowfall in and around the Navyug Tunnel (in Banihal-Qazigund stretch)," a traffic department official said.

"In addition, the Mughal Road, Srinagar-Leh national highway, and Sinthan Roads have also been closed owing to fresh snow accumulation," the official said.

The official advised commuters to avoid travel until these roads are fully restored and declared safe for traffic.

Officials said the rail service between Jammu and Kashmir was also partially affected by heavy snowfall.

"Due to heavy snowfall, only one train each was operated from Sangaldan and Banihal towards Srinagar, while no train could be run from Kashmir towards Banihal as large portions

of the railway track remained covered with snow," Station Master Banihal, Abdul Baseer Bali, told PTI.

Railway authorities are closely monitoring weather conditions and tracking clearance operations. Services will be restored once conditions improve, he said.

Five flights were suspended this morning while several others got delayed at Jammu airport due to inclement weather, the officials said. A total of 32 flights are scheduled to operate to and from the airport during the day.

The officials said the authorities have ordered the closure of all schools in the hilly districts of Rajouri, Poonch and Kathua districts as a precautionary measure in view of the snowfall.

Police have also established dedicated helpline numbers at all district headquarters, they said.

Meanwhile, BSF rescheduled its recruitment drive at its Jammu headquarters from January 24 to February 6 due to waterlogging caused by rainfall.

"Due to continuous heavy rainfall, waterlogging has occurred in and around the BSF Jammu Paloura Camp, affecting the stadium and track. In view of this, the PST/PET (through RFID) for the recruitment of CT/TM in BSF, scheduled to be held on January 24, 2026, has been postponed. The revised date for the examination has now been fixed as February 6, 2026," a BSF spokesperson said.

JeM Terrorist Killed in Kathua Encounter

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant breakthrough in counter-terror operations, security forces on Friday eliminated a top Pakistani terrorist linked to the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit in an encounter in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu range, Bhim Sen Tuti, said the terrorist was gunned down during a joint operation in the general area of Billawar.

"A Pakistani Jaish terrorist has been neutralised by a small J&K (J&K Police) team in a joint operation with the Army and CRPF in the general area of Billawar," the Jammu police chief said in a post on X.

Officials identified the deceased terrorist as JeM commander Usman alias "Abu Maviya". They said that a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including an M4 automatic rifle, were recovered from him during the operation in a remote village in the Parhetar area.

"Acting on specific intelligence inputs, Joint Operation was launched by Army and Police on 23 Jan in general area Parhetar. Area was cordoned and contact established. In a precise strike by the joint forces, 1 (one) foreign terrorist has been eliminated," Army's Rising Star Corps said in a separate post on X.

It said the search operations are continuing when the last reports were received. The officials said Usman was one of the most wanted JeM terrorists active in the Udhampur-Kathua belt for the last couple of years after infiltrating into this side from across the border.

He had escaped several encoun-

ters in the past, the latest being on January 7 and 13 in Kahog and Najote forests, respectively, they said.

The officials said that the joint search party raided a house but came under fire from a hiding terrorist late this afternoon. The search parties reacted swiftly and shot him dead in close combat.

The encounter lasted for a few minutes only, the officials said, terming the killing of the dreaded terrorist a major breakthrough for the security forces.

Meanwhile, security forces continued their anti-terror operation to hunt down three JeM terrorists in Sonnar, Mandral-Singhpura and adjoining forest areas in the Chatroo belt of Kishtwar district for the sixth day on Friday.

The operation was continued despite snowfall in the area, the officials said.

Named by the Army as 'Operation Trashi-I', the operation was launched in the area on Sunday, leading to a gunfight that left one paratrooper dead and seven soldiers injured, primarily due to splinter injuries caused by a sudden grenade attack from the hiding terrorists.

After four days of lull, another encounter took place between the holed-up terrorists and security forces on Thursday, but the success eluded the forces as the terrorists managed their escape, taking advantage of thick vegetation and challenging topography. A major terrorist hideout was busted during the operation on Monday.

The encounters followed a major counter-terrorist operation launched in the forest belts of the Jammu region in December last year to flush out nearly three dozen holed-up terrorists.

Wreath-Laying Held for 10 Soldiers Killed in Doda Accident

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a solemn ceremony at the technical airport here, senior military and police officials paid homage to 10 Army soldiers who lost their lives in a road accident in Doda district on Thursday.

The wreath-laying ceremony, according to KNO, was led by Lieutenant General P.K. Mishra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps and it was attended by Air Commodore A. Shridhar, Air Officer Commanding of the Jammu Air Force Station and Bhim Sen Tuti, Inspector General of Police (IGP) for the Jammu zone. They were joined by fellow officers from the Army, Indian Air Force, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, and civil administration, underscoring the collective grief and respect for the slain soldiers.

The ten soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the tragic road



accident in Doda were: Sowar Monu from Uttar Pradesh, Sowar Jobanjeet Singh from Punjab, Sowar Mohit from Haryana, Daffadar Shailendra Singh Bhadoriya from Madhya Pradesh, Sepoy Samiran Sing from West Bengal, Sepoy Pradumna Lohar from West Bengal, Sowar Sudhir Narwal from Haryana, Naik Hare Ram Kunwar from Bihar, Sepoy Ajay Lakra from Jharkhand, and Sowar Rinkhil Baliyan from Uttar Pradesh.

The mortal remains of fallen soldiers were transported to their hometowns for final rites.



FOLLOWING THE ACCUMULATION of snow in Bonahama, Beerwah, locals have urged the authorities to remove snow from roads. KO PHOTO, ANSAR HUSSAIN

CM Omar Assures Stakeholders of Strong Tourism Drive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Trade, tourism and industry bodies on Friday pitched key demands before Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during pre-budget consultations, seeking crop insurance, fiscal relief and measures to revive tourism and MSMEs.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Javid Ahmad Tenga said the Chamber has prioritised crop insurance, power tariff amnesty for commercial units and infrastructure support for tourism and sports. He said the Chief Minister assured stakeholders that aggressive tourism promo-



tion would be undertaken across the country this year to revive the sector.

The Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), led by Mohammad Yaseen Khan, submitted a memorandum seeking interest subvention on working capital loans, a trader-friend-

ly OTS scheme, protection from coercive recoveries and relief measures for fire-affected and displaced traders.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) flagged shortages of developed industrial land and proposed a three-pronged MSME revival plan, including loan restructuring, a dedicated MSME ARC and a government-led one-time settlement for stressed units.

Sources said trade bodies stressed revival of trade and tourism, MSME support and inclusive growth, expressing hope that the J&K Budget 2026-27 would reflect these recommendations. (with KNO inputs)

First Snowfall Revives Winter Tourism Hopes at Patnitop

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: The tourist hill station of Patnitop witnessed its first major snowfall of the season, with two to three feet of snow recorded across the area, bringing relief to tourism stakeholders after a prolonged dry spell.

According to KNT, officials said the fresh snowfall covered the entire Patnitop belt, transforming the popular destination into a winter landscape and drawing attention from tourists and visitors. The snowfall marks

the first snow accumulation at the hill station this winter, following months of dry weather that had adversely impacted tourist footfall.

Tourism-related activity at Patnitop had slowed considerably due to the absence of snowfall, with fewer visitors arriving during the peak winter period. However, hoteliers and local business owners expressed optimism that the fresh spell of snow would attract tourists in large numbers in the coming days.

Hotel operators said bookings had begun to pick up soon

after snowfall was reported, as winter tourists prefer snow-covered destinations for leisure and recreation. They said Patnitop remains a preferred winter destination due to its accessibility and scenic views during snowfall.

Locals said the snowfall has also brought down temperatures sharply, adding to the winter chill in the region. Authorities have advised visitors to remain cautious while travelling to Patnitop and to follow official advisories regarding road conditions. [KNT]

Devotees Brave Chill at Hazratbal Shrine

SRINAGAR: Amid fresh snowfall and sub-zero temperatures, hundreds of devotees thronged the Hazratbal Shrine to mark the observance of Friday following Shab-e-Meraj.

Braving biting cold and snowfall, people gathered in large numbers to offer supplications and witness the display of the sacred relic after congregational prayers.

According to the details available with KNO the devotees carrying umbrellas braved the chilly conditions to witness the holy relic.

Many devotees said the snowfall made the sighting of the holy relic feel even more sacred as flakes drifted gently around the shrine. "The snow and rain don't dampen our faith," said one worshipper, standing under an umbrella facing the shrine.

Others echoed similar sentiments, adding that this annual observance draws people from across the Valley each year, regardless of weather conditions.

Beautiful scenes from the shrine showed multiple umbrellas and people dressed in warm garments, standing below the minaret, waiting patiently for a glimpse of the holy relic. (Observer News Service)

Republic Day: Elaborate Security Arrangements in Place, Says IGP

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi on Friday said that multi-layered security arrangements have been put in place across the Kashmir Valley, including Srinagar, to ensure peaceful Republic Day celebrations.

Talking to reporters, IGP Birdi said that the Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with paramilitary forces, have tightened the security grid to ensure smooth conduct of the events.

He said the arrangements cover the entire Valley, including Srinagar, and are aimed at ensuring the safety of participants and the general public.

"The main Republic Day functions will be held in different districts, with chief guests receiving salutes during the ceremonies," he said.

"In Srinagar, the main event will be organised at Bakshi Stadium, where police personnel, school children, and the public are expected to participate in the parade," the IGP said.

This morning, officials and participants paid tributes to martyrs at the Balidan Stump in the city.

Birdi, as per KNO said, such ceremonial events serve both to honour the martyrs and to instil a sense of discipline and patriotism among attendees. (Observer News Service)

EOW Kashmir Chargesheets Man in Property Forgery Case

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has produced a chargesheet before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Budgam, against a Srinagar resident accused of forging property documents to fraudulently claim ownership of a housing plot at Government Housing Colony, Ompora, Budgam.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has produced a chargesheet before the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Budgam, in connection with FIR No. 61/2023 under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC of Police Station EOW-Kashmir.

The statement reads, the case relates to allegations of cheating, forgery and use of forged documents in respect of Plot No. 1165 measuring 30x50 feet, situated at Government Housing Colony, Ompora, Budgam.

"Acting on a written complaint brought to its notice, EOW Kashmir initiated an in-depth investigation into claims made by a woman asserting her lawful ownership over the said plot. The complainant alleged that while she had acquired the property through a valid chain of powers of attorney originating from the original allottee, another individual was simultaneously claiming ownership of the same plot on the basis of a separate set of documents, giving rise to suspicion of fraud and criminal conspiracy," it reads.

The statement reads, a thorough investigation was subsequently carried out, during which statements of the complainant, the original allottee Satish Kumar Sharma, and other relevant persons were recorded. Official verification was sought from the offices of Sub Registrar Budgam and Sub Registrar IV, 2nd Additional Munsif Jammu, which conclusively established that an irrevocable General Power of Attorney purportedly executed in 2010 in favour of the accused was never registered in official records. The original allottee categorically denied executing any such document or ever residing at the address mentioned therein.

"The investigation revealed that the accused, Gh. Mohi-ud-Din Dar S/o Mohd Shaban Dar R/o Nowgam Bypass Srinagar, had fraudulently used forged documents to claim ownership of the plot and execute further transactions. Confirmation from the J&K Housing Department validated the complainant as the legitimate owner," reads the statement further.

"Accordingly, EOW Kashmir has established a prima facie case under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC and filed the chargesheet before the competent court for judicial adjudication."

"The Economic Offences Wing, Kashmir stated that it remains vigilant and resolute in taking stringent action against individuals and groups involved in fraudulent dealings of land and housing properties, and that such acts aimed at usurping public assets will be strictly dealt under law," reads the statement. (Observer News Service)

Director Administers NVD Pledge to DIPR Staff

JAMMU: In connection with the observance of National Voters' Day, Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora today administered the National Voters' Day (NVD) Pledge to officers and officials of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) at Media Complex here.

On the occasion, the Director along with the officers and officials of DIPR readout the pledge, reaffirming commitment to the democratic values enshrined in the Constitution of India and uphold the principles of democracy, exercise their electoral rights responsibly and encourage greater participation in the electoral process.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Information highlighted the significance of this year's theme 'My India My Vote' of NVD, adding that the theme reflects the strengthening democratic institutions and fostering awareness about the importance of informed and ethical voting.

Emphasizing on the role of DIPR regarding SVEEP activities of the Election department, the Director urged DIPR personnel to actively contribute towards spreading voter awareness and promoting inclusive participation in elections. (Observer News Service)



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