



## Road Safety First

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Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K  
in collaboration with TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF J&K

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DIPK-10525/25  
Dated; 31.01.2026



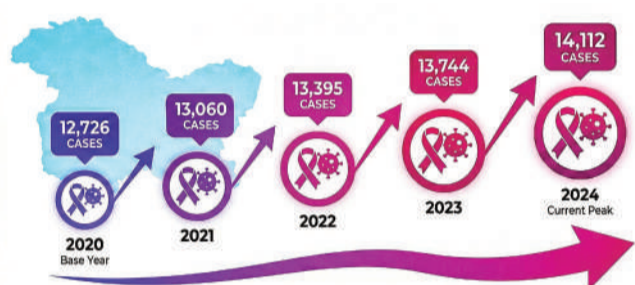
## Alarming Rise In Cancer Cases Spurs Policy Push In J&K

Administration plans structured response as cases average 38 new detections a day

Farzana Nisar

Srinagar: Amid a worrying rise in cancer cases across Jammu and Kashmir, with official data showing an average of 38 new detections every day, the administration is moving towards framing and implementing a comprehensive cancer policy to strengthen prevention, early detection, treatment and long term care

Senior health officials said the proposed policy is expected to be framed soon with the active involvement of leading oncologists, public health specialists and experts from premier national institutions. The initiative seeks to address gaps in screening, diagnosis and access to care that have emerged in the absence of a structured cancer control framework. A senior official said that



cancer has emerged as a major public health challenge in J&K,

with hospitals witnessing a sharp increase in patients suffering from lung, breast, gastrointestinal, cervical and blood cancers. At present, cancer care in the UT is largely managed through general health programmes, tertiary hospitals and referrals outside the region.

Health experts said the absence of a dedicated cancer policy has led to delayed

diagnosis, inadequate screening in some cases and heavy dependence on treatment facilities outside Jammu and Kashmir, adding to the financial and emotional burden on families.

"A comprehensive cancer policy is the need of the hour. It will help streamline diagnostic infrastructure, improve access to treatment and ensure palliative care at the grassroots

level," said an oncologist, stressing the need for population based screening programmes and integration of cancer detection into primary healthcare, especially in rural and remote areas.

The proposed policy is expected to focus on strengthening oncology departments in government medical colleges, setting up district level diagnostic | More on P6

## Kishtwar Sees 6 Encounters In Seven Months

Security Forces Narrow Search Area After Fresh Gunfight | Drones, Sniffer Dogs, Choppers Deployed



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Kishtwar has witnessed six encounters in the past seven months as security forces continue intensified counter terrorism operations against terrorists operating in the region.

The latest encounter broke out early Saturday after army troops re-established contact with three holed up Jaish e Mohammad terrorists during an ongoing search operation in the district, officials said. Following the brief exchange of fire, security forces narrowed down the operation to a specific area in

the snowbound high altitude belt of Dolgam.

Officials said the gunfight began when troops involved in the joint operation under Operation Trashi I made contact with the terrorists in the early hours of the day. The operation is being carried out by the army's White Knight Corps along with Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF. "A cordon has been established and operations are in progress," the army said, adding that intelligence inputs from multiple agencies were coordinated to plan and execute the operation on the ground. According to | More on P6



A quiet winter walk through snow bound Khan Sahab, Budgam, where life moves forward, step by step. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

## Traffic Curbs On Jammu-Srinagar NH On Feb 1

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Traffic Police Headquarters Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday issued a traffic plan and advisory for February 1, warning of slow vehicular movement on the Jammu Srinagar National Highway due to road damage and adverse weather conditions.

Officials said traffic movement remained sluggish on January 30 after two heavy motor vehicles broke down between Marog and Kishtwari Pather on NH 44. The situation worsened due to a 20 to 30 metre single lane stretch at Kishtwari Pather following road sinking, prompting authorities to allow heavy vehicles to ply only on alternate days.

Passengers and light motor vehicle operators were advised to travel during daytime as shooting stones and landslides are frequently reported between Nachlana and Banihal. Authorities also cautioned commuters about slippery road conditions between | More on P6

## Focus On Normalcy, Terrorism Free J&K: CRPF DG

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force G P Singh on Saturday emphasised the need for robust security measures, sustained normalcy and the complete elimination of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The CRPF chief was chairing a high level security review meeting with senior Valley based officials and ground commanders of the force at the CRPF Group Centre in Srinagar during his ongoing visit to the Union Territory.

Officials said Singh is on a two day visit to Jammu and Kashmir and arrived in Srinagar on Friday. During the review, he assessed the operational preparedness of CRPF units deployed in the Valley and took stock of the prevailing security scenario.



Reaffirming the force's commitment to maintaining peace, the Director General stressed the importance of ensuring an incident free environment, particularly in countering terrorist activities, officials said.

As part of his visit, Singh also toured the 44 Battalion of the CRPF, where he interacted with personnel during a Sainik Sammelan and listened to their grievances. Addressing | More on P6

## Parties Gear Up For Stormy Budget Session

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday stepped up preparations for what is expected to be a stormy Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly, beginning tomorrow with the Lieutenant Governor's address to the House.

The ruling National Conference is likely to convene a joint meeting of alliance legislators, including those from Congress, CPI (M)

and supporting independents, on Monday. The meeting, to be held in the evening, will be chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and attended by all alliance MLAs.

Ahead of the joint meeting, the NC is also expected to hold a separate meeting of its own legislators to finalise its strategy for the session.

"We have not yet finalised the date of the meeting or meetings," NC chief whip and Eidgah MLA Mubarak Gul said. | More on P6

## 1990 IAF Attack Case

### Shoukat Bakshi Identified By Eyewitness In CBI Court

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: After JKLF chief Yasin Malik, his close confidant Shoukat Bakshi was identified by an eyewitness before a special court here on Saturday as one of the shooters involved in the January 1990 terror attack on a group of Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel in Srinagar.

In January 2024, Malik was identified as the main shooter by former IAF

corporal Rajwar Umeshwar Singh, who survived the terror attack in which four IAF personnel were killed, in the special CBI court.

Besides the four men, including squadron leader Ravi Khanna, who were killed, 40 people were injured in the incident on January 25, 1990, in Rawalpura on the outskirts of Srinagar. The IAF employees were waiting for their pickup to travel to the old Srinagar | More on P6

## Int'l Museum Of Goddess To Come Up In Katra: LG

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A first of its kind museum dedicated exclusively to goddesses will come up at Katra, the base camp of the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the proposed institution will be the country's first International Museum of Goddess and that experts have already been assigned to the project. He expressed hope that work on the museum would begin soon.

"The first ever International Museum of Goddess in the country is set to come up in Katra. I believe Katra, and indeed the entire nation, will take pride in this museum," Sinha said.

Katra serves as the base camp for pilgrims visiting the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in the Trikuta hills, which attracts around 80 to 90 lakh devotees annually from across India and abroad.

According to officials, the proposed museum will house replicas and representations of major Shakti Peeths and important temples dedicated



to various goddesses from across the country. The initiative aims to highlight the spiritual, cultural and historical heritage associated with Goddess Vaishno Devi and the wider region.

Officials said the museum is envisioned as a world class institution that will document legends, traditions, artefacts and historical narratives linked to the shrine and the Devi worship traditions. It will also offer visitors deeper insights into the evolution of faith, art and architecture connected with pilgrimage practices.

The project aims to develop Katra as a global centre for research and knowledge related to Shakti worship. It is expected to strengthen the town's identity as a major spiritual | More on P6

## LG, CM Greet People On Guru Ravidas Jayanti

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday extended greetings to the people on the occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti, to be celebrated tomorrow.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said Guru Ravidas Ji exemplified compassion, unity, equality and human dignity, and devoted his life to the service of humanity and social reform. He called upon people to recommit themselves to the saint's teachings and work together to build a more caring and inclusive society.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also conveyed warm greetings on the auspicious occasion of Guru Ravidas Jayanti, which will be observed on Sunday.

In his felicitation message, the Chief Minister said the teachings of Guru Ravidas on equality, social justice and universal brotherhood continue to inspire generations and remain deeply relevant in contemporary times.

He said the life and philosophy of Guru Ravidas Ji emphasised compassion, harmony and respect for human dignity, and urged people to imbibe these values in their daily lives to build a just and inclusive society.

The Chief Minister wished happiness, peace | More on P6



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 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)  
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

# Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

## Scholarship Name 1: National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) 2026

**Description:** The National Fellowship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) 2026 is being offered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It provides financial assistance to SC students pursuing higher education in Science, Humanities, or Social Sciences streams in UGC-recognised institutions. 2,000 new fellowships are awarded to eligible students each year.

**Eligibility:** Application is open to students from the Scheduled Caste categories as listed by the respective state governments. Applicants must be enrolled in full-time, regular M.Phil. or Ph.D. programs at the UGC-recognised universities or research institutions. Additionally, they must have qualified in either the National Eligibility Test (NET) or the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE).

**Prizes & Rewards:** Up to 35,000 per month and other benefits.  
**Last Date to Apply:** 20-12-2026  
**Application mode:** Offline via merit-based selection of UGC-NET-JRF or UGC-CSIR NET-JRF exam  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/NFSC1  
**QR Code:** https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media-national-fellowship-scheme-for-scheduled-caste-students-nfsc-20261769489377.png

## Scholarship Name 2: TSDPL Silver Jubilee Scholarship Program 2025-26

**Description:** The TSDPL Silver Jubilee Scholarship Program 2025-26, an initiative by Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited (TSDPL), supports meritorious students from economically disadvantaged back-



grounds pursuing any year of MBBS, BDS, ITI, or Diploma courses from government-recognised institutes. Eligible applicants must have completed Class 10 (for ITI/Diploma) or Class 12 (for MBBS/BDS) from one of these locations: Jamshepur, Kalanganagar, Pantnagar, Faridabad, Pune, Chennai, Tada, Kolkata (Head Office), or Sanand. **Eligibility:** Open to students pursuing any year of ITI/Diploma, MBBS, or BDS from government-recognised institutes. **Minimum marks required:** 50% in Class 10 (For ITI/Diploma students) or 60% in Class 10 & 12 (For MBBS/BDS students). **Annual family income must not exceed INR 5 lakh.** Applicants must have completed Class 10 (For ITI/Diploma) or Class 12 (For MBBS/BDS) from one of the following locations: Jamshepur, Kalanganagar, Pantnagar,

Faridabad, Pune, Chennai, Tada, Kolkata (Head Office), or Sanand. Children of TSDPL and Buddy4Study employees are not eligible. **Note:** Preference will be given to girls, students with a physical disability, and those belonging to the SC/ST community. Students who have performed in sports or any other extracurricular activities will also be given preference. **Prizes & Rewards:** For Diploma/ITI Students: Scholarship of INR 50,000 for 1 year. For MBBS or BDS Students: Scholarship of INR 1,00,000 for 1 year. Note: Scholarship funds can only be utilised for academic expense purposes, including tuition fees (if they are charged), books, stationery, hostel fees, mess charges, or any

other charges.  
**Last Date to Apply:** 07-02-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/TSDPL5  
**QR Code:** https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/2025-261769498490.png

## Scholarship Name 3: Newcastle University Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Undergraduate Scholarship 2026

**Description:** The Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship 2026 is being offered by the Newcastle University to recognise outstanding international students demonstrating exceptional academic performance and potential. It aims to support high-achieving students pursuing their undergraduate studies at the Newcastle University.

**Eligibility:** Application is open to international students with an offer of admission for an eligible, full-time Undergraduate degree at the Newcastle University for academic year 2026-27. Applicants must demonstrate exceptional academic achievement and fulfil eligibility conditions of their course offer. They must have achieved or be expected to achieve grades equivalent to AAB or higher at A-level or their international equivalent. **Prizes & Rewards:** Up to 50% reduction in tuition fees for the 2026-27 session. **Last Date to Apply:** 26-02-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/NUVC1  
**QR Code:** https://dle9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/newcastle-university-vice-chancellor-

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..  
**PUBLIC NOTICE..**  
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mir Aniyia D/o Ishfaq Majeed Mir R/o Mamooosa with verified date of birth 27/03/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Sd  
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contract Card. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the New R&B Srinagar South within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Mohd Ashraf Bhat  
 R/o Mazhama Magam Budgam  
 Contact no: 7051173821  
 bmg

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth  
**Public Notice**  
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Nazir Ahmad Dar s/o Ab Gaffar Dar R/o Watwan pattan with verified date of birth 08/11/1974 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Sd  
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..  
**Public Notice..**  
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Haniya Hilal D/o Hilal Ahmad Dar R/o Sheerpora bangil with verified date of birth 30/09/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Sd  
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Nisar Ahmad Mir S/o Lt Gh Mohd Mir R/o Salsoosa for issuance of Dependent certificate.

**NOTICE**  
 Regarding the subject cited above, in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned reveals that Gh Mohd Mir S/o Ab Ahad Mir R/o Salsoosa passed away on 29-10-1993. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Sarwa Begum	Wife	58	H/W
2	Nayem Ah Mir	Son	35	Labour
3	Gulshana Bano	Daughter	40	H/W
4	Saleem Ah Mir	Son	32	Labour
5	Nisar Ahmad Mir	Son	38	business

The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate. As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.  
 fko Naib Tehsildar

## Health & Medical Education Department, Govt. of J&K GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210  
 Email ID: principal-gmca@jk.gov.in

**Subject:** Engagement of Senior Resident in the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Govt. Medical College Anantnag.  
**Ref.:** 1. Advertisement Notice No. 09 GMCA of 2025 dated 24.11.2025  
 2. Selection Notification No. 12 GMCA of 2025 dated 27.12.2025  
 3. CID Verification Report received from CID J&K vide Form No. 145068 dated 24.01.2026

**ORDER NO.:** 69 GMCA OF 2026  
**DATED:** 31-01-2026

Pursuant to the selection notification issued vide No. 12 GMCA of 2025 dated 27.12.2025, below mentioned candidate is provisionally engaged as Senior Resident under S.O 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020, in the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Government Medical College Anantnag initially for a period of one year which is extendable upto (03) years only on the basis of good performance to be certified by the concerned Head of Department.

Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address	Whether In-Service
Dr Javed Ahmad Malik	Abdul Rahman Malik	Chitragam, Shopian	No

The above candidate is directed to join in the office of the Principal, Govt. Medical College Anantnag within 21 days from the date of publication of this order and shall be allowed to join on production of following documents in original for verification.

- Essential Qualification Certificate(s).
- Registration Certificate(s) of Essential Qualification.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Domicile Certificate.

### Terms and Conditions:

- The above candidate shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on a prescribed format (Form A of S.O 364) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement. The candidate shall strictly ensure that he/she shall not leave the post (College) before the completion of tenure of six months, however abandoning/terminating after six months of the engagement in the specialty will require one-month prior notice on either side falling which the salary shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall be released on completion of stipulated sanctioned term.
- Before joining the Department, the selected candidate shall submit an affidavit in the office of the Administrative Officer, Govt. Medical College Anantnag duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate (1<sup>st</sup> Class) to the effect that:
  - I understand all the terms and conditions set out in the agreement (Form A of S.O 364 of 2020) and I shall be bound by all such terms and conditions (Form A of S.O 364) duly executed by me.
  - If any of the information furnished by me to the college is found wrong at any point of time, I shall be liable to be punished under rules including confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.
  - I will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of my tenure engagement. In the event I proceeded on strike, my tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.
  - I shall remain disciplined during the tenure period; any kind of misconduct shall make me liable for termination without any prior notice.
  - I am not involved in any criminal activity nor is there is any FIR/Court case pending/registered against me in any criminal department or police station/Hon'ble Court.
  - My engagement is strictly provisional till the recipient of verification of documents/ testimonials and verification report for character and antecedents from CID. In case adverse report is received from CID, J&K, I shall have no claim for Senior Residency benefits i.e., experience certificate and salary/remuneration and my engagement shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.
  - I shall not claim any Experience Certificate in case I leave Senior Resident-ship before completion of first six months.
  - I will not indulge in any private practice. In case I am found doing private practice my appointment shall be liable for termination without any notice.
- Those candidates who are not in-service shall be engaged under S.O 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020 (Academic Arrangement Basis).
- The Senior Residents (Non-PSC) appointed on Academic Arrangement Basis shall be paid as per S.O 364 of 2020 dated 27-11-2020. However, In-service (PSC confirmed) candidates shall be paid salary as per their LPC. The PSC confirmed appointees are required to furnish the NOC from Director Health Services concerned before their joining, failing which they will not be allowed to join and their selection will be cancelled.
- The salary of the appointed candidate(s) shall be drawn/distributed only after recipient satisfactory report of verification of character & antecedents and documents/ testimonials from the concerned quarters.

DIPK-10495/25  
 dated: 31-01-2026

No. GMCA/Estt/2026/ 1113-19

*[Signature]*  
 30/1  
 31-01-2026  
 Principal/Dean,  
 Govt. Medical College,  
 Anantnag.

## Health & Medical Education Department, Govt. of J&K GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210  
 Email ID: principal-gmca@jk.gov.in

**Subject:** Engagement of Junior Resident in Govt. Medical College Anantnag.  
**Ref.:** 1. Advertisement Notice No. 04 GMCA (RA) of 2025 dated 16-07-2025  
 2. CID Verification Report received from CID J&K vide Form No. 141917 dated 14.01.2026.

**ORDER NO.:** 60 GMCA OF 2026  
**DATED:** 29-01-2026

Pursuant to the selection order issued vide No. 90 GMCA (RA) of 2025 dated 13-11-2025, below mentioned candidate is provisionally engaged as Junior Resident under S.O 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020, in Government Medical College Anantnag initially for a period of six (06) months extendable upto one year subject to the satisfactory performance to be certified by the concerned Head of the Department.

S. No.	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address
1.	Dr Abdullah Masood Mattoo	Riyaz Masood Mattoo	Umar Colony A, Lalbazar, Srinagar

The above candidate is directed to join in the office of the Administrative Officer, Govt. Medical College Anantnag within 14 days from the date of publication of this order and shall be allowed to join on production of following documents in original along with a set of self-attested photocopies of the same for verification:

- MBBS Degree Certificate issued by the concerned University/ Institution.
- Internship completion certificate.
- J&K Medical Council Registration Certificate of MBBS.
- Attempt Certificate, if applicable.
- Examination marks sheets (All Phases) issued by the concerned University
- Date of Birth Certificate
- Domicile Certificate
- 2 Passport size photographs
- Screening Certificate, if applicable.
- Undertaking as per below prescribed format.

### Terms and Conditions:

- The above candidate shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on a prescribed format (Form A of S.O 364) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement. The candidate shall strictly ensure that he/she shall not leave the post (College) before the completion of tenure of six months, however abandoning/terminating after six months of the engagement in the specialty will require one-month prior notice on either side falling which the salary shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall be released on completion of stipulated sanctioned term.
- The salary of the appointed candidate(s) shall be drawn/distributed only after recipient satisfactory report of verification of character & antecedents and documents/ testimonials from the concerned quarters.
- Before joining the Department, the selected candidate shall submit an affidavit in the office of the Administrative Officer, Govt. Medical College Anantnag duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate (1<sup>st</sup> Class) to the effect that:
  - I understand all the terms and conditions set out in the agreement (Form A of S.O 364 of 2020) and I shall be bound by all such terms and conditions (Form A of S.O 364) duly executed by me.
  - If any of the information furnished by me to the college is found wrong at any point of time, I shall be liable to be punished under rules including confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.
  - I will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of my tenure engagement. In the event I proceeded on strike, my tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under ESMA Act.
  - I shall remain disciplined during the tenure period; any kind of misconduct shall make me liable for termination without any prior notice.
  - I am not involved in any criminal activity nor is there is any FIR/Court case pending/registered against me in any criminal department or police station/Hon'ble Court.
  - I shall not claim any Experience Certificate in case I leave Junior Resident-ship before completion of first six months.
  - I will not indulge in any private practice. In case I am found doing private practice my appointment shall be liable for termination without any notice.

DIPK-10510/25  
 dated: 31-01-2026

No. GMCA/Estt/2026/ 1039-44

*[Signature]*  
 29/1  
 29-01-2026  
 Principal/Dean,  
 Govt. Medical College,  
 Anantnag.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Grant of Registration of Home Stay under the name and style "HUNTERS LODGE", situated at Bishember Nagar

Whereas, I, Mohammad Nasir Khan, S/o Mohammad Nayeem Khan, R/o Zakura, Srinagar, intend to apply before the Prescribed Authority, Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, for registration of my proposed Home Stay under the name and style "HUNTERS LODGE", situated at Bishember Nagar, under the provisions of the Tourist Trade Act, 1978/82/2011.

And whereas, I shall submit all the requisite documents, including Land Ownership Certificate from the concerned Tehsildar, duly attested photographs of the unit, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed (if applicable) issued by the concerned Sub-Registrar/Judicial Magistrate, NOC from the owner (where applicable), Character Certificate from the concerned Police Station, self-declaration/undertaking by the owner, list of family members with age and photographs duly self-attested, photographs of the unit (exterior, individual bedrooms and bathrooms), inspection report of the committee and Aadhaar Card, as required under rules.

Now, therefore, before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of the general public/ organizations. If any person has any objection with regard to the proposed registration of the said Home Stay, the same may be submitted in writing to the office of the Prescribed Authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice in the local daily newspaper.

Objections received after the stipulated period shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed as per rules.

Mohammad Nasir Khan  
 S/o Mohammad Nayeem Khan  
 R/o Zakura, FKO

## انٹرنیٹ گوم احمد پورہ

عنوان:- درخواست نمائند عبدالجید نواز مدنی صاحب ساکن موضع گوم احمد پورہ بکلیٹکو تحصیل پٹن براد اعطائی OBC تحت 176 SRO برائے نوجوان عمران علی ڈیڑھ سائین دینتر خود نمائند

ایشیاد ہر خاص و عام  
 معاملہ نمبر 90/2025/1039-44 ایک درخواست بفرش OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بزمہ نیاہ  
 پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے  
 عیاں ہے کہ ساکن داہنی نمازات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن گوم احمد پورہ میں رہائش پذیر  
 ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کا کنڈیشنل افراد پر مشتمل ہے  
 عبدالجید نواز مدنی 49 سال مزدوری/ترکمان  
 راجہ بیگم زوجہ عبدالجید نواز 45 سال گھریلو کام  
 مرتضیٰ علی پیر 26 سال مزدوری/ترکمان  
 شمیر بانو زوجہ مرتضیٰ 24 سال گھریلو کام  
 فرحان حسین پیر 23 سال زیر تعلیم  
 عمران علی 18 سال --  
 نبیہ بیگم ڈینتر 17 سال --  
 ساکن فوریہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنڈیشنل ہوا آمدنی  
 12000 روپیہ تک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزوری یا اعتراض ہو تو  
 دو ہفتہ شہرہ اجلاس میں دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حد کو فوری اوقات کے دوران پیش  
 کریں۔ بعد ازاں عدالتی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 نائب تحصیلدار FKO

## Court Grants Interim Bail to Former IRS Officer

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A district court in Srinagar on Friday granted interim bail to former Indian Revenue Service officer Vivek Batra in connection with a case involving allegations of assault, attempted rape, and criminal intimidation against an elderly Kashmiri Pandit couple in Rajbagh.

Batra was arrested on January 8 after a complaint was filed at Rajbagh Police Station. According to the FIR, the complainant alleged that Batra and several associates forcibly entered his residence, assaulted family members, and attempted to set the house on fire.

While granting bail, the court said the allegations would be examined during trial but ruled that the accused should not remain in prolonged pre-trial detention, noting that custodial interrogation had been conducted and key evidence collected. The court also held that it had independent authority to consider the bail plea and emphasised the presumption of innocence and the right to personal liberty.

Batra was released after fulfilling bail conditions. The investigation is ongoing, and the matter remains sub judice. A trial will determine the outcome based on evidence and testimony.

## Anganwadi Workers Protest for Wages, Regularization

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Anganwadi workers and helpers on Saturday staged a protest demanding release of pending wages, regularization of services and other long-pending benefits, but were not allowed to assemble by the police.

The protesting workers said they have been raising their issues for years, including timely payment of salaries, enhancement of honorarium and provision of pension benefits, but their demands continue to remain unaddressed.

Raising slogans, the workers said they wanted their issues to be taken up in the Assembly so that a concrete policy decision could be taken in their favour.

They alleged that despite playing a crucial role at the grassroots level in child nutrition, health and welfare schemes, they continue to be treated unfairly.

Protesters said many Anganwadi workers and helpers are struggling to make ends meet due to meagre wages and irregular payments. They said regularization of services and social security benefits like pension are essential to ensure dignity and stability for thousands of workers.

According to KNT, the workers appealed to the government to seriously consider their demands and resolve the issue at the earliest, warning that they would intensify their agitation if their voices continue to be ignored.

## Condolence Meeting Held in Memory of Late Dr. Rozi Jeelani

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A condolence meeting was held on Saturday at the Community Hall, Elahibagh, near the Power Grid Station, to pay homage to Late Dr. Rozi Jeelani, Medical Officer, Health Services, who passed away in Mecca Mukarramah while performing Umrah.

Late Dr. Rozi Jeelani,

wife of Dr. Rouf Jeelani, Senior Dental Surgeon, Health Services, was remembered as a compassionate and dedicated medical professional whose selfless service and humane approach earned her widespread respect and admiration. Her untimely demise has left the medical fraternity and the community at large in deep mourning.



## Karam Shah Bridge Opens in Dal Interiors

Observer News Service

Srinagar: MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq on Saturday said the forthcoming Jammu and Kashmir budget will be centred on public welfare, as he inaugurated the long-awaited Karam Shah Bridge in Mir Behri Dal, bringing relief to residents after years of hardship.

The bridge, a vital artery of connectivity in the Zaidal constituency, had languished for years in administrative limbo, compelling residents to navigate daily hardship and persistent safety hazards. Its inauguration marks the culmination of a long-standing public demand. Speaking on the occasion, Sadiq said the project's completion underscored the administration's resolve to address grassroots issues and strengthen essential civic infrastructure.

Addressing mediapersons, the National Conference chief spokesperson said the forthcoming budget under the present dispensation would be firmly anchored in public welfare, with a clear emphasis on enhancing the overall quality of life, in line with the party's avowed commitment to people-centric governance.

"From the moment Omar Abdullah assumed a role in the administration, the thrust has consistently been on governance that delivers tangible benefits to the people. Even today, concerted efforts are underway to mitigate public inconvenience and address pressing civic concerns," Sadiq remarked.

He further said that critical sectors including power supply, road infrastructure and employment generation are receiving focused attention in the

ongoing budgetary deliberations, with the objective of providing concrete and measurable relief to the populace.

Sadiq also voiced serious concern over the safety and welfare of Kashmiris residing outside the Union Territory, asserting that every citizen has an inalienable right to security, irrespective of where they live, work or pursue education.

He appealed to state governments across the country, in coordination with central authorities, to ensure robust safeguards for students and professionals from Jammu and Kashmir.

The inauguration of the Karam Shah Bridge was met with widespread appreciation from local residents, who said the long-awaited project would substantially improve mobility and access, bringing an end to years of ordeal for the Mir Behri Dal area.

## Woman Dies of Suspected Cardiac Arrest After Assault Triggers Panic in Nishat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A woman died of a suspected cardiac arrest following panic and commotion triggered by an assault incident in the Zeithyar area of Nishat in Srinagar outskirts, while police have launched a manhunt for two unidentified attackers involved in the case.

According to official sources, two unknown persons forcibly entered the house of a Sumo driver, a resident of

Zeithyar Nishat, and allegedly assaulted him, leaving him injured.

During the chaos that followed the incident, a woman living in the neighbourhood suffered a heart attack and collapsed. She was declared dead shortly thereafter.

Police from Nishat Police Station rushed to the spot, but by the time they arrived, the assailants had fled. The injured man was taken into custody for questioning after police found him under the influence of alcohol. He

was provided medical treatment and is presently lodged at the police station, officials said.

A case has been registered under FIR No. 7/26 at Police Station Nishat, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the motive behind the attack and to trace the accused persons.

According to KNT, Police said all angles, including the sequence of events leading to the woman's death, are being examined.

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

AIRPORTS SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 03  
ZUHR 12:44  
ASR 4: 22  
Magrib 6:04  
ISHA 7: 26

HIJRI CALENDAR  
12- Shaban  
1447

### This Day In History

- 772- Adrian I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1327- Edward III is crowned King of England aged 14, though the country is ruled by his mother Queen Isabella and her lover Roger Mortimer
- 1622- English East India Company forces capture the Portuguese fort on the island of Hormus in the Persian Gulf, an important trading center on the route to Mughal India
- 1713- The Kalabalik or Tumult in Bender - Ottoman troops of sultan Ahmed III attack camp and seize his unwelcome guest, King Charles XII of Sweden
- 1864 - 2nd German-Danish war begins

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Mr. Ishfaq Ahmad Mir, S/o Abdul Gani Mir, R/o Bangdara Reshipora, has applied for registration of D-Class Contractor in his favour in the office of the Superintendent, R&B Division Baramulla.

If any person has any objection regarding the above, the same may be submitted in writing to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Superintendent  
R&B Division Baramulla  
Date: 31/02/2026 Place: baramulla FKO

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for the information of the general public that on my Driving License bearing DL No. JK-0520060029567, my name is mentioned as Suhail Ahmad Gujree, whereas my correct name is Suhail Ahmad Sheer Gojri. Further, my father's name is mentioned as Ghulam Mohd Sheer Gojri. Now, I want to correct the above particulars in my Driving License records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the ARTO Office Sopore within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Suhail Ahmad Sheer Gojri  
S/O: Ghulam Mohd Sheer Gojri  
R/O: Pattan Khas, BLA Pattan, Baramulla  
Pincode: 193121 AB

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Subject: Notice Regarding Loss of 10th Class Marks Card  
This is to inform the general public that I have lost my 10th class marks card during travel around Lal Chowk in December 2025.  
Name: Arif Bashir Dar  
Roll Number: 8148212  
School: SM Iqbal Educational Institute, Talbal, Srinagar  
The marks card went missing on 25-12-2025 under circumstances I am unable to recall. If anyone finds this document, they are kindly requested to contact me and return it. I am applying for a duplicate marks card from the concerned authorities. If anyone has any objection or claim regarding this document, they should raise it within 7 days from the date of this notice.  
Arif Bashir Dar  
Contact number: +91 96826 20527 MKO

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for the information of the general public that on my Driving License bearing DL No. JK-0520060029567, my name is mentioned as SUHAIL AHMAF GUJREE, whereas my correct name is SUHAIL AHMAF SHEER GOJRI. Further, my father's name is mentioned as GH MOHAMAD, whereas his correct name is GHULAM MOHD SHEER GOJRI.  
Now, I intend to correct the said particulars in my Driving License records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the ARTO Office Sopore within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Suhail Ahmad Sheer Gojri  
S/O: Ghulam Mohd Sheer Gojri  
R/O: Pattan Khas, BLA Pattan, Baramulla  
Pincode: 193121 AB

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**Office of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Hajin**

**Subject: - Withdrawal of Notice Regarding Dasti Quotation.**

**This is to inform all concerned that the Notice issued earlier by This Office Vide No: CDPO/Hjn/Estt/2025-26/725-26 dated 20-01-2026, regarding the invitation of Short Term Quotations from Super bazaars, co-operative stores, fixed-price shops, and registered local shopkeepers, pursuant to the Decentralized Policy for Procurement of Supplementary Nutrition under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Schemes issued vide Govt. Order No. 44-SW of 2019 dated 29-01-2019, is hereby withdrawn with immediate effect.**

**Accordingly, the said notice may be treated as cancelled, and no action is required in this regard.**

**This withdrawal is issued due to administrative reasons.**

No: - CDPO/Hjn/Est/2025-26/ 793-94  
DIPK-10502/25 dated: 31-01-2026

Child/Development Project Officer,  
Poshan Projct Hajin.

**Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal KPDCL**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCL Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from Registered (A- Class) Electrical Contractors registered with J&K Government, Central Public Works Department, Railways and other state/central governments for "Augmentation of 33 kV Lines of STD Ganderbal to overcome LCP constraints (Augmentation of 33 kV Badampora-Preng Madwan Line) (PDDSS2526100172).

**Important Dates and Events**

e-NIT No	STD/GBL/32 of 2025-26 Dated: 31-01-2026
The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> as per schedule given below:	
A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document 31-01-2026: 16:00 Hours
B	Clarifications start date 31-01-2026: 16:00 Hours
C	Clarifications end date 02-02-2026: 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-bidder fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS) 02-02-2026: 17:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time 12-02-2026: 14:00 Hours
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time 13-02-2026: 14:00 Hours
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders) Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids Office of The Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
I	Cost of e-Bid document INR 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only) Should be in Shape of Treasury Challan to govt head 0801 in favor of Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
J	Advertised Cost Rs 15.47 lacs
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit Rs 0.31 lacs
L	Status of Funds Capex Budget UT Component 2025-26
M	Validity offer 180 days from the date of opening of price tender.
N	Time of Completion 90 Days from issuance of LOA

The tender document can be downloaded from website [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) "Corrigendum, if any, would appear only on the [jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) website. Sale of physical tender document is not applicable. No price shall be submitted offline in any form. Bidder can modify his bid before last date of submission of online bid. After the last date of submission of online bid, no claim of bidder shall be entertained.

No: STD/GBL/Ts/1357-62  
Date: 31-01-2026

DIPK-NB-3126/25  
dated: 31-01-2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
STD Ganderbal

# Kashmir's Lost Loom

Kashmir once earned through its hands even when snow sealed the roads. That economy is thinning, and its ending remains undecided.

**K**ashmir's craft economies once sustained communities through harsh winters, with snow climbing three or four feet high and activity outside slowing sharply. Work remained rooted inside homes, inherited and dependable, supporting families through the season.

During the 1980s and 1990s, especially beyond Srinagar, most rural families worked where they lived, turning their homes into centres of production and skill.

Carpets grew knot by knot on looms, shawls filled with embroidery, crewel and aari patterns took form, chain stitch moved through practiced hands, and handicrafts transformed small rooms into working workshops.

Snow blocked roads, transport stopped, markets felt distant, and still work arrived at the doorstep. Traders brought yarn, frames, designs, and promises.

The kaarigar worked near the bukharis or kangaris as traders shipped finished pieces from village homes to Srinagar, Delhi, and external markets.

Advance money flowed into homes before the work even began. A marriage, a repair, daily needs all found support in that system.

One hundred rupees a day thirty years ago offered respect, certainty, and pride, shaping lives driven by constant work and clear purpose. Medicine shops remained limited, stress stayed contained, and fatigue came from hours spent producing value and meeting daily needs.

That life order faded, turn by turn, thread by thread. And today, the same worker who once received advance payments struggles to earn even two hundred rupees a day, with long stretches of no work at all.

The craft still holds beauty, skill, and history, though the structure that sustained it has cracked.

Machine-made carpets and shawls entered from other regions and countries at faster speeds and lower prices. As markets chased scale, handwork moved from household use to rare purchase.

Young people absorbed one narrow promise repeated everywhere: study harder, earn a degree, become a doctor, an engineer, an officer. But the economy failed to open enough doors for that many white-collar dreams.

Villages saw little effort toward local brands, serious marketing, strong packaging, or digital selling driven from within. Middlemen stayed powerful, while makers remained invisible.



Older hands speak with heavy honesty. Weaving once brought assurance, while education today brings pressure without pay. Younger minds stand trapped in between. Global high-tech skills feel distant, and inherited crafts feel unwanted and outdated.

Every society runs on simple numbers. Only a small share reaches the peak of formal education and elite jobs. The rest build lives through practical skills that earn daily income.

Kashmir weakened that balance by letting cottage industries fade.

Winter lost its at-home work. Youth drifted away from skills that once held honour. Financial pressure deepened stress and emotional strain. Crime, addiction, and social friction found room to grow where purpose disappeared.

A weaver once spoke with calm assurance about advance money resting in his hand and work waiting ahead. Today, the same voice asks how three decades of experience led to two hundred rupees becoming hard to earn.

When work leaves the home, despair walks in and settles.

Look at a simple scene in the market. Milk arrives from outside Srinagar at around eighty rupees per litre, packaged, branded, processed, transported, and sold smoothly. That system runs on planning, cooperation, marketing, and logistics.

Intelligence never stood missing in Kashmir, but organisation did. Others learned how to sell value, while Kashmir kept selling effort.

The path forward does not lie in

freezing time at the 1990s. Progress grows when old skills are handled with new tools.

Village clusters can focus on specific crafts like carpets, shawls, sozni, papier-mâché, walnut wood, copperware, each with design and finishing centres that follow modern tastes and strong quality checks.

Kashmir-origin brands can step into the light instead of passing anonymously through traders.

Technology can serve as a bridge. One or two trained youth in each village can handle online marketplaces, social media, and digital payments.

Stories hold power when told well, and a product made by hands in a snowbound village holds deep appeal for global buyers.

Digital catalogues shared through phones and websites can replace long waits and bring advance orders directly to artisans.

Cooperatives and producer companies at village or tehsil level can pool raw materials, design services, packaging, registration, and large orders. Collective bargaining lifts prices and weakens exploitation. Individual effort finds protection inside organised structure.

A young person trained in craft plus basic digital skills holds as much value as one who clears a competitive exam. Structured programmes lasting six to twelve months can blend traditional work with marketing, communication, and basic finance. Earn-while-you-learn models show income early and keep faith alive.

Doing nothing carries a clear price. Unemployment deepens. Economic strain feeds anxiety, substance use, and conflict inside homes. Social tension rises when people feel excluded from the system.

This stretches beyond economics into survival itself.

When ninety percent of people cannot realistically follow elite career routes and the only alternative fades away, pressure builds without release.

Heritage crafts must be treated as serious economic sectors rather than souvenirs. Designs need modernization, wages require fairness, and direct access to markets must be built.

Youth need the freedom to combine culture with technology, mixing weaving with design, embroidery with social media, and carpentry with online selling.

High-tech tools can elevate these old crafts onto a global stage where their value is recognized and rewarded.

Once, deep winter closed roads, and homes remained busy, earning through carpets and shawls made indoors.

Today, work at home has declined and worry has grown. A healthy society must make room for every talent.

Reviving cottage industries, connecting them to modern markets, and valuing old and new skills can restore income, pride, and a lasting future.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Irshad Mushtaq

“Once, deep winter closed roads, and homes remained busy, earning through carpets and shawls made indoors. Today, work at home has declined and worry has grown. A healthy society must make room for every talent. Reviving cottage industries, connecting them to modern markets, and valuing old and new skills can restore income, pride, and a lasting future.”

Once a land of saints, Kashmir now feels shadowed, as darkness spreads through every home and heart.

Envy and black magic have become evil forces that twist lives, destroy bonds, and turn trust into fear.

These forces are spiritual plagues, consuming faith, sparking malice, and poisoning relationships.

Envy in Islam burns like a hidden fire, a restless urge to seize blessings Allah has granted to others. It festers into malice and deep grudges, spilling into cruel words, secret plots, social sabotage, and in some hearts, the dark path of black magic.

Black magic itself rises from envy, hatred, and resentment, feeding on jealousy toward those who prosper in life, marriage, wealth, education, or honour.

Allah warns humanity of this threat with unflinching clarity.

In Surah al-Falaq, He commands believers to seek protection: "From the evil of the envier when he envies" (Quran 113:5).

The command alone proves the danger.

If envy were minor, divine protection would not be needed. Envy harms the envied, but it first devours the envier, leaving the heart restless and dissatisfied with Allah's decree.

The Prophet Muhammad, PBUH, warned that envy engulfs good deeds as fire consumes wood.

Even a life of prayer and charity cannot withstand envy. The heart's purity is the real measure of success.

The Prophet spoke further, urging believers not to envy, hate, hold grudges, or turn

from one another (Bukhari and Muslim).

Envy, hatred, and grudges twist together like a venomous force. Once one takes root in the heart, the others follow, corroding family, friendship, and community, leaving peace destroyed, trust shattered, and spiritual decay in their wake.

The most dangerous link lies here: black magic.

Often born from deep envy and long-held grudges, it turns hearts toward forbidden practices. Instead of seeking Allah for upliftment, some call upon forces that destroy them, harming themselves and others.

Islam declares black magic a grave sin, an act of disbelief when it relies on anything but Allah. Allah warns: "They learn what harms them and does not benefit them... whoever purchases it would have no share in the Hereafter" (Quran 2:102).

Envy that leads to such acts locks a person in moral and spiritual ruin, unless true repentance comes.

The Prophet condemned black magic, malice, and grudges. Hearts that harbour hatred and envy cannot claim nearness to Allah or spiritual success.

## The Curse Within

A sacred land, a people of saints, and a hidden darkness that eats at hearts and communities. How deep does the poison run?

Humaira Nisar



“No society can thrive with envy, grudges, and malice in its heart. Kashmir's fate hangs between darkness and dawn.”

True triumph, in this life or the next, remains out of reach when poison dominates the soul.

Kashmir, a land of blessings and sacred history, cannot rise while envy replaces gratitude and malice overshadows brotherhood.

Ignoring these sins fractures families, erodes trust, and corrodes society.

Islam offers a cure: contentment with Allah's decree, prayers for others, seeking refuge from envy, and replacing jealousy with gratitude and goodwill. Elevation comes from faith, moral integrity, and ethical living.

No society can thrive with envy, grudges, and malice in its heart.

Kashmir's fate hangs between darkness and dawn.

The author is a Chemistry scholar at Central University Ganderbal. She can be reached at [humanitaria@gmail.com](mailto:humanitaria@gmail.com).

# Life After Loss in Kashmir

In the wake of tragedy, a young Kashmiri girl became caretaker, artist, and student, guiding grief into a journey of understanding and purpose.

Gowher Bhat

At nineteen, Asma Khan's life collapsed in a single instant. A road accident took both her parents, leaving her and her fifteen-year-old brother to face a world forever altered by loss.

"I could not break," she says. "If I broke, everything else would break too. I had to be strong for him, and for myself."

She assumed the roles of caretaker, provider, and guide without hesitation, answering life's call while exploring the depths of her own mind and heart.

She began asking questions that had no immediate answers: Why did this happen? Can I carry both our lives forward? Am I capable of holding us together?

The apple orchard her father had tended for decades became a reliable companion in her inward journey. He had nurtured this land with commitment, and in its unfolding growth, she found a guide for her own becoming.

"I would speak to him in my mind," she says. "Sometimes I asked questions. Sometimes I just listened, searching for guidance I could no longer hear."

Grief made her feel everything more clearly.

Emotions arrived suddenly, and she let anger, fear, and sorrow take their place. Pain reminded her she was still here. Some days needed action, and others needed thought.

Battered by the loss of her birth-givers, she chose to continue her father's apple business, caring for the orchard with the same focus she gave to her inner life.

Seasons taught her about time, change, and release, while her father's values of honesty, perseverance, and self-respect guided her choices.

As she came of age, neighbours began to describe her as khudaar, grounded in self-respect rather than reliance on others.

"She never asked life for mercy," one neighbour says. "She worked



and endured. I have never seen anyone like her in our village." Another adds, "Even at a young age, she carried responsibility like someone twice her age. Complaints never came from her."

All these years, as she slogged for survival, her brother's education remained central to her focus and fortitude.

Today, at twenty-two, he pursues a BSc and stands beside her as both partner and support.

"She became everything for me when I was too young," he says. "Now it is my turn to be there for her. She taught me persistence, strength, and care. I want to help her the way she helped me."

Gradually, as she grew with grace, Asma's inward search moved

**AT TWENTY-SIX, ASMA KHAN HAS GUIDED HER BROTHER INTO ADULTHOOD, PRESERVED HER FATHER'S ORCHARD, AND SHAPED HER OWN EMOTIONAL AND CREATIVE LIFE. Her journey moves in solitude, through tending trees, painting, and writing words that once lived only inside her. Change often comes silently. It grows through attention, care, and consistent effort. Pain, faced with awareness, can deepen life and reveal paths that might otherwise remain hidden.**

beyond grief. She began asking who she could become, what she wanted from life, and how suffering might lead to meaning.

She found poetry and painting during this search.

Words and colours gave form to grief when ordinary speech fell

short. Poetry allowed sorrow to take clear shape, while painting gave emotion a place to move freely. Over time, these practices be-

came a language through which she came to understand herself and develop insight without being overtaken by pain.

"Sometimes I paint my fears first," she says with a soft smile. "Only then do I understand them. Only then can I move forward."

Loss guided her toward purpose, and pushed her to pursue a Master's degree in Psychology. She calls this endeavour as a continuation of her inward journey.

"People carry invisible wounds," she explains. "They need someone who listens. I want to help them understand themselves, rather than merely survive."

Marriage stays a considered decision, set aside for now as she attends to her growth and purpose.

"I am choosing growth first," she says. "I want to serve, to help people emotionally, to offer meaning before I turn attention inward. Healing oneself allows the capacity to help others."

Her brother observes, "She has always thought of others more than herself. Now she wants to help the world, and I remind her it is okay to consider her own happiness. She deserves that time."

At twenty-six, Asma Khan has guided her brother into adulthood, protected her father's orchard, and built her own emotional and creative life.

Her journey unfolds in solitude, through tending trees, painting, and writing words that once lived only within her.

She speaks about what these years have taught her: "Meeting oneself means showing up fully in life and paying attention to what unfolds within. Strength grows by living, caring through action, and listening to oneself."

Asma's journey proves that living fully, creating, and listening within can turn life's challenges into meaning.

— The author is a Pulwama-based educator.

## Forest Figure Returns

Once confined to folklore, the chilling figure of Kashmir's forests has resurfaced online, blurring myth and modern imagination.

Zaid Bin Ishaq

That terrifying sound often comes in the middle of frozen nights, when the valley lies under snow, the rivers are trapped beneath ice, and the air feels ready to crack. It rings out like a thunderclap: "Whaaap." A pause, and then again: "Whaaap." It drifts through the mountains like something alive, heard but never seen. Those who recognize it call it the Yach.

The Yach is neither animal nor ghost, neither storm nor spirit. It belongs to a belief older than explanation, a spectral guardian of Kashmir mountains whose presence is felt rather than seen.

"When we were children, our grandmothers would tell us to stay quiet when we heard it," recalls 72-year-old Ghulam Nabi from Gurez. "They said it was the Yach passing through, watching over the mountains. If you spoke, it might take your voice away."

For centuries, the Yach has lived in the collective imagination of Kashmir highlands. Travellers crossing icy passes said the sound guided them when they were lost. Shepherds in Shopian whispered that a certain meadow "belonged to a Yach," a warning to keep away from what the mountains wanted to keep untouched. It was not a creature of fear, but of reverence, a reminder that nature listens back.

"Mountains have memories," goes the old Kashmiri saying. "We only pass through them."

To understand the Yach is to step into a time when Kashmiris saw the natural world as alive. Every spring, stone, and breeze carried a presence. A mountain was a being, a stream was continuity. The valley's ancient saints and mystics spoke to these fore-

es, calling them rooh-e-zameen, the soul of the earth.

The Yach was part of this sacred geography. In Kupwara, old men tell of how the sound appears only on certain nights when the snow is fresh, and the moon leans low over the ridges.

In Drangyari, near the Line of Control, villagers once believed the Yach's call warned of avalanches. In Pahalgam, elders said it emerged from the forests that no one dared to cut.

These stories are Kashmir's old philosophy, spoken through wind and echo. They tell of a relationship with the land that was both intimate and humble. "He who cannot hear the silence cannot hear God," wrote the poet-mystic Lal Ded.

The Yach's cry was that silence given sound, a natural voice of warning, belonging, and awe.

In recent years, scientists have offered their own interpretations. Acoustic experts describe how valleys surrounded by steep cliffs can trap sound waves, making them bounce back and forth to create "fixed echoes." A single clap or crack in such a space can repeat at regular intervals, seeming alive to the ear.

Physicists studying alpine acoustics have found that temperature, ice density, and air pressure can all shape how sound behaves. When the surface of a frozen lake contracts, for instance, it produces sudden "whaps" or "booms" that travel for miles.

But these explanations only deepen the mystery.

How did villagers, centuries ago, identify the exact places where such sounds repeat? How did they mark them on their maps of memory as Yach-hund thaana, the place of the Yach?



Science explains the mechanism, but folklore preserves the meaning. The Yach, in this sense, was Kashmir's ancient acoustics, a poetic language for resonance, translated through reverence.

"The more I learn of reason," wrote Sufi saint Mir Syed Ali Hamadani, "the more I bow to mystery."

And yet, mystery is fading from Kashmir's modern landscape.

The younger generation rarely hears the Yach, both because few venture into the silent, snow-heavy upper reaches, and because the valley's new noise has drowned out its older music.

In Srinagar, children recognize cartoon characters faster than their own mountain myths.

Schools teach physics but not wonder. Roads and resorts now cut through forests that once echoed with unbroken stillness.

Every myth that dies is a relationship severed.

The Yach's disappearance signals the erosion of the Kashmiri way of listening. Where once silence was sacred, now it is inconvenient. Where once nature spoke, now it is measured.

"We have learned to hear decibels, not echoes," says cultural researcher Dr. Sameer Amin. "The tragedy is that we mistake explanation for understanding."

A people without myths, it's said, are a people without roots. For Kashmir, whose soul was once a blend of science and mysticism, this loss feels almost geological, a silent landslide in

its cultural terrain.

There is still time to listen again. If universities and researchers treated legends like the Yach as living heritage, they could uncover a deeper science within folklore.

Departments of earth sciences and cultural studies could collaborate to record and analyze these sounds. Ethnographers might collect oral accounts from elders who still remember where the Yach was heard. Audio engineers could map resonance points across mountain valleys, comparing local myths with measurable data.

Such work would unite reason and wonder. It would remind the valley that ancient knowledge and modern science are reflections of the same

curiosity. In that way, the Yach could return as symbol than superstition.

An old Himalayan saying goes, "Preserve the stories, and the land will preserve you."

In the end, the Yach's truth may never fit neatly into science or story. It exists in the space between, a sound that keeps the border between seen and unseen open.

On a still night in Gurez, when snow muffles every step, one might still hear it: a soft "whaaap" rolling down the ridge, pausing, then rising again.

Perhaps it is only an echo, or a contraction of frozen wood, or air escaping a crack of ice. Or perhaps it is something older: the mountain exhaling, the valley remembering.

Either way, it calls us to listen.

**DEPARTMENTS OF EARTH SCIENCES AND CULTURAL STUDIES COULD COLLABORATE TO RECORD AND ANALYZE THESE SOUNDS.** Ethnographers might collect oral accounts from elders who still remember where the Yach was heard. Audio engineers could map resonance points across mountain valleys, comparing local myths with measurable data.

To hear the world as conversation. For when the Yach disappears completely, it will not only be a sound lost to time. It will be a silence we no longer know how to understand.

Kashmir's future will depend on whether it builds only in concrete or also in echo. The Yach, half legend and half physics, waits for the next listener.

And in remembering its voice, we might remember our own.

— The author is a Kashmiri writer and independent researcher. He can be reached at zaid.bin.ishaq796@gmail.com.

# Budget FY27: FM May Unveil Measures To Steady Growth, Boost Manufacturing, Jobs

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will on February 1 present her ninth straight Budget, which is expected to unveil measures to sustain growth momentum, maintain fiscal discipline, and contain reforms that could buffer the economy from global trade frictions, including US tariffs.

The presentation of the Budget for April 2026 to March 2027 fiscal (2026-27) will be on Sunday, a first in independent India's history.

Sitharaman's sweeping income tax and GST cuts, together with spending on infrastructure and the RBI's interest rate reductions, have so far helped the Indian economy withstand the punitive 50 per cent tariff US President Donald Trump has imposed on Indian goods. But now, she has to come up with measures to sustain the momentum.

The FY27 Budget comes against a complex backdrop. While domestic demand has held up and inflation has moderated from recent highs, global uncertainties - including geopolitical tensions, volatile commodity prices and uneven monetary easing by major central banks - continue to cloud the outlook. At home, the government faces pressure to boost consumption, accelerate job creation and step up capital spending, while keeping the fiscal deficit on a downward path.

However, the tax cuts have nibbled into government revenue, limiting her options to support the economy in the new Budget.

Her biggest challenge will be to find a new growth driver, particularly against the backdrop of a global economy ravaged by heightened uncertainty and



fragmentation, financial markets on a precipice, and global commodity prices on a continued uptrend.

Sitharaman, economists said, also faces the difficult task of restoring investor confidence in the near term, as uncertainty over India's trade talks with the US has unsettled financial markets, with foreign investors continuing to sell Indian equities and pushing the rupee to a record low.

Some believe she may use the proven cash cow - petrol and diesel - to shore up revenues. Availing of a limited window available before international oil prices boil, the minister may raise excise duty on the two auto fuels. The duty hike is expected not to be passed on to consumers, but adjusted against the retail price cut that was warranted when global oil prices fell last year.

She may focus on simplifying regulations and pushing structural reforms to attract domestic and foreign investment.

Despite the tight purse strings, she is not expected to cut

spending and may include new measures for the poll-bound states -- West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam. Some schemes may be re-packaged.

## CAPEX PUSH LIKELY TO CONTINUE

Capital expenditure is expected to remain the central pillar of the budget. Over the past few years, the government has sharply increased spending on roads, railways, defence manufacturing, urban infrastructure and logistics to crowd in private investment.

For FY27, economists expect another meaningful rise in capex, though at a more measured pace compared to the post-pandemic surge. Railways, renewable energy, power transmission, defence and urban transport are seen as priority areas, with continued support for state-level infrastructure through interest-free loans.

## TAX STABILITY OVER BIG GIVEAWAYS

On the tax front, major changes are considered unlikely. The government has repeatedly signalled a preference for stability and predictability, especially in direct taxes. Any tweaks to personal income tax are expected to be incremental, potentially aimed at easing the burden on the middle class to support consumption.

Corporate tax rates are also likely to remain unchanged, with the focus instead on improving compliance and widening the tax base through digitisation and data-driven enforcement.

## JOBS, MANUFACTURING & MSME

Job creation is expected to feature prominently, with possible incentives linked to labour-intensive manufacturing, skilling and apprenticeships.

Schemes supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which have faced margin pressures from high input costs and tight credit conditions, could see enhanced allocations or credit-guarantee support.

There may also be refinements to production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes as the government assesses their impact on manufacturing capacity, exports and employment.

## GREEN TRANSITION & ENERGY SECURITY

With India pushing ahead on its energy-transition goals, the FY27 Budget is expected to strengthen support for renewable energy, green hydrogen, battery storage and electric mobility. Measures to enhance domestic manufacturing of clean-energy equipment and reduce import dependence are also likely.

At the same time, allocations for oil and gas infrastructure and strategic reserves could be maintained to address energy-security concerns amid global volatility.

## POLITICAL UNDERTONES

Though not an election year, the Budget FY27 will be closely read for its political signals ahead of key state polls. Balancing welfare spending with fiscal prudence will be a delicate task, especially amid calls for higher rural support and targeted subsidies.

Overall, Sitharaman's FY27 Budget is expected to prioritise continuity over surprise, reinforcing the government's long-term growth strategy while navigating near-term economic risks. Markets will look for reassurance that India can sustain high growth without compromising macroeconomic stability.

According to economists at SBI Research, the Budget comes against the domino effects of a new emerging order of real-politik, still largely opaque, yet frightening. A bigger concern is if crude oil breaks free from the artificially managed supply glut and joins the bandwagon, even for a short while.

"We expect modest growth in tax revenue and flat growth in non-tax revenue," they said. "Government capex may cross Rs 12 lakh crore in FY27, a YoY growth of around 10 per cent."

Net tax receipts are on course to miss budgeted estimates due to the GST rate rationalisation measures, direct tax relief, and lower tax buoyancy on the back of weaker nominal growth, said Radhika Rao, Senior Economist, DBS Bank.

"We expect Budget measures to align with the economy's strategic ambitions, including on manufacturing and social welfare."

# ACB Submits Chargesheet In 2011 Ration Fraud Case In Jammu



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) submitted a chargesheet on Saturday in a corruption case against officials and other persons for the alleged misappropriation of ration in a village of Jammu district, officials said.

The chargesheet was produced before the court of the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu, against nine officials and other persons of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department for alleged misappropriation of ration, corruption, misuse of official position and causing loss to the state exchequer, officials said.

According to the ACB, the case pertains to the fraudulent issuance and misappropriation of ration meant for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries, by allegedly granting ration to 188 non-existent families in Khandwal village of Jammu district.

Four of those against whom the chargesheet was filed in the corruption case registered in 2011 have died.

The chargesheet names -- then Tehsil Supply Officer Jammu Bhajan Singh, then Assistant Director Miraj-U-Din, then Patwari Halqa Khandwal Mohd Rashid, then Sarpanch Panchayat

Khandwal Paramdeep Singh, then Panch Dhruv Singh, then ration dealer Harbans Lal (now deceased), then Panch Balbir Singh (now deceased), then Nambardar Romesh Singh (now deceased), and then Chowkidar Ami Chand (now deceased).

The case was registered on August 10, 2011, following a verification which revealed that in 2004, officials allegedly processed and recommended the appointment of a ration dealer on the basis of a list containing non-existent BPL and AAY families without proper verification, they said.

Between 2004 and 2010, subsidised rations continued to be issued based on the inflated list, ACB officials said.

During verification, only 26 BPL and 17 AAY families were found genuine, while 188 families were found non-existent.

The investigation found that large quantities of wheat, atta, rice and excess sugar were issued against these fake beneficiaries, leading to an estimated loss of Rs 30.33 lakh to the state exchequer, they said.

After completion of the investigation, the case was established, and the chargesheet was filed before the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu, for judicial determination, the officials added.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Alarming Rise In

facilities and improving availability of advanced cancer treatments. Doctors also underscored the importance of financial assistance, psychological support, rehabilitation and palliative care for patients and survivors.

Official figures underline the scale of the challenge. As per Union Health Ministry data, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 14,112 cancer cases in 2024 alone. Over the past five years, the total number of reported cases has reached 67,037. The UT registered 12,726 cases in 2020, followed by 13,060 in 2021, 13,395 in 2022 and 13,744 in 2023.

Against this backdrop, a high level consultation on cancer burden, research and care in Jammu and Kashmir was recently convened at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The meeting brought together senior officers from NITI Aayog, the Department of Health Research, the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, along with leading clinicians, researchers and public health experts from across the country.

The consultation was attended by Member Health NITI Aayog V K Paul, J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Secretary DHR and Director General ICMR Rajiv Behl and Secretary Health and Medical Education J&K Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, among others.

Deliberations focused on evolving a comprehensive, evidence based and implementable cancer control strategy tailored to regional disease patterns, existing health system capacity and long term sustainability. Emphasis was laid on strengthening screening and early detection mechanisms, particularly through identification of priority cancer types suitable for population based screening.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said the J&K government would adopt a phased and research anchored cancer control framework aligned with national priorities. He underlined that early detection, timely referral and equitable access to quality cancer care must form the backbone of future interventions.

Health Secretary Syed Abid Rasheed Shah outlined recent initiatives including expansion of tertiary healthcare services and increased medical seats, while stressing the need for context specific, evidence based cancer prevention guidelines and stronger information, education and communication mechanisms.

The consultation also highlighted the importance of district level implementation models supported by structured implementation research to assess feasibility, coverage, cost effectiveness and health outcomes. A strong consensus emerged on positioning implementation research as a core pillar of cancer prevention and care.

Participants proposed the establishment of a Centre for Implementation Research in Oncology to generate scalable, real world solutions, with particular focus on improving quality of life, integrating palliative care and strengthening health systems. The role of community medicine departments in advancing preventive oncology was also emphasised.

Recommendations included development of advanced diagnostic facilities in all medical

colleges, including molecular diagnostics and immunohistochemistry, creation of clearly defined referral pathways and patient navigation mechanisms through designated Centres of Excellence. The establishment of a comprehensive state wide cancer registry was identified as critical for evidence based planning and monitoring.

The consultation concluded with agreement on adopting a phased, research linked and implementable cancer control framework for Jammu and Kashmir, supported through institutional partnerships and technical collaboration with ICMR and leading national cancer institutions. Officials said the outcomes of the meeting are expected to guide future policy actions aimed at reducing the cancer burden and improving patient outcomes in the region.

### Kishtwar Sees

reports, three JeM terrorists were sighted in the Chatroo Dolgam Dichhar belt, leading to an exchange of fire. One terrorist is believed to have been injured, with drone surveillance indicating possible bloodstains at the site.

This marks the fourth instance in the past two weeks that contact has been established with the same group of terrorists, officials said.

The operation is being carried out across difficult terrain, with forces using drones, sniffer dogs and helicopters to track terrorist movement and monitor the area.

To prevent misuse by anti national elements during the operation, mobile internet services have been temporarily suspended since Friday within a six kilometre radius of Singhpora, Chingam and Chatroo areas.

The Army's White Knight Corps in a post on X said: "Contact with terrorists was re-established in the early hours of January 31 during the ongoing joint operation. The intelligence inputs from multiple sources were used to plan and execute the operation on the ground, and that the cordon had been secured while operations is in progress."

The operation is being carried out across difficult terrain, with forces using drones, sniffer dogs and helicopters to track terrorist movement and monitor the area, officials said.

Senior officers from the Army and police are supervising the operation.

The anti terrorist operation was launched on January 18 following specific intelligence inputs. A fierce gun-battle took place in the Sonnar forest near Mandral Singhpora, resulting in the killing of an army paratrooper and

injuries to seven soldiers. The terrorists, however, managed to escape, taking advantage of dense vegetation and difficult terrain despite heavy snowfall.

Subsequent encounters were reported at Mali Dana Top on January 22 and Jansar Kandiwar on January 25, but the terrorists again slipped deeper into forested areas.

It may be recalled that on December 18 last year, an Army soldier was killed and seven others were injured during an encounter with terrorists in the Chatroo area of Kishtwar district.

Following that incident, security forces expanded search operations to dismantle terrorist networks operating in the region.

Since the launch of 'Operation Trashi-I', one paratrooper has lost his life and eight security personnel have sustained injuries during separate engagements, officials said.

Meanwhile, Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma visited Kishtwar to review the counter terrorism grid and operational preparedness. He interacted with ground commanders and troops and commended them for their unwavering resolve.

The visit followed a high level security review held in Jammu earlier this week focusing on strengthening the counter terrorism grid in the Jammu region, officials said.

### Traffic Curbs On

Nachlana and the Navyug Tunnel due to fresh snowfall.

The advisory stressed strict lane discipline, warning that overtaking and wrong lane driving could lead to congestion.

Subject to fair weather and improved road conditions, light motor vehicles, passenger vehicles and private cars will be allowed from both sides on the highway. However, heavy motor vehicles will not be permitted from Jammu towards Srinagar. Heavy vehicles may be allowed from the Navyug Tunnel side towards Jammu after assessing road conditions.

Security forces have been advised not to move convoys against the traffic plan due to

the narrow carriageway between Ramban and Banihal. Convoys from Srinagar towards Jammu may be allowed only after confirmation of road status.

Meanwhile, the Kishtwar Sinthan Anantnag road and the Mughal Road remain closed due to heavy snow accumulation. On the Srinagar Sonamarg Gumri axis, light motor vehicles will be allowed between 11 am and 3 pm, subject to weather and clearance by the Border Roads Organisation.

The traffic department urged commuters to confirm road status with traffic control units before undertaking their journey.

### LG, CM Greet

and prosperity to the people on the occasion.

### Int'l Museum Of

and tourism destination while attracting pilgrims, scholars and tourists.

Officials said the initiative is also likely to boost heritage tourism, generate employment opportunities and support the local economy, in line with the administration's broader vision of promoting cultural heritage, tourism development and sustainable growth in Jammu and Kashmir. (PTI)

### Parties Gear Up

The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has also called a meeting of its legislature party on Sunday afternoon at the party headquarters to chart out its course for the Budget Session. Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma said the meeting would focus on issues the party plans to raise during the session.

The Congress party, too, has scheduled a meeting of its legislature party on Sunday evening at the official residence of Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra.

The Peoples Democratic Party is also set to convene a meeting of its legislators on Sunday or Monday after all MLAs arrive in Jammu. Senior PDP MLA Mir Muhammad Fayaz said

the party would finalise its strategy during the meeting.

The Budget Session is expected to witness sharp exchanges, with opposition parties including the BJP, PDP and others preparing to corner the government on several issues, including the regularisation of daily wagers and the implementation of pre-election promises made by the National Conference. (KNO)

### Shoukat Bakshi Identified

airfield for duty when they came under fire from terrorists.

A charge sheet was filed on August 31, 1990, against Malik and five others, including Bakshi, in the designated TADA court here.

The others accused in the killing of the IAF personnel are JKLF operatives Ali Mohammed Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi alias Mustafa, Javed Ahmed Mir alias 'Nalka', Javed Ahmed Zargar and Saleem alias Nanaji.

Bakshi was identified by the prosecution witness, an IAF employee and one of the survivors, Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli, said.

Kohli, who is also a senior Public Prosecutor for the CBI, is representing the central agency along with Special Public Prosecutor S K Bhat in the case against Malik and others.

They are also representing the CBI in the case related to the 1989 abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, by the Malik-led terror group.

### Focus On Normalcy,

the jawans, the CRPF chief lauded them for their professionalism, steadfast commitment and dedicated service to the nation. He expressed confidence that the force would continue to discharge its duties with zeal and valour.

The visit, officials said, reflects the force's continued focus on strengthening the security grid and maintaining peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.



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## Chillai Khurd Commences

## Night Temperatures Remain Below Freezing in Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Night temperatures across Kashmir remained below the freezing point but showed a rising trend at most places marking the beginning of Chillai Khurd and the conclusion of Chillai Kalan, the 40-day coldest phase of winter.

An official of the Meteorological Department told KNO that the minimum temperatures across several locations recorded improvement compared to previous nights, though sub-zero conditions persisted in many areas of the Valley.

While sharing the details the official said that in Srinagar, the minimum temperature settled at minus 0.1 degrees Celsius on Friday night, down from 1.3 degrees Celsius the previous night, and remained around 0.5 degrees Celsius above the seasonal average.

He said that a famous ski resort in North Kashmir, Gulmarg recorded the lowest temperature in the Union Territory at minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, improving from minus 10.6 de-



grees Celsius a night earlier.

Pahalgam in south Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.3 degrees Celsius on the previous night.

Qazigund registered a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag and Kupwara recorded minimum temperatures of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius and

minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, respectively, the official said.

Chillai Khurd, which lasts for 20 days, is followed by Chillai Bachha, a 10-day phase marking the final part of winter in the Valley.

The weather office forecast generally cloudy conditions with the possibility of light to moderate rain or snowfall, par-

ticularly in higher reaches, along with thunder or gusty winds at several places on January 31 and February 1 across Jammu and Kashmir.

For February 2 and 3, the department predicted generally cloudy weather with light rain or snowfall in higher altitude areas scattered to many places. From February 4 till the eve-

ning of February 6, partly cloudy weather is expected, while February 7 may see generally cloudy conditions with light rain or snow at a few places.

Dry weather has been forecast from February 8 to February 10, the official added.

An advisory has been issued for farmers, asking them to suspend agricultural activities till February 7 in view of the prevailing and expected weather conditions.

Authorities have also advised people living in avalanche-prone areas to remain cautious while moving outside.

Travellers and transporters have been asked to check the status of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway with traffic department control rooms before undertaking journeys.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority said an avalanche with a medium danger level is likely to occur above 2,400 metres in Bandipora district during the next 24 hours and urged people to avoid avalanche-prone zones and follow official advisories.

## JKCCC Introduces QR-Based Ski Passes to Ease Access in Gulmarg

**SRINAGAR:** In a move to streamline services for winter tourists, the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) has rolled out a QR code-based system for on-line booking of ski passes, aimed at eliminating queues and ensuring hassle-free access for skiers at Gulmarg.

This digital initiative allows stakeholders and adventure enthusiasts to generate and avail ski passes from the comfort of their homes.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajad, while speaking to KNO highlighted the surging momentum in tourist footfall at the Gondola cable car system. "The recent snowfall has significantly contributed to this boost", he said, attributing the uptick to favorable weather conditions.

However, the director said that there is a need for collaborative efforts across stakeholders to further promote tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. "This requires joint initiatives from the government, Tourism Department, local communities and industry stakeholders", he added.

Regarding key infrastructure gaps at high-altitude points, the Director said the long-standing issue of no washroom facilities at Kongdori will be resolved in the coming days, with the structure made fully functional soon. Within this month, similar amenities will be operational at Affarwat," he assured.

He reiterated the department's commitment to upgrading infrastructure for greater convenience, positioning J&K as a premier winter tourism hub. (Observer News Service)

## Chandigarh Tragedy Victim Laid to Rest in Kulgam

**KULGAM:** Gul Muhammad Malik, the elderly Kashmiri man who died after a concrete wall collapsed on him in Chandigarh, was laid to rest in his native Bugam village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday.

The body of the deceased was brought to Kulgam by road, even as the family had earlier requested that it be airlifted to Kashmir. Family members said despite appeals, their request could not be accommodated, prolonging the return of the body.

Gul Muhammad Malik was working as a roadside vendor in Chandigarh when the incident occurred. He succumbed to his injuries, triggering grief and anger among Kashmiris living outside the Union Territory, who had sought administrative intervention for timely transportation of the body.

Hundreds of people from Bugam and adjoining areas participated in his funeral prayers, expressing solidarity with the bereaved family and mourning the loss of a man described by locals as hardworking and humble.

According to KNT, the deceased is survived by three daughters. Locals have appealed to the government to provide financial assistance to the family of the victim. They said the deceased was the sole bread earner. (Observer News Service)

## Blaze Guts Shop in Chandilora Market

**BARAMULLA:** A shoe shop was completely gutted in a fire that broke out early Friday morning at Chandilora Market in Tangmarg subdivision of Baramulla district, causing losses estimated at over Rs 5 lakh.

According to locals, the fire erupted due to a short circuit triggered by the dangerously close contact between low-tension and high-tension power lines in the market area. They said the issue of hanging and closely passing LT and HT lines has been a long-pending concern, repeatedly brought to the notice of authorities.

The shop belonged to a local youth, Sahil Amin of Chandilora, who said the blaze destroyed his entire stock within minutes. "I had taken a bank loan and started this shop with great hope, but everything has been reduced to ashes. I have suffered a loss of more than five lakh rupees," he told reporters, appealing to the Baramulla and Tangmarg administration for immediate assistance to help him restart his livelihood.

According to KNT, locals of the area urged the Power Development Department and district administration to take urgent corrective measures to fix the hazardous power line situation in Chandilora Market to prevent such incidents in future. They also demanded immediate relief and compensation for the affected shopkeeper. (Observer News Service)

## 3 Drug Peddlers Arrested

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its relentless fight against the drug menace, Police have arrested three drug peddlers in Sopore & Awantipora and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a police party during naka checking at Aftab Mohallah, Warpora crossing intercepted two suspicious persons who tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During the search, a Charas-like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Ghulam Nabi Bhat son of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat and Aabid Hussain War son of Mohammad Afzal War, both residents of Warpora, Sopore.

Similarly in Awantipora, during naka checking at Reshipora, a police party led by IC Police Post Reshipora under the supervision of SHO PS Awantipora intercepted a suspicious person. During the search, 630 grams of Charas powder-like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Abdul Qayoom Beig son of Ali Mohammad Beig resident of Beigpora.

All the accused have been arrested and shifted to respective police stations where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been taken up to ascertain the source and wider linkages involved.

Police reiterate their zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and reaffirm their commitment to sustained, intelligence-driven action to protect youth and society from the scourge of drugs. The general public is urged to cooperate and share information to help eradicate the drug menace from the society. (Observer News Service)

## Land Acquisition

## HC Directs R&amp;B Dept To Deposit Rs 25 Lakh In 2 Weeks

M Ahmad

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department to deposit Rs 25 lakh within two weeks towards compensation for land used in the construction of the Onagam-Khayar road in Bandipora.

A bench of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi passed the direction while hearing a contempt petition filed by an 86-year-old Laldin Chichi and others, alleging non-compliance of the Court's order on August 8, 2024.

Earlier, the Court had directed the Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, to constitute a team of revenue officers to demarcate the land utilized for the road project constructed in 2018 and to ascertain whether any proprietary land or share of the petitioners in Shamlat land had been used. The Court had also ordered initiation

of acquisition proceedings and payment of compensation if such utilization was found.

During the hearing, the authorities informed the Court that the directions had been complied with by the Revenue Department. However, the funds required for acquisition had not yet been released by the R&B Department.

Government Advocate, appearing for the R&B Department, assured the Court that an amount of Rs 25 lakh would be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, within two weeks.

Recording the statement, the Court directed Respondent No. 2 (R&B Department) to deposit the amount within two weeks, failing which the concerned officer would have to appear before the Court, either physically or through virtual mode, on the next date of hearing on February 17.

## Four Schools from J&amp;K, Ladakh Win Wipro Earthian Awards 2025

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Four schools from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have brought laurels to the region by winning the prestigious Wipro earthian Awards 2025, announced at the 15th edition of the programme hosted by Wipro Limited at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. The annual Wipro earthian programme promotes integrated sustainability education and recognises schools and colleges across India that demonstrate meaningful, long-term engagement with environmental issues. The 2025 edition received over 2,000 submissions, from which an independent jury selected 25 winning teams whose projects reflected original thinking on biodiversity, waste and water through hands-on research and reflective learning.

Among the winners were Druk Padma Karpo School, Shey, Leh, whose students—popularly associated with the "Rancho School" from 3 Idiots—undertook a comprehensive study of Ladakh's

growing waste crisis. Their project examined urban and rural waste systems through field visits, stakeholder interviews and engagement with local NGOs. Highlighting the rising impact of plastic pollution, tourism and lifestyle changes, the students translated their findings into creative outputs including comics, data visualisations, essays, a school magazine and even a waste-themed ramp walk, turning awareness into action.

Government Girls Higher Secondary School Nishat documented campus biodiversity and conducted detailed surveys in Dachigam National Park, examining how deforestation, pollution, climate change and overuse of resources are accelerating biodiversity loss. The project underscored biodiversity's critical role in food security, climate regulation, soil health and clean air and water, while advocating sustainable practices such as conservation, recycling, afforestation and wildlife protection.

Students from Govern-

ment Higher Secondary School B.K. Pora carried out a biodiversity survey around their school, identifying wild edible plants, insects and bird species, and documenting changes through interactions with farmers, beekeepers and other community members. By building an insect habitat, the team highlighted the ecological importance of small green spaces and developed a deeper sense of environmental responsibility and compassion.

The fourth winner, PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, conducted a field-based study of traditional and modern water-conservation systems in Nubra and Zaskar. Focusing on practices such as chures (community water turns), zings (meltwater reservoirs) and artificial glaciers, the students showcased how indigenous wisdom combined with modern innovation makes Ladakh a model of climate resilience in a cold desert ecosystem.

Certificates and cash prizes were presented to the winning teams by An-

urag Behar, Chief Executive Officer of the Azim Premji Foundation, and Narayan P. S., Global Head of Sustainability and Societal Initiatives, Wipro Limited, and Managing Trustee of the Wipro Foundation.

"The strength of the Wipro earthian programme lies in grounding sustainability in lived reality," Narayan P. S. said. "Across regions, students have moved beyond awareness to sustained engagement, approaching real environmental challenges with curiosity, rigour and empathy."

Since its inception in 2011, Wipro earthian has engaged more than 51,000 schools, 210,000 students and 41,000 teachers nationwide, with its impact amplified through collaborations with leading educational and environmental organisations. The awards, organisers said, reflect Wipro's commitment to translating sustainability goals into consistent, on-ground action and nurturing a generation equipped to address pressing environmental challenges.

## CJ Inaugurates Orientation Programme on "ICT, e-Courts"

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy today organised a one day orientation programme on "ICT and e-Courts Induction Programme" for the newly recruited Civil Judges (ECT-17-2025) and "Artificial Intelligence and its Impact on Judiciary" at J&K Judicial Academy, Jammu.

The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Jus-

that Artificial Intelligence and digital platforms will increasingly be used for monitoring case pendency, data analysis and case management.

The Chief Justice emphasised that for officers serving in remote and challenging districts, technology is not merely an aid but a vital instrument to ensure timely and effective justice. Stressing that such programmes are meant to build not only technical proficiency but also institutional understanding, the Chief Justice called upon the officers to adopt technology with confidence and purpose to strengthen the justice delivery system.

In his special address, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of Jam-



mu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, observed that Artificial Intelligence is increasingly being used in the process of adjudication, including as an aid in the drafting of judgments.

Referring to recent observations of the Chief Justice of India, he noted

## CBC Bids Farewell to Director Ghulam Abbas



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Regional Office Jammu, on Saturday organised a farewell function at the Amar Singh Club to honour Director Ghulam Abbas on his superannuation, marking the close of a distinguished career spanning over 28 years in government communication and public information.

During his tenure as Director and Head of Department for CBC Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Abbas was widely credited for providing steady leadership and administrative clarity, ensuring effective implementation of national communication policies and strengthening government outreach across the region.

A senior officer of the Indian Information Service, Abbas served the Government of India in several key roles across CBC, the Press Information Bureau and All India Radio, earning recognition for professional integrity, strategic leadership and credible communication.

Speakers at the farewell recalled working closely with him, highlighting his calm approach, mentorship and unwavering commitment to public service communication, par-

ticularly in sensitive and challenging environments. Several colleagues shared personal anecdotes, reflecting the respect and warmth he commanded across the organisation.

The function was attended by Deputy Director Ayushi Puri, Senior Accounts Officer Rajesh Malik, Administrative Officer O.P. Mauriya, and officers and staff of CBC Regional Office Jammu.

One of Abbas's notable contributions was his emphasis on taking government communication to remote and underserved areas. Under his guidance, CBC organised awareness programmes on government schemes in Turtuk in Ladakh and Marwah in Kishtwar district—areas covered for the first time in the history of CBC Jammu & Kashmir—significantly strengthening grassroots outreach.

In 2022, Abbas also held additional charge as Joint Director, Press Information Bureau, Jammu, managing dual responsibilities while strengthening transparent and timely dissemination of official information across platforms. Earlier, from 2010 to 2022, he served in various capacities at the PIB Regional Office Srinagar, acting as a key communication interface of the Government of India during sensitive periods.

## Epstein Files Bombshell: Trump 'Compromised by Israel'

Agencies

WASHINGTON — A newly declassified FBI memorandum buried inside the Justice Department's massive release of Jeffrey Epstein files has detonated a political storm after surfacing extraordinary allegations involving foreign leverage, intelligence ties and internal power struggles at the highest levels of US government.

The 2020 memo, based on reporting from a confidential human source deemed credible by the bureau, records claims that President Donald Trump had been "compromised by Israel" and that his son-in-law Jared Kushner exercised outsized control over the machinery of both Trump's business empire and his presidency.

The document is part of more than three million pages of Epstein-related material made public Friday following an internal Justice Department review. Officials stressed the files contain raw investigative reporting that was not formally adjudicated. But the allegations, now public for the first time, are already reverberating across Washington.

According to the memo, the source alleged Kushner maintained undisclosed ties to Russian-linked financial networks and moved foreign investment funds through opaque real estate

**A NEWLY RELEASED BATCH OF JEFFREY EPSTEIN-RELATED FILES HAS TRIGGERED FRESH CONTROVERSY** after an FBI memo cited a "credible" confidential source claiming former US President Donald Trump had been compromised by Israel and that his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, effectively controlled key operations of both Trump's business organisation and his presidency.

tate structures. The document highlights Kushner's stake in the property investment firm Cadre as an area the source believed warranted federal scrutiny, questioning whether foreign capital entered US projects through intermediaries.

The memo also revives attention on Kushner family finances, noting prior convictions involving his father, Charles Kushner, before he received a presidential pardon. The source further claimed Kushner was closely aligned with the Chabad-



Lubavitch religious movement and believed the organisation sought political leverage, an assertion the memo records without independent verification.

Scholars describe Chabad as a global Orthodox Jewish outreach network focused on religious education and community services, not political operations.

The memo flags a controversial Beverly Hills property sale involving Trump that the source described as containing "oddsities and red flags," citing the role of a foreign-linked shell entity and a sharply inflated resale price. The source speculated

the deal could indicate suspicious financial flows, though investigators did not publicly establish wrongdoing.

At the centre of the document is Epstein himself. The source told the FBI they believed the financier had ties to both US and foreign intelligence services, including Israel's Mossad, based on his access to elite political and financial circles. The memo explicitly frames this as the source's suspicion, not an intelligence conclusion.

Epstein attorney Alan Dershowitz is also named. The source alleged Dershowitz was aligned with Israeli intelligence

objectives and exerted influence inside elite institutions — accusations Dershowitz has repeatedly denied.

Additional claims in the memo involve statements attributed to international business figures and individuals connected to former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, including allegations of internal rivalries and fears of surveillance within Trump's first administration. The bureau records these accounts as secondhand reporting.

Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche said the Epstein archive was released in the

## India Rejects PM Reference in Epstein Files

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday strongly rejected a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the investigative files related to Jeffrey Epstein, describing it as "little more than trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal" that deserves to be dismissed with the "utmost contempt".

The latest files relating to the convicted sex trafficker were released by US authorities.

"We have seen reports of an email message from the so-called Epstein files that has a reference to the prime minister and his visit to Israel," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a statement.

"Beyond the fact of the prime minister's official visit to Israel in July 2017, the rest of the allusions in the email are little more than trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal, which deserve to be dismissed with the utmost contempt," he said.

The email is among investigative files released by the US Justice Department on Friday.

The department released 3.5 million pages and 2,000 videos in line with an American law that was passed by the US Congress.

Legal analysts say the memo is unlikely to produce immediate criminal consequences. But its publication injects fresh volatility into a case that has long fuelled political suspicion and conspiracy narratives surrounding Epstein's relationships with global elites.

For now, federal officials emphasise the memo represents a snapshot of investigative reporting — not proof. Even so, its explosive contents ensure the Epstein saga is far from over.

## US Buildup Sparks Iran-Russia-China War Drills

Trans Asia News

TEHRAN: As the United States builds up military forces around Iran, Tehran has announced large-scale trilateral military drills with Russia and China in the northern Indian Ocean — a move unfolding amid escalating tensions with Washington and an expanding Western military presence near Iranian waters.

The drill, titled the "Maritime Security Belt" exercise, will include forces from the Iranian Navy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy, and naval units from China and Russia. Officials say the stated goal is to strengthen maritime security cooperation and improve operational coordination among the three countries.

First launched in 2019, the Maritime Security Belt exercise has now been held seven times, reflecting sustained military collaboration between Tehran, Beijing, and Moscow across regional and international waterways. Previous iterations included search-and-rescue operations, maritime protection drills, and joint command coordination.

According to regional



sources cited by Al-Jazeera, Iranian naval forces will continue manoeuvres in the Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean in the coming days as part of routine annual exercises. The broader operations, known domestically as Zolfaghar 1400, involve naval, aerial, and ground forces operating across the Strait of Hormuz, the Sea of Oman, and parts of the northern Indian Ocean, one of the world's most strategically sensitive energy corridors.

Ahead of the drills, Iran issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) warning of live-fire military activity around the Strait of Hormuz. The advisory designated a five-nautical-mile restricted zone from ground level up to 25,000 feet between January 27 and 29, marking the airspace as hazardous during active firing operations.

The exercises coincide with a sharp escalation in

rhetoric and military posture from Washington. US President Donald Trump confirmed additional naval deployments to the Middle East, saying the buildup was intended to pressure Tehran into negotiations. He warned that failure to reach an agreement over Iran's nuclear programme could result in military action, describing the potential strike as more severe than previous attacks on Iranian facilities.

Iranian officials responded with strong warnings. Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said the country considers itself in a state of "war readiness", stressing that Iran would not initiate conflict but would respond decisively to any attack. Army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Mohammad Akraminia added that any miscalculation by Iran's adversaries would trigger an immediate response.

A US naval strike group

has been operating in Middle Eastern waters since earlier this week. Trump said the forces are "ready, willing and able" to act if necessary, while Pentagon officials have accelerated deployment of fighter aircraft and missile defence systems.

Meanwhile, Israeli media report heightened readiness within Israel's military establishment amid speculation that a US strike on Iran could occur within days. Senior Israeli defence officials have held multiple coordination meetings in Washington with Pentagon and intelligence leaders. Reports indicate Israeli planners believe any potential operation would focus on Iran's nuclear and missile infrastructure rather than regime change.

With joint naval drills expanding, airspace restrictions in place, and rival forces massing across one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, analysts warn the risk of miscalculation has risen sharply. Even a minor incident in the crowded waters of the northern Indian Ocean could rapidly escalate into a broader regional crisis with global economic repercussions.

## Kishan's Maiden T20I 100 Powers India to 271/5 Against NZ

Press Trust of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:

A popular Sanju Samson blitz eluded the legion of fans, but their dejection was washed away by centurion Ishan Kishan's sensational shot-making as India posted a massive 271 for five against New Zealand in the fifth and final T20I here on Saturday.

Kishan (103, 43 balls, 6x4, 10x6), who struck his maiden hundred in the format,

and skipper Suryakumar Yadav (63, 30b, 4x4, 6x6) treated the Kiwis bowlers with utter disdain during their 137-run third wicket stand which came in just over 10 overs.

Opens Samson (6), whose fifth successive failure in this series now casts a huge shadow over his T20 World Cup prospects could not get going, falling to pacer Lockie Ferguson.

Abhishek Sharma (30 off 16 balls) gave a solid start but

extra pace from Ferguson did him in.

But India found some fresh wind soon through Suryakumar and Kishan after a relatively tepid power play phase — 54 for two.

Kishan, who missed the fourth T20I with an unspecified injury, showed no trace of rust, putting the New Zealand bowlers through the wringer with his fast hands and nimble feet.

The left-hander started his carnage, smashing Fer-

guson for a four and six over extra over and the runs never really stopped thereafter.

Kishan brought his 50 in 28 balls with a four off Ish Sodhi and Suryakumar, who also completed 3000 runs in T20Is, went past the mark in two fewer balls with a six off Jacob Duffy.

Kishan, who completed 1000 T20I runs, was severe on Sodhi, creaming the leg-spinner for 29 runs in the 12th over and the sequence of his big-hits read — 4, 4, 4, 6, 6.

## Pakistan Routs Australia by 90 Runs to Clinch T20 Series

AP

LAHORE: Spinners led Pakistan to a 90-run win over Australia to seal a T20 series victory with a game to spare on Saturday.

Australia fielded a stronger side after losing the opener of the three-match series by 19 runs but still got bowled out for 108 in 15.4 overs with leg-spinners Abrar Ahmed (3-14) and Shadab Khan (3-26) sharing bulk of the wickets.

Captain Salman Ali Agha's 76 off 40 balls and Usman Khan's 53 off 36 balls had earlier propelled Pakistan to 198-5 after the home team won its second straight toss and elected to bat on yet another slow Gaddafi Stadium wicket.

"I can easily say it was a perfect game for us and we want to replicate it tomorrow," said Agha after recording Pakistan's biggest victory over Australia in a T20. "I promoted myself at No. 3 because I know I can play spin well and intend to do the same in Sri Lanka."

Pakistan is scheduled to play its T20 World Cup games in Sri Lanka. India



and Sri Lanka are co-hosting the tournament, which starts on Feb. 7.

On Saturday, Australian batters failed to read the googlies and leg-breaks of Abrar and Shadab while Travis Head (4) fell against Saim Ayub's offspin for the second straight game when he was clean bowled of a delivery that kept low.

Captain Mitchell Marsh, who skipped the first game, smashed two sixes in his knock of 18 before he was undone by Abrar's sharp delivery that skidded through and trapped him plumb leg before wicket in the third over.

Josh Inglis, one of the four changes Australia made from the first game, couldn't

read Abrar's wrong'un and was adjudged lbw for 5 as Australia lost the momentum early in the chase and slumped to 29-3 inside the power play.

Matt Renshaw, who was added to the World Cup squad Saturday in place of Matthew Short, holed out to long off to left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz's fuller delivery as Shadab ran through the lower order with three quick wickets.

The deceptive bowling action of Usman Tariq came as a surprise to Australian batters as top-scorer Cameron Green (35) sliced an easy catch to Shadab at point before Agha grabbed an easy catch of Matthew Kuhemann in the slip to

finish the game with 26 balls to spare.

Earlier, Agha stayed aggressive in his recent transformation at No. 3, as Pakistan sped to 72-2 inside the first six overs. Agha completed his half-century of just 25 balls while dominating the spin through his strong sweeps and lofting the fast bowlers inside out over extra cover.

Babar Azam continued to struggle at his new No. 4 batting position when he was pinned lbw by Adam Zampa (1-27) for just 2 off five balls after Agha and Ayub (23) had provided a rollicking start in the power play.

Agha, who hit four sixes and eight boundaries, was within sight of his maiden T20 century before he got a faint edge to Sean Abbott (1-33) when he tried a reverse shot in the 13th over against the fast bowler.

Usman then ensured Pakistan got more than above-par total with his brisk half-century before he fell in the final over when he missed out on low full toss of Xavier Bartlett (1-52) and holed out at deep midwicket.

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