



Road Safety First

Respect Signals, Respect Life

DIPK-10618/25
Dated: 04-02-2026



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

@diprjk @dipr_jk
@informationprjk Information & PR, J&K

World Cancer Day: J&K Sees Growing Cancer Burden Among Women

Rajya Sabha Figures Point To Year-On-Year Rise In Incidence And Deaths

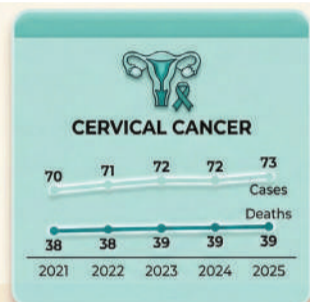
Aamina Salaam

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is seeing a gradual but consistent increase in cancers affecting women, with official data indicating a year-on-year rise in breast, cervical and ovarian cancer cases over the past five years.

Figures presented in the Rajya Sabha show that breast cancer continues to be the most commonly reported cancer among



women in the Union Territory. The number of cases rose from 908 in



2021 to 938 in 2025. During the same period, deaths due to breast



cancer also increased gradually, from 390 to 403.

Cervical cancer cases, though significantly lower in comparison, showed a modest upward trend. The number of reported cases increased from 70 in 2021 to 73 in 2025, while mortality remained largely stable, edging up from 38 deaths in 2021 and 2022 to 39 deaths from 2023 onwards.

Ovarian cancer recorded a similar year-on-year rise. Cases increased from 371 in 2021 to 383 in 2025, while deaths rose from 226 to 234. **More on P6**

J&K Witnessing 35-38 New Cancer Cases Daily: Experts Call For Early Screening, Advanced Care Agencies

On the occasion of World Cancer Day, leading oncologists in Jammu and Kashmir have raised serious concern over the steadily increasing incidence of cancer in the Union Territory, while underlining the importance of prevention, early diagnosis and strengthening advanced treatment infrastructure. Dr Zahoor Ahmad, a senior oncologist at SKIMS Soura, said cancer cases are rising at an alarming **More on P6**

J&K Notifies New Rules For Coaching Centres

Registration, Fee Transparency & Student Safety Made Mandatory

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has notified a new set of rules to regulate private coaching and study centres, placing strict emphasis on mandatory registration, fee transparency, student safety and welfare.

Officials said that while the regulatory framework has now been put in place, registration of private coaching institutes in the Kashmir region has not been renewed since the COVID-19 period. "At present, no private coaching centre in Kashmir has a valid registration. Renewal of registrations is under process," an official said.

According to government estimates, around 241 private coaching centres are currently functioning in the Kashmir region. In Srinagar alone, more than 50 such centres are operational, with renewal applications pending for nearly a year. Officials attributed the delay to disruptions caused by the pandemic and changes in the academic calendar, which shifted from the November-December cycle to March.

The new rules follow model guidelines framed by the Government of India in January 2024 for regulation of coaching centres, as well as directions issued by the Supreme Court, which asked all states and Union Territories to notify rules mandating registration, student protection norms and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Under the notified framework, no coaching or study centre can operate without prior registration from the **More on P6**

- Mandatory registration to operate
- Registration valid for two years; renewal required
- Existing centres undergoing renewal
- Applications to be decided within one month
- Minimum tutor qualifications mandated
- Misleading rank or result claims barred
- Government employees barred from coaching
- CID, fire and building clearances mandatory
- Counselling and grievance redressal required
- Fees to be disclosed; online payment only
- Full refund within 10 days of enrolment
- Pro-rata refund for faculty changes
- Study material to be free
- Coaching capped at five hours daily
- Weekly off mandatory
- Classes barred during school hours
- Space, ventilation and safety norms enforced
- CCTV, first-aid and emergency numbers required
- Separate toilets mandatory
- 10% seats reserved for BPL students, orphans
- Inclusive access for students with disabilities
- Annual reports, audited accounts required
- Fines from ₹25,000; repeat breaches lead to cancellation

J&K Assembly: Row Erupts Over Pir Panjal Remarks

BJP Walks Out, Alleges Speaker Bias

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Proceedings in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly were disrupted on Wednesday following uproar over remarks related to the Pir Panjal region and allegations of bias against the Speaker, leading to a walkout by the BJP and repeated adjournments of the House.

The trouble began when BJP **More on P6**



Economic Survey, Marriage Registration Rules On Agenda Today

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will on Thursday present the Economic Survey Report for 2025-26 and table the Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023 in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly as part of the ongoing Budget Session. The Economic Survey is expected to provide legislators with a comprehensive **More on P6**

3 Terrorists Killed In Udhampur, Kishtwar Encounters

Observer News Service

Jammu: Three terrorists were killed in twin encounters in Udhampur and Kishtwar districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday.

An official said that the slain terrorists were believed to be affiliated with the Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit. Two terrorists were killed in the Jophar forest area of Basantgarh in Udhampur district, while



another was neutralised in the Dichhar area of Kishtwar. The Udhampur encounter **More on P6**

No End To Encounters Even In 2026: CM

Encounters are taking place even in 2026, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday in a veiled jibe at the BJP over its claim that terrorism would end following the abrogation of Article 370 that happened in 2019. Three **More on P6**

Amit Shah's Kashmir Visit Search Op Conducted In Srinagar

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Security forces on Wednesday carried out a surprise cordon and search operation in the Abi Guzar area of Srinagar, officials said.

The operation was conducted three days ahead of the scheduled visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the Valley.

According to officials, all

Light Rain, Snow Likely From Feb 9: IMD

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday forecast largely dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till February 8, with scattered light rain or snowfall likely at many places between February 9 and 10.

According to the latest bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department, weather conditions are expected to remain generally dry from February 4 till the evening of February 6. However, light snowfall may occur at isolated higher reaches during the night of February 6. Dry weather is likely to persist till the evening of February 8.

The IMD said that between February 9 and 10, the Union Territory may witness light rain or snowfall at scattered to many places. Weather is expected to turn generally dry again on February 11, though light snow may occur at isolated higher reaches. **More on P6**

entry and exit points leading to the Abi Guzar locality were sealed during the operation. The area has a mix of residential houses and commercial establishments, including shops. Security personnel carried out searches at several premises while passersby were frisked as part of the operation. No arrests were made and no incriminating material was recovered. **More on P6**

Why Not Fix What Is In Your Control?: Para To Govt

Agencies

Jammu: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Pulwama, Waheed ur Rehman Para launched a strong attack on the Omar Abdullah-led government in the Assembly on Wednesday, urging it to focus on issues within its control instead of "avoiding responsibility".

Para said that the ruling alliance enjoys the support of over 50 MLAs and must use

this strength to engage directly with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We understand that restoring special status and other political issues requires time. But why not address issues that are in your hands?" Para asked. "You were voted for human dignity, as developmental works were taken up during the LG administration as well, but what has actually changed on the ground in the last one year?" He said **More on P6**

SC Flags Delay In Bail Hearings, Seeks Reports

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought reports from all high courts on the pendency of bail matters, saying it was disappointing that pleas for personal liberty were not being expeditiously heard.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Jyotsna Singh and Vipul M Pancholi directed the registrar generals of high

courts to provide details of all bail pleas, including regular and anticipatory applications, filed after January 1 this year.

The bench said the dates of filing, next hearing and decision, if any, have to be provided. It also sought details of pending bail pleas filed before January 2025.

It observed, "We are extremely disappointed to see how the prayers pertaining to the liberty of individuals are not being entertained. **More on P6**

Govt Data Shows Stark Jammu-Kashmir EWS Divide

Over 24,500 Issued In Jammu Division; Kashmir Accounts For Just Over 2,000 Certificates In Two Years

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu division has accounted for an overwhelming share of Economically Weaker Section (EWS) certificates issued in Jammu and Kashmir over the past two years, while the Kashmir Valley has recorded significantly lower numbers.



Government data shows that a total of 26,558 EWS certificates have been issued across the Union Territory so far. Of these, 24,545 certificates were issued

in the Jammu division alone, compared to just 2,013 in the Kashmir division.

District-wise figures indicate that Kathua tops the list with 6,972 EWS certificates, followed by Jammu district with 5,881 and Samba with 4,436. In the Kashmir Valley, Anantnag recorded the highest number of certificates at 483, followed by Kulgam with 390 and Baramulla with 332.

The government said that all applications for EWS certificates are **More on P6**



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Ali Mohd Rather, S/o Ghulam Nabi Rather, R/o Aglar, Goshbugh, Tehsil Pattan Baramulla hereby notify the general public that I intend to change/transfer the name recorded against the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0213040013198 from my name to Shafat Ali Rather, S/o Ali Mohd Rather, R/o Aglar, Goshbugh, Tehsil Pattan Baramulla.
If any person has any objection to the said change/transfer, he/she may submit the same in writing to the concerned Electricity Department office within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.
Sd/-
Ali Mohd Rather
Mob:9596446668 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I want to apply for the issuance of Pesticides licence under the name and style War Pesticides Ogmuna Kawarhama Baramulla. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd/-
Nayeem Bashir War
S/O Bashir Ahmad
R/O Ogmuna Kawarhama

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MAHIR ISLAM while his actual name is MAHIR KUMAR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact DISTRICT HOSPITAL BUDGAM within a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
REYAZ AHMAD KUMAR
F/O MAHIR KUMAR
R/O KARGAM MASHIBAGH BUDGAM MCB
CELL. 9906886911

Press Release



An awareness programme was organised today by Civil Defence Budgam in collaboration with the Municipal Committee Magam, Traffic Police Magam, Civil Defence volunteers and wardens, and senior citizens. The programme focused on traffic rules, wrong parking, and road safety awareness. During the drive, on-the-spot challans were issued to violators by the Traffic Police. This awareness programme helped educate the public about the importance of following traffic rules, ensuring road safety, and maintaining smooth traffic movement for the benefit of all.
bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that on my Driving License bearing DL No. AR08 20230001010, my name has been wrongly mentioned as FAYAZ AHMAD, whereas my correct name is FAYAZ AHMED. Further, my father's name is mentioned as ABDUL LATIF MIR, which is correct.
I am applying for correction of my name in the official records. If anyone has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may contact the ARTO Office Sopore within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.
Name: Fayaz Ahmed
S/O: Abdul Latif Mir
R/O: Sultan Daki, Uri, Baramulla, J&K
PIN Code: 193123 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Kamran Mansoor, s/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone, R/o FerozPora, Tangmarg, Baramulla, intend to apply for a pesticides Licence under the name and style of "PACCS pesticides store turka Bat Pora, Tangmarg, Baramulla."
If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same in writing to the Office of the Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.
Sd/-
Kamran Mansoor
S/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone
R/O Feroz Pora, Tangmarg, fko_r

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM
Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420110012099 issued in favour of JALAL UD DIN BITH Parentage BUBA BITH Whereas an application has been received by one JALAL UD DIN BITH Parentage BUBA BITH wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as JALALUDDIN BHAT Parentage BABA BHAT Which needs to be changed as JALAL UD DIN BITH Parentage BUBA BITH
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir
MCB

Office of the 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 Zakir Showkat Naikoo D.o B 22/09/2016 and Umrat Jan D.o B 21/03/2014 s/d/o Showkat Ahmad Naikoo R/o Seriguo Dangerpora. 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

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mehak Mansoor, D/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone, R/o FerozPora, Tangmarg, Baramulla, intend to apply for a fertilizer Licence under the name and style of "PACCS Pesticides Centre, Feroz Pora, Tangmarg, Baramulla."
If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same in writing to the Office of the Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.
Sd/-
Mehak Mansoor
D/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone
R/O Feroz Pora, Tangmarg, fko_r

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mehak Mansoor, D/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone, R/o FerozPora, Tangmarg, Baramulla, intend to apply for a fertilizer Licence under the name and style of "PACCS fertilizer store turka Bat Pora, Tangmarg, Baramulla."
If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same in writing to the Office of the Plant Protection Officer, Lalmandi, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.
Sd/-
Mehak Mansoor
D/o Mansoor Ahmad Lone
R/O Feroz Pora, Tangmarg, fko_r

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Ali Mohammad Rather, S/o Ghulam Nabi Rather, R/o Aglar, Goshbugh, Tehsil Pattan Baramulla hereby notify the general public that I intend to change/transfer the name recorded against the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0213040013198 from my name to Shafat Ali Rather, S/o Ali Mohammad Rather, R/o Aglar, Goshbugh bagh, Tehsil Pattan Baramulla .
If any person has any objection to the said change/transfer, he/she may submit the same in writing to the concerned Electricity Department office within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.
Sd/-
Ali Mohammad Rather
Mob:9596446668
FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE
My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Nabza Bano while my correct name is Nabza Begum . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd
Nabza Begum
D/o Bashir Ahmad Matoon
R/o Saidpora Bala fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
My DOB has been wrongly written in my 10th pass Marks Certificate as 06-06-2011 while my correct dob is 15-04-2011. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Jammu & Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Name: Nazima Nazir
Father Name Nazir Ahmad Sheikh
Mother's Name: Jameela Banoo
Regd No: 2432010000180038
R/O Achan Pulwama fko

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd
Zonal Office Baramulla

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from Owners of premises for outright purchase/on lease basis for housing its Easy Banking Unit at Tekipora Lolab, preferably on Ground Floor, as per the details given below:

S. No	Name of the EBU	Location	Carpet Area in sqft (approx.)	Built up Area/Land Area (approx.), in case of outright purchase basis
01	Tekipora Lolab	Locality: Tekipora Lolab Tehsil: Lalpora. District: Kupwara.	400 -500	05 Marlas

Further details, requirements, terms and conditions, Technical Bids and Financial Bids proforma relating to the same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office Baramulla during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website <https://jkb.bank.in> on 04/02/2026 under the link "EOI & Tender / Notification" in the Quick Access Tab. The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before 21/02/2026 (05:00 PM IST) at Zonal Office Baramulla. Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason therefor.
Dated: 02-02-2026 Zonal Head
Registered Office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK1938SGC000048; T: +91 (0194) 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0194) 248 1928;
E: info@jkbmail.com; W: https://jkb.bank.in

DIPK-NB-3149/25 DATED: 04-02-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rabiya Binte Majeed, D/o Abdul Majeed Dar, R/o Magraypora, Pattan, hereby inform that my name has been wrongly printed in my Aadhaar Card as "Rabia Binte Majeed". Now I want to update it with my correct and original name "Rabiya Binte Majeed" with Aadhaar No. 4275 5841 0555, if anyone have any objection he/she can contact concerned department within the period of seven days from from the date of this notice and all concerned may treat the above name as correct for all official purposes.
RABIYA BINTE MAJEED
D/O ABDUL MAJEED DAR
Mother's Name :
HAFEZZA BEGUM
Magraypora, Pattan
Aadhaar Number : 427558410555
FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE
The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/her adhaar card as Nailah Binti Sheerz while her correct name is Aminah Binti Sheerz. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sheeraz Ahmad Mir
F/O Aminah Binti Sheeraz
R/O Aglar Distt & Tehsil Shopian fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR GOOM AHMADPORA
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Ghulam Mohammad Jan, S/o Mohd Akbar Jan R/o Goom Ahmadpora, has applied for issuance/record of his Date of Birth as 03-03-1973 in the School records.
If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the Nayabat, Goom Ahmadpora, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
Ghulam Mohammad Jan
S/O Mohd Akbar Jan
R/O Goom Ahmadpora fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have changed my name from Sara Bagem to new name and in future I be known as Sara Begum W/o Hajj Mohammad Jamal Bhat. If anybody is having any objection her/she may contact passport office Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.
INF

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sayida Begum, W/o Mushtaq Ahmad Hajam, R/o Usan Khai, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla (J&K UT), hereby inform the general public that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Saeeda Mushtaq in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5105-3759-7039.
My correct name is Sayida Begum. I have applied for correction of the said name in the concerned records.
If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
Sd/-
Sayida Begum fko

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Public Works (R&B) Department
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar

Subject: Compassionate appointment case of Mr. Hafizulla Ganaie S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Ganie R/o Hardu Shichan Dyalgam Anantnag, under SRO-43 of 1994 – Notice thereof.

Reference No.: O.M. No. GAD-SRO/434/2024 (7539632) dated 20.01.2026, from the General Administration Department.

NOTICE

Mr. Hafizullah Ganaie, S/o Late Bashir Ahmad Ganie, R/o Hardu Shichan, Dyalgam, Anantnag, is hereby informed through this notice to furnish his email address and mobile/contact details to the Public Works (R&B) Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar, for registration under the EVS Portal (Employee Verification System).

The requisite details may be submitted either in person or through email at clericalhallrmb121@gmail.com within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of this notice, in terms of Circular No. 18-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022, issued by the General Administration Department.

It is further informed that failure to furnish the above-mentioned information within the stipulated time frame shall be construed as unwillingness to accept appointment in the Public Works (R&B) Department under the Compassionate Appointment Rules (SRO-43 of 1994), and the claimant shall forfeit his right to appointment without any further notice.

(Namrita Wanchoo)
Under Secretary to the Government

No: PWD-SRO/38/2023-05 (7236587)
DIPK-10597/25
Dated: 04.02.2026

University of Kashmir, Srinagar
Notice

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

Name: Raisa Mukar Ahmed Shah
Parentage:- Peer Mukar Shah
Residence:- Kani Kadal Chhotta Bazar Srinagar
Registration No : 10637-G-96
Certificate/s lost:- B. COM 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year 2000-2001
Roll No/s:-
Session/ Year 1st year 1997, 2nd year 1998-99, 3rd years Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled
No: F(Duplicate/ MC-6th Sem/PA /KU/22
Assistant Controller
of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof
inf

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Hassina Akhter, W/o Mohd Maqbool Mala, R/o Mian Mohalla, Pattan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Haseena Begum in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2051-3543-6816. My actual and correct name is Hassina Akhter.
If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
fko

No. 27-7/2018-Lib
Government of India
Ministry of Culture
Library Section

RECRUITMENT

This is to inform that the Ministry of Culture invites applications for the post of Director General on deputation (including short term contract) basis in Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, an autonomous organization under the Ministry. The detailed advertisement may be seen on the Ministry's website (<https://culture.gov.in/>).

The last date for submission of the applications is 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.

CBC:09101/11/0035/2526

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

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

Roll No: 862217
Class 12th (B.COM)
Year & Session 1994 /1995 (Nov-Ded)
Registration: 37094-MCR-IX-92
Name : Raisa Mukar Ahmed Shah
Father's Name: Peer Mukar Ahmed Shah
Mother's Name : Zamrooda Bano Shah
Date of Birth: 05-03-1977
Residence:- Kani Kadal Chhotta Bazar Srinagar
According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification / Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 5200 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F/Cer is-IDQOB/KD/
Dated
Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Feroz Ahmad Sheikh Gojri, father of Sahil Feroz, resident of Kutpora, District Tehsil Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the correct name of my ward is SAHIL FEEROZ. However, due to a clerical error, his name has been wrongly recorded as SAHIL AH SHER GOJRI in his Aadhaar Card (Aadhaar No. 5143 2183 5112).
It is hereby clarified that the correct and real name of my ward is SAHIL FEEROZ and the same is required to be corrected in the Aadhaar records.
If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the same to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
Feroz Ahmad Sheikh Gojri
S/o - Sahil Feroz
R/o Kutpora, Tehsil & District Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rabiya Binte Majeed, D/o Abdul Majeed Dar, R/o Magraypora, Pattan, hereby inform that my name has been wrongly printed in my Aadhaar Card as "Rabia Binte Majeed". Now I want to update it with my correct and original name "Rabiya Binte Majeed" with Aadhaar No. 4275 5841 0555, if anyone have any objection he/she can contact concerned department within the period of seven days from from the date of this notice and all concerned may treat the above name as correct for all official purposes.
RABIYA BINTE MAJEED
D/O ABDUL MAJEED DAR
Mother's Name : HAFEZZA BEGUM
Magraypora, Pattan
Aadhaar Number : 427558410555 fko

Fire Partially Damages Two Residential Houses in Padshahi Bagh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fire incident damaged two adjoining residential houses in the Padshahi Bagh area on the outskirts of Srinagar, with the blaze affecting attic portions of the structures, officials said on Wednesday.

Officials said the fire broke out in two three-storeyed pucca residential houses, where the GCI-sheeted attic portions were involved. The fire remained confined to the upper sections of the buildings, resulting in partial damage to both houses.

Firefighting teams were deployed at the spot and the situation was brought under control, preventing the fire from spreading to other parts of the structures or nearby properties. The affected houses sustained damage limited to the attic areas, officials said.

Senior officers of the Fire and Emergency Services re-

Officials said the fire broke out in two three-storeyed residential houses, where the GCI-sheeted attic portions were involved. The fire remained confined to the upper sections of the buildings, resulting in partial damage to both houses,"

mained present during the operation, which was supervised by Dr Mir Aqib Hussain along with field-level officers to coordinate the response.

According to KNT, authorities said no loss of life or injuries were reported in the incident. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and an investigation has been initiated.



Security forces carry out search operations ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Jammu and Kashmir. KO Photo Abid Bhat

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
16- Shaban
1447

PRAYERS
FAJR 6: 01
ZUHR 12:45
ASR 4: 24
Magrib 6:08
ISHA 7: 28

Mehbooba Seeks Separate Budget for Development of Shehr-e-Khaas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Demanding a separate development budget for Shehr-e-Khaas, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday called for focused attention towards Srinagar's old city.

Interacting with the reporters at the PDP headquarters here, Mehbooba, according to KNO said, "The historic part of the city has been facing growing unemployment, poor infrastructure and civic neglect for years."

She urged the government to take concrete steps to address these issues in the upcoming budget. "Shehr-e-Khaas is home to a highly educated youth population, yet it suffers from acute joblessness and lack of opportunity. There are so many educated boys and girls here, but employment opportunities are minimal. Government jobs are rare and private sector engagement is neg-



ligible," she said.

Mehbooba urged the government to launch exclusive skill development courses and employment schemes for the youth of old Srinagar, suggesting a six-to-eight-month training programme to equip local youth for modern jobs. "There should also be a Skill Development Centre dedicated to the youth of Shehr-e-Khaas so that they can earn dignified livelihoods," she said, calling for 100 percent literacy and the active engagement of educated youth in local governance.

Highlighting civic issues, the PDP president said waste

management and sanitation remain abysmal despite Srinagar's Smart City status. "The smell and pollution, especially during the rainy season, have made life difficult for residents. Waste management has completely failed in several parts of Shehr-e-Khaas," she said.

The PDP chief also, urged authorities to ensure the safety of Kashmiri workers outside the Union Territory. "Many poor people go out to earn a living and face harassment or violence. The government must take this seriously and engage with concerned states to ensure their safety," she said.

She also stressed that Shehr-e-Khaas needs focused attention, financial allocation and inclusive development planning. "The government must prioritize the old city in its upcoming budget. A separate budget for Shehr-e-Khaas is essential to revive its heritage, economy, and youth potential," she said.

SWD Srinagar Conducts PMMVY Registration Drive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of Social Welfare (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (Mission Shakti), successfully organized a registration drive under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) at LD Hospital Wazir Bagh, Gousia Hospital Khanyar, and JLN Hospital Rainawari.

The primary objective of the drive was to identify and enroll eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers under PMMVY, ensure last-mile delivery of maternity benefits, and enhance institutional outreach of the scheme. The drive also aimed at creating awareness among beneficiaries regarding the financial assistance, eligibility conditions, and procedural requirements of the scheme.

During the drive, beneficiaries visiting OPDs, antenatal clinics, and maternity wards were mobilized, counseled, and guided through the registration process. On-the-spot registrations were carried out with the assistance of concerned health functionaries to ensure accuracy and timely enrolment.

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E-AUCTION NOTICE

(Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules)
IN THE NPA ACCOUNT OF M/S AZAD ENTERPRISES

The undersigned in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 notify the sale of the secured assets detailed herein-below for realization of the dues, on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatsoever there is" and "no complaint" basis.

Description of the mortgaged properties (put on sale)	1) Residential house with land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 15 marlas bearing Khasra No.125 (8 Marlas) and Khasra No. 2152/126 min (07 Marlas) of Khata No.863 and 879 and Khewat No. 306 and 309 situated at Mouza Saderbal, Srinagar (North) standing in the name of Mohammad Ayaz Azad S/O Shams-uddin Azad R/O Saderbal, Srinagar. 2) Leasehold rights of commercial space with a carpet area of 616 sft. Room No. 302 in 3 rd Floor of Ali Jan Complex, M.A. Road, Srinagar leased out by Sheri Kashmir Medical Institute Trust vide Lease Deed dated 19.12.2000 in favour of Fayaz Ahmad Azad S/O Shams-ud-Din Azad R/O Professor colony, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar.
Amount of secured debt for the recovery of which the property is sold, as on 31.01.2026	Rs. 3,71,04,171.07 (Rupees Three Crores Seventy One Lacs Four Thousand One Hundred Seventy One and Paise Seven Only)
Reserve Price	1. Rs.253.95 lacs (Rupees Two Crores Fifty Three Lacs and Ninety Five Thousand only) 2. Rs.72.85 lacs (Rupees Seventy Two Lacs Eighty Five Thousand only)
Names of the Borrowers/Guarantors	M/s Azad Enterprises, Prop. Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Azad (Borrower) Mr. Mohammad Ayaz Azad (Mortgager/Guarantor) Mr. Irfan Ahmad Mir (Guarantor)
EMD	10% of reserve price
Bid Increase Amount	1) Rs.10.00 Lakhs (Rupees Ten lakh). 2) Rs.01.00 lakh (Rupees One Lakh)
Name of the Branch	Zonal Impaired Assets Recovery Branch, Srinagar
Last Date & Time of submission of Bid	25.02.2026 (5 PM)
Date and Time of e-Auction	26.02.2026 (3 PM) to (4 PM)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Other Remittance/s details by RTGS to Account Number	THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED Business Unit: ZIARB, Srinagar, IFSC CODE: JAKA0ZIARB Account No. 0187070700000001 in the name of SUNDRY DEPOSITS ACCOUNT.

The interested bidders shall submit their offer along with EMD details through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> and can obtain user ID and password free of cost by registering on the website. The detailed notice containing all the terms and conditions are available at Bank's website <https://www.jkbank.com/pdfs/eauction>. For any query related to the said auction, the interested bidders may contact Branch ZIARB, Srinagar (Phone No.: 9622632968).

(Authorized Officer)

DLSA Srinagar Organizes Awareness Prog

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar conducted an awareness programme under the guidance of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman DLSA, Srinagar and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA, Srinagar on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in tribal areas of Dara, Faqir Gujri Srinagar.

The programme was organized through Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and members of the Samvaad Committee with the aim of educating tribal communities about their legal rights and protections available under the Act. During the programme, the resource person highlighted the key provisions of the Act, emphasizing the safeguards provided to members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against atrocities, discrimination, and exploitation.

The participants were informed about the legal remedies available, the procedure for lodging complaints, and the role of legal aid institutions in ensuring justice to victims. The PLVs actively interacted with the local population and distributed informative material to enhance awareness regarding free legal services available through DLSA Srinagar. The members of the committee stressed the importance of timely reporting of offences and assured necessary legal assistance to the victims.

The programme witnessed active participation from members of the tribal community, who appreciated the initiative taken by DLSA Srinagar in spreading legal awareness and empowering marginalized sections of society.

All praises to Allah, the Most Merciful and the Most Generous.

Ramzan Appeal 2026~
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Feeding a fasting family is among the most beloved deeds in the sight of Allah.

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As the blessed month of Ramazan 2026 approaches, Idara Falahi Aam Waqf humbly appeals for the distribution of Ramazaan Ration Kits for poor and deserving families.

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KO VIEW

Ghaziabad Alerts Kashmir

The tragedy of three young sisters in Ghaziabad has sparked a national debate and raised concern among parents back home in Kashmir.

The girls spent hours on a Korean task-based game, and their story has made many families alert and notice how screens fit into their own homes.

Police are looking into how much the game defined their days and emotions, and the case has become part of a larger debate about keeping gaming healthy and balanced for young people.

India now has one of the biggest gaming populations in the world, with millions of players enjoying games on phones and tablets every day. Many teens find joy, challenge and social time in games.

But research highlights that a big share of young people show strong signs of compulsive gaming behaviour.

In some Indian youth studies, around 26 to 32 per cent of young players show engagement patterns that can affect sleep and school life, while a notable number meet criteria that mental health professionals describe as internet gaming disorder.

Many Kashmiri families see this in their own homes. Some students spend long evening hours on online games and parents notice changes in how they feel and act. A study of students in a Kashmir school found that about 15 per cent showed behaviour patterns tied to internet gaming disorder.

Research from around the world tells a clear human story. Young people with intense gaming involvement report more anxiety, stress and feelings hard to handle. One study found that nearly 19 per cent of young gamers identified as having problematic gaming also reported high levels of depression and anxiety. Another long-term study found that young people whose screen use felt compulsive faced higher emotional strain and signs of distress over time.

This matters because young minds are still growing. When games feel like a main part of life, parents feel helpless at times. Many began giving screens early in childhood, hoping it would calm or entertain a child.

Over the years, screens became a regular part of family life. Now many parents feel unsure how to support their child to find balance and well-being.

The Ghaziabad tragedy can serve as a moment for all families to pause and ponder. Parents can pay attention to how a child feels, what games mean to them, and how their daily routines fit with school, play and rest.

Schools, friends, laughter, and real interactions help young people grow beyond what screens can offer.

It's about letting children enjoy digital play while making sure their hearts, minds, and daily lives stay full of love, support, and balance before life feels too heavy.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Growth Game

A friendly guide to understanding unlisted shares for Kashmiri investors.

Irshad Mushtaq

Unlisted shares offer exciting opportunities to grow wealth and support local businesses. Kashmiri investors can explore these shares to join the journey of small companies becoming big success stories.

Unlisted shares come from businesses not traded on major stock exchanges like BSE or NSE. You buy them directly from the company or from existing shareholders. Imagine a local mineral water brand or an education institute gaining popularity. These businesses can grow, and investing early allows you to become part of their journey.

Angel investors play a key role in this growth. A talented entrepreneur in Kashmir may need funding to expand. An angel investor provides money in exchange for shares in the company. This investment needs careful planning. It can take years to see results, and finding a buyer for your shares takes time and effort.

Investing in unlisted shares teaches valuable lessons. Selling requires strategy and timing. Financial information relies on transparency and trust. Valuing a business encourages careful observation of performance. Regulatory guidelines from the Companies Act 2013 and some SEBI rules guide investors. Checking alignment with Shariah principles ensures ethical and responsible investment.

Understanding financial metrics strengthens confidence. Earnings per share show profitability. Price-to-earnings ratios highlight growth expectations. Official records reveal assets and liabilities clearly. Staying aware of inflated valuations or unrealistic promises ensures safe investment decisions.

Unlisted shares reward patience, research, and local insight. Investors gain firsthand experience of market dynamics and company growth.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Caring Changemakers

Through microfinance, startups, and civic leadership, women in Jammu and Kashmir are transforming communities and shaping a future rooted in empathy, creativity, and action.



Ankit Patel

Jammu and Kashmir is undergoing a major transformation as women take on key roles that drive the economy, society, and governance.

The 'other half' leads initiatives in rural livelihoods, startups, local councils, healthcare, education, and peacebuilding.

Communities witness the results of women who use creativity, leadership, and proactiveness to turn ideas into real impact.

Rural women are especially redefining economic participation.

Previously, the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission, Umeed, had introduced the Self-Help Group model to give women access to banking and credit. By 2025, the program reached 66 percent of rural households across 125 blocks, supporting around nine lakh families.

SHG-Bank Linkage programs increased average income by 1,272.719 per member and transformed household activities into structured business ventures.

International Women's Day 2025 marked a historic moment as banks approved 100 crore in loans for SHGs in a single day.

This milestone highlights confidence in women's ability to manage credit and grow enterprises.

Someone like Shabnam turned her embroidered shawl work into a thriving local business in Kupwara, while Jyoti used pooled savings to launch a retail and beauty venture in Mathwar that now provides jobs for other women.

These initiatives demonstrate how everyday skills evolve into micro-enterprises with growth potential.

Education and innovation fuel new opportunities. Registered startups in Jammu and Kashmir grew from 237 in 2020 to 917 in 2024, with 36 percent led by women.

These ventures mix tradition with modern business, spanning handicrafts, cuisine, and digital services.

During communication blockades after 2019, women-led startups sustained production, trained local girls, and maintained market connections, showing determination and creative problem-solving.

Agriculture illustrates women-led modernization and methodologies.



Women in Jammu and Kashmir transform ideas into action. They manage credit, build enterprises, lead councils, advocate for communities, and guide the next generation. Each initiative strengthens families, communities, and local economies. Their work illustrates a future shaped by vision, enterprise, and leadership, where opportunity grows through creativity and initiative.

A young entrepreneur in Balhama scaled her family's beekeeping under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme. A 1.2 lakh subsidy expanded operations from 35 to 650 bee colonies, producing 5,500 kilograms of honey per season and generating nearly 2 lakh monthly.

This example shows how traditional livelihoods can grow into sustainable and profitable businesses.

Political participation of women has also grown alongside economic initiatives.

The three-tier Panchayati Raj system reserves 33 percent of seats for women, opening leadership at ward, block, and district levels. Proxy representation has given way to active engagement.

By 2024, women held 45.61 percent of Panchayati Raj Institution seats nationally, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

Female leaders prioritize sanitation, healthcare, education, and water supply, improving services that touch daily life.

Women also turn personal experiences into civic action. Widows, who lost their husbands due to situation, fight administrative processes and organize advocacy to seek accountability. Craft and art collaborations further fuel economic opportunities and foster community bonds, demonstrating how private stories evolve into public initiatives.

Since healthcare workers and teachers form the backbone of rural communities, more than 13,500 ASHA workers provide essential services in remote and snowbound areas, supporting childbirth, immunizations, and emergency response.

Women teachers mentor girls, influence aspirations, and expand educational access in regions where literacy continues to grow.

Data shows the scale of these changes.

Total Fertility Rate has declined to 1.4, reflecting wider healthcare access and evolving family practices. Female literacy among women aged 15-49 stands at 74.3 percent, and institutional births continue to rise.

Digital platforms expand opportunities for women entrepreneurs and learners, though 43.3 percent of women have accessed the internet, demonstrating ongoing potential for growth.

Policy and governance support and strengthen this growth led by women.

The NITI Aayog SDG India Index 2023-24 reports an eight-point improvement since 2020-21. Jammu and Kashmir scored 53 on gender equality, above the national average of 49.

The 2026 budget emphasized economy, ecology, and equity, introducing pensions for over ten lakh beneficiaries and infrastructure support for home-based women entrepreneurs, strengthening opportunities for communities and households.

Women in Jammu and Kashmir transform ideas into action. They manage credit, build enterprises, lead councils, advocate for communities, and guide the next generation.

Each initiative strengthens families, communities, and local economies.

Their work illustrates a future fuelled by vision, enterprise, and leadership, where opportunity grows through creativity and initiative.

The author studies at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jammu. He can be reached at ankitpateliimc@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir Capital Must Restore Its Waterways

Srinagar earned the title Venice of the East through its deep and living connection with water. Lakes, canals, wetlands, and springs sustained the city's ecology, culture, economy, and daily life. Today, that connection faces severe challenges.

The urban water bodies now mirror a history of neglect, encroachment, and ecological disruption that affects every corner of life in Srinagar.

Anchar Lake struggles to survive while Dal Lake, particularly its interiors in Nowpora, Khayam, Rainawari, and other downtown neighbourhoods, carries untreated sewage, plastic, and waste.

Historic kuls and canals have vanished or become stagnant drains. Springs, known locally as naags, have disappeared due to encroachments. Wetlands have been labeled vacant land and converted into unsafe colonies.

Each of these changes contributes to a cascading ecological crisis, from

shrinking lakes to rising floods and declining groundwater.

Some restoration projects have achieved limited success, such as initiatives at Khushal Sar, Gil Sar, and efforts to revive springs. These deserve recognition, but they do not address the scale of damage the city has endured.

Dal Lake is often cleaned for tourism, creating an appearance of vitality while the interior waters remain polluted. Stormwater drains and sewer lines continue to discharge directly into lakes, and roads channel rainwater mixed with waste into these fragile ecosystems.

The outer appearance improves while the underlying system continues to struggle.

Srinagar faces a paradox. The city has abundant water, but water sources have become unsafe for drinking due to human action.

Pollution, encroachment, and dis-

regard for natural flows have disrupted the balance that once sustained the city. Smart City projects, including beautified embankments and water transport plans, show visible change, but the focus on aesthetics without addressing the ecological foundation limits their effectiveness.

Dal Lake serves as the heart of the water system, with kuls and canals as arteries and wetlands as lungs. Wetlands absorb floods, recharge groundwater, filter pollutants, and provide habitats for birds.

Compromising these natural systems directly threatens the city's character.

The history of water management in Srinagar serves stark lessons. During Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin's reign, the city benefited from visionary hydrological planning.

Nallah Mar, a five-kilometre canal, connected Dal Lake to Anchar Lake and the Jhelum, keeping the

city clean and cool. In the 1970s, Nallah Mar was filled to construct a road, transforming a functional water artery into a congested traffic corridor.

Bridges that once thrived as hubs of commerce now exist only in names, while the water beneath them vanished or turned into sewage.

Cities around the world show that restoration is possible. Utrecht in the Netherlands reopened a canal buried in the 1970s, reviving urban life, property values, and ecological balance.

A similar approach in Srinagar could restore Nallah Mar as a flowing canal flanked by narrow roads or transit lanes. Such restoration would allow downtown Srinagar to return to a vibrant waterfront and reconnect citizens with their living waterways.

Sincerely,

Haris Mashooq Zia
harismashooqharis@gmail.com

More Than a Game

Cricket holds a rare power in South Asia, bringing people together across borders even when politics pulls them apart.

Mushtaq Hurra

Religion, politics, and cricket deeply drive life in the Indian subcontinent.

Among these three, cricket holds a special place in everyday discourses, emotions, and memories.

People across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and other South Asian countries share a powerful bond with the game.

Cricket often reflects national pride and collective identity.

Religion and politics influence opinions and loyalties across borders. These forces often harden positions and strain relationships. Cricket moves in a different direction.

The game opens space for shared joy, dialogue, and mutual respect. A single match can soften attitudes and create moments of unity that feel rare and precious.

Cricket means much more than a sport to South Asian fans. People admire their favourite players with deep affection and loyalty.

The game today moves faster and feels louder than it did decades ago. T20 cricket, colourful leagues, and star power have added speed and glamour. Fans celebrate victories with passion and absorb defeats with heavy hearts.

Every match sparks emotion, but the game continues to connect people across borders.

As the T20 World Cup approaches, politics has entered the debate again. Recent controversies around handshakes, league decisions, and participation threats have unsettled fans.

Many supporters waited eagerly for the India-Pakistan clash scheduled for February 15. The sudden uncertainty shocked them.

Social media now broadcasts voices of disappointment from fans who had counted the days for this encounter.

India-Pakistan matches have global appeal. Stadiums fill quickly once schedules appear. Discussions and predictions begin months in advance. Analysts debate strategies while fans relive past moments.

Political interference at this stage damages the spirit of the game and



CRICKET NOW DRIVES MASSIVE REVENUE. Reports suggest the host broadcaster could lose up to ₹2.5 billion in advertising revenue if the match fails to happen. Pakistan also faces significant financial loss from any boycott.

disappoints millions.

Sports offer a powerful tool for diplomacy. History shows how games open doors when talks fail.

The Ping-Pong exchanges between China and the United States in 1971 helped thaw frozen relations and led to renewed dialogue. Many observers believe cricket can play a similar role between India and Pakistan.

A World Cup feels incomplete without an India-Pakistan contest. Their rivalry adds energy, drama, and meaning to cricket. Millions watch these matches across continents. The current uncertainty has shaken fans and likely unsettled players as well.

Former cricketers and experts describe the situation as a setback for the game. The Pakistan Cricket Board now faces a crucial moment as it prepares to communicate with the ICC. Politics has affected this rivalry

earlier too, and fans have missed several thrilling contests.

The present era raises the stakes even higher. Cricket now drives massive revenue. Reports suggest the host broadcaster could lose up to ₹2.5 billion in advertising revenue if the match fails to happen. Pakistan also faces significant financial loss from any boycott.

Fans now look toward the PCB for clarity and leadership. Many hope for a decision that allows cricket to take centre stage.

Supporters across the region continue to wait with hope and crossed fingers as the moment approaches.

— The author is a teacher and a regular columnist from Bandipora who writes on culture, climate, history, education, folklore, and social issues.

When Radios Trembled

A childhood in Kashmir, tuned to crackling commentary and shared breath

Er Umair Ul Umar

I grew up at a time when an India Pakistan cricket series marked the start of waiting.

The days felt longer, evenings slowed down on their own, and hearts started beating faster well before the first ball was bowled.

Cricket in Kashmir never stayed limited to a screen or a ground. It entered life as a feeling, moving through classrooms, mosques, lanes, and living rooms.

We did not gather to watch it. We lived inside it.

The days before the match mattered as much as the match itself.

Newspapers were held with care. Player names were learned by heart, almost like verses. School corridors buzzed with talk that followed us home by evening.

Teachers joined in too, even when they pretended otherwise. Their voices stayed firm, but their eyes gave them away.

During these matches, the distance between adults and children faded. Everyone listened, and everyone hoped.

Our mathematics teacher made this clear.

He was known for discipline and few words. His class felt serious on regular days. Match days brought a change.

A Zeenat radio in a black leather cover appeared on his desk, placed gently, like it belonged there.

Algebra went on as usual, but the commentary flowed alongside it. His fingers moved to adjust the volume. We worked on equations while counting runs.

At any moment, a senior teacher could walk in. And at any moment, a wicket could fall. That tension kept the room alive.

Many of us carried small radios hidden inside school bags. Between classes, we rushed to corners and held them close.

The commentator's voice cracked, paused, then rose again. Words turned into pictures. Grounds we had never seen came alive in our minds.

Teachers knew more than they showed. Some afternoons ended early with a simple sentence: Go home



CRICKET TODAY SHINES IN SHARP DETAIL, AS SCREENS GLOW BRIGHT. Everything shows clearly, but something close feels distant. The radios rest silent now. Memory stays warm. Somewhere deep inside, a child still listens, radio pressed close, eyes shut, asking the sky for sixes.

and follow the match.

Cricket earned that kindness.

One Friday stays close to memory. One batsman reached his hundred in forty balls. Radios followed us to the courtyard outside Jamia Masjid. Boys gathered silently, and commentary floated in the air while the sermon continued.

Respect remained, and excitement stayed present. Faith and cricket shared the same space with ease.

Another day belonged to another batter and one of his fearless innings. Concern spread later when he felt weak. His name moved through homes like that of someone close.

The next day, school felt like a newsroom. Every over returned through fresh telling. Commentary lines were repeated word for word. Arguments rose, laughter followed, friendships grew stronger.

Evenings had their own charm and

character. Electricity came in short visits. Black and white televisions waited patiently. Truck batteries arrived instead, heavy and loud. Wires were fixed with care.

When the screen flickered to life, the entire mohalla gathered.

Tea, kehwa, and smiles moved around. Wins and losses felt shared. It felt less like two teams playing and more like all of us holding on to time.

Cricket today shines in sharp detail, as screens glow bright. Everything shows clearly, but something close feels distant.

The radios rest silent now. Memory stays warm. Somewhere deep inside, a child still listens, radio pressed close, eyes shut, asking the sky for sixes.

— The author teaches at GGHS Yaripora. He writes on memory, education, and everyday life in Kashmir.

A Slap on the Street

Amid the chaos of a crowded road, I halted my car to defend a young boy from his parent's outburst, igniting a deeper thought on how society cloaks cruelty in the guise of courtesy.

Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

On a busy, lively afternoon in Srinagar, I drove through the honking traffic and people weaving between the lanes.

That's when I noticed a man walking briskly, holding the hand of a little boy who looked about six.

The little boy's short legs struggled to keep up, and he stumbled. The man swung his arm and hit the boy's cheek in anger.

The sound rang in my ears as I slammed on the brakes and jumped out of the car.

My heart raced with shock and determination as I hurried toward them. I faced the man and asked firmly, "Why would you hit someone so small and innocent?"

He straightened and said he was the boy's father, like that gave him the right to do anything.

His words felt like a challenge, but I didn't back down.

I told him that having a child doesn't give anyone glory if they don't care for them, and no parent has the right to hurt someone who depends completely on them.

People nearby started to gather, their murmurs turning into voices supporting me.

One woman nodded and spoke up, while a couple of men stepped closer, showing their support.

The father grew uncomfortable under everyone's watchful eyes and accused me of behaving badly in front of his son.

He said that stepping in like this challenged his authority and was almost disrespectful.

I calmly replied that true respect comes from stopping harm, no matter who's involved.

I recalled the teachings of the last Prophet, peace be upon him, who said that good behaviour is the greatest gift anyone can bring to a community.

But when those in power use it only for control, it can turn into a tool that harms the powerless.

That roadside encounter made me



realize how manners can sometimes protect power rather than fairness.

I stood there for a while, surrounded by strangers who had quickly become allies, and noticed how often people care more about appearances than doing what's right.

True kindness lifts those without power, helping them toward equality instead of keeping them under someone else's control.

Kindness that lets cruelty happen is just fear disguised as politeness.

Our communities are masters of this subtle art, often valuing appearances over what really matters.

Imagine a house on fire while people fuss over the cleanest bowl for their rituals. Picture a blind person waiting on a street corner as others handle their devotion with ease. We shout our faith to the skies, but fall silent when faced with injustice. Our kindness shines on the surface, but deep down, our awareness remains clouded.

I drove away from that scene with a mix of emotions, replaying the boy's wide eyes and the father's

defiant stance.

That evening, the incident sparked a conversation among friends, and we shared similar moments from our own lives.

One friend recalled a workplace scene where a boss publicly scolded an employee, and everyone stayed silent to keep the peace. Another spoke about a family gathering where an uncle harshly addressed his niece, met only with turned heads.

These stories together mirrored my afternoon, showing how deeply this pattern runs.

Good behaviour can truly make a difference, shining brightest when paired with bold action. But people often twist it to silence dissent and protect harmful ways, turning it into little more than decoration on decay.

I began seeing this pattern across society: leaders invoking tradition to justify policies that harm the vulnerable, teachers enforcing strict rules without considering students' feelings, and even places of worship running rituals flawlessly while ignoring the struggles of their congregants.

The Prophet's wisdom, peace be upon him, goes beyond words. It calls for action.

His teachings show how kindness can guide every interaction, turning communities into places of support and care.

I thought about the stories where he stepped into disputes gently but firmly, showing a balance that we sometimes miss today. The road rage episode made me think on my own actions.

When a neighbour argues loudly with his spouse, do I just turn up the TV, or do I offer a listening ear? When a colleague faces unfair treatment, do I speak up in support, or stay silent?

That boy's face still comes back to me in silent moments, an image of innocence caught in adult conflicts.

The father's slap showed a mindset where power is often used as an excuse. Stepping in, even briefly, encouraged others to speak up, showing how shared voices can strengthen individual courage.

We grow stronger when we choose to act together, building solidarity

that breaks the sense of isolation.

In the days that followed, I shared this story on a local community forum. People responded with similar experiences and thoughtful ideas.

Some suggested awareness campaigns to rethink parenting, with an emphasis on positive discipline. Others proposed workshops inspired by prophetic teachings, to build communities where courtesy empowers rather than silences.

Those talks gave me hope. They reminded me that change begins with self-awareness and slowly redefines the norms we live by.

In the end, that moment on the road reminded me to put people before appearances.

Things work better when kindness is used to do the right thing.

Even small actions matter, and together they can make the world a little fairer and more caring.

— The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection in Kashmir.

THE FATHER'S SLAP SHOWED A MINDSET WHERE POWER IS OFTEN USED AS AN EXCUSE. Stepping in, even briefly, encouraged others to speak up, showing how shared voices can strengthen individual courage. We grow stronger when we choose to act together, building solidarity that breaks the sense of isolation.

India Committed to No Longer Purchasing Russian Oil: White House

Press Trust Of India

New York: The White House has hailed a new trade agreement with India, saying the country has committed to "no longer" purchasing Russian oil, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi also agreeing on investments of USD 500 billion across key American sectors.

These remarks were made by White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt on Tuesday.

"The President struck another great trade deal with India. He spoke with Prime Minister Modi directly. They share a very good

relationship. India is committed to not only no longer purchasing Russian oil, but buying oil from the United States, also perhaps from Venezuela too, which we know will now have a direct benefit on the United States and the American people," Leavitt told reporters Tuesday.

She further said that in addition to that, Prime Minister Modi "committed to \$500 billion of investments into the United States, including for transportation, for energy and for agricultural products as well. So this is another great trade deal thanks to President Trump."

Earlier, speaking to Fox News about the India-US trade deal, Leavitt said the two leaders had a "great call" on Monday, following which the bilateral trade deal was announced.

"...when it comes to Prime Minister Modi, I know he (Trump) particularly enjoys their relationship and has a deep respect for the Prime Minister and for his country of India.

"They had a great call. It was very productive yesterday, and they struck a deal in which India has agreed to stop purchasing Russian oil to buy more American oil from the United

States of America, and potentially from Venezuela too," she said. Leavitt added that Trump and his national security team are "now dictating" the commerce of Venezuela and those oil sales.

"So this directly benefits the American people as well. And in addition, India has agreed to invest more in the United States because of President Trump's call to action on that phone call yesterday. Prime Minister Modi committed to USD 500 billion of purchases of US energy, transportation, and agricultural products," she said.

Leavitt said the US tariff on

India will now be at 18 per cent, but American exports to India will face a tariff of 0 per cent, so this is a great deal and a huge win for American workers, businesses and consumers alike."

The Trump administration had imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

In a Truth Social post on Monday, Trump had said that, effective immediately, the two sides agreed to a trade deal under which the US will lower its reciprocal tariff imposed on India from 25 per cent to 18 per

cent. India will also move forward to reduce its tariffs and non-tariff barriers against the United States to "zero".

"The Prime Minister also committed to 'BUY AMERICAN', at a much higher level, in addition to over \$500 BILLION DOLLARS of US Energy, Technology, Agricultural, Coal, and many other products.

"Our amazing relationship with India will be even stronger going forward. Prime Minister Modi and I are two people who GET THINGS DONE, something that cannot be said for most," Trump said.

Modi said it was wonderful

to speak with his "dear friend" Trump.

"Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent. Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement," Modi said.

"When two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits our people and unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. President Trump's leadership is vital for global peace, stability, and prosperity.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

World Cancer Day:

234 over the same period. Doctors note that ovarian cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage due to nonspecific early symptoms, which contributes to higher fatality rates.

In Ladakh, the overall numbers remain much smaller, reflecting the region's sparse population, but the trend is broadly comparable. Breast cancer cases increased from 18 in 2021 to 19 from 2022 onwards and remained unchanged through 2025. Cervical cancer cases stood at one per year, while ovarian cancer cases remained steady at eight annually. Mortality figures also showed little variation. Health professionals, however, warn that difficult terrain, remoteness and limited access to specialised healthcare may lead to delayed detection or underreporting.

At the national level, similar trends have been observed, with rising incidence of breast, cervical and ovarian cancers reported across several states. More populous states continue to account for the highest number of cases, highlighting gaps in early detection and access to timely treatment.

The government has sought to address the rising cancer burden through expanded screening and treatment initiatives under national non-communicable disease programmes. These include population-based screening for adults over 30 years of age, strengthening district-level cancer care facilities and improving access to diagnostics and treatment.

J&K Witnessing 35-38

pace across J&K. "Cancer is rapidly increasing in Jammu and Kashmir. On average, we are witnessing around 35 to 38 new cancer cases every single day across the UT, and this number is likely to grow further in the coming years," he said.

Dr Zahoor added that the Valley currently has cancer treatment facilities in major government tertiary care hospitals and a few private institutions. "Most of the required treatment modalities are available within J&K. Only a few highly advanced technologies like Proton Radiotherapy are not available here, which are limited to very few centres in the entire country," he said.

Sharing insights into the regional cancer profile, Dr Manzoor, Head of the Department of Radiation Oncology at GMC Srinagar, said the cancer trend in Kashmir broadly matches national and global patterns, but with some regional differences. "The overall cancer burden here is similar to what is seen across India and the world. However, due to our unique geographical and lifestyle factors, the spectrum of cancers in Kashmir is slightly different," he explained.

According to him, gastrointestinal cancers, particularly of the oesophagus and stomach, are more common in the region, along with a high incidence of breast and lung cancers. "This makes it extremely important to focus not just on treatment but on large-scale screening and prevention strategies, especially for gastrointestinal cancers," Dr Manzoor said.

He called for an integrated cancer screening and early detection system across J&K. "We require mass screening programs, early diagnostic facilities and widespread public awareness so cancers can be detected at an early stage, where cure is possible. The government must take concrete steps to establish these programs at the community level," he added.

While appreciating the availability of most cancer treatment options in the UT, Dr Manzoor said that cancer care is evolving rapidly with new technologies emerging every year. "One of the most modern radiotherapy technologies today is Proton Beam Therapy, which causes less damage to surrounding healthy tissues and improves treatment outcomes. Currently, it is available only at three centres in India, with a few more in the pipeline," he said. "J&K should also be included among the regions where this advanced facility is established in the future."

Noted oncologist Dr Ashraf Ashia highlighted the growing role of preventive oncology in reducing cancer risk. "Most established cancer treatment modalities are already available in our UT. However, the future lies equally in prevention," he said.

He said that vaccines, such as those against HPV, are playing a major role in preventing certain cancers, while lifestyle modifications are becoming increasingly important. "Alongside this, genetics-based therapies and biotechnology are also emerging as strong tools in modern cancer treatment," Dr Ashraf added.

Doctors stressed that while improving hospital infrastructure is crucial, public participation through healthier lifestyles, regular health check-ups, and awareness about early symptoms can significantly reduce cancer-related deaths.

They urged authorities to strengthen screening programs, expand awareness campaigns in rural and urban areas alike, and invest in modern medical technologies to ensure comprehensive cancer care for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

Light Rain, Snow

Dry conditions are likely to prevail from February 12 to 15.

The department said no weather warning has been issued for either the Kashmir or Jammu divisions during the next seven days.

As a precautionary measure, the IMD advised travellers and transporters to check the status of roads and highways with concerned traffic authorities and strictly follow official advisories. People living in snow-bound higher reaches have also been advised to avoid venturing into avalanche-prone and slippery areas.

Meanwhile, the Kupwara district administration conducted an overnight rescue operation at Sadna Top after heavy snowfall stranded several vehicles on the high-altitude route, officials said.

The operation was launched late Tuesday night and continued into the early hours of Wednesday amid poor visibility and harsh weather conditions. Officials said at least 35 vehicles stuck due to heavy accumulation of snow were safely evacuated.

Snow clearance machinery and personnel were deployed to ensure the safety of stranded commuters and to avert any medical or weather-related emergencies. Priority was given to vulnerable stretches of the road to facilitate movement.

Fresh snowfall had brought vehicular movement to a standstill at Sadna Top. Officials said timely intervention prevented the situation from worsening and helped partially restore traffic.

The administration has advised residents and travellers to avoid non-essential travel to high-altitude areas and adhere to traffic advisories until weather conditions improve. Authorities said the situation is being closely monitored.

J&K Assembly: Row

legislators staged a walkout, accusing Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather of favouring members of the treasury benches by allowing them more time to speak while restricting opposition interventions. The BJP claimed that its members were being repeatedly interrupted during the discussion on the motion of thanks to the Lieutenant Governor's address.

Despite appeals by the Speaker asking BJP MLAs to remain in the House, the party members left in protest, alleging discrimination in the conduct of proceedings. Ruling alliance legislators rejected the charge, accusing the BJP of deliberately disrupting the House.

Tensions further escalated when BJP members objected to the time allotted to National Conference MLA Sajad Shaheen during the debate. BJP leaders argued that ruling party legislators were being given extended opportunities, while opposition voices were being curtailed.

Responding to the allegations, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said he was conducting the proceedings strictly in accordance with rules and parliamentary conventions and denied any bias towards any party.

Fresh turmoil erupted after remarks attributed to Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, in which he reportedly stated that the Pir Panjal region does not exist in Jammu and Kashmir. The issue was raised in the House by Congress MLA Iftikhar Ahmed, who demanded an apology, saying the remarks had hurt the sentiments of people from Rajouri and Poonch.

Several legislators, including National Conference MLA Aijaz Jan, independent members, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Minister Satish Sharma, supported the demand for an apology. BJP members, however, strongly opposed the demand, triggering loud protests and disorder in the House.

As members attempted to move towards the Well of the House and confronted each other, the Speaker struggled to restore order and eventually adjourned the proceedings for 15 minutes.

Following the adjournment, MLAs from Rajouri and Poonch staged a protest outside the Assembly complex, raising slogans in support of the Pir Panjal region and demanding a public apology from the Leader of Opposition. The protesters included Aijaz Jan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Javaid Iqbal, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Choudhary Akram.

Speaking to reporters, Iftikhar Ahmed said the House would not be allowed to function until Sharma apologised. He said the name Pir Panjal carried historical significance and symbolised the sacrifices made by people from the region in defending the country's borders.

Echoing similar views, Aijaz Jan said the remarks had deeply hurt public sentiments and asserted that the protest would continue until an apology was made on the floor of the House.

However, Sunil Sharma refused to withdraw or apologise for his statement. He told reporters that Jammu and Kashmir was a single administrative unit and that no separate region by the name of Pir Panjal existed. He said people should refer to historical texts to understand the traditional names of areas such as

Rajouri, Poonch and the Doda belt.

The repeated disruptions highlighted sharp political divisions in the Assembly, with both the ruling alliance and the BJP accusing each other of undermining democratic functioning.

Economic Survey,

overview of the Union Territory's fiscal position, economic performance and key development indicators ahead of the presentation of the annual budget.

The Chief Minister will also place the Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023 before the House. Framed under Section 6(4) of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909, the rules seek to strengthen the legal framework for registration of marriages in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Assembly will further continue discussions on the Motion of Thanks to the Lieutenant Governor's address delivered on February 2, 2026, followed by the government's reply.

The day's proceedings are scheduled to begin at 10 am at the Assembly Secretariat in Jammu, with question hour and other legislative business listed on the agenda.

CM Introduces

Justice and Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Eliminating Discrimination Against Persons Affected by Leprosy Bill, 2026.

The proposed legislation aims to amend relevant laws to eliminate discrimination or denial of equal treatment towards persons affected by leprosy. It also seeks to prevent their segregation and exclusion from society and enable the Union Territory to fulfil its obligations through affirmative action.

Both bills were introduced in the House for consideration and are expected to be taken up for further discussion during the ongoing session.

J&K Notifies

competent authority. Applications must be processed within one month, with registration granted or refused through a written order after giving the applicant an opportunity of being heard. Registration certificates will remain valid for two years and must be renewed two months before expiry.

The rules prescribe minimum qualifications for tutors, prohibit misleading advertisements or guarantees of ranks and results, and bar the hiring of persons convicted of offences involving moral turpitude or government employees. Coaching centres must also obtain no-objection certificates from the CID and building and fire safety clearances.

Centres are required to disclose details of tutors, fee structures, timetables and course information on their websites and notice boards. Classes cannot be conducted during school hours for enrolled students, and a counselling system and grievance redressal mechanism are mandatory.

The government has also introduced strict fee regulations. Coaching centres must issue receipts, accept payments only through online modes, and provide study material without additional charges. A full fee refund must be granted if a student withdraws within 10 days of enrolment, while proportional refunds are required in cases of mid-session faculty changes.

Infrastructure norms include adequate classroom space, ventilation, safe drinking water, CCTV surveillance where required, separate toilets for men and women, first-aid facilities and compliance with fire and building safety standards. Centres must operate in noise-free areas and display emergency contact details prominently.

To reduce academic pressure, coaching hours have been capped at a maximum of five hours per day, with weekly offs made mandatory for students and tutors. The rules also encourage co-curricular activities, counselling for mental well-being, and inclusive provisions for students with disabilities.

Coaching centres must reserve 10 per cent of seats for students from below poverty line families or orphans, based on recommendations by the competent authority. Annual reports and audited accounts are to be submitted for renewal of registration.

Violations will attract penalties starting from 25,000 for the first offence, 50,000 for the second, and cancellation of registration for repeated breaches.

The government said the new rules are aimed at protecting students' interests, ensuring quality education and bringing transparency and accountability to the rapidly expanding private coaching sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

3 Terrorists Killed

begin around 4 pm on Tuesday after security forces received specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area. Acting on the information, troops established contact and tightened the cordon by rushing additional reinforcements.

According to officials, the terrorists were hiding inside a cave and were eliminated in a

fierce gunfight. A large cache of arms and ammunition, including an M4 carbine and an AK-series assault rifle, was recovered from the site.

In a post on X, the Army said that troops of CIF Delta and White Knight Corps, in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF, launched an intelligence-based joint operation in the general area of Basantgarh. The forces engaged the terrorists continuously to prevent any attempt to break the cordon.

The White Knight Corps later said that two terrorists were successfully neutralised following a calibrated and coordinated response, highlighting seamless inter-agency coordination and tactical precision. The operation in Udhampur has since concluded, though the area remains under surveillance.

Meanwhile, a terrorist was killed in an ongoing encounter in Kishtwar district on Wednesday. The Army said contact was re-established with terrorists hiding in dense forest terrain during a joint operation in the Dichhar area.

In another post on X, the White Knight Corps said the operation, codenamed Operation Trashi-I, involved troops of CIF Delta and White Knight Corps along with the Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF. Contact was re-established around 5:45 pm, leading to the killing of one terrorist. The search operation was continuing at the time of filing this report.

Figures indicate that a total of four terrorists have been eliminated in Jammu and Kashmir so far this year. One terrorist was killed earlier in Kathua, two in Udhampur, and one in Kishtwar.

A police official said that due to heightened vigilance and a tight security grid, no civilian has fallen victim to terror incidents in the Union Territory this year.

No End To Encounters

Pakistani terrorists were killed in encounters with security forces in the higher reaches of Ramnagar in Udhampur and Chatroo in Kishtwar districts on Wednesday, taking the death toll in nine gunfights in the Jammu region in the past three weeks to five.

Earlier, one Pakistani terrorist was killed in Kathua on January 23, while an Army paratrooper also laid down his life in a gunfight in Kishtwar on January 18.

"It just keeps going on. They (terrorists) were killed, fine, but where did they come from? How did they reach Udhampur? Since when were they there? And how long will this continue?"

"We were told that after 2019, this cycle would end. But now, even in 2026, it has started again and is not stopping," the chief minister told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He was responding to a question about the killing of two JeM terrorists in a two-day-long operation in Ramnagar forest in Udhampur district.

"On the contrary, areas that were completely free of terrorism before 2014-15 are now witnessing such incidents. So how did they reach Udhampur? Since when were they present there? Somewhere, we must get answers to these questions," the chief minister said.

Asked about the upcoming three-day visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Abdullah said he would not like to discuss it in the media. "We will sit across the table and talk. There are many issues that need to be discussed face-to-face. We will do that."

In response to another question related to the rise in cancer cases in the Union Territory, the chief minister said there was no dispute over the fact that cancer incidence was rising, and the reasons behind it could only be determined by medical experts.

Outlining the government's role in curbing the number of such cases, he mentioned three key responsibilities that needed urgent attention.

"The first is increased funding for research and development, along with the creation of proper infrastructure. The second is strengthening the healthcare system to ensure that state cancer institutes function effectively, have adequate infrastructure, and allow doctors to work efficiently."

The third priority, he said, is supporting financially weaker sections for whom cancer treatment had become extremely difficult due to the high cost of medicines.

"The government is working on a special package for such patients, which would be announced in due course," he added.

Search Op Conducted

officials said, adding that the cordon was lifted later in the day.

SC Flags Delay

Dockets may be heavy, and there may be matters requiring consideration, but there can be nothing more important than the prayer for bail."

Underlining the delay in disposal of bail pleas across high courts, the bench said that in the Patna High Court, bail matters were not

urgently listed, and petitioners approached the apex court seeking listing of bail pleas before the high court.

"We are conscious of the fact that listing is the exclusive prerogative of the chief justices since they are masters of the roster. People are languishing in jail, and bail pleas are not heard, and there is complete uncertainty as to when they will know the fate of their application."

"This court is under the bounden duty to issue certain mandatory guidelines," the bench said, requesting the chief justices to revisit their rosters, and expand them for listing the bail pleas if there was a "mismatch between the total pendency and bench".

It said that before such directions were issued, it was imperative to seek the details regarding the pendency of bail matters. The bench also asked the state agencies to cooperate with the courts to ensure expeditious disposal of bail matters.

The apex court was hearing a petition regarding the adjournments in a bail matter pending in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Govt Data Shows

examined strictly in accordance with prescribed rules and guidelines. It clarified that certificates are denied only when applicants fail to meet the eligibility conditions laid down under existing norms.

It further stated that cases involving shared residential property with married siblings or other legal co-owners are assessed on an individual basis, and rejection is made only where the required criteria are not fulfilled.

Why Not Fix

stability should not come at the cost of people's rights and self-respect. "What was happening in the LG administration continues - employee termination, NIA raids, and attachment of properties were going on then and are going on now. It clearly indicates that your vision document lacks compassion and any road-map for healing," he said.

The PDP leader accused the government of showing aggression only against political opponents within Jammu and Kashmir while lacking the same resolve during meetings with central leadership. "You fight fiercely with the Leader of the Opposition and BJP leaders here, but that energy disappears when you meet the PM, HM, and others in Delhi," he observed.

Para urged that constant blame games between the PDP and NC over past mistakes would not shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir. He added that since Home Minister Amit Shah is visiting J&K, the local government must ask him to engage with local people here, as Shah "always says he will talk to the people of J&K, not Pakistan".

The MLA said that nobody is listening to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. "This has led to a growing sense of defeat among them, with unresolved issues of merit, reservations, and empowerment adding to their concerns," he said. "People are losing hope because fairness is not being delivered."

Para revealed that none of the 15 development works sanctioned in his constituency last year had been tendered, while 300 crore sanctioned under the Special Assistance Scheme had seen zero expenditure. "What is the fun of sanctioning then?" he questioned.

He also alleged that 28 departments submitted "copy-paste replies" in the Assembly, reflecting the same project status as one year ago. "This is a sign of stagnation, not governance," he said.

The PDP leader said that structural changes in Jammu and Kashmir's administrative framework had weakened all legislators, including BJP members. "Today, all of us in this House are weaker than before, and there is no reason for Kashmiris to fight each other. The Chief Minister must fight for Kashmiris, not Kashmiri versus Kashmiri," he said.

He claimed that smaller parties were being "silenced" in the House. "Don't dehumanise us because PDP has four MLAs and PC has one. Democracy is about voice, not numbers," he said.

On the reservation issue, Para said it could have been resolved administratively through a Social Welfare Department order instead of prolonged political drama. He also proposed establishing two campuses of the National Law University, one in Jammu and one in Kashmir, to avoid regional controversy.

Alleging favouritism, the PDP MLA claimed that NC leader and CM's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani was given ministerial status and his son received a state award without justification, while persons such as Irfan Sarkar, who organised the Valley's first day-night cricket tournament, along with many other deserving people, were ignored.

Following Para's remarks against NC's Aslam and his son, several National Conference MLAs raised counter-questions regarding PDP's past decisions, including how Tasduq Mufti was appointed as a minister during the previous PDP government, leading to a heated exchange in the Assembly. (KNO)

Jammu-Srinagar Metro Lite Proposal Awaits Centre's Green Signal



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday informed the Assembly that the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the elevated Metro lite systems proposed for Jammu and Srinagar have been submitted to the Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for appraisal and funding. The government said a final response from the Centre is still awaited.

According to the reply tabled in the House, as per KNO, the Administrative Council had granted in-principle approval to the proposal on February 13, 2021 (Decision No. 12/3/2021). Following this, DPRs estimating Rs 4,069.48 crore for Jammu and Rs 4,892.51 crore for Srinagar were prepared and forwarded to MoHUA and the Government of

India for consideration.

"The projects envisage elevated Metro lite corridors for both capital cities," the government said, adding that the DPRs are under examination at the Centre. A final approval or funding commitment from MoHUA/Gol is still awaited," the reply noted.

The government further informed the Assembly that once sanctioned, the Metro-lite systems are expected to ease rising traffic congestion, offer a modern mass transit option and support planned urban development in both cities. However, no timeline for commencement or operation was mentioned pending the Centre's decision.

The combined project outlay of around Rs 8,962 crore highlights the scale of the proposed systems and the reliance on central funding for their execution, the government added.

Govt Committed to Providing Best Facilities for Cancer Patients: CM Omar

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said efforts are underway to ensure fewer cancer patients travel elsewhere for advanced treatment, and his government is committed to building strong treatment facilities for people stricken with the disease.

Addressing a World Cancer Day event at the Government Medical College (GMC) here, he expressed hope for a future when the world would truly be able to celebrate the occasion as the day cancer was eradicated.

"Till then, we have to manage this disease as best as possible," the chief minister said.

Reaffirming the government's proactive role in ensuring the best possible facilities for cancer patients as well as healthcare professionals, Abdullah said, "Our responsibility is to ensure that the least number of patients possible need to travel outside Jammu and Kashmir to avail the best possible healthcare facilities." Sharing personal experiences, he spoke with deep empathy about the emotional and psychological toll cancer takes on patients and their families.

He recalled moments of waiting anxiously for scan results, witnessing loved ones undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, and the pain of losing family members to the disease.

"This disease terrifies people, it terrifies the patient, it terrifies their family, not only because of the prognosis and treatment, but also because of the financial implications," the chief minister remarked.

Highlighting the critical role of the government in combating cancer, he outlined three major responsibilities. Abdullah stressed the impor-



Migrant Relief Registration Unnecessary: CM

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that fresh cases for registration under Kashmir migrant relief assistance are not being entertained at present in view of the improved law and order situation in the valley.

He said that the Prime Minister's Return and Rehabilitation Package for Kashmiri Migrants is aimed at facilitating their voluntary, safe and dignified return to the valley while ensuring socio-economic security through housing, employment and other support measures.

Replying to a written question by National Conference member Mubarak Gul in the Assembly, Abdullah said, "Fresh cases for registration under Kashmir migrant relief assistance are not being entertained at present. The issue was examined in a meeting chaired by the chief secretary on July 12, 2023, where it was observed that the improved law and order situation in the valley does not justify fresh registration at this stage."

tance of supporting research and development, ensuring quality medical education and facilitating doctors and oncologists in advancing cancer care.

He also underlined the need for

Abdullah said the proposal for enhancement of the existing migrant relief assistance, considering inflation and the rising cost of living, has been examined at the Union Territory level and taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is the competent authority to take a final decision on the matter.

According to PTI, the chief minister said the comprehensive Prime Minister's Return and Rehabilitation Package for Kashmiri Migrants was announced in 2009 with a financial outlay of Rs 1,618.40 crore. He said the scheme provides a holistic framework to restore livelihood, housing, education and financial security of the migrant community.

Detailing the components of the scheme, Abdullah said it includes provision of residential support for migrant families, construction of transit accommodation for employees appointed under the package, continuation of monthly cash relief to registered migrant families, student scholarships, employment opportunities, assistance to agriculturalists and horticulturalists, and waiver of interest on loans.

robust screening infrastructure, noting that cancer often becomes fatal due to late detection. "Early screening is essential so that this terrible disease can be detected at the earliest stage," he said.

IUST Holds Programme to Strengthen Administrative Efficiency

AWANTIPORA: The Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGG&PA), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in coordination with the Office of the Registrar today inaugurated a Two-Day Capacity Building Programme at the Rumi Library Conference Room, aimed at enhancing administrative efficiency and institutional governance.

The inaugural session was chaired by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Dr. Shakeel Ramshoo, who stressed the importance of administrative competence in modern institutions. "For maintaining accountability, transparency and sustainable institutional growth, a sound understand-



ing of rules, regulations and effective use of technology has become the need of the hour," the Vice-Chancellor remarked.

Addressing the gathering of Deans, Officers, and Heads of Departments, the Registrar, IUST highlighted that continuous capacity building plays a vital role in achieving improved service delivery and better administrative outcomes.

During the welcome address, Dr. G. N. Itoo, Director CGG&PA, underscored the broader vision of the initiative. "This programme is part of a sustained effort to strengthen administrative capacity at IUST. CGG&PA will continue to organize thematic capacity-building sessions to support efficient, rule-based, and technology-driven governance," he said. (Observer News Service)

20 Govt Offices in Budgam Operating from Rented Buildings: Govt

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government today informed the Legislative Assembly that as many as 20 government offices in Budgam district are functioning from rented premises, and that there is no proposal under consideration for constructing a unified government office complex at the sub-district level. According to a written reply tabled in the Legislative Assembly, the Public Works (R&B) Department as per KNO said that "as on date, 20 government offices of different departments in District Budgam are functioning from rented buildings."

The government, however, said that "no such proposal for construction of a unified Government Office Complex at sub-district level is under consideration either with this Department or with the Revenue Department." (Observer News Service)

CS Calls for People's Participation to Preserve Manuscripts

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday impressed upon the Culture Department to actively involve people and encourage them to come forward for the identification, digitization, and preservation of rare manuscripts for posterity under the Government of India's flagship programme Mission Gyan Bharatam.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mission in the Union Territory, the Chief Secretary emphasized that public participation is critical for safeguarding India's rich manuscript heritage, much of which is privately held or housed in religious and traditional institutions.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Director General, Libraries; Secretary in Culture Depart-



ment; Director, Colleges; Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary underlined the need for intensive awareness programmes, to be conducted with the support of professionals and individuals who have already contributed to manuscript preservation efforts. He also called for active involvement of religious heads and civil society organisations and SHGs noting that a significant number of valuable manuscripts are preserved at religious places across the UT.

Highlighting the significance of the task, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of capacity building of field officers engaged in survey and monitoring. He directed that a designated supervisory officer be appointed in each block to oversee the process. Drawing

which includes searching for manuscripts, saving them, scanning them, and ultimately sharing them on the public domain in an accessible and lucid form.

The Principal Secretary further stated that for effective implementation of the Mission in J&K, MoUs have been signed by the concerned Ministry with States, Union Territories, and institutions for setting up Cluster Centres and State Nodal Agencies, ensuring precision, synergy, and unity under a national collaborative framework.

Outlining the progress so far, Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, K.K. Sidha, apprised the meeting that 33,858 manuscripts have already been identified from government and semi-government institutions, religious establishments, and individual custodians. He added that a special household survey titled 'Har Ghar Dastak' is being planned to trace and digitize manuscripts with the consent of their owners, following the goal of 'Har Din-Ek Gin', targeting coverage of at least one panchayat per day.

Bandipora Gears Up for Wular Bird Watch Festival

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review preparations for the WUCMA-centred Wular BirdWatch Festival, scheduled between 9th-14th February, aimed at promoting eco-tourism and creating diversified livelihood opportunities for local communities.

The meeting was informed that all necessary instructions have been issued to the concerned departments.

Eco-guides and home-stays are in readiness, while students have been trained to support festival activities. It was also appraised that police verification of all stakeholders involved in the festival has been completed.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said that a temporary market will be established for NRLM groups, Cooperative Societies and Fisheries to showcase local products

including lotus stem and water chestnuts. Shikara rides will also be available for visitors.

Five prominent locations have been identified for festival activities, with reception centres and camps at Banyari and Nadihal, and stalls at S.K. Payeen and Watlab.

The DC directed the constitution of a Rate Fixation Committee to finalize rates for eco-guides, shikara rides and fisheries-related services. She also reviewed transport arrangements to ensure smooth movement during the festival.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the importance of promoting sustainable tourism around Wular Lake by highlighting its rich biodiversity and the seasonal arrival of migratory birds. She emphasized that the Wular Bird Watch Festival should not only enhance environmental awareness but also serve as a platform for generating sustainable and diversified livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Cement Industries Ordered to Install Air Quality Monitoring Systems

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Cement industries in Jammu and Kashmir have been directed by the J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) to install Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS) for regular air quality monitoring, the government said on Wednesday.

Replying to a question from MLA Hasnain Masoodi, the Minister for Forest, Ecology, and Environment, as reported by KNO, said that two CAAQMS units have already been installed in the Khrew and Khonmoh areas, respectively, for regular air quality monitoring.

"Furthermore," the minister added, "the J&K PCC has assigned a 'Study on the Present Status of Air Quality in Khrew and Khonmoh Areas of District Pulwama and Srinagar' to the University of Kashmir in September 2025. The results of the study are awaited."

He continued: "The J&K Government has granted nine mining leases in the Khrew-Wuyan area of District Pulwama, out of which four are operational and are working strictly in accordance

with the guidelines provided in the approved mining plan, environmental clearance, and consent to operate, among other requirements. The remaining five are non-operational due to pending environmental clearances and consent to operate. All nine mining leases were granted as per the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act and rules, and are made operational only after obtaining necessary no-objection certificates from concerned stakeholders."

"To control pollution," the minister said, "the J&K PCC imposed a moratorium on the establishment of new air-polluting industries in the Khrew and Khonmoh areas, vide Order No. 41-JK PCC of 2021 dated 22.01.2021. The moratorium was reviewed by the J&K PCC in its third board meeting held on 20.12.2023, where it was resolved that the moratorium shall remain in force for cement plants, stone crushers, hot mix plants, brick kilns, and mining until the annual average Air Quality Index (AQI) falls below 100 or the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) score falls below 60."

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U.T.) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VALLOO

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No.107/9278-87 of R&B/Vailoo/2025-2026/e-tendering DATED:04/02/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Approved Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. in form of Treasury challen/ Receipt (In Rs)	Earnest Money (2% of Adv.Cost) (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Construction of 02 ACR at Middle School Bon Mathindoo	20.140	800	40280	180 Days	Education	BEE/CEE Class	PAB
2	Construction of 02 ACR at Primary School Khanpora Arther	20.248	800	40496	180 Days	Education	BEE/CEE Class	PAB
3	Construction of 02 ACR at Middle School Laigarjpora	20.248	800	40496	180 Days	Education	BEE/CEE Class	PAB
4	Construction of 02 ACR at Middle School Rain	20.140	800	40280	180 Days	Education	BEE/CEE Class	PAB
5	Construction of 02 ACR at Middle School Shatroo	20.140	800	40280	180 Days	Education	BEE/CEE Class	PAB
6	Construction of 04 ACR at High School Gowran	34.972	1100	69944	180 Days	Education	AAV/BEE Class	PAB
7	Construction of 04 ACR at High School Narsangrie	34.972	1100	69944	180 Days	Education	AAV/BEE Class	PAB
8	Construction of Boundary wall at Middle School Bon Mathindoo	7.419	300	14838	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB
9	Construction of Boundary wall at Higher Secondary School Guridraman	9.278	600	18556	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB
10	Construction of Boundary wall at Primary School Hargungali	7.380	300	14760	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB
11	Construction of Boundary wall at High School Narsangrie	9.268	600	18536	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB
12	Construction of Boundary wall at Higher Secondary School Kharpora	9.279	600	18558	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB
13	Construction of Boundary wall at Higher Secondary School Lessu	9.288	600	18576	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB
14	Construction of Boundary wall at Higher Secondary School Nowbugh	9.270	600	18540	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB
15	Construction of Boundary wall at Primary School Khanpora Arther	7.419	300	14838	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB
16	Construction of Boundary wall at Girls Middle School Nowbugh	11.090	600	22180	90 Days	Education	BEE/CEE/DEE Class	PAB
17	Construction of Boundary wall at Middle School Rain	7.419	300	14838	90 Days	Education	CEE/DEE Class	PAB

Position of AA: Accorded

Position of TS: Accorded

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04.02.2026
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 04.02.2026 To 05.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 04.02.2026 To 05.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 18.02.2026 To 04.00 pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.02.2026 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailoo

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD in favor of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo(Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt (If the NIT comprises of only one item, Name of work/Item No is not mandatory) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailoo (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall be for a period of 45 days beyond bid validity of 120 days)
- The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work.
- The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.
- Only those contractors are eligible for taking part in the bidding process whose contractor registration card is enrolled online on the JKPWDOMS portal and the Proof of that needs to be uploaded with this bid mandatorily.
- The Advertised is cost is inclusive of GST@18%. The bidder has to quote the rate exclusive of GST.
- Security Deposit shall be deposited by the contractor within 10 days of issuance of LOI, failing which the concerned tender contractor shall initiate the work within 10 days of entering into the agreement, failing which the undersigned shall terminate the contract and issue a fresh tender after imposing penalties viz forfeit security/LD as per T&C of the Bid document and recommend contractor for blacklisting.
- The work shall be completed by the concerned contractor as per the timeline stipulated in the bid document/agreement, failing which action shall be initiated against contractor by forfeiting EMD and shall be recommended for blacklisting.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

DIPK-10606-25
DT: 04/02/2026

-Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo

Iran-US Meet in Oman Amid Regional Buildup

Trans Asia News

DUBAI: Iran and the United States are scheduled to hold indirect nuclear negotiations on February 6 in Muscat, the capital of Oman, according to Iranian media reports published Wednesday. The talks come at a moment of heightened regional tension and renewed diplomatic manoeuvring, with both sides signalling sharply different expectations over the scope of negotiations.

Iranian officials say the discussions will be strictly limited to Tehran's nuclear programme and the lifting of US sanctions.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will lead the Iranian delegation, accompanied by senior diplomats Majid Ravanchi and Kazem Gharibabadi. The US will be represented by envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law and advisor.

The format is expected to mirror the structure of negotiations held last year, before talks were derailed by a sudden escalation in hostilities. A sixth round had been planned at the time but was cancelled after Israel launched a large-scale military campaign against Iran, later joined by US forces, resulting in



a 12-day war. The latest round was initially planned for Istanbul but was relocated to Muscat at Iran's request. Tehran has repeatedly emphasised that any engage-

ment must remain focused solely on nuclear issues, ruling out negotiations over its ballistic missile programme or regional influence. This position directly clashes with Washington's stated demands.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said any meaningful negotiations must address both Iran's nuclear activities and its missile development. Iran has rejected that framework, insisting that expanding the agenda would amount to imposing "illogical demands" that would doom diplomacy from the outset. Iranians argue that productive talks require an atmosphere

free from threats and coercion.

The diplomatic push unfolds against a backdrop of significant military buildup in West Asia. The US has deployed the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier along with multiple guided-missile destroyers to the region, raising fears of possible confrontation. Despite the show of force, President Trump has suddenly softened his tone, expressing a preference for negotiation.

"I'd like to see a deal negotiated," Trump said in fresh remarks. "Right now, we're talking to Iran... if we could work something out, that'd be great. And if we can't, probably bad things

would happen."

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth also tempered speculation about regime change in Tehran, saying such an option was "not right now" under consideration, despite calls from some exile and monarchist groups advocating US-Israeli intervention.

The February 6 talks will take place amid this volatile environment, with both sides publicly expressing interest in diplomacy while maintaining deep disagreements over substance and strategy. Whether Muscat can host a breakthrough or merely another pause in a long-running standoff remains uncertain.

Fresh Israel Strikes Kill 21 in Gaza

AP

DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes pounded Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 21 Palestinians, including two infants, and further rocking a fragile ceasefire deal, hospital officials said.

Israel said it was responding to a militant attack on Israeli soldiers that seriously wounded one.

Deadly Israeli strikes have repeatedly punctuated the truce since it came into effect on October 10, and the escalating Palestinian toll has made many in Gaza say it feels like the war is continuing unabated. Among the Palestinians killed Wednesday were five children, seven women and an on-duty paramedic, according to hospital officials.

"The genocidal war against our people in the Gaza Strip continues," said Dr Mohamed Abu Selmiya, director of Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, in a Facebook post. "Where is the ceasefire? Where are the mediators?"

Israel strongly denies accusations that it is committing genocide in Gaza. The war began on October 7, 2023, when thousands of Hamas-led militants poured into southern Israel after a surprise barrage of rockets, killing 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and abducting 251.

Deadly strikes have continued despite ceasefire deal

The deal attempted to halt the more than 2-year-old war between Israel and Hamas. While the heaviest fighting has subsided, it has been marred by repeated flareups of violence.

A total of 556 Palestinians have been killed by Israel and 1,500 wounded



since the ceasefire went into effect, according to Gaza health officials, while Israel's military says four Israeli soldiers have been killed.

Israel's military has said its continuing strikes are responses to Hamas violations or militant attacks on its soldiers, but dozens of civilians have died. Eight Arab and Muslim countries, including mediators Egypt and Qatar, recently condemned what they called Israel's "repeated violations" of the deal.

An Israeli military official, speaking on the condition of anonymity in line with military policy, told The Associated Press that Israel's latest attacks were in response to militant gunfire that badly wounded a reservist soldier Wednesday morning.

Strike kills 11, including two children

Israeli troops fired on a building

in the Tuffah neighborhood in north Gaza, killing at least 11 people, most from the same family, said Shifa Hospital, which received the bodies. The dead included two parents, their 10-day-old girl, her 5-month-old cousin and the children's grandmother.

Mourners gathered in the courtyard of Shifa hospital Wednesday morning for funeral prayers.

"What did this child do? ... Why are they killing the children?" asked a relative of the family, Mohammad Jaser.

"We don't understand why this is happening to us. What do we do? Where do we go? This isn't life," he said.

Two young children were seen kneeling at the body of their father as a woman told them to bid him farewell. A young girl kissed her father's cheeks.

Strikes on Gaza continue into Wednesday afternoon

Later, an Israeli strike on a family's tent in the southern city of Khan Younis killed three people including a 12-year-old boy, said Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Tank shelling in Gaza City's eastern neighborhood of Zaytoon killed another three Palestinians, according to Shifa Hospital.

A strike on a tent in the Muwasi area of Khan Younis killed at least two people and wounded five others, according to a field hospital run by the Palestinian Red Crescent in the area. The dead included Hussein Hassan Hussein al-Semieri, a paramedic who was on duty at the time, said the hospital.

Korean Game Link Probed in Ghaziabad Sisters Jump to Death

Press Trust of India

GHAZIABAD (UP): Three sisters, the youngest just 12, addicted to an online Korean game that involved a series of tasks died after jumping off the balcony of their ninth floor home in the early hours of Wednesday, police said.

Nishika, 16, Prachi, 14, and Pakhi left behind a chilling note that said, "Read everything written in this diary, it is all here..." It was accompanied by a crying face emoji and a handwritten message, "Sorry papa, I am really sorry."

The diary was recovered from the girls' belongings. The three did not go to school and had been home for the last two years, police said. Their father Chetan Kumar, a forex trader, has two wives, both sisters, and there were five children in all - four daughters and a son. The entire family lived together.

Police received information that three girls had jumped from the balcony of their home in Bharat City in Sahibabad area in Ghaziabad, the busy satellite town abutting the national capital, around 2.15 am.

They were rushed in ambulance to a hospital in Loni

close by where doctors declared them dead on arrival, the tragedy jolting the middle class neighbourhood and highlighting the perils of online addiction and the impact on young minds.

Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Krishna told PTI in Lucknow, "We are getting the whole case examined in detail."

The state police chief also stressed the need for cyber awareness, saying the police department holds regular awareness drives and people can reach out to local police stations for issues related to online addiction.

Though details were sketchy, Deputy Commissioner of Police Nimish Patil said preliminary investigation revealed the girls were influenced by Korean content and spent a significant amount of time on their mobile phones.

He said the girls' education had been irregular and their academic performance was below par.

"But it is evident that the girls were highly addicted to mobile phone usage," he said.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Shalimar Garden) Atul Kumar Singh added that the sisters were addicted to a Ko-

rean task-based interactive "love game".

"Their parents had restricted their mobile phone usage for the past few days, which left them distressed. This may have triggered the decision (to take the extreme step)," he said.

The sisters got addicted to online gaming during the pandemic years and played it almost without break.

They had been playing the game for the last two-and-a-half to three years, said the father.

His face masked and his voice tearful, Kumar said he was unaware that the game involved tasks. He also added that his daughters had repeatedly said they wanted to go to Korea.

"They often said they wanted to go to Korea. I did not know that this game involved such tasks. I came to know about all this only after the police forensic team examined their mobile phones," Kumar told PTI.

"If I had known that such tasks existed, I would have stopped it. No father would ever allow his children to be part of it," he said.

Recounting the sequence of events, Kumar said the family was asleep at the time. "My wife was sleeping in the

inner room. The girls woke up on the pretext of drinking water, bolted the door from inside and jumped from the balcony."

He said the girls threw their mobile phones outside the room. "The police later seized them for investigation."

According to Kumar, Prachi, the middle sister of the three, once told him she was the 'boss' and that her sisters followed her directions.

Kumar said the three sisters did everything together -- eating, bathing and spending time -- and mostly remained confined to their room.

He added that the girls had not attended school for the past two to three years after their academic failures. This made them feel embarrassed and increasingly withdrawn.

"When we are looking at gaming, what has been also identified is that instead of the real identity, lot of adolescents these days identify themselves more with their gamer identity or the avatar that they take on. And so, their entire psyche is moving around their competency in that game rather than in real life," Mumbai-based forensic psychologist Deepti Puranik told PTI.

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