

Srinagar Logs Hottest Feb Day In A Decade

Gulmarg Equals 1993 Record At 11.4°C



Observer News Service

Srinagar: An unusual February heat spell has tightened its grip over Jammu and Kashmir, with several stations recording temperatures far above normal and some touching historic levels, even as the region grapples with a significant rainfall deficit.

According to the experts, the ongoing warm spell is likely to intensify in the coming days, with more records expected to be challenged. Officials said this February is now on track to be among the warmest on record for the Union Territory.

In the Kashmir region, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.1 degrees Celsius, 9.7 degrees above normal, marking its highest

February reading since 2016. The all-time February record in Srinagar stands at 20.6 degrees Celsius, recorded on February 24, 2016.

Notably, Gulmarg's 11.4 degrees equals its all-time February record set on February 11, 1993, with the temperature standing 9.9 degrees above normal.

Qazigund registered 20.4 degrees Celsius, a striking 10.9 degrees above normal, while Pahalgam settled at 16.0 degrees Celsius, 9 degrees above normal. Kupwara recorded 19.4 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 17.8 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 11.4 degrees Celsius.

"As predicted earlier, a few temperature records have already been broken today. But this does not | More on P6

DRUG CRISIS DEEPENS

Over 50,000 Heroin Users In Kashmir

70,000 Engaged In Substance Abuse, Majority Youth: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that around 70,000 persons in Kashmir are involved in substance abuse, of whom nearly 50,000 are heroin users, largely consuming the drug through the intravenous route.

Replying to a question tabled by MLA Javid Riyaz, the Health and Medical Education Department said the Union Territory, like many other



parts of the country, is facing the menace of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

posing serious social and public health concerns. As per a joint

survey conducted in 2022 by the Health and Social Welfare departments across 10 districts of Kashmir, approximately 70,000 individuals were found to be engaged in substance use.

The government said it has adopted a multi pronged strategy to tackle the issue, including awareness campaigns, preventive interventions, stronger enforcement mechanisms and expansion of treatment and rehabilitation facilities.

A network of de addiction and | More on P6

4 New Rail Lines Proposed In Kashmir

Final Location Surveys Underway, Says Govt

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that the Northern Railway is conducting final location surveys for four proposed railway lines in the Kashmir Valley.

Replying to a question tabled by MLA Javid Hassan Baig, the Transport Department said the proposed rail links include Baramulla-Uri, Sopore-Kupwara, Anantnag-Bijbehara-Pahalgam and Kakapora-Shopian. The government said the | More on P6

J&K Assembly Passes Rs 74,690 Cr Grants

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Wednesday passed grants amounting to Rs 74,690 crore for 13 departments, including Finance, Power and Housing.

The grants were passed after extensive two-day discussions in the House.

The Assembly also passed 19 supplementary grants amounting to Rs 3,523 crore. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed gratitude to legislators for their active participation and appreciated the efforts of the administrative | More on P6

Daily Wagers' Regularisation To Begin In Phases: CM

'Nearly 30,000 Vacancies To Be Filled This Year'

Says All Closed Tourist Sites Likely To Reopen By May

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday announced that the government will initiate the process of regularising daily rated, ad hoc and other temporary employees in a phased and legally sustainable manner this year, while also filling nearly 30,000 vacant posts.

Replying to the discussion on Demands for Grants in the Legislative Assembly, Omar said the issue of daily wagers



had persisted for decades and was raised by members across party lines. | More on P6

Action Against Big Land Sharks First: CM

Taking a firm stand against encroachment on government land, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday assured action in the matter and said it will begin with influential violators before targeting the poor. Winding up the discussions on grants of his departments in J&K Legislative | More on P6

'Hate Crimes Against Kashmiris'

J&K Speaker Admits Para's Resolution

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly has admitted a private member's resolution moved by PDP MLA Waheed-Ur-Rehman Parra, strongly condemning hate crimes against minorities and calling for strict enforcement of law.

The PDP legislator from Pulwama moved the resolution amid growing incidents of targeted attacks and harassment of Kashmiri students and traders in | More on P6

Return Of KPs With Dignity PM Modi's Commitment: LG Sinha

J&K Undergoing Profound Transformation Since 2019

Says J&K Will Be Freed From Scourge Of Terrorism Very Soon

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the return of Kashmiri Pandits with full dignity and security remains the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards lasting peace and stability.

He was speaking at the release of the book Kashmir-Nativity Regained, authored by Prof. Ashok Kaul. The book explores the Kashmiri Pandit exodus, recounting the terror of the late 1980s and early 1990s and the lasting devastation of being uprooted from ancestral homes.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said Jammu and Kashmir has been undergoing a profound transformation since 2019 and



that efforts of adversaries to derail the Union Territory's progress have been decisively dismantled.

"Through tireless effort, this land's ancient glory has been restored and development has been accelerated. Very soon, this soil will be completely

freed from the scourge of terrorism," he said.

Calling the book more than a literary work, Sinha described it as a laudable effort to shatter the silence that has shrouded collective consciousness for decades.

"I firmly believe that among the world's gravest sorrows is the agony of becoming a stranger on one's own soil. This is precisely what had transpired in Jammu and Kashmir," he said, referring to the displacement of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

He said the anguish of the 1989-90 killings and targeted violence against Kashmiri Pandits remains deeply etched in memory. "The torment of abandoning homes overnight and being uprooted from one's roots lingers even today," he added.

The Lieutenant | More on P6

'Save Embarrassment To Rule Of Law' HC Flags Delays In Habeas Corpus Cases

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has termed as "most distressing" for it to dispose of a habeas corpus petition as infructuous after the detainee had already completed the full period of preventive detention.

A bench of Justice Rahul Bharti also directed that a proper mechanism be put in place to ensure the timely filing of counter affidavits and prompt production of detention records in preventive detention matters, so as to "save embarrassment to the rule of law."

While disposing of the plea filed by one Shakir Ahmad Lone against preventive detention ordered by Divisional Commissioner on 13 December 2024, the court observed that it was "most distressing" for a constitutional court to dismiss a habeas corpus petition as infructuous merely because the detention period had already run its course.

"The plea of the counsel for the petitioner (Lone) to dismiss the writ petition as rendered infructuous is most distressing

Govt Flags Encroachment On Key Properties Outside J&K

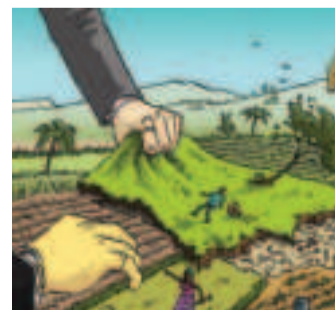
96 Kanals of 'Kashmir House' in Delhi Under MES Control

Over 1,250 Kanals in Haryana in Legal Dispute; Amritsar Land Also Under Litigation

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that several of its high value properties in New Delhi, Amritsar and Haryana are under unauthorised occupation, with legal proceedings and administrative efforts underway to reclaim them.

In a written reply to a cut motion moved by Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone, the minister in charge of the Hospitality and Protocol Department said that 96 kanals of land at "Kashmir House" on Rajaji Marg in New Delhi are currently under the occupation of



the Military Engineering Service functioning under the Ministry of Defence.

The government owns 114 kanals and 11.2 marlas at the Rajaji Marg property. Of this, 18 kanals are presently under its possession, where staff quarters have been constructed. The minister said that one kanal and 11.2 marlas were retrieved from unauthorised occupation on June 5, 2023. The matter regarding the remaining land has been consistently taken up with the Estates Department and the Ministry of Defence.

The House was also informed that | More on P6

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**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS ZAINGER BOMAI**

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Ghulam Mohammad Mir S/o Fatah Mohammad Mir R/o Gund Brath, Tehsil Zainger for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward namely Mir Fasil Mohammad Born on 20/05/2002 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomial

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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 Saqib Ali Yattoo D.o.B 12/12/2016, Aamir Ali Yattoo D.o.B 16/04/2020 and Mujtaba Ali Yattoo D.o.B 14/02/2021 ss/o Tanveer Ahmad Yattoo R/o Kanloo. 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.

fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE..

I want to rectify my ward's name on her Date of Birth Certificate bearing registration No. B202501903110000664 and issued by Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, (Directorate of Economics & Statistics, District Hospital Budgam), from existing JANNUT FATIMA ZEHRA to ANZISH FATIMA. If anybody is having any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the ASYM Hospital, Budgam within seven days from the publication of this notice, after that no objection will be entertained.

Name: Nisar Ahmad thoker, S/o Ali Mohammad, R/o Chandapora, Budgam.

INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that the following documents have been lost/misplaced: HRC Card Driving Licence The above documents belong to Mr. Gulam Hussain Dar and Mr. Mohd. Jaffar Dar, residents of Sarai Dangerpora.

Despite best efforts, the said documents could not be traced. If anyone finds the above-mentioned documents, they are requested to kindly return them to the undersigned at the contact number given below.

Contact No.: 7006673019
If not found within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, the documents shall be treated as cancelled and duplicate documents will be applied for.

x

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that we, the parents of our ward, are applying for correction in the name of our daughter and her mother's name. Our ward is studying in Class 9th, Section A at B.N.M.P School, Sangam, Iddgh, Srinagar.

The correction is as follows:

Ward's Name: From Aurooja Bilal to Aurooj Bilal
Mother's Name: From Irshada Bano to Arshida Bano
If anyone has any objection, they may contact office of the Principal B.N.M.P School Sangam Iddgh Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after this period
Bilal Ah dar & Arshida bano
R/O Sangam Iddgh Srinagar

Media line adst

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL
TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420180003203 issued in favour of MOHD SIDIQ BHAT Parentage MOHD SULTAN BHAT

Whereas an application has been received by one MOHD SIDIQ BHAT Parentage MOHD SULTAN BHAT wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHAMMAD SIDIQ BHAT Parentage MOHAMMAD SULTAN BHAT Which needs to be changed as MOHD SIDIQ BHAT Parentage MOHD SULTAN BHAT.

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.

mcb Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shabir Hussain Bhat S/o Ali Mohamad Bhat, R/o Diver Yakhmanpora, state that my Date of Birth is 05/10/2003.

I am applying for my Birth Certificate. If anybody has any objection regarding my date of birth, he/she may file the objection in the office of Naib Tehsildar Khanpeth Singhpora within seven days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

Shabir Hussain Bhat
S/o: Ali Mohamad Bhat
R/o: Diver Yakhmanpora
Tehsil: Singhpora

x

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name "Nissar Hussain Kath" mentioned in the Driving Licence records is incorrect.

The correct name is: Nissar Hussain Kath.

Driving license No.: JK04 2020 0000348.
I am applying for correction in the official records. If anyone has any objection to the same, they may contact RTO office Budgam, within 7 days of publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

media line adst

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no; JK04S B437 from Aripanthan TO Magam. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Raja Amr Mattoo
S/o Rafiq Ahmad Mattoo
R/o Kandhama Beerwa

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Bilal Ahmad Bhat, S/o Abdul Khaliq Bhat, R/o Pathallah, has applied for renewal of his Fertilizer Licence bearing No. CAOB/FL/2011-12/693 in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Baramulla.

If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned office within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

fko

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG

Email: sdaofficial@yahoo.com
E-Bid Document (Auction ID: 31019)

Outsourcing of One No. (01) Mobile Kiosk (Meals on Wheels) for installation & Operation at New Bypass near bridge Junction only at Sonamarg for a period of 05-years, through GeM portal.

No: CEO/SDA/2026/4067-74 dated: 18/02/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-bids are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing of One No. (01) Mobile Kiosk (Meals on Wheels) for installation & Operation at New Bypass near bridge Junction only at Sonamarg. The details are as under:

S.No	Particulars	Date/Time	Remarks
1	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	18/02/2026 at 02.00 PM	-NIL-
2	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	28/02/2026 at 04.00 PM	-NIL-
3	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date	02/02/2026 at 4.00 PM	-NIL-
4	EMD Start Date	02/03/2026 at 10.00 AM	-NIL-
5	EMD End Date	04/03/2026 at 4.00 PM	-NIL-
6	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR/FDR/DD	Rs. 10000/- (Ten Thousand only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority
7	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	05/03/2026 at 10.00 AM	-NIL-
8	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	06/03/2026 at 4.00 PM	-NIL-
9	Reserve bid amount	Rs. 0.70 Lacs (Rupees Seventy Thousand only)	-NIL-

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GeM PORTAL.)

- The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Police Station or alternatively copy of a valid Passport.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.
- The bidder shall upload Average Annual Financial Turnover Statement of last three years ending of previous financial year & should be at least 50% of basic bid amount.
- The bidder shall have to upload Income Tax return of last three financial years.
- The bidder shall have to upload undertaking that if found successful after the culmination of auction process as per following:
 - That I shall abide by the all terms & conditions of the contract.
 - That I will deposit the offered bid amount within a period 03 days after culmination of auction, failing which, I will pay penalty of 5% of the offered bid amount.
 - That I will handover the asset in good condition as received from the department on the day of expiring of auction contract.
 - That I will not approach the Courts for extension of contract period.
- The bidder has to upload FSSAI Certificate.
- Experience certificate relating to management of hotel & restaurant.

Terms and Conditions:

- The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process and the physical position of the site/asset shall stand on "as is where is" basis. As such, no claim of any deficiency, addition, alteration, rectification in the asset would be entertained during/after bidding process.
- The bidder participating in the e-bid process must apply in his name or the firm name duly registered in his name. There is no scope whatsoever of executing any partnership deed in the outsource deed.
- Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e-bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD (after qualifying Pre-Qualification) in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- Previous defaulters shall not be allowed to participate in the bidding process.
- The minimum reserve bid has been fixed at Rs. 0.70 Lacs (Rupees Seventy Thousand only) exclusive of all applicable taxes like GST/IT etc.
- There will be an escalation of 15% compounding on the offered bid amount of previous years for each successive year and thereafter to be deposited before two months from the start of every year. The bid offers should be above the minimum reserve bid.
- The licensee has to insure the property through any Nationalized Insurance Company in the name of the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority for which a letter of authority shall be issued by this office. The premium on this account shall be borne by the licensee.
- The period of outsourcing shall be on license basis for a period of 05-years which will commence from the date of issuance of the formal allotment letter.
- The contract shall be awarded for one year in the first instance and renewal of the same shall be subject to depositing of rentals for the each successive year in advance including 15% escalation of the maximum bid before the expiry of the 1st year contract.
- The successful bidder has to take prior permission before start of the operation regarding the type of business he/she intends to undertake in the asset. Without the explicit permission of CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, the successful bidder will not be issued allotment order.
- The successful bidder shall have to use the asset only in the area as designated in the auction notice. Violation in this regard may invite cancellation of the contract.
- In case the successful bidder fails to fulfill the term of contract, or leaves the contract half way or the contract is cancelled due to any disqualifications/non-payment of advance rent, the CDR shall be forfeited.
- The safety, security and upkeep and watch & ward of the asset shall be sole responsibility of outsourcee during the period of contract. The successful bidder shall ensure all safety measures like firefighting equipments, first aid kit etc. Sonamarg Development Authority shall not be responsible for any loss of life and property within the asset during the period of the contract.

- The successful bidder/License shall strictly adhere to all rules and regulations regarding commercial establishment, sanitation in vogue with focus on preservation of environment etc. within the territorial area and shall clear all applicable taxes like GST/IT etc. within the stipulated time. Any default on this account will be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder.
- The successful bidder shall have to charge rates for various allotted services as per approval of the SDA from time to time.
- The electric/water consumption charges shall be payable by the outsourcee.
- The bidder should not be employee in any Govt. Deptt. or a Public Sector undertaking.
- The out-sourcing committee reserves the right to reject any or all the e-bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement with CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority regarding adherence to the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Department during the course of the contract period. The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for executing this agreement/license deed.
- The successful bidder shall have to handover the asset to the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority after completion of contract period with the list of inventory, received by him at the time of allotment/taking over.
- The licensee shall not make any alterations or additions to the space/unit allotted, without seeking written permission from the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- The successful bidder shall arrange on his own all necessary stationery, staff or any other requirements for providing efficient services to the clients.
- The Licensee shall provide necessary uniform & name plates to the staff working in the premises & shall be responsible for any unfair act of the staff member for which, he shall be liable for criminal/civil action under rules/law if any required.
- The licensee shall not, in any case, sub-let the asset to any other party.
- The successful bidder shall have to provide services to the best satisfaction of tourists/locals. The bidder shall have to ensure that there isn't any complaint of misbehavior with the visitors/locals or by any of the staff member employed by the bidder in this regard. In case any complaint is received, action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the bidder and penalty shall be imposed upon the defaulters.
- In case of any negligence in running the service or complaint pertaining to bad performance, the contract shall be terminated without any notice by the department.
- The allotted asset shall be inspected periodically by the departmentally authorized officers and in case the services of the licensee are not found satisfactory, the contract shall be liable for cancellation without any notice.
- Any damage caused to the Government property at the site will invite penalty amounting to double the cost of damage or replacement of the same whatever the case may be, as per assessment to be made by the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- The Department shall reserve the right for using the asset for any purpose or function or event, as it may deem fit and no fee shall be charged by the licensee in this regard.
- The successful bidder will have to abide by all the orders/communications issued by Department from time to time during the period of contract as may necessitated in light of public unrest and law & order, security and in case of any other administrative requirements.
- The successful bidder shall ensure arrangement of furniture, electricity back up and availability of standard crockery/cutlery in the unit, on his own.
- During the contract period the maintenance of the asset/area, watch and ward as well as upkeep and daily cleaning/sweeping shall be the sole responsibility of the licensee.
- Any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred Arbitration of Administrative Secretary incharge Tourism Department, Government of J&K, whose decision shall be final & binding upon the parties. The proceedings of the Arbitration shall be conducted under the provisions of the J&K, Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1997 & rules and its amendment if any, framed there under.
- If the bidder intends to withdraw the agreed contract, he shall have to notify the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority before three months without claim for refund of existing contract year.
- Any natural or Anthropogenic/manmade calamity occurs. The highest bidder/ licensee shall not seek extension of lease or relaxation, nor such claims shall be entertained by Sonamarg Development Authority.
- If any minor repairs of the Departmental assets such as electrification, sanitary maintenance etc are to be done and these will be carried out by the licensee at his own cost, however, after seeking permission from the competent authority as per the direction of the inspecting authority from time to time which will help in maintenance of the asset.
- No extensions shall be granted. The asset shall be outsourced afresh at the end of the license term.
- The successful bidder has to run the asset as per the norms and conditions as prescribed within Tourist Trade Act in vogue.
- The successful bidder shall follow the regulations of FSSAI and any other regulations framed in this regard.
- The Authority shall not be responsible for any monetary loss due to any climate untowardness or due to any other reason

DKPK-NB-3362/25
dated: 19-02-2026

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Sonamarg Development Authority

اڑیاتی بیوی

عنوان۔ درخواست منجانب محمد شرف لہون ولد غلام محمد لہون ساکنہ زاورہ تحصیل زنگیہ بہراہ اترائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ تک جاسن لہون

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ درجہ عنوان الصدمیں ساکنہ ایک درخواست بفرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ جیش کی ہے جو کہ زورہ لہون نے اس بارے میں پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل دھندلا میں رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کا کنبہ 3 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی ربع غیر زرعی سے متعلق 8,000 روپیہ تک ہے سائل کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ہے سائل کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground ہے سائل نے قبضہ نہیں لیا ہے مہوار آمدنی 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے سائل کا مکان رہائشی از بیرون میونسپل حدود میں واقع نہیں ہے سائل کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے سائل، RBA, ST, OBC، زرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کس کس شخص کو کوئی غرر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتہرا اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض وادالت حد کو فوری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے یہ جان کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

FKO

نائب تحصیلدار

Div Com Reviews Progress on Jhelum Water Transport Project

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, along with the Secretary Transport Department, chaired a meeting to review the progress on preparation of cost estimates for utility interventions along River Jhelum aimed at facilitating water transport.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Pulwama, Ganderbal, and Bandipora, the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Assistant Director IWAI Baramulla, Chief Engineers of KPDCL and KPTCL, Superintending Engineers of R&B and PHE departments, among other officials.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner outlined clear timelines for resolving issues affecting the project. He instructed engineers to submit cost estimates within weeks for key interventions, including removal of cofferdams and ensuring adequate height clearance of 33KV and 11KV power lines along the river stretch.

While reviewing the Action Taken Report on land possession at eight identified locations along River Jhelum, officials informed the chair that possession has been secured at seven sites. The remaining location requires further engagement with the local community to resolve pending concerns.

SKIMS, GMCs Maintain On-Call Specialist System for Night Patient Care: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the availability of senior doctors across health institutions, including during night hours, stating that robust mechanisms are in place to guarantee uninterrupted patient care.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Shamim Firdous in the Legislative Assembly, Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Minister Sakeena Itoo said the government fully recognises the critical importance of having senior and specialist doctors accessible at all times, particularly during emergencies.

The minister, as reported by KNO informed the House that senior doctors posted in various health institutions perform their duties strictly in accordance with well-structured day and night duty rosters. These rosters, she said, are prepared after careful assessment of administrative requirements, patient load, availability of specialists, and the need

to ensure uninterrupted healthcare delivery.

"Duty rosters are issued well in advance and communicated to all concerned doctors to ensure strict adherence," she said, adding that district health authorities regularly monitor their implementation through hospital administrations and designated supervisory officers.

Itoo further stated that any deviation from the prescribed schedules is promptly addressed as per established rules and procedures.

She said that while senior and specialist doctors attend routine Out-Patient Department (OPD) duties during notified hours, they are also placed on on-call duty during evenings and nights to ensure immediate availability for emergencies and expert consultations.

At the premier tertiary care facility, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), the minister said that highly qualified specialists, including those with MD/MS and DM/MCh qualifications, remain available during night hours in emergency services as well as inpatient wards.



Ramazan shoppers buy dates at a bustling market stall in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat.

Compensation Issues Hold Up Jehangir Chowk-Shaheed Gunj Road Widening Project

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government on Thursday informed the House that the road widening project from Jehangir Chowk to Neelam Cinema via Shaheed Gunj was taken up earlier and 42 affected structures were identified and notified in 1997. Replying to starred AQ No. 221 raised by MLA Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad, the Minister Incharge of Public Works (R&B) Department, according to KNO, said that seven structures

have been settled by the High-Level Committee (HLC) in meetings held from time to time, including HLC Nos. 80, 107, 220 and 221.

The reply further stated that an amount of Rs 1.81 crore was released to the Collector, Land Acquisition, PWD Srinagar vide letter dated December 24, 2018, for payment of compensation to the settled cases. However, the beneficiaries have not reported to the Collector for receiving their payments and the amount is lying pending. "At present, 35 structures remain un-

settled. These cases were also placed before different HLCs, but the settlement could not be finalized due to non-attendance of some owners in HLC meetings and non-acceptance of the rehabilitation/compensation package by certain rightful owners," the reply said. The government added that the matter is under consideration and necessary steps are being taken to resolve the pending claims in accordance with rules to facilitate completion of the project in larger public interest.

“These cases were also placed before different HLCs, but the settlement could not be finalized due to non-attendance of some owners in HLC meetings and non-acceptance of the rehabilitation/compensation package by certain rightful owners,”

- 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
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
02- Ramazan
1447

FAJR	5: 55
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4: 39
Magrib	6:21
ISHA	7: 43

This Day In History

- 1280- Japanese Imperial Court orders all temples and shrines to pray for victory in the impending second Mongol invasion
- 1525- Swiss and German mercenaries desert the army of French King Francis I
- 1547- King Edward VI of England crowned following the death of his father Henry VIII
- 1613- Gerard Reynst appointed Governor-General of Dutch East Indies
- 1619- Trial against Johan van Oldenbarnevelt begins in The Hague for alleged crimes against the federal government
- 1653- Defeat of Dutch fleet under Adm Van Tromp by Admiral Blake off Portsmouth
- 1710- Prince John William Friso becomes Stadtholder of Groningen, Netherlands

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: 234-2025-26-ADEN4-ASR Date: 18.02.2026

Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 12.03.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
17.02.2026	26.02.2026	12.03.2026/ 15:00 Hrs.

SN	Tender Number	Details of Tender
1	234-2025-26-ADEN4-ASR	Construction of LHS of internal size 5.0m x 5.0m at manned L-xing no. A-5 on VKA-DBNK section by pushing method in the section under ADEN4/ASR
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		6,35,51,860.76 4,67,800.00 60 Days 12 Months

Similar nature of work: - "Construction of bridge/Limited height subway with box pushing/Pipe pushing method."

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 550/26

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Asset and Recovery Branch
Zonal Office Srinagar Moulaana Azad Road Srinagar
Ph No 0194-2471402-2452658-2484008
Email ziarsg@jkbmail.com

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 26.06.2023thereby calling upon the borrowers namely 1)Mohammad Mukhtar Ganie s/o Abdul Samad Ganie R/O Lane No 4 Shadab colony ,90Feet Road Ahmed Nagar Srinagar (Prop. M/s F A Construction company (Borrower /mortgagor) and Abdul Gaffar Dar s/o Ghulam Ahmed Dar R/o kasha Mohalla Diyarwani Batmaloo Srinagar (Guarantor in Housing loan) thereby calling upon the borrower to repay an amount of Rs.1,64,48,156.53 (RupeesOne crore Sixty Four Lacs Forty Eight Thousand one Hundred Fifty six and PaiseFifty three Only) being the balance outstanding as on 26.06.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/mortgagor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 17thday of February of the year 2026.

The said borrower/mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited, Branch Amirakadal for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 2,28,66,073.53 (Rupees two crore twenty eight lacs sixty six thousand seventy three and Paise Fifty three only) as on 31.01.2026together with future interest thereon from 01.02.2026and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

01. Land measuring 04Marlas along with residential house falling under Khasra No.316Min, Khata No.192 and Khewat No.173, situated at Mouza Umer hair, Tehsil Eidgah District, Srinagar standing in the name of Mohammad Mukhtar Ganie s/o Abdul Samad Ganie R/O Lane No 4 Shadab colony, 90Feet Road Ahmed Nagar Srinagar

Authorized Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohi U Din want to change my name in my adhaar card bearing no 6637 6502 6130 from Mohi Ud Din Sheikh to Mohi U Din . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned centre within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

AB

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Smt. Prabha Gupta, w/o Late Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta R/o 36/5, Trikuta Nagar Jammu, on February 18, 2026.

Cremation will be held at, Channi Hemmat Cremation Ground on February 20, 2026 (Friday) at 11 A.M.

GRIEF-STROKEN
Sons and daughter-in-law
Sunil Kumar (CGM J&K Bank) & Anju
Aashik Mahajan

Daughters and sons-in-law
Prekshi & Omesh Gupta
Deepthi & Ajay Dhawan

Grandchildren
Ankita & Abhishek Gupta
Sumanjita & Ajay Vaid
Lakshay, Ridha, Akul, Sarodhya

Brothers-in-laws and Sisters-in-law
Smt. Sudarshan
Smt. Vijay Laxmi,
Yogender & Aarti
Satyender & Pratima

پچھڑا کچھ اس ادا سے کے رُت ہی بدل گئی
اک شخص سارے شہر کو ،،، ویران کر گیا

SAD DEMISE

بِنَالِدٍ وَاٰلِیْسَ جِعُونَ

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Jenab Farooq Ahmad Ahanger So Late Mohammad Ibrahim Ahanger R/o Rehbab Sahib, Aali Kadal, Srinagar** who left for heavenly abode on February 17, 2026, after a brief illness.

May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul highest place in Jannatul Firdous. Ameen

The congregational **Fateha Khawani** will be held on February 20, 2026 after Friday prayer at 2: 30 pm at the ancestral graveyard at Thaki Boon Near Punjra House Mallah kha, Nowhatta, Srinagar.

Bereaved Family
Note: Ladies are humbly requested not to bring any kind of fruits, etc during the taziyaat days.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Defining Season

Jammu and Kashmir's run to the final of the Ranji Trophy feels like a quantum shift. After more than six decades, the team has achieved what once seemed a herculean task.

This journey has brought joy and jubilation, and began a real buzz about what can happen when talent finds belief and support.

Led by pacer Aqib Nabi, the team has played with focus and confidence. Nabi has bowled with control and energy. At key moments, he has broken strong partnerships and lifted the mood of the side. Young players across the valley now see someone they can relate to. They talk about him with pride. On local grounds, children copy his bowling action and dream a little bigger.

Former coaches and managers have shared their happiness openly. They say this moment grew from years of hard work behind the scenes. Long practice sessions, careful guidance, and faith in local players slowly built this team. Their words remind everyone that big results often begin with small steps. Progress takes time, patience, and belief.

This season also shows why a good system matters. One great player can change a match, but a strong setup helps a team succeed over many matches. Administrators and support staff improved training camps and facilities. Players received better guidance and clearer plans.

That environment helped them focus fully on their game. Step by step, promise turned into performance.

Kashmir has always had cricket talent. Grounds in Srinagar and small towns have long been full of young players chasing dreams. Many of them only needed the right chance and proper backing.

The current cricket campaign proves that when opportunity meets planning, results follow. It also changes how people across the country look at the region.

The meaning of this achievement goes beyond cricket. Jammu and Kashmir often appears in national news for tense reasons. This time, the focus is on teamwork, skill, and success. A regional side has earned attention through discipline and grit.

That shift feels refreshing, and it opens the door to a more hopeful story.

The lesson spreads to other areas as well. Young entrepreneurs, artists, and writers in the region have ideas and ambition. When institutions provide guidance and support, those ideas can grow into real ventures.

Personal drive becomes stronger when it gets organized help. Success then becomes possible and visible.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Rich Mindset

A shift in thinking can rebuild pride, purpose, and prosperity in Kashmir.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir stands at a turning point. Economic pressure, rising unemployment, and fast technological change have altered old career paths.

Many young people prepare for limited streams that once promised security but now face shrinking markets. Artificial intelligence and automation have reshaped demand. A rich mindset can change this story.

A rich mindset does not mean greed or blind wealth chasing. It means market awareness, financial wisdom, and clear planning. It teaches young people to see opportunity in their own skills, culture, and surroundings. It builds confidence to create value rather than wait for jobs. Such thinking sets clear and calculated goals. It replaces fear with strategy.

Kashmir holds deep artistic strength in crafts like pashmina weaving, walnut wood carving, and carpet making. These traditions once held strong pride and global recognition. A rich mindset can revive that pride. It can turn artisans and youth into brand ambassadors of their own heritage.

When people understand branding, digital platforms, and smart finance, traditional trades gain new life. Culture becomes enterprise, and identity becomes strength.

Schools and colleges rarely teach this mindset. Education often trains students for fixed roles rather than flexible thinking. Parents carry a higher responsibility here. Care means more than food and shelter. Parents must shape financial awareness, creativity, and confidence in their children. They must encourage skill building, entrepreneurship, and global thinking.

Lack of such thinking has contributed to economic strain. Dependency on limited job sectors created pressure when those sectors slowed down. A rich mindset encourages diversification, innovation, and long term planning. It prepares families to adapt to new economic models.

Kashmir needs thinkers who value heritage and understand markets. That balance can rebuild pride and create progress that lasts.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

Fresh Start for Govt Schools

As winter ends, educators face a test of belief and leadership in the valley's public schools, poised between a celebrated past and an uncertain present.

Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

Winter break in Kashmir is ending. School gates will open after two long months. Loudspeakers will echo through our streets. Banners will announce, "Government schools are the best choice." Rallies will move through neighbourhoods with energy and hope. The new session will begin with promise in the air.

This annual moment always brings excitement. It also brings a question: How do we turn this noise into real trust?

Innovation keeps every system alive. Ideas must move from paper to practice. Effort must continue through every season.

Government school teachers in Kashmir work hard every day. They teach in tough conditions, and reach children who depend fully on public education.

The School Education Department has pushed reforms with focus and effort. We see improvement on the ground.

Still, the bigger shift must come from within our own staff rooms.

Educators in government schools hold a special responsibility. Primary and middle schools stand at the base of the entire system. These schools build reading habits, number sense, confidence, curiosity, and public trust.

When these foundations grow strong, the entire structure rises with them.

There is a simple truth in education. Make your garden beautiful, and butterflies will arrive.

Many primary schools in Kashmir do not attract the eye. Walls fade, playgrounds feel empty, and classrooms look plain.

A child's first impression begins at the gate, and a parent's confidence begins with what they see.

Campus beautification drives do not always demand massive funds. It calls for imagination, teamwork, and pride in the workplace.

Teachers can paint walls with learning charts. Students can help create small gardens. Corridors can display student work. A bright campus invites curiosity.

Another question sits at the center of this debate: Do we believe in our own system?

A large number of government teachers send their children to private schools. Society notices

“

This new session in Kashmir is more than just a change in the calendar. It is a real chance to rebuild belief. It is a moment to improve campuses, to lead from the front, and to place strong resource persons inside schools where they are needed most. The focus must return to foundational learning, because that is where everything begins. Trust will not grow from promises alone. It will grow when people see clear action on the ground.

this choice.

Trust begins with example. When teachers enroll their own children in government schools, they send a powerful message.

I know a nearby school with around 200 students up to middle level. Teachers there chose the same school for their own children.

Enrollment and confidence grew, and results followed.

Kashmir also has many resource persons at zonal, district, and state levels, including DIET and SCERT.

These educators hold experience and training. Their ideas can transform classrooms.

Every resource person can take academic re-

sponsibility for at least one school each year. Direct presence inside a school builds real change.

Innovation thrives when it meets chalk dust and student questions. Soil differs from place to place.

Each school has its own needs. Hands-on engagement reveals those needs better than files and reports.

Some resource persons focus mainly on data collection. Numbers show progress, but real leadership goes beyond spreadsheets.

A seed grows in soil, rather than in a report. When resource persons teach, mentor, and guide inside schools, their own skills grow stronger.

Teachers feel supported, while students benefit directly.

The focus must return to primary and middle schools. The Annual Status of Education Report, ASER, shows serious lapses in learning in Jammu and Kashmir.

Less than half of middle-level students can read a second-grade text fluently. A large majority struggle with basic division.

These figures demand action. Reading and arithmetic form the base of every subject. Strong basics lead to confident learners.

The School Education Department works with commitment. Teachers also show dedication. A stronger push from within our own circles will create deeper impact.

Government schools open doors for children from families with limited means. Many teachers working today once studied in these same classrooms. They know the value of this opportunity.

This new session in Kashmir is more than just a change in the calendar. It is a real chance to rebuild belief.

It is a moment to improve campuses, to lead from the front, and to place strong resource persons inside schools where they are needed most.

The focus must return to foundational learning, because that is where everything begins.

Trust will not grow from promises alone. It will grow when people see clear action on the ground.

School gates will open soon. Let them open to a new chapter in Kashmir's public education story.

The author is a teacher at BHS Narabal in Kashmir.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir Health Push Leaves Working Men Behind

The Jammu and Kashmir Budget 2026-27 reads like a bold promise to modernise healthcare.

The numbers look impressive and the projects sound grand. The government has set aside 600 crore for the SEHAT insurance scheme. It has earmarked 825 crore for machinery and drugs. It has committed 2,400 crore for new medical colleges.

These decisions signal intent and ambition. They also reveal a silence that deserves attention.

Anaemia and undernutrition remain serious public health concerns in Jammu and Kashmir. Public debate often treats anaemia as a women's issue. That focus matters and deserves support. But data from the National Family Health Survey tells a different story.

NFHS-5 shows that 36.7 percent of men in Jammu and Kashmir live with anaemia. The national average stands at 25 percent. The Union Territory sits among the highest-burden regions in the country, close to Ladakh and West Ben-

gal in male anaemia prevalence.

These men build houses, till fields, drive trucks, and work on construction sites. They lift bricks and plough land, and spend long hours in orchards and on roads. Their bodies demand iron-rich food and proper nourishment. But their diets often lack diversity.

Many live with chronic infections and heavy physical strain. Anaemia grows in this environment and drains energy day after day.

The budget speaks clearly on advanced treatment. It allocates 745 crore for three cath labs in North Kashmir, Pir Panjal, and the Chenab Valley. It provides 110 crore to expand CT scan services in district hospitals. It promises wider access to MRI and PET scans in Government Medical Colleges. It expands dialysis services to all 83 Sub-District and Community Health Centres with 716.8 crore over two years.

These steps strengthen curative care and fill real gaps. But anaemia rarely calls for cath labs or PET scans. Preven-

tion rests on good food, iron supplementation, deworming, and regular screening. Prevention also rests on workplace health checks and community outreach.

The current budget does not outline a targeted strategy for anaemia screening among adult men. It does not propose nutrition supplementation for male workers. It does not mention population-wide iron screening drives.

The government plans a 250-bedded Mother and Child Care Hospital at Langate in Handwara with an estimated cost of 786 crore. Maternal health deserves strong backing.

But policy often links nutrition with women and children alone. Adult men fade from nutrition planning even when data shows clear vulnerability.

Anaemia affects stamina and daily performance. It weakens concentration and raises susceptibility to illness. This condition touches household income and community well-being.

Public health policy gains strength when it recognises this link.

The structure of this budget highlights treatment and infrastructure. It highlights visibility and grand announcements. It leaves nutrition-specific prevention in the background.

Advanced hospitals save lives and inspire confidence, but nutrition programmes protect health before disease takes root.

Jammu and Kashmir stands at a turning point in healthcare investment. A comprehensive approach would pair new hospitals with strong nutrition strategies. It would include iron supplementation for adult men, routine anaemia screening in workplaces and villages, and clear budget lines for undernutrition.

A health system grows stronger when it prevents disease as actively as it treats it. Kashmir deserves hospitals that heal and policies that nourish.

Sincerely,

Insha Tariq
inshatariq96@gmail.com

Kashmir's Pashmina Gets a Bold New Script

In Srinagar's old quarters, designer Zubair Kirmani turns Kashmir's famed shawl into a canvas of Kufic calligraphy, offering the craft a bold economic and artistic revival.

Vedicaa Manoj Sawal

Morning light filters through the lattice windows of Srinagar's old city. Shops open their shutters and reveal rows of pashmina shawls. Chinar leaves bloom in thread. Paisley curves sweep gently over soft cream and saffron wool. The air holds the scent of cedar trunks and hand-spun yarn.

Pashmina has told this story for more than four centuries. The shawl holds memory in every stitch. It wraps weddings, festivals, and winter evenings in warmth. Families pass it down as heirloom and inheritance.

That long story reached a decisive chapter.

Global fashion now moves with digital speed. Buyers scroll through trends before they step into a store. Machine-made copies sell at low prices and confuse customers who struggle to tell real from imitation. Young Kashmiris weigh their future and look beyond the loom toward careers that promise quicker returns.

The designs also stayed the same for decades.

The paisley became a signature and then a repetition. Visitors admired the craft, but retailers asked for novelty. Weavers produced excellence and waited for demand to match their effort.

Into this moment stepped Zubair Kirmani, a Srinagar-born designer who views heritage as a living force.

Kirmani founded his label, Bounipun, and brought Kashmiri pashmina to national platforms such as Lakme Fashion Week and Wills Lifestyle India Fashion Week.

He entered spaces where global brands compete for attention and placed handwoven wool at the center of the conversation.

Kirmani believes a craft survives through evolution. He respects the chinar and the paisley, but he also recognizes that repetition limits growth.

Years of technical experimentation followed, as this designer studied yarn strength, weaving density,



UNDER THE SHADE OF THE CHINAR, PASHMINA WRITES A FRESH CHAPTER. Geometry meets scripture, and an ancient craft claims its future through design that respects its past and rewards the hands that bring it to life.

and surface detailing. He searched for a visual language rooted in Kashmir that feels current to an international audience.

He found that language in calligraphy.

Kirmani turned to Kufic, one of the earliest scripts in Islamic history.

Kufic rests on geometry, where vertical and horizontal strokes create strong, architectural forms.

Each letter follows strict proportional rules, and the script feels ancient and contemporary at once.

His latest collection, "Karahul," debuted at the India Islamic Centre in New Delhi. Fine pashmina be-

came a canvas for Quranic verses rendered in bold Kufic lettering.

The weaving demands exact precision, since a single miscalculation alters the form of a letter. Artisans translate sacred text into thread through weeks of concentrated work.

The result shifts the meaning of

a shawl.

Some pieces drape elegantly over shoulders, others hang framed on walls as devotional art.

The textile moves beyond fashion into the space of contemplation and collection.

Buyers respond to that depth. They see faith, geometry, and craftsmanship united in one object. Kirmani's engagement with geometry began earlier. Previous collections drew inspiration from Khatambandh, the intricate wooden ceiling patterns found in Kashmir's historic homes.

These Mughal-era designs rely on interlocking polygons and stars. Kirmani translated those patterns into shawl motifs and attracted global attention.

The Kufic series grows naturally from that foundation. The script mirrors the geometry of Khatam-

bandh ceilings.

A shawl now connects the architecture of a Kashmiri home with the sacred calligraphy of Islam. The dialogue feels cohesive and intentional.

Economics stands at the heart of this artistic shift.

Handwoven pashmina requires months of skilled labour, and artisans deserve income that reflects that effort.

Kirmani positions his pieces in international luxury markets, where craftsmanship commands premium value. Stronger earnings encourage younger artisans to view weaving as a viable profession.

This strategy reframes preservation, and tradition thrives through thoughtful reinvention.

Technique, material, and cultural memory remain intact. Visual language expands to meet contemporary desire. Innovation strengthens heritage rather than diluting it.

Kashmir's pashmina mirrors challenges faced by traditional crafts worldwide. Mass production dominates retail shelves. Consumers seek authenticity and narrative. Artisans search for relevance within a crowded global industry.

Kirmani offers a compelling model. He treats pashmina as a living art form with room for dialogue.

The designer honours four centuries of expertise, introduces calligraphy as both design and devotion, and places Kashmir within a global conversation on luxury, faith, and craftsmanship.

Back in Srinagar's markets, the familiar paisley still flourishes. Alongside it now rise bold Kufic lines that command attention. The shawl speaks in a renewed voice.

Under the shade of the chinar, pashmina writes a fresh chapter. Geometry meets scripture, and an ancient craft claims its future through design that respects its past and rewards the hands that bring it to life.

—The author is an MA New Media Communications student at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jammu.

Grief on the Banks of Ferozpur Nallah

What begins as a snack wrapper in my village ends up in Wular Lake, carrying damage far beyond our fields.

Mohammad Abdullah Kachro

I grew up with the sound of Ferozpur Nallah moving past our village. The stream fed our crops, watered our cattle, and tied our small patch of land to Wular Lake, which in turn nourished a much wider world.

Our grandfathers cast their fishing lines into those waters with confidence, and our mothers knelt on its banks to wash clothes while speaking of harvests and weather.

We understood the stream as a living companion, one that asked for care and returned abundance without drama.

I stand on those same banks now and witness a slow change that feels both intimate and unbearable. I watch plastic drift where fish once shimmered, and I feel the weight of knowing that this damage grows from our own hands.

People often speak of environmental pollution in abstract terms that float above daily life. We hear reports of toxic air in Delhi or polluted rivers in distant cities, and those headlines feel remote and statistical.

The crisis I describe breathes outside my door, and it carries the faces of neighbours I greet every morning.

Ferozpur Nallah flows through Sultampur Pattan in Baramulla district of Kashmir, with forested slopes rising on one side and clustered homes lining the other. Families draw water for irrigation and livestock from this current, and farmers rely on its flow to keep their fields alive through long summers.

I remember the morning in 2019 when the first clear sign of decline caught my eye. A plastic wrapper



clung to reeds near the bend in the stream, and a little farther along, a cluster of polythene bags tangled in branches and swelled with trapped water.

I pulled them out with a mix of irritation and disbelief, and I returned a week later to find fresh layers of waste spreading like a stain.

Household garbage now enters the nallah in broad daylight, carried in sacks and emptied without hesitation into the current. Children mirror what they see, and snack wrappers arc through the air before landing in water that once reflected the sky.

The plastic breaks down into fragments that sink into soil and travel downstream to Wular Lake, extending harm far beyond our village boundaries.

The water itself tells the story with unsettling clarity. It once ran so transparent that pebbles and darting fish stood out in sharp detail, and today a faint chemical film sometimes spreads across its surface in muted colours.

Fish numbers have dropped, and the kingfishers that once flashed blue and copper along the banks have vanished from view. Aquatic plants that oxygenated the water now lie buried beneath silt and plastic debris.

The suffering of animals lays bare the cost of our carelessness.

Three cows from a nearby farm died within a single month last year, and a veterinarian discovered stomachs packed with plastic bags.

These animals drank from the nallah as generations had done before them, and this time the water carried invisible traps that blocked life itself.

The farmer who lost them sat with me and wept, his voice breaking as he tried to understand how a trusted source of sustenance turned fatal. His grief posed a question that pressed against my own sense of responsibility.

The forest along the nallah reveals wounds that deepen over time. I walk those trails often, and I notice how the soil has shifted in texture and smell.

Floodwaters push plastic fragments into the earth, and I have unearthed pieces buried deep beneath leaf litter. The land holds this waste in its body, altering the ground that feeds insects, birds, and small mammals.

I have spoken directly to neighbours and asked them to carry waste to designated collection points rather than casting it into the stream. Some respond with polite agreement that dissolves the next day, while others react with irritation and dismiss the concern as exaggerated.

The spread of packaged foods has reshaped village habits in subtle but powerful ways. Small shops that once sold loose grains now display rows of brightly wrapped snacks and ready meals designed for urban waste systems that rural Kashmir lacks.

The packaging accumulates faster than disposal systems can manage, and convenience slips easily into neglect.

If this pattern continues, Ferozpur Nallah will lose its identity as a living stream and resemble a channel that carries refuse rather than renewal.

The connection to Wular Lake will transport contamination instead of sustenance, and farmers will face shrinking options as water quality declines.

I refuse to accept that outcome as inevitable. We need an initiative called Save Ferozpur Nallah. We must organise clean-up efforts, document fresh dumping, and press authorities to enforce laws that already exist.

We need to remind our community that this water shaped our history and

WHENEVER I STAND ON THE BANK AND SEE A PLASTIC BOTTLE FLOAT PAST, grief rises in my chest alongside a fierce resolve. I see how easily something sacred becomes disposable when convenience replaces conscience.

deserves deliberate care.

Whenever I stand on the bank and see a plastic bottle float past, grief rises in my chest alongside a fierce resolve. I see how easily something sacred becomes disposable when convenience replaces conscience.

I also see the possibility of restoration if enough of us choose to act with clarity and courage.

—The author can be reached at moabdullah7866@gmail.com

US Troop Exit From Syria Amid Iran Buildup

Agencies

Beirut: The United States is preparing to withdraw its remaining troops from Syria as part of a broader strategic shift that could strengthen its offensive posture against Iran.

Reports confirm that American forces are departing the al-Tanf base in southern Syria, near the borders with Iraq and Jordan. The installation had served as a key hub for operations by the global coalition against ISIL (ISIS), which once controlled vast swathes of Syria and Iraq before suffering major defeats in 2017.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) described last week's "orderly departure" as part of a "deliberate and conditions-based transition", emphasising that US forces remain prepared to respond to threats in the region.

According to The Wall Street Journal, a wider withdrawal of US troops from Syria is expected to unfold over the next two months. President Donald Trump's administration has

reportedly been considering a full withdrawal since at least January. The decision affects roughly 1,000 remaining US troops stationed in the country.

The move comes amid rising tensions with Iran and a simultaneous buildup of American naval and air power in and around the Persian Gulf. The United States has bolstered its military presence near Iran, including deploying a second aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford—the world's largest warship—to the Middle East. The vessel is expected to arrive within weeks.

Senior national security officials told CBS News that Trump has indicated the US military could be ready to launch potential strikes on Iran as soon as Saturday, though no final decision has been made.

US officials have framed recent diplomatic efforts in Syria as a step toward national unity and reconciliation after years of fractured leadership. A US-brokered agreement reached on January 29 established a fragile ceasefire between Syrian

government forces and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), paving the way for negotiations aimed at integrating the two sides.

The arrangement followed renewed offensives by government troops under interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa to reassert control over areas outside Damascus's authority, particularly in the northeast, where the SDF maintains a strong presence. Clashes between the two sides resulted in casualties and the seizure of large stretches of Kurdish-held territory, raising fears of a broader confrontation.

American troops have been in Syria since 2015, initially deployed to support forces opposing former president Bashar al-Assad, a close ally of Iran.

Since Assad's fall, the Trump administration has moved to strengthen diplomatic ties with Syria's new leadership. In November, Ahmed al-Sharaa visited Trump at the White House — marking the first visit by a Syrian leader in the country's history. (Trans Asia News)

Climate Response Now 'Compulsion' For J&K: CM Omar

'Need Department Studying Climate Change'

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said the climate response has now become a "compulsion" for the Union Territory, underlining the urgent need for a structured and institutional approach to address climate change.

He also called for the formation of a specific department which will study climate change in Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to the discussion on Demands for Grants in the Assembly here, he said last year's extreme weather events, including heavy rains and drought-related losses, have made it clear that climate change can no longer be treated as a peripheral issue.

Referring to the statement of CPI(M) legislator M Y Tarigami, Abdullah mentioned that he spoke about the introduction of a separate climate budget since the commencement of



the Budget session early this month, and even moved a cut motion on this matter during the grants discussion.

"If seen from one perspective, climate response has become a compulsion for us. Just look at the situation last year -- the damage caused by heavy rains and the losses due to drought. In this context, how we can adapt our budgeting process to address climate

change is an important question. We have created a fund for this purpose and have also placed a corpus in it for climate change mitigation," the chief minister said.

He stated that as suggestions come from Tarigami and others, the government will consider them.

"But first, I believe we must assign responsibility for climate change to a specific

department. As of today, no department has a defined responsibility to carry out an exercise on climate change. In my view, before even framing a climate budget, at the very least we should assign a department the responsibility to study what climate change actually is, whether it is affecting J-K, and if so, how its impacts can be reduced," Abdullah said.

He noted that once a comprehensive assessment is carried out and institutional responsibility is clearly defined, the government would move towards targeted budgetary interventions to strengthen climate resilience across sectors.

Tarigami has been advocating the introduction of a separate climate budget for Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the region is ecologically more fragile and vulnerable to adverse climatic conditions than most other parts of the country.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Srinagar Logs

mark the end of the heat spell — in fact, it has only just begun. Several more records are likely to be challenged in the coming days," Independent weatherman Faizan Arif said.

"This February is now on track to turn out as one of the warmest on record for Jammu & Kashmir, Faizan added

The Jammu region also reported significantly high temperatures. Jammu city recorded 27.0 degrees Celsius, 5.1 degrees above normal. Banihal registered 19.8 degrees Celsius, Batote 19.5 degrees Celsius, Bhaderwah 18.9 degrees Celsius and Katra 24.6 degrees Celsius, each recording departures several degrees above seasonal averages.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded 7.6 degrees Celsius, Kargil 9.4 degrees Celsius and Nubra Valley 10.5 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre said that the Kashmir division has recorded a 56 percent rainfall deficit so far, while the Jammu division is facing a 35 percent shortfall, raising concerns amid the prolonged dry spell.

The weather department has forecast mainly dry conditions from February 19 to 26. Light rain or snowfall is likely at a few places on February 27 and 28. In the first week of March, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy on March 1, followed by light rain or snow at isolated places on March 2 and 3. From March 4 to 7, conditions are likely to remain partly cloudy.

With dry weather persisting and temperatures continuing to hover well above normal, the ongoing heat spell is expected to further redefine this winter's climatic pattern in Jammu and Kashmir.

Over 50,000 Heroin

rehabilitation centres has been established across the Union Territory at district hospitals, government medical colleges and police run facilities. According to the reply, around 69,000 patients have so far received treatment and rehabilitation services at various addiction treatment centres across Jammu and Kashmir.

Free services including OPD and IPD care, emergency treatment and Opioid Substitution Therapy are being provided at medical colleges and district hospitals through Addiction Treatment Facilities. At present, 1,864 clients are registered, with 358 active beneficiaries undergoing treatment.

Mental Health and Addiction Medicine Clinics have also been made operational, while awareness and information, education and communication campaigns are being conducted under various national programmes in educational institutions and community settings.

The Drug Control Organisation, enforcing the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, has conducted 518 awareness programmes during 2025-26 till December. The government also said that helpline 104 has been publicised to provide counselling and assistance.

It added that steps are being taken to further strengthen de-addiction counselling and rehabilitation infrastructure, particularly in rural and vulnerable areas, and to expand inpatient facilities for specialised care.

4 New Rail Lines

alignments for these routes have been finalised in consultation with the concerned district administrations and that the land requirement has already been assessed.

It assured that in case the projects are sanctioned, compensation will be provided to landowners in accordance with applicable laws for the acquisition of land, trees and structures.

Addressing concerns over diversion of fertile agricultural land and rehabilitation of affected farmers, the government reiterated that compensation would be paid as per legal provisions during execution of the projects.

On environmental safeguards, the reply stated that once sanction is received from the Government of India, mitigation measures will be implemented in line with environmental policies and guidelines to address issues such as deforestation, soil erosion, disruption of water resources and ecological imbalance.

The government added that coordination with Indian Railways and the Centre will be

maintained during the execution phase to minimise social and environmental impact. District administrations will remain involved to address local concerns and ensure adherence to prescribed norms

J&K Speaker

different parts of the country.

According to an official communication issued by the Assembly Secretariat, the resolution has been admitted under Rule 179 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Legislative Assembly.

The resolution "strongly condemns all forms of hate crimes against minorities and calls upon the government of India and state governments to take immediate and effective measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute such offences with strict enforcement of the law."

In recent weeks, incidents involving alleged attacks and intimidation of Kashmiri students and traders in various states have drawn political attention and concern, prompting calls from several quarters for stronger safeguards and accountability mechanisms.

Daily Wagers' Regularisation

"These employees have been struggling for 20, 30 and even 40 years. No government has been able to fully resolve the issue," he said.

The Chief Minister informed the House that a committee under the supervision of the Chief Secretary has been constituted to examine the matter and ensure that any policy framed does not face legal hurdles or financial constraints.

"Once the committee submits its report and the groundwork is completed in a transparent manner, we will place everything before the people. Regularisation cannot be done overnight," he said, adding that the government would avoid any decision that could be struck down in court.

He reiterated that nearly 30,000 vacant posts would be filled this year without creating new positions and assured that recruitment would be conducted in a transparent and time bound manner through the Selection Board and the Public Service Commission.

"And once again, I repeat what I said in my budget speech. We have stated that this year we will work to fill around 30,000 posts. There is no need to create new posts," the CM said, adding that although they may have created only 600-700 posts, they have filled 6000-6500 posts.

The CM said the vacancies would be filled in a transparent and time-bound manner.

"These are vacant posts, and we will work to fill them," he said, reiterating that there is no need for creating new positions.

Defending employment through outsourcing, the CM said that many youth are earning a dignified livelihood through it.

"We are not counting outsourcing within our one-lakh job target. I am not saying that you should include 20,000 outsourced jobs in the one lakh figure. Consider it a bonus, because we do not treat outsourcing as a job," he said.

The CM said his government would begin the regularisation process for daily-wagers this year in a phased manner.

"We will work out a timetable and start the process this year," he said.

He added that the committee set up by the government to address the issue of daily-wagers could not complete its work within a year.

"I told the House (last year) that we would set up a committee under the Chief Secretary. We gave them six months, but they could not complete their work in that time. They asked for more time, and we agreed," he said.

He said the reality is that no government has been able to resolve their issues.

He added that the PDP-BJP government did nothing for daily-wagers during its three-and-a-half-year tenure.

"They did almost nothing. Had they done something substantial, the problem would not have become so enormous," he said.

The CM also said that all tourist destinations closed after the Baisaran Pahalgam terror incident would be reopened by May this year.

"Many of our destinations have already been reopened. I know some are still closed. I cannot say much here, but I can assure you that these matters have been discussed with the central government. You can assume that by May, all these destinations will be reopened," he said.

The CM said they have no plans to privatise power distribution companies, known as DISCOMs.

"I want to assure the House that we have no intention to privatise power distribution companies. We need to improve their accounting and budgeting and provide more grant-in-aid to strengthen their financial health," the CM said.

He said J&K has an 18,000 MW power potential, of which only 3000-3500 MW has been developed.

"Our intention is that in the next 2-3 years, we will add another 3000-3500 MW," he said, with a long-term goal of developing the remaining 11,000 MW over the next 10-15 years.

On tourism, Omar said the government plans to introduce nine new tourist destinations in consultation with the Centre under a centrally funded scheme. The names of the destinations will be announced gradually.

He also indicated that all tourist sites closed following the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack are likely to reopen by May.

"Discussions have taken place with the Central government. They have certain constraints, but you can assume that by May, all these destinations will reopen," he said.

Approximately 50 tourist spots were closed after the attack, which left 26 persons dead, mostly tourists. Around 25 of these destinations have already been reopened.

The Chief Minister said the government worked step by step to revive tourism in difficult circumstances and engaged extensively with stakeholders to rebuild confidence. He highlighted that hotels in winter destinations such as Gulmarg and Sonamarg are operating at full capacity, while Srinagar is witnessing significant tourist footfall.

Omar stressed the need to improve infrastructure at popular destinations like Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg, particularly basic facilities such as toilets and public conveniences.

He said the government is also working to expand tourism into remote areas, especially in Jammu, noting that over one crore pilgrims visit the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine annually. Retaining even a fraction of these visitors for a longer stay could transform the region's economy, he added.

The Chief Minister also referred to projects such as the Jammu Riverfront and Jammu Lake, saying efforts are underway to expand and complete these initiatives to strengthen the tourism network across the Union Territory.

Action Against

Assembly, Omar said there was no disagreement over the need to remove encroachments, but stressed that the process must be fair and follow due advice given to departments.

"None of us is saying that action should not be taken against encroachers. One of the members, Sham Lal Sharma (BJP MLA), said while the bulldozers are used against the poor, the rich manage to escape; it reflects a long-standing practice that needs to be reversed. He has said the right thing," he said.

The chief minister asserted that the government would first move against powerful land grabbers who, he said, often shield themselves by aligning with political parties or leaders.

"When we initiate action, we must first proceed against the big land sharks and land grabbers who infiltrate different political parties and join leaders and manage to protect themselves," he said.

He assured the House that only after action against such influential encroachers would the government, if necessary, proceed against others, reiterating his commitment to an equitable and just approach.

The members across party lines had raised the use of bulldozers in Jammu and Kashmir against the poor people and called for removing encroachments on government lands, starting from powerful people. (PTI)

J&K Assembly Passes

machinery in this exercise.

Replying to the discussion on Demands for Grants, the Chief Minister said 43 members participated in the debate. "I would like to thank all the honourable MLAs for taking part in the discussion. By listening to them, we get an opportunity to learn, to understand and to correct some mistakes," he said.

He also appreciated the efforts of the administrative machinery, including secretaries, heads of departments, officers and staff, particularly in view of the record number of cut motions.

"As you said, there were more than 500 cut motions. Each and every query was answered. The pile of papers on my table is the result of their hard work," he remarked.

Speaking department-wise, the Chief Minister said the core purpose of the GAD was to ensure smooth functioning of the administration. He said the process of regularisation of daily wagers would begin during the current financial year.

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's financial constraints, Omar said tax and non-tax revenue cover only about 25 per cent of expenditure, while 75 per cent comes through the central share and assistance.

"This is not a situation created today, it has been inherited," he said, adding that efforts are underway to improve financial self-reliance.

He explained the new system of centrally sponsored schemes, under which each scheme now operates through a separate RBI account, requiring the UT's matching share before funds can be utilised.

"This has reduced financial flexibility, and many states and UTs have faced similar consequences," he said, expressing confidence that implementation would improve next year.

Underlining the importance of SASCI, the Chief Minister called it one of the best schemes for J&K, particularly due to the provision of 50-year interest-free loans.

"If we take a loan of Rs 3,000 crore today, after 50 years it will be equivalent to about Rs 97 crore," he said.

Omar asserted that the government has ended off-budget borrowing practices. "Today, in J&K, not a single penny is off-budget borrowing. Whatever debt we take is fully recorded. There is no hundi system," he said.

Acknowledging delays in retirement benefits, he said disbursements have been significantly increased. "In 2026, we released Rs 3,173.39 crore in GPF, Rs 1,170.21 crore in gratuity, Rs 838.28 crore in commutation and Rs 425 crore in leave salary," he said.

The Chief Minister said climate response has become a compulsion for J&K in view of drought and heavy rains witnessed last year and informed the House about climate budgeting and a mitigation fund.

He also spoke about projects such as the Jammu Riverfront, envisaging its development on the lines of the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

Emphasising the need to expand tourism into remote areas where industrial scope is limited, particularly in Jammu, he said the region already attracts over one crore pilgrims annually to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

"If we can retain even 10 percent of these tourists for six to seven days, it can transform Jammu's economy," he said.

On encroachments, Omar said action would begin against "big sharks" and land grabbers rather than the poor. On solid waste management, he said legacy waste is a serious issue across cities and addressing it would bring major benefits.

He announced that two to three major vertical housing projects would be launched in Jammu and Srinagar this year, with special focus on Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). On revenue reforms, he said incomplete mini-secretariats, including those at Tangmarg, Srinagar and Poonch, would be completed immediately.

Return Of KPs

Governor said the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir attempted to bury the truth but asserted that the crimes committed during

that period cannot be forgotten or forgiven.

He also noted that Pakistan backed terrorists had spilled the blood of thousands of innocent Kashmiri Muslims, stating that justice has begun to reach affected families, with efforts underway to address employment and other needs.

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Sinha said the move restored confidence among the younger generation of displaced families that they could reclaim their roots without fear.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu, along with other academic and literary figures, attended the event. Senior civil and police officials were also present at the book release ceremony.

HC Flags Delays In

for this constitutional court to hear as a plea to accord disposal of this nature to this writ petition by saying dismissed as being rendered infructuous," the Court said.

Lone had challenged the order by virtue of which he was detained on December 19, 2024, and approached the Court on February 18, 2025, within two months of his detention.

However, due to what the Court termed as its inability to attend to the habeas corpus petition with due urgency, coupled with a six-month delay by the authorities in filing a counter affidavit, the matter remained pending until the maximum one-year detention period was exhausted.

"The contributory cause for frustration of this writ petition was also the fact that the respondents (authorities) took six months in coming forward with the filing of a counter affidavit to this writ petition, in a case wherein the maximum detention period meant for the detenu to undergo was one year."

Before parting with the matter, the court issued a caveat to the Commissioner Secretary to Government, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, directing that a "proper mechanism be set up at the end of Government and in particular at the end of detention order making authority as well as the Home Department to ensure timely submission of counter affidavits and production of detention record without asking for repeat of adjournments so as to save embarrassment to the rule of law which is exemplified by the present case."

The Court further directed the Registrar Judicial Srinagar to forward a copy of the order to the concerned authorities for necessary action.

Govt Flags Encroachment

approximately eight kanals and five marlas of land at Daimganj, Tapai Road, Amritsar, are under illegal occupation. The government owns around 32 kanals and nine marlas at the site.

Through sustained legal action and district court orders in Amritsar, nearly 14 kanals and 11 marlas were retrieved from Raminder Singh Buloria and nine kanals and 13 marlas from Balbir Sharma. The remaining land, measuring about eight kanals and five marlas, including two kanals and 15 marlas under Kuldip and approximately five kanals and 10 marlas under Raminder Pal Singh, is presently under litigation before competent civil courts. Execution proceedings are ongoing, and recovery is expected following final adjudication.

The Minister further disclosed that the government has initiated legal proceedings to recover 1,251 kanals and four marlas of land at Mangla area in Sirsa district of Haryana. The land was leased out in the late 1960s to Bajwa Brothers.

Due to alleged violations of lease conditions, particularly non payment of lease rent, the government approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court to enforce its ownership rights and secure possession. The matter is currently at the stage of final arguments, the Minister said.

The disclosure has brought into focus the status of Jammu and Kashmir government assets outside the Union Territory, particularly those located in prime urban areas and involving large tracts of land under prolonged occupation or litigation.

Over 3.61 Lakh J&K Homes Still Without Tap Water: Minister

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday said that about 15.6 lakh households across the Union Territory have been provided functional tap water connections under the Centre's "Jal Jeevan Mission", while over 3.61 lakh households are yet to be covered.

In a written reply to a starred question tabled by CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Minister in charge of the Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana said, out of a total of 19,25,535 households, tap water connections have been extended to over 81 per cent of them.

According to the district-wise data, Srinagar and Ganderbal districts, with 10,407 and 41,551 households, respectively, have achieved complete coverage in tap water connections, Rana said.

In Jammu district, 1,26,170 households out of 1,89,120 have been covered, leaving 62,950 households without tap connections, the highest in the Union Territory, the minister said.

He said Rajouri and Kathua districts have 90,853 and 1,04,372 households covered, respectively.

However, 44,759 households in Rajouri and 35,064 in Kathua are without tap water connection, Rana said.

The Government of India has launched "Jal Jeevan Mission" (JJM), for providing 100 per cent Func-



tional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) in the country by 2024.

As many as 27,159 households in Kupwara are without tap water connections, followed by Doda with 26,757, Samba (23,648), Poonch (22,077), Udhampur (20,589), Baramulla (16,706), Kishtwar (13,893), Budgam (13,764), Ramban (12,088), Pulwama (11,530), Anantnag (9,399), Reasi (7,210), Kulgam (5,514), Bandipora (4,785) and Shopian (3,472), the minister said.

Responding to a separate query, Rana said all families in south Kashmir's twin municipalities of Kulgam and Yaripora currently have water supply connections.

However, to augment the water supply, two schemes, one for Kulgam and another for Yaripora, are

under execution at an estimated cost of Rs 5.75 Cr and Rs 3.74 Cr, respectively, under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.

The projects are expected to benefit 6,421 households in Kulgam town and 1,142 households in Yaripora town by addressing low service levels.

Both schemes are likely to be completed in the financial year, 2026-27.

Speaking on the manpower, the minister said there is no acute shortage at the supervisory level and that engineering staff is being deployed optimally across Public Health Engineering divisions.

According to PTI, he said the department is formulating a comprehensive Operation and Main-

MLA Flags Baramulla Water Crisis in Assembly

Mosin Ahmed

SRINAGAR: Several areas of north Kashmir's Baramulla district continue to face acute difficulties due to the persistent lack of safe drinking water, causing significant hardship to residents.

Raising the issue in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Baramulla Javid Hassan Beig urged the government to ensure safe and uninterrupted drinking water supply across the affected localities.

Beig informed the House that multiple areas – including Delina, Khanpora, Nowpora, Sharakwara, Miragund, Nadihal, Jalsheeri, Bandi Payeen, Venkura and Muqam – are grappling with inadequate supply of potable water.

He said the water supply scheme at Delina has been completed but remains non-functional due to pending funds, while the Khanpora scheme is stalled owing to a dispute between the contractor and the

department. He has personally met the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Minister five to six times to seek resolution of the issues affecting the schemes.

Residents expressed concern over the prolonged disruption and urged the concerned departments to resolve the bottlenecks so that people do not suffer, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan.

"Supply remains insufficient as per requirement. Sometimes it improves, but overall the situation is inconsistent," said Mohammed Shaban, a local resident, while calling for immediate steps to make the water supply schemes functional.

Responding to the issue, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Baramulla, Syed Imtiyaz said the department would take appropriate measures if required.

"If any disruption occurs during Ramadan, we will provide water tankers to meet the demand," he said.

aimed at ensuring sustainable and efficient operation of water supply infrastructure in the long term.

Final Decision Pending on OBC Quota in Local Bodies: Govt

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that no final decision has yet been taken on reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), even though such reservation is envisaged under the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Laws (Amendment) Act, 2024, recently enacted by the Parliament.

Replying to a question by MLA Sunil Kumar Sharma,

the government, as per KNO said that the amendments in the 2024 Act provide for OBC reservation in both rural and urban local bodies.

The government further stated that a three-member Commission, headed by Justice (Retd.) Janak Raj Kotwal, was constituted to determine the OBC reservation quota.

"The recommendations of the Commission are currently under government consideration and no final decision has been taken yet," the government added.

'Proposal under Examination to Introduce Core Science Subjects at GDC Magam'

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday informed the House that introduction of core science subjects at Government Degree College (GDC) Magam is subject to creation of necessary infrastructure and availability of funds.

Replying to a question tabled by MLA Beerwah Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani regarding degree colleges, the government, according to KNO said, "Environmental Science as a value-added course and Computer Applications as a major subject are already being taught at GDC Magam. However, for introduction of core science subjects such as Physics, Chemistry and Biology, and for offering Environmental Studies as a major subject, establishment of a dedicated

Science Block with well-equipped laboratories is mandatory."

"A proposal supported by a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted by the Principal of GDC Magam and will be examined subject to availability of funds," the reply stated.

Regarding introduction of Mass Communication and Fashion Technology disciplines in Government Degree College Beerwah, the government said, "There is currently limited demand for these disciplines."

It informed that Mass Communication is presently being offered at Government Degree College Baramulla, GCW MA Road, GCW Nawakadal, Amar Singh College and GDC Anantnag in the Kashmir Division, where enrolment and admission demand have been on the lower side.

Women's Seat Reservation In Public Transport HC Seeks Govt Reply On Plea Alleging 'Non-implementation'

M Ahmed

SRINAGAR: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued notice to the government on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging systemic failure in implementing mandated safety measures and reserved seating for women in public transport.

The PIL, filed by a woman lawyer, contends that despite the issuance of Circular No. 3/TC/2025 dated January 7, 2025, mandating reservation of seats 1-12 in large buses and 1-9 in mini-buses, the directions remain largely unimplemented on the ground.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal took cognizance of the submissions and sought response from the respondents.

The petitioner stated that information obtained under the RTI Act from the Transport Commissioner and the

Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir revealed no record of inspections or penal action against violators of the circular.

She further submitted that no functional public helpline has been established to address complaints, and though RTO Flying Squads were reportedly constituted, no material evidence of enforcement at the ground level was furnished.

The PIL also pointed out an alleged lack of interdepartmental coordination, pointing to responses from the Deputy Commissioner's office and the Traffic Police that purportedly shifted responsibility to the Transport Department.

"...a bare analysis of the response received from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner as also the Traffic Police shows that they have actually shifted the responsibility to the Department of Transport, indicating a lack of interdepartmen-

tal coordination."

Citing a survey of 298 women from local educational institutions, she claimed that 85.6 per cent of them reported experiencing harassment or discomfort while using public transport, with a majority unaware of any complaint redressal mechanism.

The petitioner invokes Articles 15(3), 21 and 38(1) of the Constitution, asserting that the failure to enforce the circular undermines women's safety and dignity. She further cited examples from states such as Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, where initiatives like 'Pink Tickets', 'Tejaswini Buses' and 'Shakti Schemes' have reportedly been implemented without requiring amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act.

Meanwhile, Government Advocate sought short accommodation to obtain instructions and file a response. The Court accordingly adjourned the PIL to March 4 for further consideration.

Ganderbal Police Detain 11 Unregistered Photographers in Sonamarg

SRINAGAR: Ganderbal Police on Thursday conducted a special enforcement drive against unregistered service providers in Sonamarg and detained 11 photographers operating without valid registration.

An official told KNO that the drive was carried out to ensure public safety, maintain order and strengthen security measures at the tourist destination.

During the operation, 11 unregistered photographers were identified and detained under relevant provisions of Sections 126/170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

All the detained individuals were later produced before the Executive Magistrate, Gund, for further legal proceedings.

Police said the action was taken keeping in view the security sensitivity of the area and the need to regulate services being offered to tourists to prevent inconvenience, exploitation or any untoward incident.

Meanwhile, the police team from Police Station Sonamarg also conducted an awareness programme for service providers present in the area. They were sensitised about the code of conduct to be followed while dealing with tourists, with emphasis on professionalism, lawful operation and courteous behaviour. (Observer News Service)

DIPR Organises Workshop on GeM Portal

JAMMU: Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) organized a comprehensive workshop on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal at Media Complex here.

The workshop was held under the able guidance of Director, Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora. During the workshop Assistant Professor, GCW Parade, Venus Sharma, as Resource person provided detailed insights into the functioning and operational framework of the GeM portal.

He acquainted the participants with various procurement methods available on the portal, including direct purchase, bidding processes, and other transparent and efficient modes of government procurement. The session also covered insights on vendor registration, order placement, compliance procedures, and best practices to ensure accountability and efficiency in public procurement.

All staff members of the Directorate attended the workshop and actively participated in the interactive session. The programme was also attended by Information Officers, Alka Misra and Maheer Thakur, who appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of digital procurement systems in strengthening transparency and efficiency in government operations. (Observer News Service)

Medical Professionals Being Sensitized to Prescribe Medicines by Generic Names: Itoo

SRINAGAR: Health Minister Sakina Itoo on Thursday said that the Health and Medical Education Department is actively promoting the prescription of generic medicines across healthcare institutions in line with national regulations.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Javid Bedar, the Minister, according to KNO stated that the government is ensuring strict adherence to norms laid down under the Indian Medical Council Regulations 2002 and the National Medical Commission Act 2019. She said that medical professionals are being regularly sensitized through administrative instructions and institutional monitoring mechanisms to prescribe medicines by their generic names. (Observer News Service)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL
& HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.**
| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | website: www.medkashmir.org |

CORRIGENDUM 01 FOR DATE EXTENSION.

Name of work: - Supply, testing and commissioning of Imported Heavy Duty Greens/Tees Aeration Machine with traction support at LVGC Pahalgam
Reference:- This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/99 Date: 12-02-2026 (Tender ID: 2026_PWDJK_303019_1) and

In view of the representation of the firm and for wider participation, the critical dates are extended as under:-

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	18-02-2026 upto 18:55PM	26-02-2026 upto 18:55PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	19-02-2026 at 02:00 PM	27-02-2026 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.
No: MDSK/TS/6472-76 Sd/
Date:19-02-2026. DIPK-11111-25 Executive Engineer
DT: 19/02/2026 Machinery Division, Kashmir.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR,**
NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)
Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e-mail Id: to-xenmidsrinagar@jk.gov.in

Sub: - Extension in bidding time for e-NIT No. 34 OF 2025-26, Dated: 22-12-2025 for below mentioned work: -
Ref: - Revamping / Modernization of Marval Lift Irrigation Scheme, Pulwama. JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: - 2025_IFC_298835_1

EXTENSION NOTICE 5

Due to No response the tender deadline is hereby extended by 05 days. The critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	24/02/2026 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	25/02/2026 at 1200 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.
No. MIDS/TS/5528-49 Sd/-
Dated: -19-02-2026 Executive Engineer,
DIPK-11128-25 Mechanical Irrigation Division
DT: 19/02/2026 Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR**
Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar - 190011
Email ID: gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in TEL/FAX: 0194-2427478

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Kohinoor Industries I/E Khunmoh Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No.: 01/003/09365/PMT/MSME dated 24-03-2021 for the activity of Manufacture of copper utensils by hand tools as partnership concern of 1. Azad Ahmad Bisati, 2. Alyas Ahmad Bisati and Shabir Ahmad Bisati all sons of Late Gulam Ahmad Bisati R/o Ishber Nishat Srinagar.

Now the promoters of the unit have approached this office for change of constitution by way of retirement of two partners namely 1. Azad Ahmad Bisati and 2. Alyas Ahmad Bisati, leaving the unit as sole proprietorship of Shabir Ahmad Bisati. Further, the remaining partner intends to undertake an additional activity viz. "manufacturing of machine made copperware items other than the banned items".

Any person having any objection for above mentioned changes shall report to the office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
General Manager
District Industries Centre
Srinagar
DIPK-11113-25
DT: 19/02/2026

Govt Making Necessary Arrangements to Hold ULB Elections

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government on Thursday said that necessary arrangements are being made for holding Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections in Jammu & Kashmir at the earliest.

Replying to an unstarred Assembly question tabled by MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz, the Election Department, according to KNO informed that the superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections under the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 and J&K Municipal Act, 2000 vest in the State Election Commission.

The government said that the report submitted by the

Dedicated Backward Classes Commission is under examination by the competent authority and further steps for conduct of Panchayat and ULB elections will be taken accordingly.

As per the reply, the term of Panchayats expired on January 9, 2024, while BDCs completed their term on January 9, 2024. The term of DDCs is set to expire on February 24, 2026.

Regarding Municipal bodies, the term of Srinagar Municipal Corporation expired on November 5, 2023, while Jammu Municipal Corporation's term ended on November 14, 2023. The terms of other Municipal Councils and Committees expired between October and November 2023.

Email ID: xenbemina@gmail.com
Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PW(R&B) DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR.**

Subject: - Upgradation of Middle School Panzinara B
Reference: This Office NIT No.64/EE/R&B/BM/CS/of 2025-26 DATED:18.02.2026 issued under endorsement No. 8848-56 dated: 18.02.2026

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The work "Upgradation of Middle School Panzinara B" floated for tenders vide this office NIT No: 64/EE/R&B/BM/CS/of 2025-26 DATED:18.02.2026 issued under endorsement No. 8848-56 dated: 18.02.2026 is hereby cancelled.

No:EE/R&B/BM/CS/8905-11 Sd/-
Dated: 19.02.2026 Executive Engineer
DIPK-11122-25 R&B Division Bemina
DT: 19/02/2026 Srinagar.

Afghanistan Crush Canada By 82 Runs To Bow Out On A High

Press Trust Of India

CHENNAI- Ibrahim Zadran struck a fluent unbeaten 95 while Mohammed Nabi took four wickets for just seven runs as Afghanistan signed off from the T20 World Cup with a comprehensive 82-run victory over Canada, here Thursday.

Canada signed off without a win from the tournament while Afghanistan had their second win. The Rashid-Khan led side was clearly the better team and had it won the cliffhanger against South Africa, the side would have avoided an early elimination.

In a battle of pride between two already-eliminated sides, Afghanistan rode on a blazing unbeaten knock from Zadran to post a formidable 200 for four and then restricted Canada to 118 for 8 to seal an emphatic win.

istan produced a commanding batting effort after being sent in to bat.

Canada's chase never really gathered momentum after captain Dilpreet Bajwa's brief 13 off seven ended in the third over.

They slipped to 33 for three inside six overs, with Mohammad Nabi striking crucial blows, including the wickets of Yuvraj Samra (17) and Nicholas Kirton (10).

Off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman removed Bajwa, while Azmatullah Omarzai accounted for Navneet Dhaliwal as Afghanistan tightened the screws early.

Harsh Thaker (30) and Saad Bin Zafar (28) attempted a repair job with a 53-run stand for the sixth wicket, but Afghanistan's spin duo ensured there was no comeback.

Nabi returned remarkable figures of 4 for 7 in four overs, while skipper Rashid Khan chipped in with two wickets.



With wickets falling at regular intervals and the required run rate soaring, Canada folded

meekly to hand Afghanistan a comprehensive win to close their campaign.

Earlier, Zadran rode on a spilled catch to punish the Canada bowlers with seven fours

and five sixes, leading Afghanistan to a big total.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz began cautiously but survived an early scare when he was dropped by wicketkeeper Shreyas Movva off pacer Dillon Heyliger in the second over.

It took Gurbaz (30 off 20) a few deliveries to measure the surface before he unfurled a flurry of crisp boundaries. However, just when he looked set, Jaskaran Singh had him caught at deep point in the sixth over.

Jaskaran struck again three balls later, trapping the dangerous Gulbadin Naib lbw for one, briefly pegging Afghanistan back at 49 for two.

Thereafter, Zadran took charge.

The right-hander ensured the run-rate never dipped, striking freely against both pace and spin. Alongside Sediqullah Atal (44 off 32), he stitched a fluent 95-run stand for the third wicket, with the duo particularly se-

vere on the spinners.

Zadran was fortunate on 54 when Kaleem Sana spilled a chance off left-arm spinner Ansh Patel. Canada's fielding lapses hurt them dearly, and Afghanistan capitalised with sharp running between the wickets.

Jaskaran eventually broke the stand, inducing Atal to hole out in the deep, but Zadran carried on unfazed. He struck seven fours and five sixes in his 56-ball knock, narrowly missing out on a deserved hundred.

Late cameos from Azmatullah Omarzai (13 off 7) and Darwish Rasooli (4 not out) helped Afghanistan finish strongly at exactly 10 runs per over.

For Canada, Jaskaran (3/52) was the lone bright spot with the ball, but their indifferent fielding and inability to contain Zadran meant they faced a stiff chase in a match that offered little beyond pride but plenty of competitive intent.

Bennett, Raza Power Zimbabwe To 6-Wicket Win Over Sri Lanka

Press Trust Of India

COLOMBO- Brian Bennett's measured fifty and Sikandar Raza's raw power propelled Zimbabwe to a facile six-wicket win over a fancied Sri Lanka as the Africans entered the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup with a clean slate, here on Thursday.

Chasing 179 on a rather sluggish surface, Zimbabwe needed pragmatism and force in equal measure, and those elements were offered to them by Bennett (63 not out, 48 balls) and Raza (45, 26b) respectively.

Zimbabwe scaled down the target in 19.3 overs.

Both the teams have already entered the Super Eights from Group B, and African outfit can be proud their show in the group phase as they also had defeated Australia in an earlier match.

The African side started quite well, reaching 55 for no loss in the Power Play segment, thanks to openers Bennett and Tadi Marumani (34, 26b).

In all, they added 69 runs for the first wicket in 8.3 overs before Marumani fell to Dunith Wellalage, offering the left-arm spinner



a return catch.

Ryan Burl ensured that Zimbabwe did not lose the initial momentum, making a quick 12-23 and the highlight was a massive 103-meter six off Wellalage over long-on.

Burl perished to a slower bouncer by pacer Dasun Shanaka but the arrival of Raza changed the complexion of the match.

Bennett reached his fifty in 41 balls but Zimbabwe needed some muscle in their chase.

Raza pummelled pacer Dilshan Madushanka for two sixes in a row, followed by a four in the 15th over to give his side some steam.

The skipper, who suffered cramps in the later part of his in-

openers Kusal Perera (22) and Pathum Nissanka (62) adding 54 runs in 4.5 overs.

The left-handed Perera did not look comfortable but found a couple of boundaries off pacer Blessing Muzarabani.

But he fell to the towering pacer soon. Perera could not impart placement to his pull shot off a Muzarabani bouncer, getting caught by Graeme Cremer at short fine leg.

Muzarabani was also quite impressive on the day, tucking the ball into the pitch to take the pace off to keep the batters waiting.

The Lankans still ended the power play at a satisfactory 61 for 1, but found the scoring tough in the subsequent phase.

Zimbabwe spinners -- Raza, Cremer, Burl and Wellington Masakadza -- did not give any wriggle room for the home batters as the next four overs produced just 21 runs.

They also lost the slow-moving Kusal Mendis (14, 20b) during this time.

In between, Nissanka, fresh from his unbeaten 100 against Australia in the previous match, completed his fifty in 34 balls.

Karnataka Enter Ranji Trophy Final, To Face J&K In Title Clash

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW- Karnataka entered the Ranji Trophy final after a hiatus of 11 years, advancing by virtue of a first innings lead from their drawn semifinal match against Uttarakhand here on Thursday.

Karnataka will face Jammu and Kashmir in the title clash at Hubballi from February 24.

Resuming the fifth and final day from their overnight 299 for six, Karnataka lost the remaining four wickets quickly to get bowled out for 323 for an overall lead of 826 runs.

Uttarakhand fought through fifties by Avneesh Sudha (66), Sachin Rawat (53 not out) and Abhay Negi (57 not), thwarting Karnataka's ambitions for an outright win.

They finished their second innings at 260 for six. However, the massive first innings lead was enough for them to ensure a passage to the final.

Karnataka were pressing for an outright win after reducing Uttarakhand to 156



for six mid-way through the second session.

But Negi and Rawat hung in there, adding 104 runs for the seventh wicket before both the captains decided to shake hands some 30 minutes after tea.

Now, Karnataka will eye their ninth Ranji Trophy title, and the last of which came in the 2014-15 season under the leadership of R Vinay Kumar.

In fact, Karnataka had then achieved the rare distinction of becoming the second domestic side after Mumbai to win all three the titles twice

in as many seasons.

Following their success in the 2013-14 season, Karnataka grabbed the Ranji, Irani and Vijay Hazare trophies in the 2014-15 season as well.

Robin Uthappa led the run-chart with 912 runs while Vinay was the leading wicket-taker along with Mumbai's Shardul Thakur -- 48 wickets.

KL Rahul, Karun Nair, Mayank Agarwal and Shreyas Gopal are the only four survivors in the current Karnataka squad from that period of dominance.

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