

Fire breaks out in Zabarwan Range in Srinagar on Tuesday evening, as seen from Chatti Padshahi Gurdwara. Photo by Syed Shahriyar

Advisory Sparks Academic Dilemma for J&K Students in Iran

KO Web Desk

New Delhi/Srinagar: An advisory issued by the Indian Embassy in Tehran asking nationals to leave Iran amid rising regional tensions has left hundreds of Indian students facing a difficult choice between safety and their academic future.

The February 23 advisory, which urged Indian nationals, including students, to depart by available commercial transport, comes just weeks before scheduled university examinations in March. For many students, particularly those enrolled in medical programmes, leaving now could mean missing crucial assessments and potentially losing an entire academic year.

Students Caught Between Safety and Studies

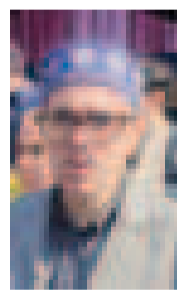
A large proportion of Indian students in Iran are from Jammu

and Kashmir and are pursuing medical degrees across various Iranian universities. While flights remain operational and there has been no official suspension of academic activities, students say uncertainty surrounding the security situation has created anxiety for both them and their families back home.

"Situation is normal here but we want to return home because our families are worried due to media reports," said Bilal Bhat, a medical student from Kashmir in Iran. "But our exams are scheduled in March, and there is no clarity on whether they will be postponed. If we miss them, it could affect our academic year."

Mohammad Azeem, another student, echoed similar concerns. "If we leave now, we risk losing our entire academic year. We request authorities to engage with

[More on P6](#)



Follow MEA Advisory, Leave Iran: CM To Students

Observer News Service

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday urged students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in Iran to comply with the Union government's advisory and return home while commercial

[More on P6](#)

152 Killed In J&K Rain Fury In 2025

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The rain fury in Jammu and Kashmir last year claimed 152 lives, injured 179 people, damaged nearly 21,000 structures -- mostly residential houses -- while 1515 livestock perished, official data revealed.

Of the total fatalities, 151 were reported from the worst-hit Jammu division and one from Kashmir valley, the data compiled by the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department (DMRRRD) said.

Official sources said the dead included about 100 pilgrims who lost their lives in a cloudburst and a landslide enroute to Machail Mata shrine in Kishtwar district and Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district in August.

A devastating cloudburst struck Chisoti village -- the gateway to Machail Mata shrine -- in Kishtwar on August 14, killing 63 people and injuring scores of others, while 30

[More on P6](#)

5.63 Crore Liquor Bottles Sold in J&K Till January FY26

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded the sale of over 5.63 crore bottles of liquor during the current financial year up to January 2026, with Indian Made Foreign Liquor and beer accounting for the largest share, official data shows.

The figures, covering civil outlets, Canteen Stores Department off shops and paramilitary forces outlets for 2025 26, indicate steady consumption though lower than last year's record levels.

In the IMFL segment, more than 1.90 crore bottles were sold in the civil sector, while 20.85 lakh bottles were sold through CSD and paramilitary outlets, taking the total IMFL sales to over 2.11 crore bottles.

Beer sales stood at over 1.61 crore bottles in the civil sector and 1.26 lakh bottles through CSD and PMF outlets, aggregating to more than 1.62 crore bottles.

In addition, over 2.08 crore bottles of JK Special Whisky were sold in the civil segment during

Centre Approves Rs 1,677 Cr Civil Enclave at Srinagar Airport

Airport Expansion To Generate Jobs, Attract Investment, Says PM | '73 Acre Terminal Project To Handle 10 Million Passengers Annually'

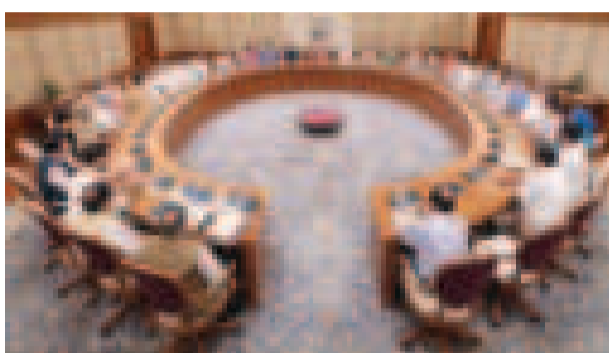
Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved the development of a new Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport at an estimated cost of Rs 1,677 crore.

The project aims to significantly upgrade aviation infrastructure in the Kashmir Valley and strengthen regional connectivity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday termed the approval for a civil enclave at the Srinagar Airport by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) as a major boost to Jammu and Kashmir.

Soon after the



Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the approval for the project at a briefing post the Cabinet meeting in the national capital, PM Modi wrote on X, "Today's Cabinet decision on expanding the Srinagar airport will boost the economy of J&K. It will strengthen connectivity and encourage tourism."

The expansion of the civil enclave will mark a major milestone in strengthening aviation infrastructure and connectivity in the Kashmir Valley, an official release said.

"The project scope also includes the construction of barracks for security personnel. Operated by the Airports Authority of India within the Budgam Airbase of the Indian

Air Force, the airport was designated as an international airport in 2005 and is located about 12 kilometres from Srinagar city."

Spread over 73.18 acres, the proposed Civil Enclave will feature a state of the art terminal building covering 71,500 square metres, including 20,659 square metres of the existing structure. The new facility is designed to handle 2,900 passengers during peak hours and cater to an annual capacity of 10 million passengers.

"The expanded apron will accommodate 15 aircraft parking bays, including 1 wide-body (Code E) (9 existing and 6 proposed), while the 3,658m x 45m runway continues to be operated by the IAF. The project will also include the

[More on P6](#)



Dawn Of A Bold Aviation Era In J&K: LG Thanks PM For Srinagar Airport Civil Enclave Expansion

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving the Rs 1,677 crore Civil Enclave project at Srinagar International Airport. In a post on

X, the Lieutenant Governor described the decision as the "dawn of a bold aviation era" for Jammu and Kashmir and said the approval marks a defining leap in connectivity for the Valley. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has cleared the development of a new 71,500

[More on P6](#)

Clear TET In 2 Yrs Or Quit Service: J&K Teachers Told

Agencies

Srinagar: The Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, UT of J&K has advised the School Education Department that the in-service teachers with more than five years of service left must have to clear the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) within two years failing which they may face to quit their service or shall be liable for a compulsory retirement.

The department has however clarified that the in-service teachers who have less than five years' service left, as on date, may continue in service till they attain the age of superannuation without qualifying the TET.

"However, we make it clear that if any such teacher having less than five years' service left aspires for promotion, he will not be considered eligible without he/she having qualified the TET," it reads.

Secretary to School Education Department (SED) | [More on P6](#)

DIPK-NB-3399/25 Dated: 24.02.2026



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) SHAMSHADA BEGUM W/O GHULAM NABI DAMAN to (New name) SHAMSHADA AKHTER W/O GHULAM NABI DAMNOO . In future i will be known as (new Name) SHAMSHADA AKHTER W/O GHULAM NABI DAMNOO. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
SHAMSHADA AKHTER W/O GHULAM NABI DAMNOO
R/o SHAH ANWAR COLONY HYDERPORA SRINAGAR.
 MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 368401196812 the name is entered as ARSALAN BASHIR while my actual name is MOHAMMAD ARSALAN. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
MOHAMMAD ARSALAN
S/O BASHIR AHMAD PARAY
R/O GULSHAN ABAD HYDERPORA SRINAGAR
 MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH while his actual name is MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH SOFI. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
GULZAR AHMAD SOFI
F/o MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH SOFI
R/o GUND ARJUN KHANSAHIB BUDGAM
 CELL. 6005915190 MCB

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE KUPWARA*

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed /appeared in secondary school Examination (SSE) class 10 th under Rollno .108021045. Session:- Annual Regular 2023 . through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education . the error has been committed by the concerned school /parent my Father's name has been recorded with the Board as Ali Mohammad Khwaja while as actual my Father's name is Ali Mohammad Khawwaja
 Now i have applied for correction /rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinager if anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates - (KD) Kashmir Division -undersigned within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained . This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars are recorded as under :-
 Name:- Mohammad Huzaif
 S/O:- Ali Mohammad Khawwaja.
 M/N. Rifat Ara D.O.B:- 25.02.2008
 R/O:- Dhani Sydan . Tehsil . Uri . Distt Baramulla . FKO

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA Certificate
 It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that an application has been received from Shawkat Ahmad Pushoo, Aadil Ahmad Pushoo and Zainab, children of Mohamad Asadullah Pushoo, R/o Malikpora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, for issuance of RBA (Reserved Backward Area) Certificate.
 As per the report of the field staff, the applicants are permanent residents of Village Malikpora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, and have been residing in the said village for more than 15 years without migration. The total annual family income of the applicants is 5,33,364/- .
 The family particulars are as under:
 Mohd. Asadullah Pushoo – Age 54 – Farmer
 Sayeda Begum – Age 52 – Housewife
 Shawkat Ahmad – Age 33 – Government Employee
 Mahfoza Begum – Age 28 – Housewife
 Nadeem Bano – Age 24 – Student
 Aadil Ahmad – Age 21 – Student
 Zainab – Age 19 – Student
 Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of the RBA Certificate in favour of the above-mentioned applicants may file the same in writing before the undersigned within 03 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.
 Naib Tehsildar Tilgam, Pattan
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 FKO

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 Hazik Ali Wani s/o Mujtaba Hussain Wani R/o Gund Ibrahim Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 20/09/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 Sd
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan FKO

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I, Majid Rasool Bhat, S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat, R/o Palhallan Pattan, District Baramulla, Pin Code-193121, have lost my original Higher Secondary Part-II (12th Class) Qualification Certificate issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education under Roll No. 3125260, Annual Session 2015 (Regular), Result: Pass.
 Despite my best efforts, the said certificate could not be traced and is presumed to have been lost. I have applied for the issuance of a Duplicate Qualification Certificate from the concerned authorities.
 If anybody has any objection in this regard, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the duplicate certificate may be issued in my favour.
Majid Rasool Bhat
R/o Palhallan Pattan
District Baramulla
Contact No.: 6005702014
 fko

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Majid Rasool Bhat, S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat, R/o Palhallan, Pattan, District Baramulla, Pin Code – 193121, hereby inform the general public that my 10th Class (Annual Session 2013) Certificate bearing Roll No. 301246, issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, has been lost.
 Despite my best efforts, the said certificate could not be traced. I have applied to the concerned authorities for the issuance of a duplicate certificate.
 If anyone has any objection in this regard, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.
 fko



THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB OFFICE BUDGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I have passed SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No. 266508, Session December 1997, through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education.
 That due to inadvertent error, my name and my father's name were wrongly recorded in the Board records as Mohd. Ab Dullah Parray instead of the correct particulars as mentioned below.
 I have applied for correction of the said error in the records of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, Sub-Office Budgam. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the Assistant Secretary, Sub-Office Budgam, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.
 The correct particulars are as under:
 Name: Shabir Ahmad Parray
 Father's Name: Mohammad Abdullah Parray
 Mother's Name: Haleema
 Date of Birth: 01-04-1981
 Residence: Badran, Magam
 Mobile: 9596019602
 BMG



PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Jana Begum, W/o Ali Mohammad Pandith.
 That my correct name is Jana Bibi, W/o Ali Mohammad Pandith, R/o Kandhama, Beerwah, as per my valid documents.
 Henceforth, I shall be known and addressed by my correct name Jana Bibi for all official purposes, including records maintained at the Aadhaar Centre.
 If any person has any objection regarding this name correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within the stipulated period. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
 BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed paying Guest/homes stay unit under the name & Style of M/s.SYDNEY" situated at Kohna Khan Dalgate srinagar
 Public notice
 Whereas I Ms . Bashir Ahmad Dagga S/o Mohammad Ramzan Dagga R/o Kohna Khan Dalgate srinagar Intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Director of tourism for registration of my proposed paying Guest house/Home stay under the name and style" M/s. SYDNEY" situated at Kohna Khan Dalgate under Tourist Trade Act/1978/82/2011-12 .
 Whereas, I will submit landownership certificate from concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy commissioner concerned rent/lease deed/partnership deed/issued by concerned sub-registrar , judicial magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as home stay), Character certificate of the applicant from the concerned police station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration public notice inviting objections, if any in the print media, list of family members Name, age, and photograph self attested by owner, photographs of the unit as mentioned in the applicant (such of exterior and individual be rooms and bathrooms), inspection report by the committee (The recommendation of the inspection committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the prescribed authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit
 FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

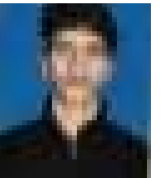
I, Rubeena Akhter, W/o Muhammad Yaseen Khatana, R/o Chaman Pathre, Zavorah, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my name and my husband's name have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card (Aadhaar No. XXXX XXXX 7576) as Zakra Begum and Mohd. Yaseen Khatana. The correct particulars, as per the school records of my son Shafeeq Ahmad Khatana issued by the J&K Board of School Education, Srinagar (Reg. No. 1936002000180031), are:
 Name: Rubeena Akhter
 Spouse's Name: Muhammad Yaseen Khatana
 I have applied for correction of the above-mentioned names in my Aadhaar Card. If any person has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may file the same with the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no objection exists and the necessary correction will be effected accordingly.
Rubeena Akhter
R/o Chaman Pathre, Zavorah
District Shopian
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, formerly known as Pinooji, W/o Sayed Humayun Qaiser, R/o House No. 497, Housing Colony, Baghi Mehtab, Srinagar – 190019, have changed my name to Pinoo Andrabi. Henceforth, I shall be known as Pinoo Andrabi for all official and legal purposes, including Passport records.
 Any one having objection may contact the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Sd/-
 Pinoo Andrabi

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 139071041 Session: Oct No Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School against my Nam as Mohammad Zuhaib Urfani instead of Mohammad Zuhaib Urfani
 Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Mohammad Zuhaib Urfani
Father's name: Ajaz Ahmad Urfani
Mother's Name: Rehana Bano
DOB: 29-10-2008
Residence: Khanda B.K Pora
Mobile no: 7889709699



PUBLIC NOTICE

I MUKHTAR AHMAD KHAN S/o Kh. Mohd Abdullah Khan R/o Garden Lane Chanapora, Srinagar has applied for Renewal of Driving Licence. In this connection, if anybody having any objections may file the same to the concerned authorities within 7 days from the issuance of this Notice.
 My corrected particular (as per Aadhaar) are as under:-
MUKHTAR AHMAD KHAN S/O KH. MOHD. ABDULLAH KHAN R/O Garden Lane Chanapora, Srinagar.
 Wrong particular in the Driving Licence are as under:
MUKHTAR AHMAD KHAN S/O MOHD ABDULLAH KHAN
R/O IKHRAJ PORA RADIO COLONY SRINAGAR
 INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bilal Ahmad Bhat, S/o Abdul Razaq Bhat, R/o Batapora, Tehsil & District Shopian – 192303, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded as "Zainub Bilal" in her Aadhaar Card (Aadhaar No. XXXX XXXX 8435).
 That the correct and actual name of my daughter, as per school records and other official documents, is "Zainab Bilal." Henceforth, she shall be known and recognized by the name Zainab Bilal for all official and legal purposes.
 If any person has any objection regarding this name correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.
 Sd/-
Bilal Ahmad Bhat
R/o Batapora
Tehsil & District Shopian
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mudasir Ahmad Dar, S/o Ab Khaliq Dar, R/o Shahpora Wahoor, Tehsil Chadoora, District Budgam, do hereby state that as per authorisation regarding my appointment conveyed by the Administrative Department PW(R&B) Department and Educational Qualification Certificates, the correct spelling of my father's name (parentage) is "Ab Khaliq Dar."
 However, due to a typographical error in my formal Appointment Order issued by the Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir vide Order No. CE PWD(R&B)/K-567(ESTAB) of 2017 dated 13-11-2017, my parentage has been wrongly recorded as "Abdul Khaliq Dar."
 I intend to get the said error corrected in my Appointment Order to reflect the correct spelling of my father's name as "Ab Khaliq Dar."
 If any person having any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the concerned authority (Chief Engineer PW R&B Deptt. Central Kashmir within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Sd/-
Mudasir Ahmad Dar
S/o Ab Khaliq Dar
R/o Shahpora Wahoor
Ph. No 9697306663
 INF

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 139054025 Session: Oct – Nov Year: 2025 through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School against my Date of Birth as 02-06-2006 instead of 02-06-2009
 Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.
 This is published for the information of the general public.
 The correct particulars are recorded as under:-
 Name: **HAZIQ AHMAD SOFI**
 Father's Name: **MR. GULZAR AHMAD SOFI**
 Mother's Name: **FAREEDA**
 Date of Birth: **02-06-2009**
 Residence: **Syed Colony Habak**
 Mobile No.: **7006837929**



UT GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, BUDGAM.

Subject:- 2nd Tentative District Cadre Seniority list of MMPHW's (2210)
 Reference:- Administrative Department Health & Medical Education Circular No: 15-HME of 2024 Dated: 24-06-2024 duly endorsed by Directorate of Health Services Kashmir under No:- DHSK/Est/NG/E-7509487/5814-48 Dated: 27-06-2024, and also Est-5th/DHSK/NG/7248-55 Dated: 12-11-2025.

CIRCULAR

On the basis of information received from subordinate offices and as per the records available in this office, 1st Tentative Combined Seniority List of MMPHW's (2210) of the District was issued vide this office circular No: Est/CMOB/NG/2025-26/17562-89 Dated: 28.01.2026, which was circulated amongst all concerned through their DDOs, and also published in the local newspapers for inviting objections.
 In response, one objection has been received and same has been examined after verification of the documents.
 Now the 2nd Tentative combined seniority list of MMPHW's (2210) is circulated amongst all concerned through their DDOs for inviting objections, if any, and also in case any such employee is left out the concerned DDOs shall furnish his/her complete biodata along with documentary evidence in order to include his/her name at the appropriate place/serial within 05 days positively from the date of publication of this notification in the newspapers and website.

S. No.	Category of the post	Name of MMPHW	D.O.B	D.O. Issd	Initial place of posting	Present place of posting	Category	Merit in exam list
01	Medical Officer	Poojan Ahnani	23-06-1987	23-03-1994	Block Chanderwal District Baramulla	Block DNO Baramulla	MB	
02	Medical Officer	Gulzar Ahmad Sofi	16-10-1971	11-02-1998	Block Baramulla District Baramulla	Block Baramulla District Baramulla	MB	
03	Medical Officer	Amna Ahmad Shah	11-04-1987	01-09-2001	Block Baramulla District Baramulla	Block Baramulla District Baramulla	MB	
04	Medical Officer	Haniq Wahab Wani	07-05-1977	05-09-2011	Block Baramulla District Baramulla	Block Baramulla District Baramulla	MB	87.88
05	Medical Officer	Ajaz Ahmad Wani	06-09-1972	06-09-2011	Block Baramulla District Baramulla	Block Baramulla District Baramulla	MB	86.79
06	Medical Officer	Sayad Ali Khan	04-03-1988	06-01-2011	Block Chadoora District Budgam	Block Chadoora District Budgam	MB	86.41

File No: Est/CMOB/NG/2025-26/17562-89
 Dated: 28.01.2026

DIPK-11284/25

dated: 24-02-2026

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Gateway to Growth

The Union Cabinet's decision to invest 1,677 crore in expanding Srinagar International Airport marks an important step in Kashmir's economic journey.

The plan includes a major upgrade of the civil enclave and a new terminal covering nearly 71,500 square metres. Once complete, the airport is expected to handle up to 10 million passengers a year, with peak hour capacity rising to around 2,900 passengers.

That jump in scale reflects growing confidence in Kashmir as a region ready for stronger commercial and travel links.

Beyond flight schedules, airports affect trade, tourism, and investor confidence. When passenger capacity increases, airlines add routes and improve frequency. Direct connections to major Indian cities become easier to sustain.

Jammu and Kashmir has already seen record tourist arrivals in recent years, with annual numbers crossing two crore visitors according to official data. Better air connectivity supports this momentum and encourages visitors to stay longer and spend more, which benefits hotels, transport operators, and local businesses.

Stronger transport systems support local enterprise in practical ways. Apple growers, handicraft exporters, and small manufacturers depend on reliable cargo movement to reach markets on time. Efficient air and road links reduce transit delays and help producers access buyers in larger cities.

Studies on infrastructure and regional growth in Jammu and Kashmir show that districts with better connectivity report stronger economic output and business activity. Investors often look at logistics and transport access before making decisions, and modern infrastructure strengthens that confidence.

Rail development adds another layer to this transformation. The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link connects the valley with the national railway network and offers dependable travel throughout the year. This link improves freight movement and reduces seasonal disruptions that once affected road transport.

When roads, railways, and airports function together, they create a network that connects producers with markets and workers with opportunities.

Large infrastructure projects generate employment during construction and create long-term work in aviation services, retail, hospitality, and logistics.

Research on airport expansion in India shows that aviation hubs stimulate economic activity in nearby districts by attracting hotels, service providers, and supply chain businesses. A modern airport sends a strong message to tour operators and companies that the region offers dependable access.

Geography once limited Kashmir's market reach and increased transport costs. Expanded air and rail links now strengthen ties with national markets and open wider commercial possibilities.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Climate Hits Commerce

Erratic winters and rising temperatures are putting Kashmir's summer economy under direct financial strain.

Irshad Mushtaq

The coming summer has already started casting its shadow on Kashmir's balance sheets. A winter with little snowfall in Srinagar and February touching 21 degrees Celsius has altered the economic signals that businesses rely on.

Seasonal predictability once guided hotel bookings, transport hiring, crop planning, and hydropower projections. That predictability now feels uncertain, and the shift is unfolding as a financial story as much as an environmental one.

Tourism remains one of the main drivers of the valley's cash flow. Operators in Srinagar, ski businesses in Gulmarg, and traders around Dal Lake depend on a consistent winter to build momentum for summer. Snow attracts visitors, supports winter sports, and feeds water systems that sustain orchards and hospitality services later in the year.

Reduced snowfall means lower water reserves, which affects hydropower generation, irrigation, and hotel supply chains. Energy shortages raise operating costs, while water stress increases expenses for maintenance and cooling during hotter months.

A hotter summer also changes tourist behaviour. Families who once saw Kashmir as a natural escape from extreme heat may rethink travel if temperatures rise sharply and water bodies shrink. Fewer repeat visitors would affect daily wage earners, small guest houses, taxi drivers, and handicraft sellers whose incomes depend on peak months. Climate volatility therefore translates into income volatility.

Economic planning must now include climate planning. Large-scale plantation of native trees across urban and rural belts can reduce surface heat and protect water sources. Wetland and lake restoration in Srinagar can improve water storage and enhance the visitor experience. Clear rules on construction, waste disposal, and fuel use can lower pollution and protect fragile zones that attract tourists in the first place.

Kashmir's economy has long leaned on its weather advantage. Protecting that advantage requires treating climate stability as economic infrastructure, with communities, businesses, and policymakers working together to secure the valley's summer revenue in a warming era.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.



The Melt Before March

A warm February brought smiles to the valley, but that warmth now threatens water, power, orchards, and public finances by July.

Aksa Muzamil



Kashmir ties much of its economic future to winter snow, which acts as a natural reserve for the months ahead. But each missing snowfall reduces summer capacity in ways that become visible only when demand begins to rise. February warmth may feel gentle and welcome, but July will reveal the true cost.

When Srinagar touched 21°C this February, phones quickly filled with sunlit selfies and cheerful captions. People called it record warmth and welcomed it as a pleasant surprise.

But that warmth now feels like an unpaid bill waiting for July.

Behind the smiling sun, the valley has already gone white bankrupt.

Kashmir runs on snow, which acts as a savings account for the valley. Winter accumulation in the Himalayas stores water in frozen form.

Meltwater feeds the Jhelum, recharges aquifers, and sustains streams through late spring and summer.

A thin snowpack means a thin summer.

Data from the Meteorological Centre in Srinagar show February day temperatures touching 20-21°C in parts of the valley, nearly 10°C above the seasonal norm. Regional assessments also point to a marked snow deficit in key catchments.

Estimates suggest snowpack levels stand 40-50 percent below average in several zones. Each missing snowfall translates into weaker melt flows later in the year.

Villages feel the shift first. Rural springs, known locally as nags, depend on winter recharge. Thin snow weakens that recharge. Early summer then brings shrinking discharge.

Drinking water shortages follow, and tanker costs rise for families and local administrations.

A hydrological imbalance turns into a household expense.

Hydropower forms the backbone of the electricity grid. Snowmelt drives turbine output in the Jhelum basin. Reduced accumulation leads to lower July and August discharge. Cooling demand peaks at the same time.

Analysts project a potential 20-30

percent drop in melt-fed flows during weak snow years. That gap can mean four to six hours of daily power cuts or expensive imports that strain the public budget.

Agriculture absorbs the next blow. Apple orchards require adequate chilling hours to regulate flowering. Warm winters reduce those hours and can trigger premature budding.

A late frost can wipe out blossoms in a single night. Yield volatility of 15-20 percent becomes a real possibility.

Rural incomes then contract through growers, transporters, and exporters.

Saffron can also send a misleading signal, as warm spells often trigger early sprouting that looks hopeful at first.

This delicate crop is already under pressure from land-use change and declining soil health.

When snowmelt reduces, summer moisture drops further. Early sprouting without steady water weakens the roots and lowers yields.

As things head south, tourism begins to feel the strain as well.

Gulmarg relies on consistent snowfall for skiing and winter bookings. When the ski season shortens, reservations drop by an estimated 10-15 percent.

Seasonal workers get fewer days of work, and small businesses are left to manage the slowdown.

Some café owners welcome the higher footfall in February. Sunlit markets bring a short-lived boost, and property ads begin to promote milder winters as a selling point.

But for most sectors, the real pressure builds silently toward summer.

Municipal spending on water distribution and power management rises. And public finance absorbs the pressure in silence.

This trend calls for deeper structural action.

Snowpack data deserve the same attention as inflation or fiscal deficits. Weekly public dashboards on snow depth and projected river discharge can guide planning.

Watershed restoration and micro-reservoir projects can improve water retention. Spring rejuvenation in upper catchments can protect rural supply.

Energy diversification, including distributed solar storage, can reduce dependence on hydropower during weak melt years.

Horticulture especially needs focused support in the face of this harsh forecast.

Frost advisories, better moisture conservation, and wider crop insurance coverage can help regulate farm incomes. Supplemental power should be secured well before peak summer demand arrives.

Planning ahead is far less costly than reacting in a crisis.

Kashmir ties much of its economic future to winter snow, which acts as a natural reserve for the months ahead. But each missing snowfall reduces summer capacity in ways that become visible only when demand begins to rise.

February warmth may feel gentle and welcome, but July will reveal the true cost.

Celebrate the sunshine if you wish, but keep track of the snow as well.

The springs will begin to show the shift, and the turbines will confirm it through lower output.

By the time summer peaks, the balance sheet will speak for itself.

The author studies M.A. Economics at the Islamic University of Science and Technology. She can be reached at aksamuzamil96@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir's Lost Focus in the Age of Endless Scrolling

At home in Srinagar, an office corridor, a tuition center, or a park near Dal Lake shows the same scene: heads bend toward glowing screens, thumbs scroll on autopilot, and eyes fix on endless feeds. It looks like focus, and feels like purpose. But it is mostly passive consumption.

Constant connection now passes as meaningful work. Many people believe that staying updated equals growth. Notifications feel productive, viral videos feel informative, and group chats feel engaging. But a careful audit of time reveals something different.

Large portions of the day dissolve into scrolling that produces little insight and no original thought.

Kashmir has long placed faith in intellect and education. Families invest heavily in schooling and competitive exams. Teachers speak about excellence and innovation with conviction. That ambition now collides with a digital culture that rewards speed over depth.

Attention becomes fragmented, reflection receives little room, and thought competes with algorithms designed to

capture focus for commercial gain.

Boredom once played a central role in mental development. A student waiting for electricity would stare at the ceiling and drift into imagination. A child watching snowfall from a window would invent stories. A teacher stirring kehwa would rethink a lesson plan.

These ordinary experiences activated deeper cognitive processes. Neuroscientists describe this state as the default mode network, linked with creativity, memory consolidation, and complex problem solving. The brain forms meaningful connections during undistracted time.

Today stimulation fills spare minutes with relentless intensity. Commuters stream short videos during brief rides. Students check social media between textbook pages. And families scroll during meals while discussions fade. The mind rarely enters reflective mode.

Research links heavy screen exposure with reduced attention span, emotional volatility, social comparison, and persistent mental fatigue. People report feeling restless after hours of passive viewing.

That pattern reduces satisfaction

while increasing dependence.

Creativity requires sustained focus and deliberate thought. Innovation grows through extended engagement with ideas. Curiosity expands when the mind explores without interruption.

Endless digital stimulation conditions the brain to seek novelty rather than depth. Complex reading feels demanding, long discussions feel draining, and solitude feels unfamiliar.

These shifts influence academic performance, workplace output, and personal relationships.

Parents and educators hold strong influence in reversing this trend. Homes can establish defined device hours with clarity. Schools can introduce structured reading sessions without screens. Families can create evenings centered on discussion and shared activities. Adults must model disciplined technology use through visible behavior. Children learn habits through observation and repetition.

Technology offers immense value when used with intention. Online courses expand knowledge, digital tools enhance research and collaboration, and

creative platforms enable expression and entrepreneurship.

Intentional use strengthens intellect, while passive scrolling weakens it. The distinction rests on conscious choice.

Kashmir's young population holds immense intellectual potential. That potential needs depth, concentration, and imagination.

Reclaiming attention is both an educational priority and a cultural duty. Minds grow stronger with time to think and explore ideas deeply.

The future favours creators over consumers. Focus builds real intellectual strength, and limiting distraction sharpens thought.

Kashmir can lead with thinkers who design, write, invent, and question boldly. That shift begins by guarding the mind against endless scrolling.

Sincerely,

Sheikh Arshad
arshed44248@gmail.com

Kashmir Still Says “Sikha Shahi”

A 19th-century phrase born under Sikh rule still frames how Kashmiris praise, mock, and question authority today.

Dr. Harjeet Singh

Conquest rose and receded in Kashmir like a restless tide. Empires planted their flags in the valley and then yielded to the next power. Modern statecraft drafted fresh maps and framed new laws to mark its authority.

Through every transfer of rule, one phrase held its ground in public memory. That phrase is “Sikha Shahi.”

The words trace back to the Sikh conquest of Kashmir in 1819 under Maharaja Ranjit Singh. His forces defeated the Afghan governors who had ruled the valley for decades.

Sikh authority then lasted until 1846, when the British reshaped the region's political map after the First Anglo-Sikh War.

But less than thirty years of rule left behind a memory that still refuses to loosen its grip.

Such staying power deserves a closer look, since empires chase permanence as a badge of strength and only a rare few ever manage to secure it.

Sikh administration in Kashmir lasted little more than a generation, and its imprint entered everyday speech and made itself at home there.

The early Sikh years brought administrative consolidation. Governors answered to Lahore and operated with clear chains of command. Revenue collection followed structured patterns. Local officials understood who held authority and how decisions traveled.

The court at Hari Parbat served as a visible center of power in Srinagar. The fort's walls witnessed petitions, disputes, punishments, and proclamations. Architecture still anchors memory, even when documents fade.

Agriculture formed the backbone of the valley's economy, and Sikh governors paid attention to it. Irrigation channels received maintenance and extension. Rice cultivation gained systematic oversight. Saffron fields, central to Kashmir's identity and income, benefited from organized management.

These interventions strengthened production and stabilized agrarian routines. Farmers experienced governance through water flow and tax demand rather than political theory.

Cultural exchange also deepened during this period.

Punjabi officials, soldiers, and administrators interacted with Kashmiri society in daily life. Culinary practices moved between communities. Elements associated with Sikh communal kitchens blended



into local food culture. Gurudwaras rose in parts of the valley, marking Sikh presence within a plural social landscape.

Kashmir's layered religious and cultural character absorbed these influences without erasing older traditions.

Administrative efficiency formed the core of Sikh authority's reputation. One figure came to personify it: Colonel Mian Singh, who governed during the 1830s.

Popular memory describes him as decisive and accessible. Petitioners approached his court with disputes that might otherwise stall within procedural delay. He delivered verdicts swiftly and publicly.

People compared him to Khosrow I, the Persian monarch celebrated for justice. Folk tradition granted Mian Singh the affectionate title “Colonel Nausherwan,” echoing that ancient ideal.

Ballads kept his name alive, as women sang verses mourning his assassination. Their dirges asked why such a ruler fell. The grief in those lines conveyed intimacy. Authority appeared as a protector whose absence created genuine sorrow.

“Sikha Shahi” in that context signified firmness joined with fairness. It represented governance that acted without delay and sought visible resolution.

Language, however, travels through time and gathers new shades of meaning.

The same phrase now circulates in Kashmiri, Urdu, and Punjabi con-

versation with a different tone. People invoke “Sikha Shahi” to describe domineering behaviour.

A public official who imposes decisions without consultation may hear the label. A family elder who insists on a unilateral plan may receive it with a half-smile. Friends use it to tease someone who dictates group outings. The term has shifted from historical descriptor to social critique.

That semantic journey deserves careful examination.

Kashmir's political history did not stop after 1846. The Dogra dynasty assumed control under British patronage. Later decades brought colonial influence, princely rule, partition, and modern state structures. Each era altered public experience of authority. Communities interpreted governance through taxation, land policy, security practices, and bureaucratic procedure. Words absorbed those experiences.

“Sikha Shahi” evolved within that changing environment. It became shorthand for concentrated power exercised without consultation. The transformation did not erase earlier admiration. Instead, it layered criticism onto memory.

The phrase now contains both efficiency and excess within its meaning. Speakers decide which shade to emphasize through tone and context.

This duality reveals how collective memory functions. People rarely preserve the past in pure form. They reinterpret it through present concerns.

When Kashmiris debate policy, they often reach for historical analogies. “Sikha Shahi” provides one such analogy. It condenses questions about justice, speed, authority, and arbitrariness into two familiar words.

Scholars of language describe this process as semantic drift defined by social experience. Everyday speech becomes a field where history receives constant revision. Each generation adjusts inherited vocabulary to fit its understanding of power.

Layered sovereignty intensified that process in Kashmir.

Mughal, Afghan, Sikh, Dogra, and modern administrations all left impressions. Popular speech sorted and reshaped those impressions.

The politics of representation also play a role.

Later regimes frequently interpreted earlier ones through selective memory. Colonial narratives often depicted predecessors in ways that legitimized new authority. Local elites framed history to support their own claims.

Such retellings influenced how terms acquired praise or critique. “Sikha Shahi” moved through those narratives and emerged with expanded meaning.

Despite this shift, the phrase retains a connection to its origin. Its first life centered on a governor who promised quick justice. That memory still surfaces in folk references.

Older generations recall stories that portray Sikh administration as

decisive compared with what came before. Younger speakers may use the phrase primarily to criticize heavy-handed action. Both uses coexist.

But the everyday application of “Sikha Shahi” demonstrates how deeply history penetrates social life. A lighthearted comment during a family gathering draws upon a nineteenth-century regime. A political speech about centralized authority echoes the same vocabulary. The personal and the public share a linguistic resource.

This continuity challenges a common assumption about history in conflict-prone regions.

Observers often focus on dramatic events and overlook subtle cultural transmission. Kashmir's example shows that idioms can preserve nuance long after formal chronicles gather dust.

Language becomes an archive that lives on tongues rather than shelves.

A deeper look at the Sikh period also complicates simplistic judgment. Administrative consolidation brought order and predictable procedures. Revenue demands could feel heavy to cultivators. Swift justice reduced delay and also concentrated discretion in the governor's hand. Public memory records admiration and caution in equal measure.

That balance enriches rather than weakens historical understanding.

The fort at Hari Parbat still overlooks Srinagar. Its stones witnessed Afghan decline, Sikh assertion, Dogra authority, and modern transformation. The phrase “Sikha Shahi” functions like a verbal counterpart to that structure.

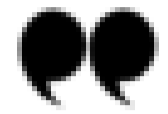
Both stand as reminders that governance leaves marks beyond its official lifespan.

Kashmir today engages in intense debate about accountability, institutional reform, and citizen participation. Discussions often revolve around efficiency versus consultation. Calls for quick resolution coexist with demands for procedural fairness.

The valley's inherited vocabulary offers tools to frame those debates. “Sikha Shahi” signals the appeal of decisive action and the risk of concentrated power at the same time.

A society that remembers through speech holds a unique resource. It can question authority using its own historical references. It can praise effective governance while remaining alert to excess. It can treat the past as guide rather than ornament.

Kashmir's continuing use of “Sikha Shahi” shows that history



KASHMIR'S CONTINUING USE OF “SIKHA SHAHI” SHOWS THAT HISTORY HERE ENTERS DIALOGUE, HUMOUR, PROTEST, AND REFLECTION. Two centuries after the Sikh flag lowered, the phrase still evaluates power. That persistence speaks volumes about the valley's engagement with its own story.

here enters dialogue, humour, protest, and reflection.

Two centuries after the Sikh flag lowered, the phrase still evaluates power. And that persistence speaks volumes about the valley's engagement with its own story.

Language in Kashmir performs civic work. It records, critiques, and transmits experience. “Sikha Shahi” embodies that function with unusual clarity.

It began as the name of a regime associated with swift justice under Maharaja Ranjit Singh's empire. It matured into a living idiom that measures authority in homes and in halls of governance.

Kashmir keeps speaking its past. The rest of us would do well to listen closely to what those words contain.

— The author is from Tral, Pulwama, and serves as Assistant Professor of History at Akal University, Bathinda. He writes on the Sikh Empire, historiography, and social and cultural thought. He can be reached at aishxing@gmail.com.

Tehran's Long War Plan

Missiles, drones, submarines and regional allies form Iran's strategy to survive U.S. strikes and retaliate hard.

Borzou Daragahi

War is not just a threat in Iran. It is part of the state's DNA.

The trauma of the 1980s Iran-Iraq War fused the Islamic Republic to a large segment of its population. The suffering of that conflict shaped a generation and built a political culture that sees endurance as strength. It also created a sharp divide between those who lived through war inside Iran and many abroad who now call for a US-backed push to topple the regime.

For more than two decades, Tehran has prepared for the possibility of a direct clash with the United States. The turning point came in 2003, when American forces overthrew Saddam Hussein in Iraq and voices in Washington openly suggested Iran could be next.

Those fears deepened after last year's surprise US and Israeli strikes. American officials described parts of Iran's military infrastructure as “obliterated” during a brief 12-day confrontation. But Iran's program survived well enough to remain central to new negotiations, and to fresh fears of escalation.

War is not inevitable. But it is no longer remote.

Much of the focus in recent weeks has been on American power: carrier strike groups deployed to the eastern Mediterranean and the Arabian Sea, long-range bombers, refueling aircraft, and advanced missile defenses. Far less attention has been paid to what Iran has done in response.

Iran has adapted. According to defense analysts who track its capabilities, Iran rebuilt dam-

IRAN IS NOT IRAQ IN 2003. IT IS LARGER, MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY CAPABLE, AND DEEPLY ENTRENCHED. It has spent years preparing for precisely this scenario. American planners understand that toppling the regime is not the stated objective. But degrading Iran's military without triggering prolonged escalation may prove difficult.

aged radar networks within months of last year's strikes. It dispersed missile stockpiles, hardened underground facilities, and expanded what it calls a “mosaic defense” doctrine, a strategy



that decentralizes command so local units can operate even if senior leadership is targeted.

Iran understands that it cannot match the United States plane for plane or ship for ship. Instead, it has invested in asymmetry.

Over three decades, Tehran has developed a large arsenal of medium-range missiles capable of striking Israel and US bases across the Middle East. It has expanded its fleet of drones, including long-range attack drones and underwater unmanned

systems, and refined anti-ship missile variants designed to threaten Western naval vessels.

American forces remain vastly superior. The Pentagon now integrates artificial intelligence into surveillance and targeting systems and possesses advanced electronic warfare capabilities that could disrupt Iranian defenses in the opening hours of a conflict.

But Iran's strategy does not depend on winning the first round.

Its aim would likely be survival, and visible retaliation.

Israeli defenses.

Russia, preoccupied with Ukraine, offers limited support. China provides surveillance technology and radar systems, and has shared satellite imagery that could enhance Iranian awareness of US deployments. Neither power is likely to enter the conflict directly. Iran would largely stand alone.

If war comes, Washington would likely begin with overwhelming force, striking radar sites, air defenses, missile launchers, and command centers in rapid succession. The United States would operate from standoff distances, minimizing risk to personnel and avoiding the narrow waters of the Persian Gulf whenever possible.

But even a short war could become unpredictable.

Iran is not Iraq in 2003. It is larger, more technologically capable, and deeply entrenched. It has spent years preparing for precisely this scenario.

American planners understand that toppling the regime is not the stated objective. But degrading Iran's military without triggering prolonged escalation may prove difficult.

A conflict would almost certainly bring casualties on both sides. It could disrupt global energy flows, destabilize neighbouring states, and test alliances already under strain.

The question is not whether the United States can strike Iran. It can.

The question is whether it can control what follows.

— The author is an Iranian-American journalist and international correspondent for The Independent. This abridged essay first appeared on his Substack newsletter.

Ludhiana University's VC Removed Over 'Misbehaviour' With Kashmiri Students

Press Trust Of India

Ludhiana: CT University Vice-Chancellor (VC) Nitin Tandon was removed on Tuesday, following allegations of misbehaving with a group of Kashmiri students, Chancellor Charanjit Singh Channi said.

The private university has also initiated an internal probe into the matter while the situation is being monitored by local authorities.

The students claimed that on Monday they requested for 'sehri' and 'iftar' arrangements to be made in the university mess amid the ongoing month of Ramzan. However, Tandon used abusive language against them and threatened to cancel their admissions, they alleged.

The students held a protest in the university and raised slogans against Tandon.

Channi said the services of V-C Tandon have been terminated and a committee led by the Jagraon sub-divisional magistrate has been formed to investigate the matter.

Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain said in an official statement that the district administration, in coordination with Ludhiana Rural senior superintendent of police and community leaders, amicably resolved the issue at CT University.

Jain said the students called off their agitation after the district administration ordered a thorough inquiry into the matter.

Earlier, the issue was highlighted by Peoples Democratic

Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti.

Iltija shared on X a video of the Kashmiri students who alleged misbehaviour by the V-C and demanded that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann take action in the matter.

"Dear @BhagwantMann ji do you endorse the Vice Chancellor of CT University Punjab abusing & bullying Kashmiri Muslim students only because they requested food for Iftari & Sehri since it's Ramzan? Shocked that assaulting Kashmiris has been normalised even in a state like Punjab. We request strict action against the Vice Chancellor. Anything else is mere lip service," Iltija said in her post.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association also sought the intervention of CM Mann in the matter.

National convener of the student association Nasir Khuehami said it received complaints from students alleging that they were threatened that they would be evicted from their hostels and their admissions cancelled for seeking meals at inappropriate timings in the university mess during Ramzan.

Khuehami said the students are regular fee-paying boarders who merely requested necessary meal arrangements.

He said no student should face hostility, threats, or coercion for following their faith.

Universities are meant to be safe and inclusive spaces that uphold constitutional values, dignity and equal treatment for all, irrespective of region, religion, or background, Khuehami said.

Landmark Step For J&K: Rajnath On Srinagar Airport Expansion Approval

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has approved a major expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, describing the decision as a landmark step for Jammu and Kashmir.

In a post on X, Singh credited the move to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continued emphasis on infrastructure-led growth. He said the Cabinet's approval would significantly enhance passenger handling capacity, modernise aviation infrastructure, and strengthen connectivity in the Valley.

"Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi's unwavering focus on infrastructure-led growth continues to transform aspirations into reality. The Cabinet's approval for the major expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport is a landmark step for Jammu & Kashmir. This... pic.twitter.com/vcPTCnPvc4

— Rajnath Singh (@ra-jnathsingh) February 24, 2026

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, on Tuesday approved the development of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport, proposed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,677 crore.

As per an official release from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), it will mark a major milestone in strengthening aviation infrastructure and connectivity in the Kashmir Valley. The project scope also includes

Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi's unwavering



focus on infrastructure-led growth continues to transform aspirations into reality. The Cabinet's approval for the major expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport is a landmark step for Jammu & Kashmir. This... pic.twitter.com/vcPTCnPvc4

— Rajnath Singh (@ra-jnathsingh) February 24, 2026

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, on Tuesday approved the development of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport, proposed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,677 crore.

As per an official release from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), it will mark a major milestone in strengthening aviation infrastructure and connectivity in the Kashmir Valley. The project scope also includes

the construction of barracks for security personnel. Operated by the Airports Authority of India within the Budgam Airbase of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the airport, designated as an international airport in 2005, is located approximately 12 km from Srinagar city.

The new Civil Enclave project, spread over 73.18 acres, will feature a state-of-the-art terminal building spanning 71,500 square meters (including 20,659 square meters of existing structure), designed to serve 2,900 passengers during peak hours and an annual capacity of 10 million passengers per annum (MPPA).

The expanded apron will accommodate 15 aircraft parking bays, including 1 widebody (Code E) (9 existing and 6 proposed), while the 3,658m x 45m runway continues to be operated by

the IAF. The project will also include the construction of a multi-level car parking facility for 1,000 cars.

Architecturally, the new terminal will reflect a harmonious blend of modern design and the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir, incorporating traditional elements such as intricate woodwork and locally inspired craftsmanship while maintaining operational efficiency through streamlined passenger processing areas, spacious lounges, and advanced security and check-in facilities, a release said.

Sustainability remains a cornerstone of the development, with features such as advanced water harvesting systems, maximised natural lighting to reduce energy consumption, and the use of locally sourced, eco-friendly materials to minimize the carbon footprint. This project is targeted to achieve a prestigious 5-star GRIHA rating.

Beyond infrastructure enhancement, the project is expected to significantly boost tourism and economic growth by improving connectivity to iconic attractions, including Dal Lake, Shankaracharya Temple, and the Mughal Gardens, thereby generating employment opportunities, stimulating investment, and reinforcing Srinagar's position as a premier tourist and economic destination.

Go For Decisive Kinetic Ops Against Pak Terrorists: DGP

KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday called for decisive and uncompromising kinetic operations against Pakistani terrorists operating in the Union Territory.

The police chief chaired a comprehensive security review meeting in Sopore district of north Kashmir to assess the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness. He was accompanied by Special DG Coordination S J M Geelani, Inspector General of Police Kashmir V K Birdi, and Deputy Inspector General North Kashmir Range Maqsood ul Zaman.

Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore Iftikhar Talib presented a detailed briefing on the current security environment in the district, including counter terror operations, anti narcotics drives and overall law and order management.

During the meeting, the DGP reviewed operational strategies, intelligence grid mechanisms, area domination plans and measures being taken to dismantle the terror ecosystem in the region.

Addressing officers, Prabhat stressed the need for focused and sustained action against elements supporting terrorism. He emphasised strengthening intelligence generation, maintaining operational momentum and ensuring close coordination among all security agencies.

The DGP appreciated the efforts of Sopore Police and urged officers to remain vigilant and proactive in maintaining peace, stability and security in the district.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Centre Approves

construction of multi-level car parking facility for 1,000 cars," the release said.

According to the release, the architectural design of the terminal will blend modern infrastructure with Kashmir's cultural identity. The structure will incorporate traditional elements such as intricate woodwork and locally inspired craftsmanship, while ensuring operational efficiency through streamlined passenger processing systems, spacious lounges and advanced check in and security facilities.

Sustainability has been integrated into the project plan, with provisions for advanced water harvesting systems, maximised natural lighting to reduce energy consumption and the use of locally sourced eco friendly materials. The development is targeted to achieve a 5 star GRIHA rating.

The government expects the project to give a major push to tourism and economic growth in the region. "Improved air connectivity is likely to facilitate easier access to key attractions such as Dal Lake, Shankaracharya Temple and the Mughal Gardens," the official release said.

It said the Civil Enclave project will generate employment opportunities, attract investment and enhance Srinagar's standing as a major tourism and economic hub, marking a significant step towards world class aviation infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

Tight Security

campus. Naka points have been set up, and security personnel are conducting frisking and verification of commuters to maintain law and order.

The convocation is expected to be a major academic event, with over 59,000 degrees to be awarded to students from various streams. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are also expected to attend the ceremony.

Dawn Of A Bold

square metre Civil Enclave terminal designed to handle 2,900 passengers during peak hours, with an annual capacity of 10 million passengers.

Sinha recalled that the proposal had been announced in Srinagar on September 25, 2021 in the presence of the then Civil Aviation Minister. He said the project would significantly strengthen air connectivity and drive tourism, investment and employment generation in the region.

"Better connectivity will ensure more tourists, more investment and more jobs," he said, adding that the new Civil Enclave would upgrade the Valley's economic prospects and transform Srinagar into a thriving destination.

The airport operates under the Airports Authority of India within the Budgam Airbase of the Indian Air Force.

The Lieutenant Governor also said that the new terminal at Jammu Airport is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Once commissioned, he said, the upgraded infrastructure would further enhance connectivity and accelerate economic growth in the region.

Advisory Sparks

our universities so that our exams are not affected. Only then can we return without fear of academic loss," he said.

Students say universities have not yet indicated any change in examination schedules despite the advisory.

Political Appeals Add to Pressure

Amid the uncertainty, senior political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, including National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, have publicly

urged students to prioritise safety and return home.

However, students say such appeals do not address the academic consequences they may face.

"Everyone is telling us to pack our bags and come back," said a student from Srinagar enrolled in a medical university in Iran. "But no one is telling us what will happen to our exams or our academic year."

Students argue that without parallel diplomatic engagement to secure clarity from universities, a blanket call to return leaves them in a deeper dilemma.

Appeal for Diplomatic Engagement

The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) has formally written to the Prime Minister's Office seeking urgent intervention. The association has urged the government to initiate diplomatic engagement with Iranian authorities and academic institutions to explore the possibility of rescheduling examinations.

Mohammad Momin Khan, AIMSA's Jammu and Kashmir President, said students are not seeking evacuation at this stage.

"This is a preventive request. Students are not demanding immediate evacuation, but they want the government to ensure that academic timelines can be adjusted if the situation worsens," he said.

The association argues that coordinated engagement could allow students who wish to return temporarily to India to do so without facing academic penalties.

Rising Regional Tensions

The advisory comes amid heightened tensions in West Asia due to a US military buildup around Iran. Iran has warned of instant retaliation if its interests are targeted by the US or Israel.

Although daily life in many Iranian cities remains largely normal and flights continue to operate, students say the unpredictability of the geopolitical situation is unsettling.

For now, many remain in a wait-and-watch mode, balancing concerns for personal safety against the risk of jeopardising years of academic effort, as they await clarity from both diplomatic and university authorities.

Follow MEA

travel remains operational.

The appeal follows a fresh advisory issued by the Embassy of India in Tehran asking Indian nationals to leave Iran by available means of transport, including commercial flights.

Speaking to reporters in Ganderbal district, Omar asked students not to ignore the advisory. He said the situation in Iran is currently stable, with airports functioning and commercial flights operating, but cautioned that conditions could change.

"The Ministry of External Affairs has not issued this advisory unnecessarily. If the situation worsens, it will become difficult to evacuate people. I appeal to students and others working there to book tickets and leave Iran," he said.

Responding to a query about alleged harassment and eviction threats faced by Kashmiri students at CT University in Punjab, the chief minister said he would take up the matter with his counterpart in Punjab. He expressed confidence that the Punjab government would not permit such actions and assured that the concerns of any affected student would be addressed.

Clear TET In

has said that in exercise of the powers vested in the Government and in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court of India,

JKBOSE, State School Standards Authority (SSSA) is designated as Nodal Agency for conducting TET for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, with immediate effect.

"The JKBOSE, SSSA shall take immediate necessary steps for operationalization of the TET examination framework in accordance with the Action Plan formulated in the meeting held in October-2025," it reads.

SED has also said that JKBOSE shall develop and notify a detailed schedule for conduct of TET.

"The board shall coordinate with NIC, School Education Department, Higher Education Department, Home Department, and other concerned authorities for logistical, technical and security arrangements," it reads.

It also said that the board shall ensure alignment of syllabus and examination standards with the guidelines of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), with suitable contextual modifications.

"The secretary, J&K BOSE/SSSA shall furnish a comprehensive action plan including timelines and preparatory status, to the School Education Department within the shortest possible time," reads the order.

Meanwhile, SED in the order while referring the returned and the findings with advice that was sought from the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, UT of J&K said that if any of such teachers fail to qualify the TET within the time that we have allowed, they shall have to quit service. They may be compulsorily retired; and paid whatever terminal benefits they are entitled to.

In a query whether TET qualifications are mandatory for teachers in both government and private schools, including those registered and unregistered, the department had responded with, "If we are to accept the contention of the in-service teachers, the above said proviso would be rendered nugatory obtaining the TET qualification under the RTE Act is mandatory and the consequence of non-obtaining such qualification flowing from the scheme of the RTE Act is that the in-service teachers would cease to have any right to continue in service."

"Reference may also be made to letter dated 3rd August, 2017 (discussed in Paragraph 69 above) issued by the MHRD which provided a deadline beyond which the in-service teachers, having not qualified the TET, would not be permitted to continue in service," it reads.

It also said, "As such in view of the above, the TET qualifications are mandatory for teachers in both government and private schools, including registered schools. Apposite to mention that the School Education Department requires to proceed against the unregistered institutions in accordance with law."

In another query as to whether existing teachers need to qualify TET to continue in service or seek promotions, except for those with less than 5 years of service left before retirement, the department has responded that those teachers who have less than five years' service left, as on date, may continue in service till they attain the age of superannuation without qualifying the TET.

"The Supreme Court in Paras 216 to 218 of the judgment has inter-alia held that Bearing in mind their predicament, we invoke our powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India and direct that those teachers who have less than five years' service left, as on date, may continue in service till they attain the age of superannuation without qualifying the TET," it reads.

"However, we make it clear that if any such teacher having less than five years' service left) aspires for promotion, he will not

be considered eligible without he/she having qualified the TET," it reads.

"Insofar as in-service teachers recruited prior to enactment of the RTE Act and having more than 5 years to retire on superannuation are concerned, they shall be under an obligation to qualify the TET within 2 years from date in order to continue in service. If any of such teachers fail to qualify the TET within the time that we have allowed, they shall have to quit service. They may be compulsorily retired; and paid whatever terminal benefits they are entitled to," reads the opinion/advise of the department.

It also said, "We add a rider that to qualify for the terminal benefits, such teachers must have put in the qualifying period of service, in accordance with the rules. If any teacher has not put in the qualifying service and there is some deficiency, his/her case may be considered."

"Subject to what we have said above, it is reiterated that those aspiring for appointment and those in-service teachers aspiring for appointment by promotion must, however, qualify the TET; or else, they would have no right of consideration of their candidature," it reads.

The Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, UT of J&K has further said that the existing teachers need to qualify TET. The Supreme Court while exercising the powers under Art. 142 of the Constitution of India has carved an exception with regard to the in-service teachers who have less than 5 years of service left as provided in para 216 of the judgment as submitted above.

In another query as to whether the TET requirement is retrospectively applicable to teachers appointed before and after the introduction of TET in 2010.

The department has said that in this regard, it is stated that requirement of TET is applicable from the date it was introduced to all teachers as per the scheme of RTE Act, and all those in-service teachers except those having less than 5 years left are required to qualify TET even if appointed before the enactment of RTE Act.(KNO)

5.63 Crore Liquor

2.52 crore bottles, JK Special Whisky 2.47 crore and beer 1.81 crore, showing a relatively balanced consumption pattern.

Sales declined slightly in 2019 20 to 6.63 crore bottles, marking a drop of nearly three per cent. While IMFL volumes dipped, JK Special Whisky rose to 2.64 crore bottles, partly offsetting the fall.

A sharp downturn was recorded in 2020 21, when total sales fell to 4.71 crore bottles, a decline of 29 per cent year on year. Beer witnessed the steepest contraction, falling from 1.57 crore bottles to just 71 lakh bottles, largely due to lockdowns, mobility restrictions and reduced social activity.

Recovery began in 2021 22, with total sales rebounding to 5.64 crore bottles, an increase of nearly 20 per cent over the pandemic low. Beer sales climbed to 1.08 crore bottles as restrictions eased.

By 2022 23, sales rose to 6.59 crore bottles, nearly matching pre pandemic levels. JK Special Whisky peaked at 2.70 crore bottles, becoming the largest contributor to overall volumes, while beer consumption more than doubled compared to 2020 21.

The upward trend continued in 2023 24, with sales increasing to 6.72 crore bottles, supported by a rise in tourism and urban consumption. The following year, 2024 25, recorded the highest sales in the eight year period at 6.93 crore bottles, surpassing the pre pandemic peak. Beer reached a record 1.97 crore bottles, while JK Special Whisky remained robust at

2.68 crore bottles.

The data indicates that after a sharp pandemic induced slump, liquor sales in Jammu and Kashmir have not only stabilised but also surpassed earlier benchmarks, reflecting shifting consumption patterns and economic normalisation across the Union Territory. (inputs from PTI)

152 Killed In

went missing. The incident was followed by a landslide triggered by relentless rains on Vaishno Devi route on August 26 that left 32 dead and 20 others injured.

The government said compensation for loss of lives, injuries and house damages has been disbursed as per norms under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The DMRRRD said that Rs 289.39 crore has been released under SDRF during FY 2025-26, including Rs 200.39 crore for Jammu division and Rs 89 crore for Kashmir division to support relief and restoration measures.

The Jammu division bore the brunt, with 3,304 houses fully damaged, 1,818 severely damaged and 11,622 partially damaged, besides destruction of 3,531 huts and cattle sheds, death of 1,461 livestock and loss of 1,035 tin sheds.

In Kashmir division, 12 houses were fully damaged, 44 severely and 597 partially damaged, besides damage to 71 huts and cattle sheds and loss of 54 livestock, the government said.

The DMRRRD said the Ministry of Home Affairs deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for assessment of damages to J&K from September 3 to September 7, 2025 and the team visited various affected districts of the UT.

Memorandum of loss and damages stands submitted to the ministry on November 6, 2025.

On the request of the UT government, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) deputed team of experts for the post disaster need assessment which conducted a detailed exercise and assessment from November 17 to 25, 2025. The report of the same has been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Based on the report of IMCT, the centre under SASCI (Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment) has allocated Rs 1,431 crore for J&K, the government said, adding that this will be further released to implementing departments once the detailed proposals for flood restoration works are received from the departments committee for examination, consolidation and submission has been constituted by the Government on February 3.

In addition of Rs 289.39 crore under SDRF, an amount of Rs 100 crore (5 crore earmarked for each district) has been released under the Capex Budget 2025-26 under the activities "Flood Relief Measures" to address the immediate impact of the calamity, the DMRRRD said.

Besides this under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), over Rs 207 Lakhs was provided in Kishtwar for Chishoti flood victims, Rs 45 lakh was provided in district Poonch for landslide-affected houses in villages Surothi and Kala-ban, Rs 95 lakh in district Reasi for landslide victims at Mata Vaishno Devi, Rs 253.25 lakh in district Ramban, and Rs 21.50 lakh in district Kathua towards relief for deaths and injuries.

Under the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), an amount of Rs 141 lakh was directly transferred online in was respect of 63 deaths and 29 injured persons during the Chishoti cloudburst incident, the government said.

CM Inaugurates, Lays Foundation Stones for Rs 84 Cr Projects In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said development must translate into tangible improvement in the daily lives of people.

The Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of major development projects worth Rs 84.41 crore in Ganderbal Constituency, marking a significant stride towards strengthening infrastructure, healthcare, water supply, sanitation, education and road connectivity across the district.

Abdullah represents the Ganderbal constituency in the assembly.

The projects, spanning multiple departments, were inaugurated and e-launched at different locations, underscoring the gov-



ernment's commitment to balanced and inclusive development.

"From healthcare and sanitation to roads, schools and drinking water, these projects reflect our resolve to ensure comprehensive development

of Ganderbal. Our focus is not merely on announcements but on timely execution and quality outcomes," he said.

Abdullah said development must translate into tangible improvements in the daily lives of

people.

The investments in urban beautification, clean water supply, modern healthcare infrastructure and road connectivity would not only strengthen public services, but also create

economic opportunities and raise the overall quality of life, he added.

On the occasion, the chief minister also distributed Mission Yuva disbursement letters worth Rs 55 lakh among beneficiaries.

Later, he held a public interaction at the Dak Bungalow Ganderbal, where he listened to the demands and grievances of people from various areas of the district.

According to PTI, the developmental projects include Rs 770 lakh beautification and development of Ganderbal town, Rs 750.78 lakh for road widening, Rs 840 lakh CT Scan machine at District Hospital, and several water supply schemes, giving a major push to healthcare, sanitation, water supply, roads and urban infrastructure in Ganderbal in central Kashmir.

Khelo India Participants Accorded Warm Reception

SRINAGAR: Participants and guests arriving for the Khelo India Games were accorded a warm reception at Srinagar International Airport on Tuesday, with authorities making coordinated arrangements to facilitate their smooth arrival.

Officials said that dedicated teams were deployed at the arrival area to manage the influx of athletes, officials and dignitaries. Special assistance counters, streamlined baggage handling and guided support were arranged to ensure hassle-free transit from the airport.

An official told KNO that all logistical and security measures had been put in place well in advance in coordination with the local administration and event organisers.

"We are pleased to welcome the participants and guests of the Khelo India Games. All necessary arrangements have been made to ensure their arrival is smooth and comfortable," the official said.

In a post on X, Srinagar Airport extended its best wishes to the participants and organisers, expressing hope for the grand success of the event.

"Participants and guests of the Khelo India Games arriving at Srinagar Airport were received with coordinated arrangements at the arrival area. Wishing everyone a successful event ahead.@khehindia," the airport said. (Observer News Service)

FIR Lodged After GDA Officials Allegedly Assaulted

SRINAGAR: An FIR has been registered after officials of the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) were allegedly assaulted during an inspection in Gulmarg, police said on Tuesday.

According to the complaint filed at Police Station Gulmarg, the incident occurred on February 24 when a team of GDA officials visited the tourist resort following reports that some individuals were illegally collecting parking fees from visitors.

The complainant alleged that when the officials reached the spot to verify the information and take necessary action, they were confronted by a group of persons who allegedly assaulted and manhandled them.

The officials also accused the group of obstructing them from discharging their lawful duties and issuing threats during the altercation.

Police said a case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including sections related to assault or use of criminal force against a public servant, obstruction of duty and criminal intimidation.

According to KNS, an investigation has been initiated and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the accused, officials said, adding that further legal action will be taken as per law. (Observer News Service)

Natipora Residents Aghast at Prolonged Power Cuts

SRINAGAR: Residents of Faizabad Colony, Naik Bagh and Stadium Colony in Natipora area of Srinagar have expressed deep anger over prolonged and unscheduled power outages in their area.

They alleged that electricity remains snapped for over seven to nine hours daily, severely affecting routine life, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan.

Speaking to KNO, Mohammad Amin Mugloo, a resident of Faizabad Colony, said that the area faces frequent shutdowns both in the morning and at night.

"Sometimes there is a shutdown from 7 am to 9 am, and at times from 8 pm to 12 midnight. On several occasions, power is also snapped during Sehri and Iftar hours, causing immense inconvenience to families," Mugloo said.

Residents said the erratic power supply has disrupted daily activities, business operations and students' study schedules. They added that the situation worsens during Ramadan when uninterrupted electricity is essential for meal preparations and prayers.

Kashmir Parts Continue to Record 9–11°C Above Normal Temperatures

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Maximum temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir remained significantly above normal on Tuesday, with most places in the Kashmir Valley recording departures of 9 to 11 degrees Celsius above the seasonal average.

The data, accessed by KNO indicates that while Kashmir continued to witness unusually high temperatures for February, parts of Ladakh experienced a cooling trend compared to Monday.

In Srinagar, the summer capital, the maximum temperature settled at 21.0°C, which is 10.0°C above normal — unchanged from Monday. Qazigund also remained steady at 21.2°C, hovering 11.1°C above average, one of the highest departures in the Valley.

Pahalgam recorded a slight rise to 17.6°C from 17.3°C a day earlier, while Kupwara dipped marginally to 20.4°C from 20.6°C. Kokernag saw a drop to



18.4°C compared to Monday's 19.0°C, though it continued to remain nearly 10°C above normal. Gulmarg held steady at 11.2°C, around 9.2°C above the seasonal average.

In the Jammu division, temperatures showed minor fluctuations. Jammu city recorded 25.3°C, up from 25.0°C on Monday, remaining about 3°C above normal. Banihal rose sharply to 21.4°C from 20.2°C, increasing its positive departure to 8.3°C. Batote also climbed to 19.9°C from 19.4°C.

However, Bhadrawah

registered a noticeable fall, dropping to 18.2°C from 20.1°C recorded the previous day. Katra slipped slightly to 24.5°C from 25.0°C.

In the Ladakh region, Leh remained unchanged at 7.0°C, while Kargil saw a significant fall to 7.0°C from 9.3°C recorded on Monday. Nubra Valley also registered a decline, settling at 10.1°C compared to 11.1°C a day earlier.

Meteorological officials have predicted that dry weather conditions will prevail across J&K in the coming days.

Shopian, Pir Panjal Residents Seek Early Reopening of Mughal Road

Observer News Service

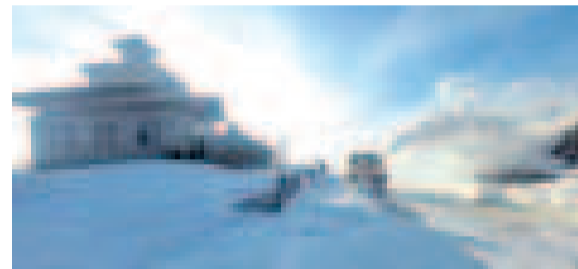
SHOPIAN: Residents of Shopian and the Pir Panjal region have urged authorities to expedite the reopening of the historic Mughal Road, as snow clearance operations continue after heavy winter accumulation disrupted connectivity.

The vital road link, connecting Shopian in Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu division, has remained shut due to thick layers of snow. Its closure has significantly impacted daily life, trade, and emergency movement for people residing on either side of the Pir Panjal range.

Locals, speaking with KNO, said the prolonged closure has already caused considerable hardship, although it has remained open for most of the winter.

"This road is not just a route—it is our lifeline," said Junaid Ahmad, a resident of Shopian. "With it closed, we are forced to take longer and more expensive routes, which many families simply cannot afford."

Voicing similar concerns,



residents from the Pir Panjal side said the shutdown has affected access to essential services. "Students, patients, and traders are all suffering. In medical emergencies, delays can be life-threatening," said Mohammad Yusuf from Poonch.

Locals, however, noted that this winter the road remained functional for a longer duration compared to previous years and was closed only after heavy snowfall.

"The delay in reopening is hurting business, especially shopkeepers and others en route to the road. We appeal to authorities to speed up the process and open the road at the earliest," said a shopkeeper.

Residents further called for a comprehensive winter preparedness plan to avoid recurring disruptions. "Ev-

ery year we face the same issue. Authorities must ensure better planning so the road either remains open or is restored quickly," another local said.

The Mughal Road, apart from its historical and scenic importance, serves as a crucial alternate link between Kashmir and Jammu regions, significantly reducing travel distance when operational.

Meanwhile, officials said that snow clearance is nearing completion, marking a rare achievement as the road has almost been cleared in February for the first time.

Authorities have reiterated that all efforts are underway to restore traffic at the earliest, offering much-needed relief to thousands dependent on this key route.

SDA Informs NGT of Steps to Protect Brown Bear Habitat in Sonamarg

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that it has put in place a series of solid-waste management and habitat-protection measures in Sonamarg to prevent human-bear conflict and safeguard the Himalayan brown bear population.

According to an affidavit filed before the Principal Bench of the Tribunal in OA No. 1046/2024, about a news report on the conservation of Kashmir brown bears, the Authority submitted that a "scientifically structured waste management protocol" is being followed in the ecologically sensitive tourist destination. The affidavit has been accessed by KNO.

The SDA stated that the measures are aimed at preventing wildlife habituation to food waste, ensuring proper scientific disposal of solid waste and maintaining compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, to protect the fragile ecosystem of Sonamarg.

The Authority stated that all categories of solid waste generated in the Sonamarg bowl and its adjoining villages are being collected on a daily basis and transported directly to the Sarbal Solid Waste Management (SWM) plant, thereby minimising food attractants along identified bear movement corridors. It added that surprise inspections are being carried out regularly to curb illegal dumping along tourist routes and other ecologically sensitive areas.



To further reduce wildlife attraction, the SDA said it has replaced conventional waste bins with specialised wildlife-resistant receptacles. "As many as 60 pole-mounted stainless-steel dustbins with a capacity of 100 litres each have been procured through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal," it said. "While some of these have already been installed at high-footfall locations, including Thajwas and other key tourist sites, the remaining bins are scheduled to be put in place ahead of the upcoming tourist season."

According to the affidavit, the Sarbal waste-processing facility presently comprises a bio-composter-cum-segregator and an auto-composter, each with a capacity of five metric tonnes per day, in addition to a one-metric-tonne electromagnetic disintegrator. It notes that during peak tourist season, daily waste generation increases to 7–10 metric tonnes, and the process for installation of an additional two-metric-tonne disintegrator has been initiated to augment capacity.

The SDA has also proposed the construction of a 10-foot-high fenced perimeter with a secured gate around the SWM plant to prevent entry of wild animals, particularly Himalayan brown bears, and to check unauthorised access. The proposal has been included in the budget estimates submitted to the Tourism Department for approval.

Besides strengthening infrastructure, the Authority informed the National Green Tribunal that awareness campaigns are being conducted in coordination with the Wildlife Protection Department. Signages are being installed at key access points, while tourists and hotel operators are being sensitised against feeding wildlife and improper disposal of food waste.

The SDA further submitted that it remains committed to maintaining ecological balance in Sonamarg and has sought liberty to file an updated compliance report within six weeks, stating that recent winter snowfall had affected certain field activities.

120 Websites of J&K Govt Temporarily Disabled in 2025–26

Observer News Service

JAMMU: As many as 120 official websites of the Jammu & Kashmir Government were temporarily disabled during the ongoing financial year 2025–26, official documents reveal.

Documents in possession of KNO show that 120 websites hosted at the Jammu & Kashmir State Data Centre (JKSDC) were taken offline during 2025–26 due to the non-availability of "Safe to Host" certificates.

The "Safe to Host" certificates serve as essential security clearances for websites and web applications. According to the documents, all affected websites were restored after undergoing a comprehensive security audit.

The audit was conducted by CERT-In empanelled auditors, who carried out vulnerability assessments and identified potential security gaps. These vulnerabilities were subsequently examined and rectified by the concerned departments and development teams.

Upon satisfactory closure of all observations, the auditors issued a "Safe to Host (STH)" certificate, certifying that the websites met prescribed security standards. Following this clearance, the websites were made live again at the Data Centre in accordance with hosting and security protocols.

It is worthwhile to mention that these websites became inaccessible in May last year, temporarily affecting the delivery of online services to the public.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, BIJBHARA

e-mail : xenphe.bij@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No.:- 49/PHE/BJI of 2025-26 [e-Tendering] issued under endorsement No. PHE/BJI/11480-11502 Dated:-24.02.2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and registered Govt. contractors, for the works mentioned below: -

S No.	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Earnest money (in Rs)	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion
01.	Construction of chowkidar Quarter and Electric Sub Station for water supply scheme Chaki Hatigam under NABARD.	31.13	93,390	AAY BEE	1000	90 days
02.	Balance work of Dug well for WSS Dawoodpora Talwanipora Kamad under Capex.	9.03	27,090	CEE DEE	500	30 days
03	Establishment creation of 63 KVA electric sub station of WSS Chittergul under NABARD.	8.02	24,060	CEE DEE	500	30 days

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

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	25	02	2026	09:00 AM
2	Download start date	25	02	2026	09:00 AM
3	Bid submission start date	25	02	2026	09:00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	03	03	2026	04:00 PM
5	Bid opening date	04	03	2026	11:00 AM

- Bids must be uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara (Tender receiving authority).
- Earnest Money equivalent to 3% of Advertised cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in shape of CDR/FDR/BG without which the tender shall not be entertained.
- The quantity of items in the BOQ are purely on tentative basis just to arrive at a genuine / exact comparative cost. The quantity items in the BOQ can increase or decrease and shall not be mentioned in the allotment order.
- The successful bidder shall have to respond within the minimum possible time (not more than 03 hours) to execute the requisite job failing which the Engineer in-charge or the authorized supervisory staff shall be at liberty to get the job executed / completed through any other means on the risk and cost of the allottee. If the allottee will fail to respond in time continuously for 03 turns his contract shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the job shall be put to fresh tenders after forfeiting of his performance security and shall be debarred to take part in any other tendering process of the Division.
- The tenderer shall have to satisfy himself regarding all aspects like topography of the area, climatic conditions, geographical conditions within the periphery of the area, before tendering for the work of the particular area at his own expenses.
- The tenderers have to submit the tender online without any addition or alteration in the rate schedule items or any conditions thereof. No conditional tender whatsoever shall be entertained even if the rates shall be lowest one.
- The tenderer has to understand fully the nature of work or works as per proper nomenclature of items of work in rate/quantity schedule in the form of BOQ.
- The tenderer has to sign a deed at the time of allotment and has to give full details of men and machinery available with him or he has to give a written bond duly stamped as per norms of providing men and machinery as required for execution of any of the work or works allotted to him.
- The successful bidder has to remain in close liaison with the Divisional Office / Sub Divisional Officer of PHE Division Bijbehara till the expiry of the contract, besides the tenderer shall have to remain available during the contract period.
- Since the work are of emergency nature, therefore, in order to execute work are to be carried out during execution period as mentioned.
- The Payment to the concerned agency shall be made as per availability of funds.
- Any item of work not included in the BOQ but required for the completion of the work, shall be executed by the contractor, as directed by the Department. Such extra item shall be paid on J&K SOR2022 rates with allotted appreciation/depreciation of the contractor. In case such item does not figure in J&K SOR 2022, the same shall be paid as per the current market rate analysis (LMR), to be approved by the competent authority. Work done claims has to be supported with pre, during and post photographic evidence.

DIPK-11309-25
Dt: 24/02/2026

Executive Engineer,
J.S PHE Division Bijbehara.

Ton-up Pundir, Yawer Shine as J&K Dominate Fancied Karnataka on Day 1

Press Trust of India

HUBBALLI: A masterful unbeaten century from Shubham Pundir and a tenacious 88 from young Yawer Hassan saw Jammu & Kashmir seize control of the Ranji Trophy final, ending the opening day at a solid 284 for two and leaving Karnataka's bowlers searching for answers here on Tuesday.

Pundir, the 27-year-old left-handed batter, was 117 not out at stumps, and giving him company was Abdul Samad on 52, the duo having added 105 runs for the third wicket after skipper Paras Dogra retired hurt.

This was after Pundir and Yawer stitched together a stand of 139 runs to lay the foundation for a big total against the eight-time champions, whose batters have a great record at this venue.

Pundir reached his hundred in style, smashing Shikhar Shetty for a six over deep mid-wicket. He marked reaching the landmark by removing his helmet and raising his arms in the direction of the dressing room.

Earlier, on a pitch that is likely to break up as the game progresses, Jammu and Kashmir won a good toss, and Dogra's decision to bat first was on expected lines.

Playing in their maiden Ranji final after an inspired run that saw them claim away victories against established teams such as Madhya Pradesh and Bengal in the knockouts, J&K lost Qamran Iqbal (6) early.

The opener poked at a Prasidh Krishna delivery that straightened a bit to induce an outside edge for KL Rahul to complete a comfortable catch in the slip cordon.

The lack of foot move-



ment from Qamran played a part in the day's first wicket, but J&K's decision to bat first was vindicated by Yawer and Pundir, the duo carrying the team to 104 for one at lunch.

Yawer was unbeaten on 57 at the lunch break, and Pundir was on 38 as the duo batted with confidence to keep the experienced Karnataka bowling attack at bay.

It was not easy out there in the middle and there were numerous plays and misses, and a few streaky edges too, but both Yawer and Pundir saw off the difficult period against the new ball.

Yawer and Pundir may not have looked the most fluent, but they were effective nonetheless, stitching together a big partnership for the second wicket while keeping the scoreboard ticking at around three runs an over.

The Karnataka bowlers -- the three pacers and leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal -- were disciplined with their

line and length but didn't get any reward for their perseverance. Shreyas, the season's leading wicket-taker with 55 scalps heading into the title clash, too beat the bat on a few occasions but did not taste success, even as Yawer and Pundir looked to go after him with a determination to not allow him to settle into a nice rhythm.

The 22-year-old Yawer, who made his First Class debut in former India captain Rohit Sharma's last red-ball game in 2025 and had gone nine games without a fifty, chose the big occasion to show his wares and found the fence 13 times.

However, having done all the hard work in the company of Pundir while approaching his maiden hundred, Yawer fell to Prasidh, prodding at a delivery outside the off-stump to give a catch to Rahul at first slip. Both dismissals for the day were similar in nature.

Before making the breakthrough, Prasidh had tested Yawer with a bouncer that



hit the batter on the body and required medical attention.

Captain Dogra was hit on his neck by a sharp bouncer from Prasidh, after which the seamer appealed for a catch at forward short-leg thinking that the ball may have grazed the glove, but replays showed that it did not and the batter was safe.

However, Dogra, while attempting to fend off the bouncer, did get hurt and the physio was called in to apply ice pack.

The J&K physio was summoned again after some time with the ice pack to tend to Dogra, who had by then taken a few blows, and this time the skipper was on his way back to the dressing room after receiving a signal from coach Ajay Sharma, paving the way for Samad's entry into the middle.


Pundir and Samad then batted with ease to accumulate runs and consolidate J&K's position with their unbroken century partnership.





Presents

NOOR-E-RAMADAN


Co-Presented By






Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan due to faith and seeking reward, his previous sins will be forgiven.


Brought To You By




Outdoor Partner




Powered By



Food Partner



Print Partner






Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)

Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001