

KU CONVOCATION

VP In Srinagar; Security Intensified LG, CM Receive Him; 59,558 Degrees To Be Conferred



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday evening on his maiden official visit to Jammu and Kashmir, where he will attend the 21st convocation of the University of Kashmir.

The Vice President landed at the Srinagar Airport around 5 PM and was received by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and senior civil and police officials.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor welcomed the Vice President to the Valley. The Office of the Chief Minister also confirmed that Abdullah received him at the airport.

Officials said the Vice President proceeded to Lok Bhavan after his arrival, where the Lieutenant Governor presented him with a souvenir. Radhakrishnan will attend

the University of Kashmir's 21st convocation at its Hazratbal campus on Thursday as chief guest. The programme will begin with the academic procession, followed by the Vice Chancellor's annual report outlining the university's academic achievements, research output and institutional milestones.

The Vice President is scheduled to deliver the convocation address and confer degrees on graduating students. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also Chancellor of the university, will preside over the ceremony, while Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Pro Chancellor of the university, will attend as guest of honour.

A total of 59,558 degrees will be conferred, including 44,910 undergraduate degrees, 13,545 postgraduate degrees, 461 MD and MS degrees, four MCH, 18 MPhil and 620 PhDs. Vice Chancellor | **More on P10**

Show Of New Momentum In India-Israel Ties

'Welcome, My Friend': Netanyahu Receives PM Modi

Press Trust of India

Jerusalem, Feb 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in Israel on Wednesday to a red-carpet welcome with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, along with wife Sara, receiving the Indian leader at the Ben Gurion airport, signalling a new momentum in the bilateral ties.

It is PM Modi's second visit to Israel in nine years. The India-Israel relationship was elevated to the level of strategic partnership during his first visit to that country in July 2017.

"It's a great honour to



welcome you to Israel, Prime Minister Modi," the Israeli prime minister said.

Netanyahu greeted the Indian prime minister with a warm hug and | **More on P10**

Congress Questions Timing of PM's Israel Visit

Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Wednesday sought to know why Prime Minister Narendra Modi was visiting Israel at a time when tensions are high in the region. The prime minister is under tremendous pressure as he first approved a "very one-sided Indo-US trade deal" and India also agreed to stop buying cheap oil from Russia under pressure from the US President Donald Trump, the former | **More on P10**

Omar Cheers J&K's Historic Ranji Push

Press Trust of India

Srinagar, Feb 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team, which is fighting Karnataka for its maiden Ranji trophy, was playing like it was born for the finals of the prestigious domestic tournament.

The Jammu and Kashmir team reached 527 for 6 at stumps on the second day of the Ranji Trophy final.

"J&K are playing like they were born for Ranji Trophy finals, with confidence & flair plus a bit of | **More on P10**

Red Fort Blast: 2 More Kashmiris Arrested

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency on Wednesday arrested two residents of Jammu and Kashmir for their alleged involvement in the Red Fort area blast conspiracy, taking the total number of arrests in the case to 11.

The arrested men have been identified as Zameer Ahmad Ahangar of Ganderbal and

Tufail Ahmad Bhat of Srinagar. According to an official statement issued by the agency, both were formally taken into custody for their active role in the conspiracy linked to the Delhi blast.

Investigations have revealed that the duo allegedly supplied weapons to the prime accused in the case. Eleven people were killed and several others sustained injuries | **More on P10**

TET Put On Hold In J&K: Itoo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said the Union Territory government has put on hold the conduct of the Teacher Eligibility Test for in-service teachers.

She said J&K would not rush to enforce the recent Supreme Court ruling that mandates TET qualification for all in-service teachers of primary and upper primary classes within two years to continue in service.

Her remarks came a day after the School Education Department designated the Jammu and Kashmir Board of | **More on P10**

4-Decade Legal Battle

CAT Quashes 'Dies Non' Order Against 80-Yr-Old Retiree

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Bringing relief to a retired government employee who has been litigating for over four decades, the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar Bench, has quashed a government order that treated nearly 30 years of his service as "dies non".

Allowing a plea by 80-year-old Mohammad Shafi Zargar, a bench of judicial-member M.S. Latif however directed the government to pass order afresh by providing the opportunity of being heard to him in accordance with law.

As per the plea, Zargar was appointed in 1966 as Orderly and promoted



as Junior Clerk in 1970. However, Zargar was arrested in FIR No. 02 of 1972 registered in Police Station Kothi Bagh Srinagar on the allegation of fraudulent drawing of Rs. 14217.95 on 30 December 1971. Resultantly a Challan was presented against him and the same culminated in his acquittal.

Zargar said that he was made to run from pillar to post and finally the General Administration Department on 05 October 2005 requested the Director General of Police to communicate full facts of the case so that a decision could be taken. A Government Order dated 18 October 2010 was

issued whereby sanction was accorded to the reinstatement of Zargar and the treatment of the period from October 1973 to 22 June 2003 as "dies non".

Challenging the order, Zargar had initially approached the High Court in 2011. The petition remained pending for 15 years — dismissed once for non-prosecution, later restored, and eventually transferred to the CAT.

Zargar contended that the order was issued without conducting any inquiry into the matter. He stated that it was passed solely because he was facing trial in an FIR, in which he was ultimately acquitted.

He said declaring the period of | **More on P10**

ACB Books Deputy CM's Brother In DA Case

10 Locations Searched; Dy CM Terms Raid As 'Revenge-Driven'

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Wednesday registered a disproportionate assets case against Vijay Singh Choudhary, a police inspector and brother of Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, and conducted searches at 10 locations across Jammu and Rajouri districts.

According to an ACB spokesperson, the case followed a verification into allegations that the officer, currently posted in Ladakh, had amassed assets highly disproportionate to his known sources of income while serving at different postings.

The bureau alleged that the officer had accumulated assets worth crores, including more than 10 properties comprising houses, shops and land parcels spread over nearly 100 kanals. Most of the properties were allegedly held in the names of family members, relatives and others.

A prima facie case of criminal misconduct under relevant provisions relating to dishonest or fraudulent misappropriation by a public servant was found, the spokesperson said. A formal FIR was registered at Police Station ACB Central and investigation was initiated. | **More on P10**

Delhi-Katra Expressway Set For Mar 2027 Completion: NHAI



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, the fifth major expressway being developed in the country, is set for completion by March 2027, a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India said on Wednesday.

The construction of the National Expressway 5 (NE5), which began in April

2021, had significantly slowed last year due to Operation Sindoor as well as heavy rains and floods across northern states.

Once completed, the project is expected to considerably enhance regional connectivity, promote religious tourism and facilitate faster mobility for the armed forces, the official said.

The | **More on P10**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Pollution-Free, Prosperous Jammu & Kashmir

A Visionary Step
by
Jenab Omar Abdullah
Chief Minister, J&K

Towards Sustainable Development

Foundation stones laid for

VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

worth
About ₹191 Cr

Construction of BAB-UL-SULTAN-UL-ARIFEEN City Gateway with Artistic Calligraphy Landmark at Rainawari Chowk

₹1.30 Cr

Pollution abatement and conservation of River Jhelum at Chuntikul & Gowkadal areas

About ₹71 Cr

Construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant for daily dry weather flow into Doodh Ganga, Alluchi-Bagh, Srinagar (DG-1)

About ₹51 Cr

Technology intervention for dry weather flow into Doodh Ganga Nallah from Chadoora to Baghi-i-Mehtab (DG-2)

About ₹68 Cr

Let's build a Sustainable Jammu & Kashmir together!

Dated: 25-02-2026
DIPK-11355/25



No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Srinagar | Thursday | 26-02-2026

ملہ ولد محمد رجب ملہ ساکن بالریڈ گام۔ فون۔ 8825104209

CM Omar Felicitates Winners of Photography Competition



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah felicitated the winners of the Photography and Reel Competition held as part of the inaugural celebrations of the Chrysanthemum Garden in Srinagar.

The felicitation ceremony, organised by the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, honoured participants for their exceptional creativity and artistic expression in capturing the beauty and grandeur of the majestic garden.

The Chief Minister presented Certificates of Merit along with cash awards to the winners with ₹20,000 as first prize, ₹10,000 as second prize, and ₹5,000 as third prize in each category.

Congratulating the winners, the Chief Minister said such initiatives provide an important platform for creative engagement and youth participation.

“Kashmir’s gardens are not merely landscapes of flowers; they are living symbols of our heritage, creativity and cultural pride. Through photography and reels, our youth have beautifully captured the spirit of this garden and shared it with the world,” he said.

He added that encouraging artistic expression around nature and public spaces strengthens community bonding and promotes eco-consciousness.

“When our young people use their talent to celebrate nature, they become ambassadors of Kashmir’s beauty and values. Such platforms must continue to inspire innovation and cultural expression,” he remarked.

The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation from both young and seasoned photographers, reflecting the growing interest in nature-based creative pursuits and digital storytelling.

Rainawari to Get Bab-ul-Sultan-ul-Arifeen Gateway; CM Omar Lays Foundation for ₹190 Cr Works

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday laid the foundation for infrastructure and river conservation projects worth over ₹190 crore across Srinagar and Budgam districts, marking a significant step towards urban transformation and environmental sustainability.

Spanning five constituencies, the projects focus on urban beautification, pollution abatement of the Jhelum River and advanced sewerage treatment infrastructure for Doodh Ganga, reflecting the Government’s commitment to improving civic amenities, enhancing climate resilience and restoring water bodies.

At Rainawari, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of Bab-ul-Sultan-ul-Arifeen, a landmark city gateway featuring artistic calligraphy at Rainawari Chowk. Executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department at a cost of ₹130 lakh, the project is aimed at enhancing the aesthetic and cultural identity of the historic locality.

He said the gateway would not only beautify the area but also highlight its spiritual and cultural significance.

The Chief Minister also launched a major environmental initiative at Brari-Nambal Munawarabad for pollution abatement and conservation of the Jhelum at Chuntikul and Gowkadal. The project, under the Housing & Urban Development Department and to be executed by the UEED, involves an estimated cost of ₹7,090.68 lakh and includes establishment of an 8 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to significantly reduce untreated discharge into the river.

At the same venue, he laid the foundation for two key sewage treatment projects aimed at curbing pollution in Doodh Ganga — a 14 MLD STP at Aloochoi-Bagh in Srinagar (₹5,060.47 lakh) and a 6 MLD STP at Mochua in Budgam (₹6,772.32 lakh) to treat dry weather flow from Chadooro to Baghi-Mehtab, thereby strengthening wastewater management and environmental protection in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Omar Abdullah said that although projects worth nearly ₹200 crore across five constituencies would ordinarily warrant a large public function, the programme was de-



liberately kept modest in view of the holy month of Ramzan.

“If we had organised this programme some other time, it would have garnered huge public participation. But keeping Ramzan in mind, we did not want to cause inconvenience to people, nor delay projects for which the public has been waiting impatiently,” he said.

Highlighting the pressure on the Housing & Urban Development Department and the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, he said drainage, sewerage, roads, parks and development of new colonies fall under their mandate.

“Our two capital cities, Srinagar and Jammu, create the first impression of Jammu and Kashmir. Tourists arrive here first and millions of residents live here. It is our responsibility to ensure the infrastructure in cities reflects the development of this region,” he said.

The Chief Minister stressed that inadequate drainage and sewerage systems often result in waterlogging after even brief rainfall.

“It rains for one hour and the whole city is under water. This must change. Whether through Central schemes, UT Capex, District Capex or new funding mechanisms such as SASCI, our effort is to upgrade Srinagar’s infrastructure comprehensively,” he said.

Referring to changing climate patterns, he said rainfall distribution has become increasingly erratic.

“We may not see rain for months and then receive six months’ rain in three days. Instead of water percolating into the ground, it flows away, leading to both flooding and water scarcity. We must prepare infrastructure that can withstand changing weather patterns,” he said.

Emphasising water conserva-

tion and reuse, the Chief Minister said treated sewage must improve river water quality rather than degrade it.

“We must ensure that if treated water enters the river, it improves its quality instead of harming it. Our lakes and canals must regain their former glory,” he said.

Recalling Srinagar’s historical identity as the “Venice of the East,” he said restoration of water bodies remains a priority.

“Once, people travelled through our canals by boat. I want to see our water bodies restored to that standard. Water quality must improve and scarcity must reduce,” he added.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to decongest the city through planned housing colonies in peripheral areas.

“There is immense pressure on the inner city because we have not developed sufficient planned colonies. This year, we intend to take up at least one or two major housing projects with proper roads, drainage, water and electricity infrastructure so that people willingly move towards the outskirts,” he said.

Assuring speedy implementation, he said several projects are ready for inauguration or foundation laying.

“In the next three to three-and-a-half years, when we go back to the people, we want to present a transformed Srinagar — a city with modern infrastructure and renewed character. That is our commitment,” he said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Ali Mohammad Dar, Tanvir Sadiq, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed and Shamima Firdous, Commissioner Secretary Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Fazlul Haseeb and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (OPEN)
- Mughal Road - (CLOSED)
- Srinagar- Leh- (OPEN)



PRAYERS

FAJR	5:41
ZUHR	12:44
ASR	4:44
Magrib	6:27
ISHA	7:47

From KO Archives

- 1921 - The USSR signs treaties respecting the integrity of Persia and of Afghanistan
- 1923 - Italian nationalist & fascists merge (blue-shirts & black-shirts)
- 1925 - Jihad against Turkish government
- 1938 - 1st passenger ship equipped with radar
- 1952 - Netherlands-Indonesian Unity conference
- 1955 - 1st aviator to bail out at supersonic speed-GF Smith
- 1977 - 1st flight of Space Shuttle (atop a Boeing 747)
- 1980 - Egypt & Israel exchange ambassadors for 1st time
- 1987 - NASA launches GEOS-H
- 1987 - Tower Commission probes Iran-Contra affair
- 1987 - USSR resumes nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1990 - USSR agrees to withdraw all 73,500 troops from Czech by July, 1991
- 1991 - Kuwaiti resistance leaders declare they have control of their capital
- 1993 - "World Trade Center bombing of 1993": truck bomb explodes in parking garage of NYC World Trade Center at 12:18pm, killing 6 and injuring over 1,000 in what was the deadliest act of terrorism perpetrated on US soil at the time
- 2001 - The Taliban destroy two giant Buddha statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan.
- 2004 - The United States lifts a ban on travel to Libya, ending travel restrictions to the nation that had lasted for 23 years.

H&H Deptt Organizes Trainee Products' Sale at Kashmir Haat



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Handicrafts & Handloom (H&H) department inaugurated 2-day Trainee Products' Sale at Kashmir Haat.

During the sale, Craft products like hand-knotted woollen carpets, GI-tagged Pashmina shawls and stoles, Crewel curtains, Sozni embroidered shawls, Zari & Aari embroidered suits, tweed cloth, Chain Stitch rugs and cushion covers, tapestry, Gabba and Namda products, papier mâché and willow wicker souvenir and décor items, prepared by trainees of Training Centers across all 10 districts of Kashmir Division are being showcased.

The products available at extremely affordable rates, with pricing calculated only on the material component used and

no labour cost is added, thereby ensuring cost-to-cost availability of authentic handmade crafts to buyers, besides providing platform for trainees to exhibit their skills.

District stalls are expected to record encouraging sales during the current exhibition, with particular interest anticipated in carpets, Pashmina, and other GI tagged crafts. The initiative continues to serve as a vital platform for trainees to gain exposure, besides promoting Kashmir’s rich craft heritage. The sale will continue tomorrow.

Pertinently, the last three trainee products’ exhibitions together generated a revenue of Rs. 57 lakh, reflecting the overwhelming public response and demand for Kashmir’s handmade products.

DSWO Organizes Orientation Programme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) Srinagar successfully organized a Training-cum orientation Programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) at Government College for Women, M. A. Road, Srinagar.

The programme was conducted with the objective of creating awareness about substance abuse prevention and strengthening to build capacities and enhance institutional mechanisms for early identification, counselling, and rehabilitation of individuals affected by drug abuse. The event witnessed the active participation of Assistant Professors and esteemed members of the college faculty.

During the programme, a medical expert delivered a comprehensive presentation on the harmful effects of drug abuse, early warning signs, preventive strategies, and available de-addiction facilities. The session emphasized the critical role of educational institutions in addressing substance abuse among youth.

SANJY-2026: DC, SSP visit Yatra Transit Camp

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In connection with the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Sundeeep Chakravarty on Tuesday visited the Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk to take onsite stock of the preparations being undertaken for the smooth and seamless conduct of annual SANJY-2026.

The DC reviewed arrangements related to registration, accommodation, bedding, sanitation, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, security deployment, traffic management and other essential services at the Transit Camp, a halt site for pilgrims traveling to the Shri Amarnathji cave. He also took stock of other amenities to ensure they meet the



needs of the yatris.

The DC also inspected the readiness of Yatri Facilitation Center, which will handle critical services such as e-KYC verification, RFID card distribution, and registration to streamline the pilgrimage process.

The DC directed the concerned departments to undertake proactive measures for necessary augmentation of facilities well ahead of the commencement of the Shri Amarnath ji Yatra-2026 to ensure timely completion of all works

and to maintain close coordination for the smooth and efficient management of the Yatra. He stressed upon maintaining high standards of hygiene, safety and public convenience to facilitate a hassle-free stay for the visiting pilgrims.

The DC also directed the Superintending Engineers of R&B and PHE Departments to ascertain requirements on ground for further facilitation of the Yatris.

Emphasizing pilgrim comfort, the DC stressed the need for

seamless coordination among departments to enhance services at the Camp. Special attention was laid on ensuring proper sanitation facilities, availability of clean drinking water, electricity and setting up of Langars (community kitchens) to provide nutritious meals.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioner SMC, Syed Abul Qasim, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti, Anbreem Anjum, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Deputy Director Information, Mohammad Rafiq Zulla, DPO Panthachowk Zohaib Ahmad, DSP Traffic, Suhail Ahmad, Tehsildar Pantha Chowk, Muzaamil Zaman, Chief Sanitation Officer, Mudasar Ahmad Bandy, & other senior Officers of Police and District Administration Srinagar accompanied the DC and the SSP during the visit.



UK PM Starmer Under Pressure Amid Epstein Row

Associated Press

London : British Prime Minister Keir Starmer had a narrow escape this month, when tremors from the Jeffrey Epstein files shook his leadership and threatened to bring him down.

He faces new danger this week from a special election Thursday in northwest England, where his centre-left Labour Party could face defeat by either the hard-line anti-immigration party Reform UK or the self-styled “ecopopulist” Green Party. Losing to either would drive home to Labour members how unpopular the prime minister is with voters on both left and right.

The election is in Gorton and Denton, a seat in Greater Manchester that has been Labour turf for a century. Yet Labour's fortunes have fallen so far that University of Manchester political science professor Rob Ford says victory for Starmer's party when results are announced early Friday would be considered a surprise “man-bites-dog” outcome.

A three-way race

Local polling and betting markets suggest a close three-way contest between Labour local councilor Angeliki Stogia, Reform UK contender Matthew Goodwin an academic-turned-pundit, and the Greens' Hannah Spencer, a plumber.

The anti-immigration Reform UK, led by the veteran hard-right politician Nigel Farage, holds just eight of the 650 seats in the House of Commons — Labour has 404 — but has topped national opinion polls for months, ahead of both Labour and the main opposition Conservative Party.

The Green Party has just four seats, but under energetic leader Zack Polanski has expanded beyond environmental concerns to focus on issues including support for the Palestinian cause and the legalisation of drugs.

The election's outcome is hard to call, in a diverse area that

has traditional working-class neighbourhoods — once strongly Labour, now tilting toward Reform — as well as large numbers of university students and Muslim residents. Many of them feel disillusioned by Labour's centrist shift under Starmer and the government's perceived slowness at criticising Israel's conduct of the war against Hamas in Gaza.

That makes it fertile ground for the Green Party. Spencer said a win for the Greens would “send shock waves through the political establishment.”

Starmer on Wednesday railed against Green drug policies and urged voters to back Labour to counter Reform's “hate and division.”

In part, the contest echoes the challenge from populist upstarts faced by mainstream parties around the world.

But some of Starmer's problems are of his own making.

The British leader has endured a string of setbacks since he led Labour to a landslide election victory in July 2024. He has struggled to deliver promised economic growth, repair tattered public services and ease the cost of living.

He pledged a return to honest government after 14 years of Conservative government that ended in scandals and chaos, but has been beset by missteps and U-turns over welfare cuts and other unpopular policies.

The lackluster performance sparked discontent among Labour lawmakers that was ignited into crisis by revelations about former UK ambassador to Washington Peter Mandelson in a trove of Jeffrey Epstein files released by authorities in the United States last month.

Police are investigating emails suggesting Mandelson passed sensitive government information to Epstein a decade and a half ago. Mandelson was arrested and questioned by detectives this week before being released on bail. He does not face any allegations of sexual misconduct.

Rahul: PM Left for Israel After I Questioned US Deal

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying it has been more than 24 hours since he challenged the PM to scrap the India-US interim trade deal and once again, he (Modi) has “quietly slipped off to Israel”.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, “Narendra ‘Surrender’ Modi, it's been more than 24 hours since I challenged you to cancel the US Trade Deal – and once again, you've quietly slipped off to Israel.”

“At least once, you've already ‘danced and sung’ in Israel at Epstein's behest – so this time, on whose orders will you strike a deal against the country's interests and return?” the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha said.

Speaking in Bhopal, Gandhi on Tuesday had said the Indo-US interim trade deal was sealed under pressure and dared Prime

Minister Modi to scrap the “anti-farmer” agreement, following the US Supreme Court ruling.

Addressing the ‘Kisan Mahachaupal’ rally, the former Congress chief had described the agreement as “an arrow in the heart of farmers”.

“After the US Supreme Court ruling on the trade deal (global tariffs), I challenge PM Modi to scrap it if he has courage...but he won't be able to do so,” Gandhi had said.

In a major setback to Trump's pivotal economic agenda for his second term, the US Supreme Court, in a 6-3 verdict, ruled that the tariffs imposed by the president on nations around the world were illegal and that he had exceeded his authority when he imposed the sweeping levies.

Gandhi has alleged that the prime minister approved the agreement under external pressure linked to the threat of releasing “Epstein files” and an ongoing criminal case involving industrialist Gautam Adani in the US.



Iran Pushes Back Against Trump Ahead of Geneva Talks

Associated Press

Dubai : Iran pushed back Wednesday against US President Donald Trump's pressure tactics ahead of critical talks in Geneva over Tehran's nuclear program, alternating between calling his remarks “big lies” to saying negotiations may yield an agreement through “honourable diplomacy.”

The remarks by two Iranian officials ahead of Thursday's talks come as America has assembled its biggest deployment of aircraft and warships to the Middle East in decades, part of Trump's efforts to get a deal while Iran struggles at home with growing dissent following nationwide protests last month.

If the negotiations fail, Trump repeatedly has threatened to attack Iran — something Mideast nations fear could spiral into a new regional war as the embers of the yearslong Israel-Hamas war still smolder.

Already, Iran has said all US military bases in the Mideast would be considered legitimate targets, putting at risk the tens of thousands of American service members in the region.

Satellite photos shot Tuesday by Planet Labs PBC and analysed by The Associated Press appeared to show American vessels typically docked in Bahrain, the home of the US Navy's 5th Fleet, all out at sea.

The 5th Fleet referred questions to the US military's Central Command, which did not immediately respond. Before Iran's attack on Qatar in June, the 5th Fleet similarly scattered its ships at sea to protect against a potential attack.

Iran responds to Trump's State of the Union speech

Trump on Tuesday night in the US touched on Iran and the nuclear negotiations in his annual State of the Union speech.

“They've already developed missiles that can threaten Europe and our bases overseas, and they're working to build missiles that will soon reach the United States of America,” Trump said.

“They were warned to make no future attempts to rebuild their weapons program, and in particular nuclear weapons, yet they



But if you decide to repeat past experiences through deception, lies, flawed analysis and false information, and launch an attack in the midst of negotiations, you will undoubtedly taste the firm blow of the Iranian nation and the country's defensive forces

continue. They're starting it all over.”

Satellite photos earlier analysed by the AP showed Iran beginning to rebuild its missile production sites and doing some work at the three nuclear sites attacked by the US in June.

Iran long has maintained its nuclear program is peaceful. The West and the International Atomic Energy Agency say Iran had a nuclear weapons program until 2003. It had been enriching uranium up to 60 per cent purity before the June attack — a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

Responding to Trump, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei sought to compare him to Joseph Goebbels, Adolf Hitler's propaganda minister. He accused Trump and his administration of conducting a “disinformation & misinformation campaign” against Iran.

“Whatever they're alleging in regards to Iran's nuclear program, Iran's ballistic missiles, and the number of casualties during January's unrest is simply the repetition of big lies,” Baghaei wrote on X.

Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, Iran's parliament speaker, separately said the US could either try diplomacy or face Iran's wrath.

“If you choose the table of diplomacy — a diplomacy in which the dignity of the Iranian nation and mutual interests are

respected — we will also be at that table,” Qalibaf said, according to the semiofficial Student News Network, a media outlet believed to be close to the all-volunteer Basij force of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

“But if you decide to repeat past experiences through deception, lies, flawed analysis and false information, and launch an attack in the midst of negotiations, you will undoubtedly taste the firm blow of the Iranian nation and the country's defensive forces.”

Talks hang in balance

Iran and the US are due to meet Thursday, their third round of talks under the mediation of Oman, long an interlocutor between Tehran and the West. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his team left Tehran on Wednesday afternoon for Geneva, where they will meet American officials led by special US Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff.

If the talks fail, uncertainty hangs over the timing of any possible attack, as well as its mission and goals.

The US has not made clear the aims of possible military action. If the goal is to pressure Iran to make concessions in nuclear negotiations, it's not clear whether limited strikes will work.

If the goal is to remove Iran's leaders, that will likely commit the US to a more massive, longer military campaign. There has been no public sign of planning for what would come next, including the potential for chaos in Iran.

The status of Iran's nuclear program is another mystery. Trump earlier said American strikes “obliterated” it. Now, dismantling whatever remains of the program appears to be back on the administration's agenda. IAEA inspectors have not been allowed to inspect those sites and verify what remains.

There is also uncertainty about what any military action could mean for the wider region. Tehran could retaliate against the American-allied nations of the Persian Gulf or Israel. Oil prices have risen in recent days in part due to those concerns.

ED Attaches Anil Ambani's 'Abode' Worth Rs 3,716 Crore

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- The Enforcement Directorate attached Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani's Mumbai house, ‘Abode’, worth Rs 3,716 crore under the anti-money laundering law, official sources said on Wednesday.

The luxurious house, which is 66 metres high with 17 floors, is located in the Pali

reyed house in the case linked to an alleged bank fraud by his group company Reliance Communications (RCOM), according to the sources.

They said the attached asset's value is Rs 3,716.83 crore.

Ambani, 66, is expected to appear before the federal probe agency here for his second round of questioning. He first deposited before the ED in August 2025 and



Hill area of Mumbai.

A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach the multi-sto

had his statement recorded under the PMLA.

With the latest order, the total value of the attachment in this case stands at about Rs 15,700 crore.

Armed Forces Must Embrace Intelligent Warfare: CDS

Press Trust Of India

Hyderabad: As warfare expands from physical to the synthetic and cognitive realms, the armed forces need to transition from net-centric operations to intelligent warfare and move beyond MDO to ARADO, CDS General Anil Chauhan has said.

He also emphasised the need to establish non-nuclear strategic deterrence, ensuring the ability to win at every level of escalation, a defence release said here on Wednesday.

General Chauhan delivered his inaugural address at the annual seminar on the theme 'Multi-Domain Integrated Technologically-Empowered Resilient Armed Forces (MITRA)' at the College of Defence Management (CDM) here on February 24.

The Chief of Defence Staff highlighted the “Third Revolution in Military Affairs,” characterised by Convergence Warfare that fuses contact and non-contact, kinetic and non-kinetic, and old and new domains across all levels of conflict, it said.

“As warfare expands from the physical to the synthetic and cognitive realms, the Indian Armed Forces need to transition from net-centric operations toward Intelligent Warfare and move beyond Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) to All Realm All Domain Operations (ARADO),” General Chauhan said.

The CDM hosted the annual seminar on February 24 and 25 with the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, as ‘Knowledge Partner’.

This year's theme ‘MITRA’ underscores the evolving role of military and war fighting strategies in an increasingly complex geopolitical and technological landscape, it said.

The seminar served as a strategic platform to align contempo



As warfare expands from the physical to the synthetic and cognitive realms, the Indian Armed Forces need to transition from net-centric operations toward Intelligent Warfare and move beyond Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) to All Realm All Domain Operations (ARADO)

rary conflict lessons with India's unique operational environment, focused on self-reliance and structural reform, with an objective to develop armed forces that are multi-domain in vision, integrated in action, technology-empowered in execution, and resilient in purpose, the release said.

With the participation of senior defence officials, scholars and industry partners, the CDM Annual Seminar 2026 was aimed at fostering intellectual discourse and strategic foresight for developing comprehensive national power under the realm of MITRA, it said.

Established in December 1970, the College of Defence Management (CDM) has been a premier tri-service institution dedicated to equipping military leadership with the contemporary management thoughts, concepts, and best practices.

NEWS MAKERS

An Autopsy of a Psychological Operation in Iran's Competitive Opposition Market

angles:

First Motive: Manufacturing “Mental Certainty” Before an Event Occurs

The claim emerged alongside a series of other rumors:

- An explosion near Pasteur Street (location of Iran's presidential complex)
- Evacuation of schools around the Leader's residence
- A potential change in succession due to fears of assassination

These are not isolated fragments. When placed side by side, they form a single image: “An assassination is imminent.”

In psychological operations, the objective is not neces



sarily to prove an event; it is to plant a possibility in the audience's mind until that possibility gradually turns into “mental

certainty.” Once the mind is preoccupied with questions—Has the security perimeter been breached? Is a power transition

imminent?—the news of “100 killed in a foiled operation” no longer seems implausible; instead, it appears to confirm the already constructed atmosphere.

The real game here is the manipulation of fear.

Fear of the possibility of an event can be more destabilizing than the event itself. A society that imagines it stands on the verge of high-level assassinations may experience political anxiety even before anything happens. This is the point at which mental operations replace field operations.

Second Motive: The Battle Over “Future Legacy”

The second layer of analysis is external and competitive.

Today, the opposition to the Islamic Republic is not a unified front; it resembles a stage where multiple actors compete over an uncertain future. Currents close to Reza Pahlavi have gained visibility in segments of Western

media in recent months.

Alongside them, groups such as the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, and Jaish ul-Adl are each attempting to present themselves as consequential players.

In such an environment, the issue is not merely opposition to the government; it is competition over being perceived as the alternative. Put differently, a contest has formed over a potential future inheritance. Each group seeks to solidify in the minds of foreign backers—and even segments of domestic dis-senters—the perception that:

- We have networks.
- We possess operational capability.
- We can create a real threat.

Within this framework, the number 100 is not an operational figure; it is a market figure. It is a message directed at potential supporters: “We are still in the middle of the field, not on the margins.”

By R. Hejazi
WANA News Agency

WANA (Feb 25) – Amid a wave of security-related rumors circulating in Persian-language media in recent days, the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK) Organization of Iran claimed yesterday that, during an armed clash in Tehran, 100 of its members—who were allegedly preparing a terrorist operation to eliminate senior Iranian officials—were killed.

A sweeping narrative with a striking number, yet without a single image or independent piece of evidence. A claim for which no field indication was observed, nor any tangible reflection in a city where even the smallest incident is documented on social media within minutes.

If examined purely from a security standpoint, the discussion would end with fact-checking. But the more important issue is the logic behind pro-

ducing such a narrative. This is not merely a “news report”; it is a deliberate act of scenario-building.

In politics, numbers are not always just numbers; sometimes they are messages.

When an armed or semi-armed group claims to have lost one hundred members in the capital, it is simultaneously sending three signals:

- We have a large network in the heart of Tehran.
- We have advanced to the level of armed action.
- We have paid a price; therefore, we are a serious actor.

No images. No names of the dead. No operational details. This informational silence is not accidental; it is part of the narrative design. The story must be large, yet unverifiable. Because the aim is not to persuade domestic public opinion; the aim is to send a signal outward.

This narrative construction can be analyzed from several

Srinagar Airport Expansion Hailed as Game-Changer

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The expansion of the civil enclave at Srinagar International Airport, approved at rupees 1,677 crore by the Union Cabinet on Tuesday, is being widely welcomed by tourism operators, hoteliers, business leaders, travelers and local residents, who see it as a good step to improve connectivity, generate employment and bolster the overall economy of the Kashmir Valley.

The expansion, covering 73.18 acres, will feature a state-of-the-art terminal of 71,500 sq. metres, capable of handling 10 million passengers annually, an expanded apron with 15 aircraft parking bays and a multi-level parking facility for 1,000 cars.

The terminal will combine modern architecture with Kashmir's traditional woodwork and craftsmanship, while integrating eco-friendly features such as water harvesting and energy-efficient lighting.

Tourism operators, speaking to KNO called the project a major boost for visitor arrivals. "This airport expansion is a turning point for tourism in Kashmir," said Tawkeer, a Srinagar-based tour operator.



He said better connectivity and modern facilities will encourage more domestic and international travellers to visit the Valley.

Local hoteliers also welcomed the announcement, highlighting that a smooth airport experience forms the first impression tourists get. "This will benefit hotels, guesthouses, and restaurants, while also creating jobs for local staff," said a Srinagar-based hotelier.

Business leaders, including the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK), stressed the economic potential of the project.

"Srinagar airport is more than just a travel hub; it is an economic gateway," said Rouf Trambo, President of TAAK. "It will attract

investment, boost trade and retail and create employment opportunities across sectors."

Travellers visiting Srinagar praised the move. "A modern terminal with faster check-in and better facilities makes travel easier," said a tourist from Delhi. "It shows that Kashmir is serious about welcoming visitors safely and comfortably."

Local residents also expressed optimism about the indirect benefits. "More tourists mean better income for taxi drivers, shopkeepers and local guides," said Farooq Ahmed, a shopkeeper in Lal Chowk. "This expansion will help the entire community."

With construction expected to be completed in phases over the coming years, stakeholders

are hopeful that the upgraded airport will deliver long-term benefits across tourism, business and employment, marking a new era for aviation in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) also welcomed the Union Cabinet's approval for the major expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport, terming it a landmark decision for the economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued, KCC&I President Javid Ahmad Tenga said that the Chamber had taken up the issue of expansion of Srinagar Airport at both the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir levels, noting that the project would significantly strengthen tourism, trade and export infrastructure in the Valley. He added that the approval addresses a key requirement for Kashmir's economy, as improved airport infrastructure will boost tourism, provide exporters with better cargo handling and warehousing facilities, and ensure a smoother and more comfortable travel experience for passengers.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the develop-

ment of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport at an estimated cost of ₹1,677 crore.

The project is expected to enhance passenger handling capacity, modernise aviation infrastructure and significantly improve air connectivity to and from the Valley.

KCC&I expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving the project and for the continued focus on infrastructure-led growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chamber noted that the expansion will lead to improved terminal facilities, reduced congestion, and enhanced safety and convenience, offering passengers a better overall travel experience. It will also strengthen air cargo and logistics capabilities in the region.

On social media, the airport expansion drew positive reactions from political and official accounts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that the Cabinet approval will boost J&K's economy and strengthen connectivity, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described it as a "landmark step" for the region, highlighting improved passenger capacity and modern infrastructure.

Nearly 700 Ancient Coins Unearthed in Pulwama

SRINAGAR: Nearly 700 antique coins, believed to be of significant historical and archaeological value, have been recovered in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said on Wednesday.

Police in Awantipora have recovered 694 antique coins from Pinglish area of Tral during a routine operation, a spokesman said.

He said the recovered antique coins were kept in safe custody under the supervision of the Station House Officer, Tral, Inspector Tajamul Islam.

Subsequently, coordination was established with the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums to facilitate scientific handling and preservation in accordance with established archaeological norms, the spokesman said.

According to PTI, he said the handover of the antique coins reaffirms the commitment of Jammu and Kashmir Police towards safeguarding peace and tranquillity, as well as preserving the archaeological and cultural heritage of the Union territory, while fostering public awareness about Kashmir's rich historical legacy. (Observer News Service)

Sajad Lone Opposes TET for In-Service Teachers

SRINAGAR: People's Conference president Sajad Lone on Wednesday criticized the move to subject in-service teachers in Jammu and Kashmir to the Teacher Eligibility Test, terming it a "grave injustice" and urging the Union Territory administration to explore all possible avenues for relief.

In a social media post, Lone said that teachers who have already been serving in schools for years deserve stability and respect rather than uncertainty. He appealed to the J&K government to press the Centre to reconsider the implementation of TET for existing teaching staff.

Lone further claimed that there is a growing sentiment across the country demanding legislative intervention to halt the enforcement of TET for in-service teachers. He expressed hope that the government would align with such demands instead of proceeding with what he described as a potentially damaging step. According to KNT, the former minister also criticised the outsourcing of thousands of government jobs, alleging that companies entrusted with outsourced positions have contributed to wider societal concerns. (Observer News Service)

Army Busts Hideout in Poonch, IEDs and Grenades Recovered

POONCH: Army troops on Wednesday uncovered a hideout in a forward village of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and recovered a cache of arms and explosives, officials said.

The recovery was made during a cordon and search operation in Salani Kasblari village in the Mendhar sector. Security personnel found the arms concealed inside a cave during the operation. According to officials, the seized material included two ready-to-use Improvised Explosive Devices, two grenades, a pistol and 24 rounds of pistol ammunition. One of the IEDs weighed approximately 4.5 kilograms, while the second was smaller in size.

According to KNT, bomb disposal teams later destroyed the explosive devices and grenades through a controlled explosion. No damage to property or injuries were reported during the disposal process. Officials said the timely recovery of the consignment is believed to have averted a possible militant strike in the border district. (Observer News Service)

Holi Holiday in Jammu Wing of High Court Shifted to March 4

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has declared that the holiday on account of Holi in the Jammu Wing will now be observed on March 4, 2026 instead of March 3, 2026. According to an official notification issued by the Registrar General, the change applies specifically to the Jammu Wing of the High Court. The notification, dated February 25, 2026, stated that the holiday will be observed on Wednesday, March 4, in place of Tuesday, March 3.

According to KNT, the order was issued under reference No. 583 of 2026/RG/NG-15(I) and has been circulated among concerned judicial and administrative authorities for compliance.

Copies of the notification have been forwarded to various offices including the Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice, Registrar Vigilance, Registrar Judicial, Registrar Rules, and other officials of the High Court for information and necessary action. (Observer News Service)

Cowshed Damaged in Fire Incident

GANDERBAL: A cowshed was damaged in a fire incident that broke out in Khanah Khana village of Gagangir area in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Wednesday.

Officials said the cowshed suddenly caught fire, triggering panic in the locality. Local inhabitants raised an alarm and attempted to control the flames before fire tenders reached the spot. SHO Gund Rayees Ahmad, along with police personnel, reached the area soon after the incident. Fire and Emergency Services from Gund and APCO, personnel from 2 Assam Rifles and CRPF units stationed in Gagangir also arrived to assist in firefighting efforts. The blaze was brought under control before it could spread to nearby residential structures. No injuries were reported in the incident. (Observer News Service)

Subject Grant of registration of the proposed paying Guest/homes tay unit under the name & Style of M/s.RIGHT VIEW GUEST HOUSE HOME STAY" situated at Buchwara Dalgate Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr. Junaid Ahmad Mir S/o Ali Mohammad Mir R/o Brein Nishat 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.RIGHT VIEW GUEST HOUSE HOMESTAY" situated at Buchwara Dalgate Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12. Whereas,I will submit landownership certificate from concerned Tehsilidar 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 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

Day Temperatures Remain Above Normal across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Day temperatures continued to hover significantly above normal across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, with most places in the Valley recording departures of 8 to 10 degrees Celsius above the seasonal average, officials said.

According to data obtained by KNO, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.8 degrees Celsius, which was 8.8 degrees above normal. Qazigund settled at 20.6 degrees Celsius (9.6 degrees above normal), while Pahalgam recorded 17.1 degrees Celsius (8.6 degrees above normal).

Kupwara registered 20.7 degrees Celsius (9.3 degrees above normal), Kokernag 18.5 degrees Celsius (8.7 degrees above normal) and Gulmarg 10.5 degrees Celsius, around 8.1 degrees above normal.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 25.5 degrees Celsius, 2.4 degrees above normal. Banihal registered 20.9 degrees Celsius (7.5 degrees above normal),



Batote 19.9 degrees Celsius (6.7 degrees above normal), Bhaderwah 19.4 degrees Celsius (5 degrees above normal) and Katra 24.9 degrees Celsius (4 degrees above normal).

In the Ladakh region, Leh recorded a high of 7.2 degrees Celsius, Kargil 9.1 degrees Celsius and Nubra Valley 10.5 degrees Celsius.

The temperatures remained largely similar to the previous day, when most stations across Kashmir had recorded departures of up to 10 degrees above normal.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir on February 25 and 26.

Between February 27 and 28, the weather department has predicted

partly to generally cloudy skies with light rain or snow at isolated places. March 1 is likely to remain generally dry.

From March 2 to 3, partly to generally cloudy conditions with light rain or snow over higher reaches at isolated to scattered places are expected, followed by a dry spell from March 4 to 7. Another spell of partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain or snow in higher reaches at isolated to scattered places is likely between March 8 and 10, the MeI office said.

The department has advised farmers to continue their agricultural operations and said a further rise of 1 to 2 degrees Celsius in day temperatures at most places is likely over the next two days.

Balanced Lifestyle Crucial for Mental Wellness: Specialists

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an increasingly fast-paced and stressful world, mental health experts are urging people to prioritise their emotional well-being alongside physical fitness, emphasising that a balanced lifestyle and positive mindset are essential for a healthy life. Doctors and mental health specialists told KNO that maintaining good mental health is not a luxury but a necessity, as it directly impacts productivity, relationships, and overall quality of life.

"Taking care of your mental health is just as important as taking care of your physical health," said Dr Naresh Kumar, a psychiatrist based in Jammu. "Ignoring emotional well-being can lead to long-term psychological and even physical complications." High self-esteem plays a crucial role in dealing with life's challenges, he said, adding that individuals with strong self-belief tend to handle stress and adversity more effectively. "Self-esteem acts as a psychological shield," said Mohammad Hussain Dar, a psychologist. "People who trust their abilities are better equipped to navigate difficult situations and maintain emotional stability."

He highlighted the importance of a healthy diet in maintaining mental well-being. Wholesome, home-cooked meals are considered among the best options for sustaining both physical and mental health, he added. Dr Aamir Khan, a nutrition expert, said a balanced diet rich in nutrients supports brain function and mood regulation. He said people should avoid excessive processed foods and consult nutritionists for personalised dietary plans if needed. Physical activity is another key factor in maintaining a healthy mind. Experts said that regular exercise triggers chemical reactions in the brain that help reduce anxiety and stress.

According to doctors, exercise releases endorphins, which are natural mood lifters. They said even simple activities like walking or light workouts can significantly improve mental health. While stress is an unavoidable part of life, doctors call for identifying its root causes and learning coping mechanisms. Understanding the source of stress is the first step towards managing it, they said. Equally important is learning to focus on the present moment instead of worrying about the past or future. Experts warn that an imbalanced work-life

routine can negatively impact mental health.

They advise individuals to create boundaries and allocate time for both professional and personal life. "Sleep deprivation is a major contributor to emotional instability," they added. "Getting around 7-8 hours of sleep is essential for mental recovery and daily functioning." Maintaining strong personal relationships is also vital. Social connections provide emotional support and help individuals cope with challenges. "Healthy relationships act as a support system during tough times," they said. "They enrich life and contribute significantly to emotional well-being."

Mental health experts say laughter reduces stress hormones and boosts mood. Simple things like watching a comedy or spending time with friends can make a big difference. Doctors urge individuals not to hesitate in seeking help when needed. "It takes courage to ask for help, but it can be life-changing. Whether it's talking to family, friends, or professionals, support is always available," they said. "Small, consistent lifestyle changes can go a long way in building emotional resilience and leading a balanced, fulfilling life."

DGP Calls for Focused Action Against Terror Ecosystem

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat- IPS, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive Security Review Meeting in Budgam to assess the prevailing security scenario and operational preparedness of the district Police.

The meeting, according to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, was attended by S.J.M. Geelani-IPS; Special DGP Coordination; IGP Kashmir Zone V.K. Birdi-IPS; DIG Central Kashmir Range Rajeev Pandey-IPS; SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar-IPS; besides Additional SP Budgam, all SDPOs, DySSP SOG, SHOs, DOs, and other senior officers of District Budgam.

During the review meeting, SSP Budgam presented detailed briefing on counter terror operations, law and order management, measures to prevent crime, action against drug traf-



ficking, area domination plan and overall security scenario of the district.

The DGP reviewed ongoing kinetic and non kinetic operations, anti terror strategies and measures to dismantle overall separatist and terror ecosystem in the district. He stressed for actionable intelligence generation by field officers and directed to maintain sustained operational momentum. Highlighting, the current security challenges, DGP directed officers to undertake nontraditional, non conformist and modern tactics to neutralize Pakistani terrorists.

He called for focused approach and renewed efforts

against terrorists, their support networks to eliminate terrorism and establishing peace in the district.

To strengthen the overall security grid, the DGP emphasized on maintaining seamless coordination with sister agencies, effective area domination plan and surveillance on traditional terror sympathizers and separatists network of the district. While reviewing law and order, he stressed on taking preventive measures against miscreants, engaging peace loving citizens in day to day activities of policing and adopting measures to bridge the gap between police and public.

No Immediate Implementation of TET in J&K: Minister Itoo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir will be the last region in the country to enforce the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) guidelines, Education Minister Sakina Itoo said on Wednesday, a day after the School Education Department (SED) issued the formal order.

Speaking to reporters, Itoo, as per KNO, said, "We are not implementing the TET orders immediately. J&K will be the last region in the country to conduct TET examinations."

She said many teachers have dedicated decades of service to educating students and their concerns will be taken into consideration.

Earlier, the School Education Department had designated the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education as the nodal agency to conduct the TET examination.

J&K Police Unveil 'Snow Leopard' Squad

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday unveiled its newly formed elite "Snow Leopard" squad, a specialized high-altitude unit created to strengthen security and carryout anti-terror operations in mountainous and snow bound regions across the Union Territory. According to the details available, the squad has been deployed for the first time during the ongoing Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg, where it is responsible for securing athletes, officials and visitors at elevations reaching nearly 14,000 feet.

A top Police official told KNO that the deployment marks the operational debut of the unit, designed specifically for mountain security operations and extreme terrain challenges.

"The Snow Leopard squad has been raised to respond to emerging terror threats in high altitude zones, where terrorists attempt to exploit difficult terrain and harsh weather conditions. The unit consists primarily of personnel drawn from

the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group and functions as a dedicated wing for snow and mountain warfare," the official added.

"The squad personnel underwent over six months of intensive specialized training, conducted alongside elite formations including the Army's Para Commandos and the Greyhounds Special Forces to enhance combat readiness and operational coordination. The squad has been trained to operate in sub zero temperatures reaching minus 20 degrees Celsius, low oxygen environments, dense forests and avalanche prone areas," he said, adding, "Apart from combat roles, the unit has also received disaster response training to handle avalanches, landslides, and other natural emergencies common in mountainous areas."

The unit currently comprises more than 100 trained personnel, the Snow Leopard squad can be deployed anywhere across Jammu and Kashmir where high altitude operations are required, the official said.

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's UPSC Wave

There was a time when young aspirants from Kashmir packed their bags and left home for coaching hubs in Delhi, Chandigarh, and Jaipur. Families saw them off with hope and anxiety. Those students entered a marathon called the civil services exam, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. They rented small rooms, attended crowded classes, and spent long hours in libraries beside peers from every corner of the country.

That journey gave exposure and competition. It showed how aspirants across India studied, debated ideas, and built strategy together. Many returned stronger and more confident, others came back with stories about harsh weather, high expenses, and cultural adjustments that distracted them from study. Some left the race midway. The dream remained alive, though the path felt distant.

A shift began after 2019. Coaching centers dedicated to UPSC preparation started opening across Srinagar and other districts of Kashmir. Local educators who once trained students for state exams began building full-fledged civil services programs. Established brands explored partnerships and satellite centers. Classrooms filled with young men and women who once would have left the valley.

Today, students from Baramulla, Anantnag, Kupwara, and Shopian travel to Srinagar for weekend test series. Telegram groups circulate daily quizzes and answer-writing practice. Libraries stay full through the evening. Bookstores stock standard texts on polity, governance, and history. An education economy has grown around one exam.

Some institutes now admit students soon after Class 12. The idea focuses on grooming them over three years of graduation. Teachers speak about building temperament early, making current affairs part of daily life, and turning ambition into discipline.

This local incubation model aims to raise Kashmir's representation in the final list.

Out of more than 900 annual selections, the valley often appears in single digits. Coaching centers openly speak about reaching double digits as a first milestone, with larger goals ahead.

Examples from states like Bihar inspire these plans. Educators argue that success flows from ecosystem and mentorship. They believe proximity to home keeps morale high and expenses manageable. Families feel reassured when their children prepare within familiar surroundings.

This wave reflects a generation seeking influence within the system. Civil services promise authority, stability, and a voice in governance. Young Kashmiris now pursue that promise without leaving their homeland.

That shift marks a new chapter in aspiration, written in classrooms across Srinagar.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Pick Your Path

How to choose between mutual funds, portfolio services, and alternative funds without the jargon.

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing does not have to feel like learning a new language. If you are trying to grow your money, you have probably come across three popular options: mutual funds, portfolio management services, and alternative investment funds.

Each one works a little differently, and the right choice depends on how much you have to invest and how much risk you can handle.

Let us start with mutual funds. These are the friendliest option for beginners. You pool your money with thousands of other investors, and a professional manager spreads it across stocks, bonds, and other assets. You can get started with as little as 500 rupees. There is usually no fee to join, though you might pay a small penalty if you cash out too quickly.

Over the years, equity funds have returned between 7% and 20% annually. Your money is easy to access, regulators watch over everything, and you get tax breaks on long-term gains up to 1.25 lakh rupees.

Now, if you have 50 lakh rupees or more to invest, portfolio management services might catch your eye. Here, a manager builds a custom portfolio just for you. You will pay higher fees, sometimes a flat rate and sometimes a share of your profits, but the personalized strategy aims to beat the market.

Returns vary widely, but the potential is higher because the approach is tailored to your goals.

Then there are alternative investment funds, which require at least 1 crore rupees to join. These venture into real estate, private companies, and complex strategies that most investors never touch. The fees are steep, the risks are significant, and the tax rules get complicated. But for those who can stomach the ride, the upside can be substantial.

So how do you choose? Ask yourself what you can afford, how long you can wait, and how you feel about risk.

Mutual funds suit everyday investors who want regulated growth. Portfolio services fit wealthy individuals who want a custom approach. Alternative funds attract those with deep pockets and strong nerves, chasing bigger rewards.

Every option has risk, even the safest mutual fund can dip when markets fall. Talk to a financial advisor before you decide. The best investment is the one that matches your goals and lets you sleep soundly at night.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.



The Meadow Effect

A reopened hill-station sets off a chain reaction that touches ponywalas, hoteliers, drivers, and shopkeepers throughout central Kashmir.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Doodhpathri has reopened, and the impact shows right away.

Hotels get rooms ready with clean sheets as front desks turn active again. Ponywalas arrive early and saddle their horses with care. ATV operators start their engines and position themselves for the first visitors. Tea stalls pour steaming cups as the buzz returns after days of disruption.

One decision to open the meadow brings work, movement, and income back to the entire area.

Tourism forms the backbone of Kashmir's economy. Lakhs of households rely on visitors. A single traveler sets off a ripple of work that reaches drivers, guides, shopkeepers, and small restaurant owners.

Doodhpathri holds a central place in this economic network in Budgam district.

Kashmir draws travelers with wide grasslands, clear rivers, and the towering Pir Panjal mountains. Visitors come for the scenery and stay for the warmth of the people. Word of that hospitality spreads quickly and strengthens the region's tourism image more than any campaign.

Doodhpathri stands about 45 kilometers from Srinagar and around 36 kilometers from Budgam town. The name blends "doodh," meaning milk, and "pathri," meaning meadow.

The Shaliganga River flows through the grass with a pale glow that explains the name in simple terms. The meadow combines accessibility with visual power, which makes it a strong asset for planners and investors.

Cultural depth and strong community ties strengthen its appeal.

Local belief links the meadow to Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali, known widely as Nund Rishi. His spiritual influence continues at Charar-e-Sharief, which draws devotees throughout the year.

These connections blend nature and heritage into a unified tourism narrative that feels authentic and rooted.

Budgam district holds additional destinations that can form a strong tourism circuit.

Yousmarg spreads out with rolling meadows and pine forests. Tosamaidan rises into wide grasslands that attract trekkers and families.

When linked through coordinated promotion and improved roads, these sites can drive longer stays and higher local spending.

Sotchal Pathri, located near Doodhpathri, functions as a favoured picnic stop. Families spend entire afternoons on its slopes. Photographers frame wide shots that circulate rapidly online.

Tourism today depends heavily on digital visibility, and such landscapes create organic promotion that no brochure can match.

Sukhnag strengthens the district's natural portfolio. The river begins in the heights of Tosamaidan and flows through Arizal, Zanigam, and Beerwah before joining the Jhelum River.

The name combines "sukh," meaning peace, and

ment has expanded site management and strengthened visitor services. Grievance redressal systems show greater responsiveness.

Budgam now requires upgraded accommodation, better sanitation, structured parking zones, and improved year-round accessibility.

Clear planning can transform seasonal traffic into sustained growth.

Local youth stand to gain the most from structured tourism expansion. Training in guiding, hospitality management, and adventure services can align skills with actual market demand.

Entrepreneurial support for homestays and small eateries can deepen community participation in tourism growth.

Doodhpathri today presents a lively scene.

Horses walk along marked trails as visitors settle into the landscape. Vendors greet arriving families

☛ **Doodhpathri's reopening highlights the power of timely administrative action. The tourism department has expanded site management and strengthened visitor services. Grievance redressal systems show greater responsiveness. Budgam now requires upgraded accommodation, better sanitation, structured parking zones, and improved year-round accessibility. Clear planning can transform seasonal traffic into sustained growth.**

with hopeful voices. Children run freely over the open grass.

The meadow works as a strong economic engine driven by nature and the hard work of local people.

Budgam now stands at an important moment.

Yousmarg, Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan, and Charar-e-Sharief together bring nature and heritage into one strong tourism circuit.

Clear planning, environmental care, and active community involvement can lift the district into a leading tourism model in Jammu and Kashmir.

The author can be reached at sahilmanzoorbhatti78@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Open a Public Land Ledger for Kashmir

Village Jamabandies have expanded into bulky digital files filled with countless bata and min numbers. A single survey number that once stood whole now appears in fragments after inheritance, sale, gift, and court orders.

Pages multiply, entries stack up, and even trained officials spend long hours locating a single detail.

Public land entries sit inside this same crowded register.

Shamilat land and State land appear alongside private holdings, even though their legal character stands entirely different.

Shamilat land, governed under the Jammu and Kashmir Common Lands (Regulation) Act, serves as common village property such as grazing fields, ponds, and pathways. State land, recorded under the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, belongs to the government for public purposes. These lands represent collective wealth.

Placing them inside the same structural frame as private plots creates confusion.

Oversight becomes difficult, data extraction takes effort, and public land risks getting lost inside private subdivisions.

A simple reform can address this structural flaw.

Every village should open a separate "Shamilat and State Lands Account" within its revenue records. All Shamilat survey numbers and all State land entries should move into a dedicated register. Private holdings should remain in a streamlined Jamabandi.

Think of it like a bank ledger. Personal accounts and government accounts sit apart. Each receives its own statement, audit, and monitoring system. Public land deserves the same clarity.

A dedicated account would record area, classification, usage, leases, mutations, and any encroachment. Officials could review it at a glance.

Such separation would lighten private Jamabandies.

Patwaris could verify ownership without scrolling through unrelated entries. District authorities could compile village-wise summaries of public land

within minutes. Panchayats could examine their common lands with precision. Citizens could request information without decoding a maze.

Encroachment detection would become far more effective. A consolidated public land register would make every alteration clearly visible.

Annual audits would follow a defined structure with clear benchmarks. Development planning would move with purpose and clarity.

Schools, health centres, playgrounds, and community halls depend on accurate data about available land. A dedicated public ledger would support informed and responsible decisions.

Digitisation alone cannot solve structural clutter. Digital portals can host separate dashboards for private land and public land. GIS mapping and mutation alerts can link directly to the Shamilat and State account. Executive instructions under existing revenue laws can implement this reform without legislative overhaul.

Courts in India often invoke the Public Trust Doctrine. Authorities act as cus-

todians of public resources. A separate land account turns that principle into daily administrative practice.

It signals that common land holds equal importance as private property.

Village-level accountability would grow stronger and more visible.

Local bodies can review entries each year with clarity. Revenue officials can conduct precise inspections through a dedicated register. Public objections can follow provisional publication in an orderly process.

Transparency then turns into a working system people can see and trust.

This reform calls for administrative vision. The data already sits within the system. Reorganisation requires clear planning and coordination.

The benefits would extend to every level of governance.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Amin Mir
miramin354@gmail.com

Can Srinagar Finally Breathe Free?

One parked car, one tossed bag of garbage, and one careless honk.
Multiply it across a city and Srinagar begins to choke.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

I lately walked through a lane in Sonawar and spotted a vehicle that blocked the entire path. I asked the owner, who stood nearby, to move it aside. He shot back, "This is my locality. You should come through some other lane."

That line captured our mindset perfectly. Someone nearby mentioned the man spent six months in the mental hospital in Rainawari and came back just last week.

Maybe he had his reasons, but hundreds of us do the same thing every day without excuse.

If we accept blocking lanes as everyday life, then the issues spread through the whole city.

Srinagar ranks among the most gifted cities anywhere. Lakes shine like mirrors, mountains watch over us, and seasons colour the valley like a canvas.

Still, one big question troubles every caring person here: When will our roads clear of garbage, traffic flow without horns, and people move without constant jams?

The fix comes down to this: We gain that only when we build civic sense.

Cities thrive when people handle public areas like their own homes. We often keep our houses spotless like grand halls, but we turn streets into trash heaps.

Every other day, we hear "Gadi wala aaya ghar say kachra uthao," and municipal trucks show up to pick up waste. That vehicle sound sparks hope for better days.

Next morning, though, the same spots overflow with plastic bags, leftover veggies, shattered bottles, diapers, wrappers, and more.

Trucks haul away garbage, so where does the fresh mess come from?

We create it.

People toss waste onto empty lots, road edges, close to drains, and even next to collection spots, so dogs spread it around overnight.

We crave clean spaces, and we expect the municipality to make it happen while we keep adding to the chaos.

People talk daily about the thousands of stray dogs in Srinagar city. Kids face attacks,



older folks get pursued, and nights fill with barks and fights.

We all hope to solve this issue.

At the same time, thousands of us buy a few rotis each day and fling them onto roads to feed those dogs. This roti kindness fuels the problem.

Feeding animals shows goodwill. In fact, kindness counts as a virtue. The trouble arises when we feed in ways that worsen things.

People who toss rotis on roads keep dogs out of their homes. They skip building safe spots, and ignore the fallout. They just throw food out, pat themselves on the back for the kind act, and walk away as streets get messier.

Kindness without care leads to harm: Stray dogs settle on our roads for good, their numbers grow, and they scatter more garbage.

If someone cares about animals, they adopt them, get them fixed, or feed them in set areas instead of turning every road into a meal zone.

Parking cars in tight lanes and neighbourhoods further fuels trouble for Srinagar.

People with just one room at home buy cars, and they choose that freely. They park in those

slim lanes, though, and that invades shared space.

Disputes over parking rage in neighbourhoods. Cars halt traffic, bother walkers, and stir up daily hassles for everyone living there.

Ambulances struggle to get through, fire trucks fail to reach spots, and a funeral group jammed up just days ago.

School buses in the valley create constant barriers too. Famous schools in the area escalate the urban crisis. Their buses park on every corner in Srinagar, changing roads into stops and lanes into lots.

I sent a letter to the RTO once about this. No change came. Authorities stay silent, so people grow bold. Rules live on pages, and pages in Kashmir lose value fast.

Srinagar has also picked up an odd habit with horns. Sound turns into routine here. Drivers blast horns on clear roads. They honk at lights, in slim lanes, by hospitals, and simply honk like the horn steers the car.

Horns serve to alert others, to signal like a regular driver. In our city, the horn shows annoyance, pride, and at times sheer craziness.

Sound overload plays like constant tunes.

At the core, we seek a fresh city with fresh actions. Everyone craves clear roads, and seeks order. But few of us step up to shift our ways.

We expect city workers to sweep streets as we keep throwing waste. We expect traffic officers to handle roads as we keep clogging lanes. We expect stray dogs to vanish as we keep feeding them without thought.

In the end, we chase fixes without owning our part.

Real improvement begins when three changes move together and support daily life in a practical way. The first shift starts with clear enforcement of the law.

Strong fines for wrong parking, throwing garbage, blocking lanes, and taking over footpaths set a visible standard. When rules are applied with consistency, streets begin to function smoothly and people understand that public space deserves respect.

From there, the second shift grows within society.

In earlier Kashmir, community opinion held great value, and people cared deeply about



SRINAGAR CALLS FOR A FRESH BEGINNING IN CIVIC HABITS AND EVERYDAY CHOICES. The city grows cleaner and more organized when routines depict responsibility and outlooks demonstrate ownership. This change feels like a return to common sense.

how their actions were seen by others. That culture created natural discipline in neighbourhoods and markets.

Bringing back that sense of social responsibility can make a powerful difference.

When neighbors remind one another to keep lanes open and streets clean, civic sense becomes part of normal dialogue.

The third shift comes when citizens truly see public space as shared ground. Roads connect families to work and schools. Lanes give access to homes and services. Footpaths allow safe movement for those walking through the city.

When people treat these spaces as part of their common home, pride replaces neglect and order becomes part of daily routine.

Srinagar calls for a fresh beginning in civic habits and everyday choices. The city grows cleaner and more organized when routines depict responsibility and outlooks demonstrate ownership.

This change feels like a return to common sense.

That afternoon in Sonawar, as I stood in front of a blocked lane and listened to the owner explain his decision, the issue felt personal and familiar. Small decisions in ordinary moments define the atmosphere around us.

A simple shift in mindset can turn Srinagar into the city people already believe it can be.

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

Rise of J&K Cricket

Backed by raw pace, bold reforms, and breakout IPL contracts, Jammu and Kashmir transform decades of struggle into a historic first Ranji Trophy final berth.

Ankit Patel

Auqib Nabi learned his craft on Baramulla's rugged paths, his fast arm slicing air without polished fields or proper gear. Trials dismissed him twice, so he charged harder each time.

The 2025-26 season unleashed his fury with 55 wickets, a haul that sealed 8.4 crore from Delhi Capitals in the IPL. His fire fuels Jammu and Kashmir's core, a pulse that drives the squad's epic climb.

Teams dismissed J&K as easy marks for over 60 years, thrilled simply to compete. This year they flipped the plot, crushing Bengal to grab their inaugural Ranji final slot.

J&K entered the scene in 1959, enduring 23 winless years. In 335 outings, victories numbered 46 while losses hit 207.

Transformation brewed over a decade, lifting them skyward. Bishan Singh Bedi instilled faith in 2011 through hands-on lessons. Irfan Pathan explored isolated spots to unearth pure talent.

Triumph over Mumbai in 2014 signaled their edge against titans. The 2025-26 push delivered the Ranji final berth, a testament to how drive and expertise forge contenders from humble roots.

Reform swept the backend first. The association escaped past tangles under Mithun Manhas and Brigadier Anil Gupta's helm. Talent hunters ventured to Baramulla's edges and Rajouri's depths, discovering prospects alien to grand venues.

Diverse pitches emerged with red and black soil, a northern exclusive that honed adaptability.

Paras Dogra, 41 and stacked with 10,000 runs, assumed captaincy as mentor supreme. He showed the rookies poise in high-stakes fire, molding a ragtag crew into a disciplined



INNER FORTITUDE DEFINES THEIR ADVANTAGE, TRIALS SHARPENING FOCUS IN CRUNCH TIMES. They enter Hubballi's arena versus Karnataka as full peers, a forged collective. Trophy in hand or aside, J&K affirms that purpose and soul spawn victors from distant lands.

red-ball juggernaut.

Heroes anchor this uprising. Abdul Samad burst from Rajouri, Pathan eyeing his bat at 16 for its raw force. He piled 655 runs this term, steadying the ship versus elite attacks in the Bengal clash. Lucknow Super Giants rewarded him with 4.2 crore.

Sunil Kumar unleashed left-arm venom from Udhampur for 29 scalps. Vanshaj Sharma, 22 strong, launched a colossal six to lock

the final ticket. Umran Malik hurls thunder at 156.7 kph, rising from his Jammu fruit-vendor dad's world. Captain Dogra adds batting depth with veteran savvy.

From loaned spikes to fat contracts, these men symbolize J&K's bold new era.

The 2025-26 run turned J&K into touring conquerors. They humbled Delhi's 14 crore galaxy early on. Auqib torched Rajasthan in Srinagar with 7/24, his pinnacle spell.

Madhya Pradesh's quarter-final bowed to his 12-wicket masterclass defending 291. Bengal's semi threw Mohammed Shami's heat, pressing J&K tight. Auqib and Sunil countered by skittling them for 99, paving a 126 chase. Vanshaj's clincher ended 67 years of longing.

Icons like Umran, the speed demon from modest means, inspire wildly. Rasikh Salam rebounded from a two-year exile in Kulgam

to claim 6 crore from Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Pace or perseverance, they empower valley kids to seize the spotlight.

Parvez Rasool pioneered the breakthrough, suiting up for India in 2014 as J&K's trailblazer. He nurtures the fresh crop today, while women's ranks ignite.

Jasja Akhtar claimed the valley's debut in the Women's Premier League, her middle-class roots forcing hard picks between essentials and practice. She relocated for superior drills, ascending to stardom. Iqra Rasool, Baramulla's pace phenom, charges on despite societal winds.

Cricket binds the land's spirit. Amid strife and sparse work, the game channels young energy to brighter trails. Community matches offer solid paychecks. Enterprises like GR8 Sports thrive in bat production. IPL windfalls for Auqib and Samad transform pastimes into pathways of promise.

Remote areas see practice on simple mats, prompting pushes for broader access and builds. The 2026 Ranji summit alters views indelibly.

Specialists and varied surfaces matched Mumbai's advantages. Screens beaming locals like Umran and Samad spark chain reactions of aspiration. Street slingers in Srinagar or Jammu target IPL deals and India blues.

Inner fortitude defines their advantage, trials sharpening focus in crunch times. They enter Hubballi's arena versus Karnataka as full peers, a forged collective.

Trophy in hand or aside, J&K affirms that purpose and soul spawn victors from distant lands.

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

Is Bottled Water Really As Healthy As Marketed?

Muhammad Wakil Shahzad
The Conversation

Growing mistrust of tap water has helped turn bottled water into a global staple, even in countries where public supplies are among the most rigorously tested. Marketing has positioned bottled water as purer, healthier and more convenient, but the scientific evidence sometimes tells a different story.

Bottled water regulations, sources and treatment methods vary widely between countries so safety and environmental impacts depend heavily on context. Some bottled water is taken from natural springs that don't legally require treatment to be deemed safe to drink. Other products use water from municipal sources that is chemically treated, filtered or "purified".

This perception of purity is central to bottled water's appeal, yet studies show bottled water is not necessarily of higher purity than public tap water. A study on bottled water in Guetamala even found that while people thought it was safer than tap water, it actually had a higher concentration of one type of potentially harmful bacteria.

Bottled water, is often regulated as a packaged food product. While it is approved for drinking, manufacturers are often not required to publish standardised, publicly accessible routine water-quality reports in the way municipal suppliers usually do. In the case of spring water, this may be because it is not chemically treated.

In some countries, even when bottled water has been deemed safe by food regulators, that doesn't mean it is without risk to health, as well as to the environment. And research has highlighted that it can contain contaminants.

Microplastics are a particular concern. For example, a 2024 US study detected tens of thousands of plastic particles per litre in some products.

Other research in China found higher concentrations of microplastics in bottled water than tap water. Consumption of microplastics has



been linked with inflammation, hormone disruption and the build-up of particles in human organs.

There is also evidence that plastic bottles can leach chemicals such as antimony, a catalyst used to make PET which is the most common plastic used for single-use drinks.

Bisphenol analogues such as BPS or BPF are close relatives of BPA, a chemical used to harden some plastics and to line food and drink cans. These substances can also migrate into the water, especially when bottles sit in warm environments such as cars, delivery vans or direct sunlight.

Scientists are concerned because some of these compounds can act as endocrine disruptors, meaning they may interfere with the body's hormone systems. High exposure to certain bisphenols has been linked to effects on reproductive health, metabolism and development, although levels found in bottled water are generally low and the long-term risks are still unclear.

Researchers are now exploring what repeated, chronic exposure might mean over time, particularly as bottled water consumption continues to rise worldwide.

Bottled water is not sterile. Once opened, microorganisms can multiply quickly. A half-finished bottle left in a warm car can become an ideal environment for microbial growth. Reusing single-use bottles can also introduce bacteria from saliva and the wider environment into the body.

How green is your bottle?

Drinking too much bottled water is also hard on the planet. Global consumption

is so high that around one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute.

Danish water technology company Aquaporin estimates that producing a litre of bottled water can require up to two thousand times more energy than supplying a litre of tap water. The carbon footprint is higher too, averaging around eighty grams of carbon dioxide per litre once bottling, transport and cooling are included.

The bottled water debate cannot be separated from the wider pressures facing global water supplies. Access to clean drinking water remains an urgent challenge worldwide. Climate change, rapid urbanisation, industrial pollution and population growth are straining freshwater resources. Unesco warns that more than two billion people already live in regions experiencing high water stress.

To offer alternatives to bottled water, I am working with a team of researchers on Solar2Water, a portable solar-powered device that generates clean drinking water directly from the air.

The system is decentralised, producing water at the point of use rather than relying on long pipelines or large treatment plants. Producing water locally helps reduce reliance on single-use plastics and eases demand on municipal systems.

As pressure on infrastructure grows, decentralised systems that produce clean drinking water at the point of use can complement existing networks. They strengthen resilience during climate shocks, reduce dependence on single-use plastics and provide options for communities where trust in tap water has been damaged.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE TANGMARG/GULMARG

Subject: Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax Collection contract at Municipal Committee Tangmarg/Gulmarg.

GEM FORWARD AUCTION ID 31324
For Terms and Conditions rates of vehicles please visit GEM portal and download the tender document)
NIT No: MC/TGM/2025-26/ 73 of 2026
Dated: 25/02/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, online bids are invited through the E-Auction process from reputed and financially sound Agencies, Firms, or Parties for the Collection Rights of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax under the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Tangmarg / Gulmarg initially for the year 2026-27 w.e.f 01/04/2026 to 31/03/2027 (Extendable by one more year if Terms & Conditions/Payment Schedule is fulfilled Strictly).The Minimum reserved bid for initial first year i.e. 01/04/2026 to 31/03/2027 is fixed at rupees 27340000/- (Rupees two Crore Seventy three lack forty thousand) and shall be further extendable for one more year viz; 2027-2028 (i.e 01/04/2027 to 31/03/2028) with 10% increase on compound basis (i.e. H1 bid price of 1st year plus 10% increase on the H1 Bid amount shall be the auction amount for the 2nd year) subject to strict adherence to terms, conditions and timely receipt of payments every successive year.

1	Pre-Qualification Submission Start Date & Time (Documents)	26/02/2026 from 10:30 PM
2	Pre-Qualification Submission End Date & Time (Documents)	06/03/2026 up to 11:00 PM
3	Pre-Qualification assessment Start Date & Time	07/03/2026 from 11:30 AM
4	Pre-Qualification assessment End Date & Time	09/03/2026 up to 11:00 PM
5	EMD Payment Start Date & Time	10/03/2026 from 10:00 AM
6	EMD Payment End Date & Time	11/03/2026 up to 3:00 PM
7	Auction Start Date & Time	12/03/2026 from 10:30 AM
8	Auction End Date & Time	13/03/2026 at 12:30 PM

Documents required: -

- GST certificate and Latest GST return not more than 2 months old.
- Pan Card and Income tax Return filed, latest, last 3 quarters of the year
- Employees Provident Fund Organization registration certificate.
- Valid Proof of Turnover minimum 2.5 crore last two years
- Minimum 2 years' Experience of Similar trade (Adda entry/ Parking contracts) certificate/NOC to be provided from department where last such contract held.
- Latest Character Certificate from Police Station of Residence.
- Sworn affidavit, that the bidder is not black listed/barred by any other department.
- Affidavit for Bid Security and bid form

This Notice is issued for informational purposes only. However, the Tender Document shall be legally binding and shall govern the conduct of the auction.

DIPK-NB-3433/25
dated: 25-02-2026

Sd
Executive Officer
Municipal Committee
Tangmarg/Gulmarg

Government of UT Jammu & Kashmir

Office of The Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Kulgam

Phone: 01931-260028 Email: ceo.kulgam@jk.gov.in

Subject: Registration of private Cesspool tankers/suckers in Municipal Council Kulgam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all private Cesspool Tankers/Suction Machines owners/drivers/contactors operating within the municipal limits of Kulgam town that they shall register themselves with this office within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.
Any vehicle owner, contractor, agency, or individual found operating a Cesspool Tanker/Suction Machine within the municipal limits without obtaining proper registration from this office shall be liable for appropriate action as warranted under the relevant laws and regulations.

Failure to comply with this notice shall invite strict action.

No.MC/Kgm/191-93
DIPK-NB-3434/25
Dated: 25-02-2026

Chief Executive Officer,
Municipal Council, Kulgam.

KO
NEWS & UPDATES

YouTube

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 29 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

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Revised I-T Forms Seek Rent Details to Claim Tax Benefits

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government has come out with draft income tax forms that seek disclosure of tenant-landlord relationship for claiming I-T deductions and increased responsibility of auditors and companies for tax credit claims on foreign income.

The draft forms also propose to entrust auditors with greater responsibility for checking PAN duplication and tax liability arising out of adverse audit observation.

The new Income Tax Act, 2025, which replaces the six-decade-old law, will come into effect from April 1, 2026.

The government has circulated draft Rules and Forms for stakeholder consultation. The final Rules and Forms will be notified next month.

The new Form 124 requires disclosure of a relationship, if any, between a tenant (assessee) and a landlord, which tax experts said could act as a meaningful deterrent against fictitious or inflated rental claims, as it introduces transparency at the first point of reporting itself.

An assessee claiming House Rent Allowance (HRA) is required to submit a declaration to the employer with regard to the rent estimated to be paid during the fiscal. Under the new Form 124, the assessee will also have to indicate the relationship with the landlord.

"From a governance perspective, even with this new disclosure, genuine arrangements



would remain protected, while artificial claims, unsupported by ownership or genuine payments, could be identified with greater precision and, where warranted, disallowed," Nangia Global Advisors, Partner, Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said.

The draft forms also propose to enhance the responsibility of auditors as well as the companies with regard to the disclosure of tax credit claims on foreign income.

As per the proposed Form 44 pertaining to 'Statement of income from a country or specified territory outside India and Foreign Tax Credit (FTC)', accountants would have to independently examine foreign tax withholding certificates, payment proofs, exchange rate conversions, and treaty eligibility conditions, such as beneficial ownership and tax residency status, for a valid claim of FTC.

Jhunjhunwala said this provision would create challenges in cases where foreign jurisdictions issue consolidated tax statements without income-wise breakups, where taxes are paid in a different financial year than the income is offered in India, or where foreign tax assessments are provisional.

Silver, Gold Rise As Safe-Haven Demand Strengthens On Global Uncertainty

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Precious metal prices increased up to 2 per cent in the national capital on Wednesday, with silver rising to Rs 2.77 lakh per kilogram, and gold advancing to Rs 1.64 lakh per 10 grams, tracking strong global trends and sustained safe-haven buying.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal jumped Rs 5,900, or 2 per cent, to Rs 2,77,900 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 2,72,000 per kg.

Extending its gains for the fifth consecutive session, gold of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 1,000, or nearly 1 per cent, to Rs 1,64,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 1,63,200 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

"Gold held on to moderate gains on Wednesday as persistent uncertainty over US trade policy and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continued to drive safe-haven flows into precious metals," Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

He added that ongoing tariff-related uncertainty, along with US President Donald Trump's renewed threats of higher duties, has kept financial markets on edge and reinforced investor



demand for defensive assets such as gold.

In the international market, spot silver gained USD 3.13, or 3.59 per cent, to USD 90.30 per ounce, while gold was trading nearly 1 per cent higher at USD 5,181.46 per ounce.

"Spot gold has recovered most of its losses incurred on Tuesday's selloff which was induced by positive risk sentiment and a firmer US dollar," Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities and Currencies, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

Meanwhile, the US and Iran are scheduled to hold the third round of talks in Geneva on Thursday.

Renisha Chainani, Head of Research at Augmont, said the ongoing diplomatic engagement between Washington

and Tehran and uncertainty surrounding Iran's nuclear programme continue to embed a geopolitical risk premium in global markets supporting bullion prices further.

US Imposes 126% Countervailing Duty On Select Indian Solar Imports

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The US has announced a preliminary countervailing duty of 125.87 per cent on imports of certain Indian solar goods, alleging that these products are unfairly subsidised by New Delhi.

The US has also announced different duties on the imports of 'Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, Whether or Not Assembled into Modules' from Indonesia and Laos.

"On February 24, 2026, the US Department of Commerce announced its preliminary affirmative determinations in the countervailing duty investigations of crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, whether or not assembled into modules (solar cells), from India, Indonesia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Laos)," a US order has said.

These duties are over and above the 10 per cent tariffs announced by the Donald Trump administration on all countries from February 24.

According to the order, solar imports from India into the US increased to USD 792.6 million in 2024 from USD 83.86 million in 2022.

"Unless postponed, the final determination in these CVD (countervailing duty) investigations are currently scheduled to be issued on July 6, 2026. Commerce (department) is also conducting current anti-dumping duty investigations of solar cells from India, Indonesia, and Laos," it said.

Countervailing duties help companies to protect them from increase in subsidised



imports. India is taking a series of measures to promote renewable energy production in the country and reduce its import dependence. Solar energy is one of the key components in this.

India is the world's third-largest solar power producer.

According to an official statement, India's solar manufacturing sector includes key components like solar modules, solar PV cells, ingots and wafers. Producing these within the country supports the domestic economy and reduces dependence on imports.

To boost domestic manufacturing, the government has made it mandatory for projects under schemes like the Rooftop Solar Programme, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme, and CPSU Scheme Phase-II to use panels and cells made in India.

India also imposed a basic customs duty in April 2022 on imported solar cells and modules to discourage imports,

boost local manufacturing and reduce reliance on foreign suppliers.

Under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing of high-efficiency solar PV (photo-voltaic) modules, letters of award have been issued for setting up around 48.3 GW of fully/partially integrated solar PV module manufacturing units in the country.

Under the scheme, around 26.6 GW of solar PV modules, 10.5 GW of solar PV cells, and around 2 GW of ingot-wafer manufacturing capacity have been set up.

A total of 55 solar parks of cumulative capacity of 39,973 MW have also been sanctioned under a scheme.

Import of solar modules in India dipped to USD 2.15 billion in 2024-25 as against USD 4.35 billion in 2023-24.

The imports from China came down to USD 1.7 billion last fiscal from USD 2.85 billion in 2023-24. The other nations from where India imports include Vietnam, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore.

Indo-US Trade Deal One-Sided, Should Be Put On Hold: Cong

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Congress on Wednesday said the Indo-US interim trade deal is distinctly one-sided and the only way forward is for India to be bold in putting it on hold, as it will be disastrous for lakhs of farmers across the country.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said it is quite extraordinary that the US has just imposed 125.87 per cent duty on imports of solar modules from India.

"What does this say of President Trump's commitment in letter and spirit to the India-US trade deal, so much praised and applauded by his good friend in New Delhi as opening doors for India's exports to the US?" he asked.

"Actually, the deal is distinctly one-sided. India's imports from the US will be freed up but exports to the US will be subject to the whims and fancies of the US president.

"There is only way forward. India must be bold and put the deal on hold. The deal as



it stands will be singularly disastrous for lakhs and lakhs of farmers across the country," Ramesh said in his post.

The remarks came a day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Indo-US interim trade deal was sealed "under pressure" and dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scrap the agreement for being "anti-farmer", following a US Supreme Court ruling that the President's Trump's tariffs were illegal.

Addressing the 'Kisan Mahachaupal' rally in Bhopal on Tuesday, Gandhi, the leader of

opposition in the Lok Sabha described the agreement as "an arrow in the heart of farmers".

"After the US Supreme Court ruling on the trade deal (global tariffs), I challenge PM Modi to scrap it if he has courage...but he won't be able to do so," said the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Earlier this month, the US Supreme Court ruled that the tariffs imposed by the president on nations around the world were illegal and that he had exceeded his authority when he imposed the sweeping levies.



Zero Tolerance Policy Against Illegal Mining In J&K: Dy CM

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday reiterated the Government's firm commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining across Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that strict action will be taken against violators as well as the negligent officials.

During an inspection of the riverbed area near the 4th Bridge over River Tawi, the Deputy Chief Minister took serious note of mining activities allegedly being carried out in violation of established norms.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by Director Mining, Chief Engineer PWD, ADC Jammu, ASP South Jammu and other senior officers.

Taking serious note of mining issues near the bridge, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the Chief Engineer, PWD, to register a formal complaint and lodge an FIR to ensure stringent legal action against those involved.

"Presently, all mining blocks are non-functional and no extraction activity should be allowed. Any operation within this prohibited zone is illegal and will invite strict action," the Deputy Chief Minister stated.

He emphasized that, as per the existing mining regulations, no extraction is permitted within 500 meters

upstream or downstream of a bridge. "This is very unfortunate that mining activities are carried out under the bridge and the concerned have failed to take action. We have adopted a zero-tolerance approach and will not allow such unlawful operations," he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister informed that the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, who serves as Chairman of the District Task Force on Mining, along with the Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu and the District Mineral Officer (DMO), have been directed to ensure strict enforcement of mining regulations.

He made it clear that no vehicle shall be allowed to transport mining material without valid documentation.

He further directed the immediate seizure of vehicles involved in illegal transportation, imposition of penalties and prompt initiation of appropriate legal proceedings against the violators.

Expressing concern over reports of extraction from non-functional or unauthorized blocks, the Deputy Chief Minister ordered that responsibility be fixed and accountability ensured. He reiterated that mining can only be undertaken in duly identified and approved blocks after completion of all required formalities.

'NSE Global Platform To Allow Investors To Trade Across 30 World Markets'

Press Trust Of India



AHMEDABAD- Indian investors will be able to trade across 30 global markets via a global access platform, the Chief Managing Director and CEO of NSE IX, Balasubramaniam V, said on Wednesday.

The NSE IX (National Stock Exchange International Exchange) global access platform is currently in a soft-launch phase, with the US being the first market to go live. Access to additional global markets is expected to be rolled out before the end of 2026, he said.

In an interaction with reporters, V. Balasubramaniam outlined how the new platform available in browser and application formats, will allow retail investors to complete digital KYC in under a minute using PAN-based authentication.

Once verified, investors can remit funds to a designated account in GIFT City, where NSE IX has tied up with a foreign broker that maintains a backup account structure. The Indian trader will not need a demat account to trade on the global access platform, he added.

After funds are remitted,

within the USD 250,000 annual limit permitted under the Reserve Bank of India's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), investors will see their trading limits reflected on the app.

They can then create multiple watchlists and begin placing buy and sell orders in global stocks, he said.

Initially, the focus is on US markets, which account for over 95 per cent of outbound investments by Indian residents. Investors can add leading global companies such as NVIDIA, Apple and Microsoft to their watchlists and trade in dollar-denominated assets, Balasubramaniam said.

The platform supports value-based or fractional investing, enabling investors to purchase a portion of a high-priced stock rather than a full share. For instance, even if a stock trades at several hundred dollars, an investor can buy exposure worth as little as \$5, with the fractional holding reflected in the portfolio.

IRDAI Member Asks Insurers to Make Policies More Affordable

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA- The insurance industry must rein in customer acquisition costs and overall management expenses to improve profitability and make products more affordable, a senior IRDAI official said on Wednesday.

Addressing the "InsureInd" organised by CII here, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) member (Non-Life) Deepak Sood said high distribution and administrative costs have locked the sector into a "low-penetration, high-cost" cycle, limiting its ability to expand coverage.

"The high cost of acquisition and high expenses of management (EoM) need immediate focus from all players. That is critical to improve profitability and deliver affordability and value to customers," Sood said.

He urged insurers to evaluate the value delivered across products, channels and business lines.

His comments assume significance as the Economic Survey for FY26 flagged rising acquisition and ad-

ministrative expenses as a structural constraint for the sector, noting that a high-cost distribution model has kept insurance penetration low despite steady premium growth.

Sood said the industry must prioritise solutions to make health insurance affordable for the "missing middle" households that are neither affluent nor covered under government-backed schemes such as Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

Many in this segment struggle to secure adequate health cover, he noted.

The regulator, he said, has introduced multiple reforms to ease compliance and promote product innovation, including expanding the scope of the "Use and File" procedure that allows insurers to launch customer-centric products without prior approval but subject to regulatory norms.

Sood underscored that achieving universal and meaningful coverage in life, health and property insurance by 2047 would be the true measure of penetration.

Dir Agri Inaugurates Exhibition, Awareness Programme for GI-Tagged Saffron

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Wednesday inaugurated an Exhibition cum Awareness and Promotion Programme dedicated to GI-tagged Kashmir Saffron at the Agriculture Complex, Lalmandi, Srinagar.

The event was organized by the Spices Board of India, Regional Office, Srinagar (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India). It aimed to showcase the exceptional qualities of Kashmir saffron, create greater awareness among stakeholders, and promote its international market potential following the award of the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

In his inaugural address, the Director highlighted the various initiatives undertaken by the Department of Agriculture for the promotion and development of GI-tagged saffron. He reaffirmed the department's full commitment to providing technical support, guidance, and assistance to saffron farmers to improve productivity, enhance production, and

strengthen market linkages. He said that Saffron is our niche heritage crop, and Kashmir has the proud distinction of producing one of the finest and most premium saffrons

in the world. The GI tag has opened new global opportunities for our saffron, ensuring its authenticity and commanding higher value in international markets, he added. He called for a unified and collective approach among all stakeholders to further strengthen and promote the saffron sector.

The Director emphasized that the GI tag is playing a key role in enabling saffron growers to receive remunerative prices, thereby ensuring economic sustainability and long-term viability of saffron cultivation in the region.

Sartaj Ahmad Shah directed all concerned officers to ensure proactive outreach so that every saffron farmer is fully aware of the departmental schemes, programmes, and support measures available for the advancement and modernization of the saffron industry.

Stock Markets Edge Up In Volatile Trade

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty pared early sharp gains to close marginally higher in a volatile session on Wednesday as the US imposing 126 per cent import duties on Indian solar goods dampened investor sentiment and triggered profit-taking.

Retreating around 674 points from the day's high, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally ended 50.15 points or 0.06 per cent higher at 82,276.07. During the day, it jumped 731.99 points or 0.89 per cent to a high of 82,957.91.

The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 57.85 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 25,482.50. It hit a high of 25,652.60 during the day, up by around 228 points from the last close.

From the Sensex pack, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, InterGlobe Aviation, Sun Pharma, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki and Tech Mahindra were among the biggest gainers.

TCS rose by 2.14 per cent after the IT services giant asserted that it was "not

afraid" of artificial intelligence and is also fine with revenue "cannibalisation" through the deployment of AI tools by its associates. Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, Adani Ports and Eternal were among the laggards.

In the broader market, solar sector shares tanked more than 14 per cent after the US announced a preliminary countervailing duty of nearly 126 per cent on imports of certain Indian solar goods, alleging that these products are unfairly subsidised by New Delhi.

Waaree Energies tumbled 10.47 per cent, Premier Energies dropped 6.27 per cent, Vikram Solar declined 5.45 per cent and Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy dipped 1.05 per cent.

"Equities markets advanced on Wednesday, supported by positive global cues, even as risk sentiment remained cautious against the backdrop of trade-related uncertainties. Domestically, sentiment was dampened after the US Commerce Department imposed a preliminary duty of 126 per cent on solar imports from India, citing unfair manufacturing subsidies that enabled exporters to undercut US producers.

TERROR FUNDING CASE

SC Questions NIA For Referring To Shabir Shah’s Speeches Of 1990s

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned the NIA for referring to certain alleged inflammatory speeches of 1990s while opposing the bail plea of Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah in a terror funding case.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which was hearing arguments on Shah's bail plea, that there were materials, including inflammatory videos and incriminating e-mails, against Shah.

When senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for the NIA, referred to some transcripts of videos, the bench asked about the date of the speeches.

Luthra said the agency had the dates for some of the videos and they were from the 1990s. "These speeches are not a new creation. These are something which were already there, say 30 years or 35 years before today. Now, you recover them in 2019 and say that these are the inflammatory speeches," the bench said.

Luthra said there were inflammatory videos which were found from Shah's premises when his house was searched. He also said there were statements of witnesses against Shah as well.

The bench asked Luthra about the stage of trial in the case.

The senior advocate referred to the February 19 order of the trial court and said 34 witnesses were already examined.

He said now the protected witnesses would be examined during the trial.



The bench, which heard the submissions advanced by the NIA, posted the matter for March 12 when senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, who is representing Shah, would advance his rejoinder arguments.

While hearing the matter on January 13, the top court pulled up the NIA for not properly presenting its case and asked the agency to justify Shah's detention for more than six years.

It had asked the NIA to produce a couple of his speeches and other relevant facts in the case.

On September 4 last year, the apex court refused to grant interim bail to Shah in the case and issued notice to the NIA seeking its response on his plea challenging the Delhi High Court's June 12, 2025 order.

The high court refused bail to Shah in the case, observing that the possibility of his carrying out similar unlawful activities and influencing witnesses could not be ruled out.

Shah was arrested by the NIA on June 4, 2019.

In 2017, the NIA booked 12 people on allegations of conspiracy for raising funds to disrupt by way of pelting stones, damaging public property and conspiring to wage war against

the central government.

Shah was alleged to have played a "substantial role" in facilitating a separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir by inciting the general public to raise slogans in support of Jammu and Kashmir's secession, paying tribute to the family of slain terrorists or militants by eulogising them as "martyrs", receiving money through hawala transactions and raising funds via cross-LoC trade, which were allegedly used to fuel subversive and militant activities.

The high court dismissed Shah's appeal against the trial court's July 7, 2023, order refusing him bail.

It also rejected his alternative prayer seeking "house arrest", given the serious nature of the charges.

The high court noted that he was the chairman of an unlawful organisation, the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party.

It examined a table elaborating on the 24 pending cases against Shah, indicating his involvement in several criminal cases of a similar nature and related to conspiring for the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India.

Press Trust Of India

London: New rules in force from Wednesday will see the UK transition to a digital transit system, including mandatory eVisas for Indian travellers and Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for non-visa requiring visitors.

The new procedure will replace paper-based visa stickers as part of a phased programme over recent years. While the new system will still involve a physical visit to the application centre for biometric registration, it will do away with the need to leave behind the passport document during the processing period.

"I'd urge anyone wanting to travel to the UK to ensure they are travel-ready and have the right permission, to make their journey much smoother," said Mike Tapp, UK Minister for Migration and Citizenship.

It will be mandatory for visitors to the UK to have obtained digital permission to travel, which means airlines can prevent passengers from boarding planes if they do not have an eVisa, ETA or other valid documentation.

The UK government had launched the eVisa system last year, with physical documents being accepted during the transition phase up until this week.

"An eVisa cannot be lost, stolen or tampered with, and allows visa holders to instantly and securely prove their immigration rights. Switching won't change, impact or remove a customer's current rights or immigration status," the Home Office said at the time.

As part of the plans to fully digitise the UK border and immigration system, all those using a physical biometric residence permit (BRP), a passport containing a visa vignette sticker or ink stamp confirming their "indefinite leave to enter/



remain" in the country, or biometric residence card (BRC) as evidence of their immigration rights have been switched over to an entirely online UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) system.

The Home Office said it has been phasing out physical documents for several years through this transition to eVisas, with over 10 million issued to date.

All eVisa holders, including those with EU Settlement Scheme status, need to keep their UKVI account up to date with their most recent passport details to avoid travel disruption, it said.

Visitors of 85 nationalities, including nationals of the United States, Canada and France, who do not require visas, are now legally required to have an ETA when travelling to the UK.

An ETA costs 16 pounds, permits multiple journeys, and lasts for two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.

"The ETA scheme is a vital part of our work to strengthen the UK's border security,

helping to deliver a more efficient and modern service that works for both visitors and the British public," said Minister Tapp.

The Home Office said the UK's cost of an ETA is competitive and in line with other countries, including the US ESTA, which costs 40 dollars and the European Union's (EU) ETIAS, which is expected to cost 20 euros when it is implemented.

British and Irish citizens, including dual citizens, are exempt from needing an ETA but will be required to present either a valid British passport or Certificate of Entitlement when travelling to the UK.

"This is the same approach taken by other countries, including the US, Australia and Canada. At their own discretion, carriers may accept some expired British passports as alternative documentation," the Home Office said.

ETAs are also mandatory for visitors who travel to the UK to take connecting flights and go through passport control.

According to official data, since ETA was introduced in October 2023, over 19 million visitors have successfully applied, and over 383 million pounds in revenue have been raised to be re-invested in the UK's border and immigration system.

Starting Thursday, "Certificates of Entitlement" will be issued in digital format, which means that a certificate only needs to be applied for once, rather than expiring with passports.

"The enforcement of the ETA scheme is a significant step towards digitising the immigration system and paves the way for a contactless UK border in the future. The scheme also helps to keep the border secure, preventing individuals who pose a threat from entering the UK," the Home Office stated.

"Applying for an ETA through the UK ETA app is quick and easy, and the vast majority of applicants currently receive a decision automatically within minutes, ensuring that spontaneous trips to the UK remain possible.

"However, it is still recommended that visitors allow up to three working days before they plan to travel to receive their decision in time and, to account for the small number of cases that require additional review," it added.

ETA applicants are also required to provide their biographic and biometric details and answer a few questions on suitability and criminality before the authorisation is digitally linked to their passport.

The transition to eVisas is a key element of the British government's move to digitise its border and immigration system, replacing physical immigration documents with digital proof of immigration status for most new visa customers and most visa holders already

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

VP In Srinagar;

Nilofer Khan said the convocation marks a celebration of academic accomplishment and reflects the institution's commitment to quality education, research and public engagement. She said the presence of the Vice President underscores growing national recognition of the university's academic and research contributions.

Elaborate and multi layered security arrangements have been put in place across Srinagar, particularly along the Hazratbal, Nishat and Harwan axis. Senior police and civil administration officers have reviewed preparations to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

Officials said a joint team of police and Central Reserve Police Force personnel carried out searches in Abiguzar and Band House areas of the city as part of area domination and sanitization measures. The operation was conducted as a precautionary step in view of the high-profile visit.

Authorities said security arrangements across Srinagar, particularly in and around Dal Lake and adjoining localities, have been significantly strengthened. CRPF personnel have been deployed in sensitive areas, and additional checkpoints have been set up to regulate movement.

Security has also been intensified along routes leading to Kashmir University, with frisking and vehicle checks being carried out at multiple points. Surveillance has been enhanced to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

Authorities have also issued a traffic advisory for parts of Srinagar, with restrictions to remain in force from 7 AM to 2 PM on Thursday in view of the high profile programme.

Welcome, My Friend

a handshake, following which Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the airport, located 20 kilometres southeast of Tel Aviv.

"I am extremely honoured to be received by Prime Minister Netanyahu and Mrs Netanyahu at the airport. I look forward to engaging in bilateral discussions and fruitful outcomes that strengthen the India-Israel friendship", Modi said on social media.

PM Netanyahu said he and Modi share a "close personal relationship, speak often, and I believe that the deep friendship between us powerfully reflects on the ties between our two countries."

"My wife Sara and I welcomed today our good friend, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who has arrived for another historic visit to Israel," the Israeli prime minister said on 'X'.

In his pre-departure statement, Modi said he was confident that the visit will further consolidate the enduring bonds between India and Israel and set new goals for the strategic partnership.

"India and Israel share a robust and multifaceted strategic partnership that has witnessed remarkable growth and dynamism in recent years," Modi said.

"I look forward to my discussions with Prime Minister Netanyahu aimed at further strengthening our cooperation across various domains, including science and technology, innovation,

agriculture, water management, defence and security, trade and investment, as well as people-to-people ties," he said.

Modi said he and Netanyahu will also exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

"I am confident that my state visit will further consolidate the enduring bonds between the two countries, set new goals for the strategic partnership, and advance our shared vision for a resilient, innovative and prosperous future," Modi said.

The prime minister's visit assumed greater significance as it is taking place amid the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, including deteriorating ties between the US and Iran.

There has been an upswing in India-Israel ties in the last few years, including in the areas of defence, scientific research, cybersecurity and innovation.

The defence cooperation has emerged as an important pillar of the partnership between the two sides, with Israel supplying a plethora of military platforms and weapon systems to India.

Last November, during the visit of India's defence secretary to Israel, an important agreement on defence cooperation was signed.

As India is looking at developing an indigenous air defence shield called "Sudarshan Chakra", it is learnt that New Delhi would like to explore the possibility of incorporating certain elements from Israel's Iron Dome all-weather air defence system that can intercept and destroy missiles and artillery shells.

The trade and investment ties between the two sides are also witnessing steady progress.

During the visit to Israel of commerce minister Piyush Goyal in November, the term of reference (ToR) for the launch of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations between India and Israel was signed.

In September, the two sides had inked a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) to expand economic cooperation.

The people-to-people ties between the two countries are also an important aspect of the overall relations, with an over-41,000-strong Indian diaspora playing a key role in the two-way engagement.

Congress Questions

Maharashtra chief minister claimed. "Recently...US Ambassador Sergio Gor and a very high-level (US) naval admiral went to our Western (Army) Command headquarters in Chandimandir," Chavan told PTI Videos.

"So who sent them? Until now, no foreign ambassador was allowed to visit such a sensitive place," Chavan said, questioning why such a visit was allowed.

Referring to the PM's ongoing Israel visit, his second in nine years, Chavan pointed out that only two days ago India asked all its nationals to leave Iran by any means amid fears that the United States could launch military strikes against Iran.

"What was the reason to go there in such a hostile situation when no one knows what is happening?" the Congress leader asked.

Parliament and parliamentary committees

were not being kept in the loop about these things, he claimed.

J&K Govt Launches

J&K: 7303620090 and Control Room: 011-24611108 and 011-24611210.

Officials said the initiative aims to streamline communication and provide immediate guidance to families and individuals amid concerns over the situation in Iran, following advisories for Indian citizens to return home.

TET Put On

School Education as the nodal agency to conduct the TET in compliance with the apex court order. The government has also designated JKBOSE as the State School Standards Authority in the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters in Kulgam district, Itoo said the file related to TET implementation had been kept on hold. She said the government wants to assess how other states and Union Territories implement the order and on what pattern the examination is conducted.

"There was a ruling from the Supreme Court a few months ago regarding the TET. When the file came to us, we kept it on hold to see which states and UTs implement it and how," she said.

The minister noted that many teachers have served for decades and have taught students who went on to become doctors, engineers and civil servants. She said it would not be appropriate to immediately subject such teachers to a qualifying test without assessing the broader implications.

"We will not implement it immediately. Let us see the impact. As of now, there is no immediate need to conduct this test. If all other states implement it, and if there is any further development from the Supreme Court, then we will see," she said.

Referring to the recent order issued by the commissioner secretary of the School Education Department, Itoo clarified that the order would not be implemented at present.

"The Supreme Court has given two years. Jammu and Kashmir will implement the order if and when it is applied in the rest of the country," she said.

Red Fort Blast

in the explosion that rocked the national capital on November 10 last year.

The prime accused, Umer Un Nabi, was among those killed in the blast.

The NIA, which is probing the larger conspiracy behind the attack, said Zameer and Tufail were active overground workers of the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind outfit. The agency stated that sustained investigation and examination of evidence established their involvement not only in the Delhi blast conspiracy but also in other terror-related plots.

According to the NIA, the two accused were engaged in the collection and supply of arms and ammunition intended for use against the country.

The agency is conducting the investigation in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Haryana Police and other security agencies.

UK Enforces Digital Travel System, Mandatory eVisas for Indians

travel. The expressway would provide a third option, enabling Delhi-Katra travel in approximately six hours.

"We had only five to six months of effective work last year. One of the biggest challenges was retaining manpower during tense security situations. Many workers left due to safety concerns and had to be persuaded to return. Additionally, heavy rains washed away two bridges, severely disrupting supply lines," Kumar said.

Strategically, the NHAI official said, the expressway is significant for Jammu and Kashmir due to its proximity to the International Border.

"Running parallel to sensitive border areas, the corridor is expected to facilitate faster deployment and improved mobility for defence forces," he said.

Kumar said advanced segmental bridge construction technology -- a method adopted during the construction of Delhi Metro and Dwarka Expressway -- is being used in the current project.

Packages 15 and 16 along the Jammu-Samba stretch included an elevated corridor of nearly 21.5 kilometres, which posed a challenge due to heavy traffic movement. However, the target was achieved using segmental bridge construction technology without disrupting traffic, the NHAI official said.

Keeping the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra in mind, the official said, a target has been set to complete nearly 30 kilometres of the Jammu-Kathua stretch before the start of the pilgrimage later this year.

ACB Books Deputy

Search warrants were obtained from the court of the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu. ACB teams carried out searches at residential houses in Santokh Vihar and Kaluchak in Jammu, a residence at Nonial in Nowshera in Rajouri district, and business establishments including a stone crusher and a tile factory at Tutte di Khui, Bajalta in Jammu. Additional locations in Jammu were also searched based on leads that emerged during the probe.

"Incriminating documents have been recovered and seized during the searches. Further investigation is underway," the ACB said.

Reacting to the action, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary defended his brother and termed the raid revenge-driven, alleging internal rivalry within the police department.

"This fight has begun, and we will fight it legally. We have faith in India's judiciary and in many good officers in Jammu and Kashmir who will ensure justice. If Vijay Singh is wrong, he should be punished," he said.

Defending his brother's service record, Choudhary said the officer had served in militancy-affected areas including Gursai, Thanamandi, Doda and Supwal, and had earned a reputation for acting firmly against militants and criminals.

"He is an officer whose entire career reflects a consistent fight against militancy and crime. Wherever he served, he earned a name for courage and professionalism," he said, asserting that nothing incriminating would be found.

The investigation is continuing.

Altercation Clouds Dogra's Fifty as J&K Dominate Ranji

Press Trust of India

HUBBALLI: Skipper Paras Dogra made a gutsy 70, but his intentional head-butting of Karnataka substitute KV Aneesh overshadowed an otherwise solid batting performance from Jammu and Kashmir, who reached 527 for 6 at stumps on the second day of the Ranji Trophy final.

Dogra, along with keeper batter Kanhaiya Wadhawan (70) and Sahil Lotra (57 batting), all made handsome contributions as it became a real toil for the Karnataka bowlers save Prasidh Krishna (3/90 in 29 overs), who didn't make much of an impact.

However, it was 21-season Ranji veteran Dogra's boorish behaviour that surprised one and all as he was captured on camera head-butting the silly point fielder Aneesh after getting a streaky boundary when Prasidh had literally squared him up.

It wasn't clear if any of Aneesh's words would have hurt the domestic legend, who confronted Aneesh and butted Aneesh's helmet, prompting his senior teammate Mayank Agarwal to interject and stand between the two.

An animated Agarwal was seen exchanging words with Dogra as on-field umpires Rohan Pandit and Ulhas Gandhe rightly intervened. After some point, even Karnataka skipper Devdutt Padikkal was seen talking to the umpires, complaining about Dogra.

Since it was an altercation that involved touching of opponents, Dogra should face some sanctions from BCCI match referee Narayan Kutty.

The day started off well for

ting a streaky boundary when Prasidh had literally squared him up.

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The day started off well for



Karnataka as overnight centurion Shubham Pundir (121 off 247 balls) was quickly dismissed.

A flick from southpaw Pundir's

innings had 12 fours and two sixes.

Abdul Samad (61), who also had smashed his way to a half-

century on opening day, got one from Prasidh that just moved enough from length to take the outside edge.

At 307 for 4, just when Karnataka smelt an opening, veteran Dogra and J&K's find of the season Wadhawan got together to add 110 runs in 32 overs.

Prasidh, who was spitting fire with the semi-new ball and was bowling quick, was hit for some streaky boundaries behind square by Dogra and Wadhawan, who found the extra pace too hot to handle.

However, they showed a lot of temperament in not giving away the wicket to the Indian Test pacer.

They didn't score runs at a breakneck pace, but once leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal (1/130 in 33 overs) and left-arm spinner Shikhar Shetty (1/112 in 32 overs) were in operation, the

duo didn't have problems farming the strike.

While Dogra's 166-ball knock had eight fours, Wadhawan's 109-ball knock comprised nine hits to the fence.

Once Wadhawan was caught by KL Rahul in the slips off Shetty, Dogra added another 54 with Lotra, who also helped himself to a half-tonne.

With four overs left for the third new ball, Karnataka bowlers would like to keep the total below 600 and expect their batting line-up, filled with former and current Test stars to do the job for them in a game of one innings each.

Brief Scores

Jammu and Kashmir 527/6 in 156 overs (Shubham Pundir 121, Yawer Hassan 88, Paras Dogra 70, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 70, Sahil Lotra 54 batting, and Prasidh Krishna 3/90) vs Karnataka.

Dogra Set for 50% Fine Over Head-Butt Incident



Press Trust of India

HUBBALLI: Jammu and Kashmir skipper Paras Dogra is all set to be fined 50 per cent of his match fees for intentionally head-butting Karnataka's substitute fielder KV Aneesh during an ill-tempered second day of the Ranji Trophy final here on Wednesday.

While the official announcement from BCCI match referee Narayanan Kutty will only come after the end of the game, physical handling of opposition player obviously leads to sanctions and match bans. In this case, the doyen of domestic cricket is set to escape with a mild punishment.

Dogra, who had retired hurt on 9 on the opening

day, came back on the second day at the fall of J&K's third wicket, Abdul Samad.

Prasidh Krishna, who was in the midst of a fiery spell, welcomed the 41-year-old J&K skipper with a barrage of short balls and some chirping from the close-in fielders, including Aneesh, who was stationed at silly point.

In the 101st over of the innings, Dogra awkwardly fended at a fast-rising delivery from Prasidh as he was literally squared up. The ball flew through vacant third slip region for a boundary.

However, it was seen that Dogra, after drawing on-field umpires Rohan Pandit's and Ulhas Gandhe's attention, rushed towards Aneesh and gently

head-butted Aneesh, who incidentally was also wearing a helmet while fielding close-in.

An animated Mayank Agarwal ran from his position and got into the middle, getting into an argument, after which an unhappy Karnataka skipper Devdutt Padikkal was also seen talking to the umpires.

While the content of Aneesh's alleged sledging wasn't known, Dogra sought to downplay the incident by stating that it was something that happened in the "heat of the moment".

Dogra made 70 as Jammu and Kashmir finished the second day's play at 527 for 6. The J&K skipper was dismissed by leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal.

'Not a Big Thing': J&K Skipper Downplays Head-butting Incident

Press Trust of India

HUBBALLI: Jammu and Kashmir skipper Paras Dogra on Wednesday downplayed the on-field incident in which he head-butted Karnataka player KV Aneesh, saying it wasn't a "big thing" during the second day's play in the Ranji Trophy final here.

Dogra was involved in a heated exchange with substitute fielder Aneesh and head-butted him on the helmet shortly after hitting a four off Prasidh Krishna.

The J&K batter, who eventually fell for 70, was squared up by the India pacer with the ball flying past the slip cordon, which led to words being exchanged on the field.

Asked to sum up the day in which J&K seized control, reaching a massive 527/6, Dogra told reporters, "Very good, to be honest. We are in a good position."

"That's what matters for me. All that keeps happening, and especially when you are playing a final or something (like that), a bit of it happens," he said.

"It was just in a little heat of the moment. Not a big thing. Yeah, it is all settled now. That's (a hot day) a different thing and it was momentary. We started talking and chatting after that so it's all well," Dogra added.

Dogra said Jammu and Kashmir will look to bat as long as possible to force a re-



sult in the summit clash on the basis of first-innings lead.

"No, we haven't set a target, to be honest. We can get the result from the first innings lead as well so we will try to bat as long as we can," he said.

"Mostly everyone (in J&K camp) is satisfied but still we can go (bat) long. Everyone knows Karnataka is a good batting side. We would try to put as many runs as we can," Dogra said.

Dogra, who put on 110 runs for the sixth wicket with Kanhaiya Wadhawan (70), said the discussion between them was to "dig in".

"(We spoke about) having a good partnership. Let's dig in because this

time won't come again. Try to give your best and take the team in a good position," he said.

Dogra said he did a one-hour drill against short bowling before play began but refused to comment on the toil for Karnataka bowlers.

"I can't comment on all those things. But we have worked hard. We have batted really well and that's why we have put a good score on the board. I will never say anything about the bowlers," he said.

"I had a talk with Ajay Sharma sir and Dishant Yagnik, our fielding coach. In the morning (when) I came, I did a one-hour drill for it (short pitch bowling)."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN PROJECT KELLER

Subject: Provisional Selection list of Sanginis Anganwadi Workers of Poshan Project Keller and inviting of objections thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In pursuance to the Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated 28-04-2023 and approval from Mission Director Poshan J&K vide No. MD/Poshan/Estt./2025164-20283 dated 03-07-2023 and advertisement Notices was issued vide Notification No.CDPOS/POSHAN/Kel/Adv/2025-26/490-503 Dated.29-12-2025 with opening date of receipt of application forms as 03-01-2026 and closing date as 02-02-2026. General list of candidates applied and the selection list has been prepared/framed out of general list as per the criteria laid down vide Govt. Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated 28-04-2023 for 08 Sanginis Anganwadi Workers by the Selection Committee. Annexure-A and Annexure-B are the General Merit list of candidates and provisional selection list respectively of Anganwadi Workers All annexures are hereby published for information of public in general and applicants/ Candidates in particular for filing appeal/Objections if any. The appeal/Objection if any against the selection list shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer Keller against proper within 10 days (in Office Hours) from the date of publication of this notification. No objection /Appeal shall be entertained after expiry of last date of filing /Appeal/objection.

No: -CDPOS/POSHAN/Kel/2024-25/ 609-14

Dated: - 23-02-2026

Sd/-
Child Dev. Project Officer,
Poshan Project Keller

ANNEXURE -A

Merit List of Candidates applied for AWW of (AWC -Uzrampathri-B) of Ward 01 of Panchayat Halqa Arigam-B advertised vide No. CDPOS/POSHAN/KEL/ADV/2025-26/490-503 Dated 29-12-2025														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/AW H	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	22	Omaisa Jan	Ab.Majeed Ganie	unmarried	Uzrampathri	02.02.2002	12TH	446	500	89.2	Nil	Nil	89.2	
2	2	Kawsar Jan	Farooq Ahmad Sheikh	unmarried	Uzrampathri	06.12.2003	12TH	397	500	79.4	Nil	Nil	79.4	
3	17	Sabia Jan	Mohd Afzal Dar	Ajaz Ahmad Paray	Uzrampathri	02.06.1988	12TH	390	750	52	Nil	Nil	52	
4	23	Shahnaza Akhter	Manzoor Ahmad Ganie	unmarried	Uzrampathri	15.03.2000	12TH	381	500	76.2	Nil	Nil	76.2	
5	32	Simran Yousuf	Mohammad Yousuf Ganie	unmarried	Uzrampathri	01.01.2005	12TH	358	500	71.6	Nil	Nil	71.6	
6	1	Saboora Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Mir	Unmarried	Uzrampathri	05.01.2006	12TH	330	500	66	Nil	Nil	66	
7	25	Haseena Akhter	Gh.Ahmad Mir	Aqib Ahmad Khanday	Uzrampathri	02.04.1995	12TH	298	500	59.6	Nil	Nil	59.6	
8	37	Syed Qamrun-Nisa	Gh.Qadir Andrabi	Gulzar Ahmad shah	Uzrampathri	13.12.1990	12TH	356	750	47.466667	Nil	Nil	47.466667	
Merit List of Candidates applied for AWW of (AWC -Nikas-A) of Ward 07 of Panchayat Halqa Nikas advertised vide No. CDPOS/POSHAN/KEL/ADV/2025-26/490-503 Dated 29-12-2025														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/AW H	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	12	Shafia Ahad	Ab.Ahad Dar	Unmarried	Nikas	07.10.1995	12TH	432	500	86.4	Nil	Nil	86.4	
2	9	Cheshmeeda Feroze	Feroze Ahmad Dar	unmarried	Nikas	05.02.2001	12TH	362	500	72.4	Nil	Nil	72.4	
Merit List of Candidates applied for AWW of (AWC - Wosimarg-B) of Ward 10 of Panchayat Halqa Khygam advertised vide No. CDPOS/POSHAN/KEL/ADV/2025-26/490-503 Dated 29-12-2025														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/A WH	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	19	Tahira Akhter	Abdul Khaliq Wagay	unmarried	Wosimarg	21.03.2004	12TH	394	500	78.8	Nil	Nil	78.8	
2	3	Fancy Ayoub	Mohd Ayoub Dar	Unmarried	Wosimarg	21.02.2003	12TH	335	500	67	Nil	Nil	67	
Merit List of Candidates applied for A WW of (AWC -Arihal-C) of Ward 06 of Panchayat Halqa Arehal B advertised vide No. CDPOS/POSHAN/KEL/ADV/2025-26/490-503 Dated 29-12-2025														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/A WH	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	10	Snober Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Khan	unmarried	Arihal	28.07.2004	12TH	436	500	87.2	Nil	Nil	87.2	
2	4	Munazah Ahad	Ab.Ahad Bhat	Unmarried	Arihal	25.12.2004	12TH	426	500	85.2	Nil	Nil	85.2	
3	11	Humaira Bilal	Builal Ahmad Bhat	unmarried	Arihal	04.09.2003	12TH	349	500	69.8	Nil	Nil	69.8	
4	38	Iqra Ayoub	Mohd Ayoub Bhat	unmarried	Arihal	23.08.2002	12th	327	500	65.4	Nil	Nil	65.4	
5	14	Muzamil Rashid	Ab.Rashid Bhat	unmarried	Arihal	02.04.1996	12TH	236	500	47.2	Nil	Nil	47.2	
Merit List of Candidates applied for AWW of (AWC -Kanipora-B) of Ward 07 of Panchayat Halqa Manloo-A advertised vide No. CDPOS/POSHAN/KEL/ADV/2025-26/490-503 Dated 29-12-2025														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/A WH	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	6	Shugufta Shakeel	Shakeel Ahmad Thoker	unmarried	Kanipora	08.06.1998	12TH	405	500	81	Nil	Nil	81	
2	16	Aumysa Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Lone	unmarried	Kanipora	27.06.2007	13th	394	500	78.8	Nil	Nil	78.8	
3	35	Sahiba Jan	Mohammad Yaunus Bhat	Unmarried	Kanipora	20.02.2005	12TH	346	500	69.2	Nil	Nil	69.2	
4	5	Bilkeesa Maqbool	Mohammad Maqbool Dar	Unmarried	Kanipora	15.01.2002	12TH	308	500	61.6	Nil	Nil	61.6	
5	18	Jasra Jan	Farooq Ahmad Bhat	Unmarried	Kanipora	04.03.2002	12TH	290	500	58	Nil	Nil	58	
6	13	Kulsooma Jan	Gh.Hassan Ganale	Sartaj Ahmasd	Kanipora	10.03.1994	12TH	400	750	53.33333	Nil	Nil	53.33333	
7	26	Nuzhat Jan	Ab.Qayoom Mir	Raashid Rasheed	Kanipora	01.03.1993	12TH	334	750	44.53333	Nil	Nil	44.53333	
8	8	Shahida Akhter	Ab.Hamid Wagay	Mudassir Ahmad Lone	Kanipora	20.03.1991	12TH	295	750	39.33333	Nil	Nil	39.33333	
Merit List of Candidates applied for AW CDPOS IW of (AWC -Manloo-B) of Ward 04 of Panchayat Halqa Manloo -A advertised vide No. /POSHAN/KEL/ADV/2025-26/490-503 Dated 29-12-2025														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/A WH	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	15	Tabsum Ishaq	Muhammad Ishaq Malik	unmarried	Manloo	18.02.2007	12TH	402	500	80.4	Nil	Nil	80.4	
2	31	Nadiya Jan	Abdul Rashid Sheikh	unmarried	Manloo	15.01.2006	12TH	366	500	73.2	Nil	Nil	73.2	
2	36	Nida Jan	Abdul Rashid Sheikh	unmarried	Manloo	07.03.2005	12TH	360	500	72	Nil	Nil	72	
3	27	Farhana Gul	Gulzar Ahmad Malik	unmarried	Manloo	16.02.2006	12TH	357	500	71.4	Nil	Nil	71.4	
4	7	Humeera Showkat	Showkat Ahmad Sheikh	Unmarried	Manloo	03.03.2001	12TH	333	500	66.6	Nil	Nil	66.6	
5	24	Nusrat Bashir	Bashir Ahmad Shiekh	Unmarried	Manloo	05.03.1997	12TH	252	500	50.4	Nil	Nil	50.4	
6	28	Salma Jan	Gh.Nabi Bhat	unmarried	Manloo	10.03.1997	12TH	248	500	49.6	Nil	Nil	49.6	
7	41	Rafia Jan	Bashir Ahmad Shiekh	unmarried	Manloo	12.03.1997	12TH	246	500	49.2	Nil	Nil	49.2	
Merit List of Candidates applied for A WW of (AWC -Chaygand CDPOS/POSHA N/KEL/A D V/2025 of Ward 06 of Panchayat Halqa Dumpora advertised vide No. -26/490-503 Dated 29-12-2025														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/A WH	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	21	Neelofar Jan	Bashir Ahmad Khan	unmarried	Chaygund	01.03.1994	12TH	350	500	70	Nil	Nil	70	
2	34	Rezwana Ayuob	Mohd Ayoub Khan	Unmarried	Chaygund	30.09.2001	12TH	313	500	62.6	Nil	Nil	62.6	
3	20	Aasiya Jan	Bashir Ahmad Wagay	unmarried	Chaygund	26.02.2006	12TH	276	500	55.2	Nil	Nil	55.2	
4	33	Masarat Jan	Mohd Ayoub Khan	unmarried	Chaygund	10.01.1992	12TH	237	500	47.4	Nil	Nil	47.4	
Merit List of Candidates applied for AWW of (AWC -Gujerbasti-A) of Ward 03 of Panchayat Halqa Naserpora advertised vide No. CDPOS/POSHAN/KEL/ADV/2025-26/490-503 Dated 29-12-2025														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/A WH	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	40	Dilshada Akhter	Noor Hussain Kals	Zubair Ahmad Kalas	Gujerbasti-A	01.03.2006	12TH	330	500	66	Nil	Nil	66	
2	39	Naseema Akhter	Ghulam Jeelani Kalas	Zubair Ahmad Deedad	Gujerbasti-A	08.12.2002	12TH	254	500	50.8	Nil	Nil	50.8	
ANNEXURE-B														
S.No.	Index No	Name	Parentage	Husband	Residence	DOB	Qualifica-tion	Marks Obtained (12th)	Maximum Marks (12th)	Percentage (12th)	Whether Belong To retired Family of AWW/AW H	2 percent Points -Belong To family of retired AWW/AWH	Total points	Remarks
1	22	Omaisa Jan	Ab.Majeed Ganie	unmarried	Uzrampathri	02.02.2002	12TH	446	500	89.2	Nil	Nil	89.2	
2	12	Shafia Ahad	Ab.Ahad Dar	Unmarried	Nikas	07.10.1995	12TH	432	500	86.4	Nil	Nil	86.4	
3	19	Tahira Akhter	Abdul Khaliq Wagay	unmarried	Wosimarg	21.03.2004	12TH	394	500	78.8	Nil	Nil	78.8	
4	10	Snober Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Khan	unmarried	Arihal	28.07.2004	12TH	436	500	87.2	Nil	Nil	87.2	
5	6	Shugufta Shakeel	Shakeel Ahmad Thoker	unmarried	Kanipora	08.06.1998	12TH	405	500	81	Nil	Nil	81	
6	15	Tabsum Ishaq	Muhammad Ishaq Malik	unmarried	Manloo	18.02.2007	12TH	402	500	80.4	Nil	Nil	80.4	
7	21	Neelofar Jan	Bashir Ahmad Khan	unmarried	Chaygund	01.03.1994	12TH	350	500	70	Nil	Nil	70	
8	40	Dilshada Akhter	Noor Hussain Kals	Zubair Ahmad Kalas	Gujerbasti-A	01.03.2006	12TH	330	500	66	Nil	Nil	66	

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