29th year OF PUBLICATION

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J&K Braces For Rain, Snow; Temps To Plunge

- Widespread precipitation likely across J&K on November 12-13
- Day temperatures may drop by 6-8°C; traffic disruption feared on key mountain passes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness fresh spells of rain and snowfall from November 10 onwards, with an intense Western Disturbance expected to bring widespread precipitation across the Union Territory on November 12 and 13.

According to the latest forecast issued by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the weather system is likely to bring light to moderate rainfall in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds at isolated places.

"Day temperatures are expected to fall by 6-8 degrees Celsius during the period," the forecast stated.

Director of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said | More on P6





AUTUMN HUES: Chinar leaves carpet Srinagar's waterways as boatmen work to clear the floating foliage. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

JKBOSE Class 10, 11, 12 Results By Jan 10

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) is targeting January 10 for the declaration of Class 10, 11 and 12 examination results, with the Board making efforts to complete the evaluation process within the proposed timeline.

JKBOSE Chairman Ghulam Hassan Sheikh said the Board would try to announce the results of all three classes by January 10, following the completion of the ongoing examinations.

"After the last paper, it takes around 8 to 10 days to conduct practical examinations and examinations for vocational subjects. We will try to declare the results of all classes by January 10," Sheikh told reporters on the sidelines of a function.

However, he cautioned that certain factors could affect the timeline, making it difficult to give a 100 per cent assurance regarding the proposed date.

Providing an update on the ongoing | More on P6

India's Strength Lies In Harmony Of Diverse Faiths: LG

Says Cultural Heritage Must Be Passed on to New Generation

Observer News Service



Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said Uttarakhand's cultural and spiritual diversity reflects India's strength, describing the Himalayan state as an embodiment of the country's rich civilisational heritage.

Speaking at a function organised at Lok Bhavan to celebrate the 26th Foundation Day of Uttarakhand, the Lieutenant Governor extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of the state.

Describing Uttarakhand as both "Devbhoomi" and "Veerbhoomi", Sinha said its spiritual traditions, cultural heritage and contribution to national service hold a special place in India's history.

Paying tribute to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he recalled his visionary leadership and commitment to the creation of Uttarakhand, saying Vajpayee had understood the long-standing aspirations of the people of the hill region and transformed them into reality.

Referring to the state's revered pilgrimage sites, including Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, Sinha said they represent India's cultural continuity and civilisational identity.

"In the caves of the Himalayas, our sages and seers kindled the light of knowledge. On its peaks, the tradition of austerity flourished, and in its valleys flowed the streams of devotion, compassion, and humanity," he said.

Emphasising the significance of the Ganga, the Lieutenant Governor said the river was not merely a water body but a symbol of India's cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and life-giving values.

He called upon the younger generation to recognise the importance of preserving the purity and uninterrupted flow of the river, describing it as both an environmental and moral responsibility.

Highlighting Uttarakhand's inclusive spiritual heritage, Sinha referred to Hemkund Sahib, Gurudwara Meetha Reetha Sahib and the Mindrolling Monastery as symbols of harmony, coexistence and mutual respect among different faiths.

Quoting the ancient Vedic expression "Ekam sad vipra bahudha | More on P6

Diwali Night Fire Guts Jammu Market

Blaze breaks out on Diwali night; traders allege delayed firefighting response, demand accountability



Observer News Service

Jammu: A massive fire gutted around 15 shops at the historic Warehouse Nehru Market in Jammu late Sunday night, prompting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to direct the administration to provide immediate relief to the affected traders.

The blaze broke out around 9.15 pm at one of the shops in the market, one of Jammu's oldest wholesale hubs for foodgrains, edible oil, essential commodities and other daily-use items, and quickly spread to adjoining establishments.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department said the presence of edible oil in the shops contributed to the rapid spread of the flames.

No casualties were reported in the incident, which occurred amid widespread bursting of firecrackers on Diwali. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Fire tenders from several stations | More on P6

Who Will NC Field After Ruhullah? Salman Sagar In Focus

Agencies

Srinagar: The ruling National Conference (NC) is seriously considering fielding senior party leader Salman Sagar as its candidate for the by-election to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, sources disclosed.

Sources said that the party leadership is considering nominating Salman, who is currently serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Hazratbal constituency, as its candidate for the Srinagar parliamentary seat.

"A final decision is yet to be taken, but Sagar has emerged as the frontrunner for the prestigious parliamentary seat," the sources said.

Known for his organisational skills, Salman enjoys significant support in parts of Srinagar. His family has a long-standing association with National Conference.

Salman,a former Mayor of Srinagar, won the 2024 Assembly election from the Hazratbal segment by defeating PDP's Asiea Naqash by a margin of 10295 votes. While Salman secured | More on P6

NGT Flags Missing Data On Kashmir Wetlands, Seeks Fresh Assessment

KO Web Desk



Srinagar: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (J&KPCC) to submit a fresh report on the condition of wetlands in Kashmir, after finding that crucial details about their actual existing area were missing from the report placed before it.

The Tribunal observed that while the J&KPCC had provided details of the recorded revenue area of wetlands, it had failed to disclose their actual existing area. It directed the committee to obtain the missing information and submit a comparative statement showing the revenue area and existing area of each wetland.

The directions were issued while hearing a matter concerning the protection of wetlands in Kashmir, including a suo motu case based on a news report highlighting the shrinking and disappearance of lakes and wetlands in Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, along with Expert Members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, directed the J&KPCC to file the updated report at least a day before the next hearing scheduled for February 26, 2027.

The Tribunal noted that the J&KPCC had submitted a report on October 1, 2026, covering 27 wetlands measuring more than one hectare and located outside forest areas. However, the information was incomplete, with details from some districts still awaited.

According to the report, information on wetlands was pending from the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Kupwara. The Member Secretary of the J&KPCC informed the Tribunal that an updated report would be submitted after receiving the requisite details from the two districts.

The report | More on P6

No Unnecessary Charges

New Education Minister Warns Pvt Schools

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Shamima Firdous on Monday warned private schools against imposing unnecessary charges on parents, saying the government would ensure proper audits and accountability of institutions violating prescribed fee norms.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, the minister said the government would not allow private educational institutions to place an additional financial burden on parents through miscellaneous or unauthorised charges.

"There will be a proper audit and accountability will be enforced against those violating the government norms. We won't allow any private school to impose an unnecessary burden on parents," she said.

On the distribution of free textbooks, Firdous said the process had begun in Srinagar district, with books being supplied to educational zones for further distribution among students.

"We started supplying textbooks to the educational zones of Srinagar district today and the concerned officials in those zones will ensure distribution of free textbooks at the earliest," she said.

She maintained that there was no shortage of textbooks and said the government had initiated the distribution process at an appropriate time compared to previous years.

"There is no shortage of textbooks. In fact, we have started distributing the free textbooks at the very appropriate time in comparison to the previous years," the minister said.

The remarks come amid complaints from parents about miscellaneous charges and other | More on P6

Kargil To Shut Down Today Over Winter LAHDC Polls



Press Trust Of India

Leh: The agitating groups in Ladakh on Monday opposed holding LAHDC elections during winter months and demanded a review of the recently concluded delimitation exercise, and announced a complete shutdown in Kargil and a candlelight march under the banner of 'Save Democracy' on November 10.

They also warned of a sustained agitation, citing alleged government apathy towards Ladakh's demands, a lack of progress in the ongoing dialogues with the Centre, delays in delivering justice to those killed and injured in the September 2025 firing, and alleged attempts to undermine the region's democratic voice and suppress public movements.

The administration has completed delimitation of 100 constituencies across Ladakh's eight districts and approved 33 per cent reservations for women.

The final | More on P6

Moving Backgrounds Keep Kids Watching, But Not Necessarily Learning: Study

Press Trust Of India

Visual motion acts as a powerful perceptual driver of children's screen retention but that attention is directed largely towards moving background rather than the educational content, a new study has found.

According to the study by the Indian School of Business (ISB), as children's digital media consumption reaches record levels globally, understanding what sustains young viewers' attention on platforms like YouTube has become a critical challenge for parents, educators, and content creators.

The study "Attention Trap? How Visual Motion Shapes Children's Screen Time and Engagement on Video Platforms" conducted with researchers from US's Santa Clara University examines how visual motion affects children's screen time and engagement, drawing on an analysis of over 32,000 YouTube videos marked "made for kids", a randomised experiment, and an eye-tracking study involving children aged 6-10.

Co-authored by Sumeet Kumar and Madhu Viswanathan at ISB and Ravi Bapna at Santa Clara University, the study has been published in Information Systems Research.

The analysis found that a 10 per cent increase in visual motion was associated with approximately 1.1 per cent more views across the videos studied, even after accounting for other audio, visual, emotional and textual features.

In a randomised experiment, educational videos with added background motion recorded higher view rates, with increases of 1.6 pc for medium motion and 2.0 pc for high motion compared with versions without added motion.

"Motion is a powerful design lever, but it must be used intentionally. Rather than maximising continuous stimulation throughout a video, creators should use targeted motion to facilitate attention recovery during moments where attention drift is most expected," said Madhu Viswanathan, Associate Professor of Marketing.

"While visual motion keeps children attached to the screen, our research does not show that screen retention automatically translates into improved focus on learning content. More work may be needed to explore this," he added.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, KASHMIR
Health Secretariat, Bemina Bypass, Srinagar-190018
E-mail: dhsk-pa@jk.gov.in Website: www.Dhskashmir.org.
Tel. No: 0194-2493712, 0194-2493711

Subject: 3rd Tentative Seniority List of Sup. X-Ray Technician Division Cadre Kashmir.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, First Tentative Seniority List of Sup. X-Ray Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) working under the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has been prepared on the basis of available service records maintained in this Directorate and information furnished by the subordinate offices and circulated for information of all the concerned.
Whereas, representations regarding 1st Tentative Seniority List of Sup. X-Ray Technicians received from various officials have been examined and requisite corrections wherever found justified have been incorporated at the appropriate places and accordingly the 2nd Tentative Seniority List of Sup. X-Ray Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir), was circulated for the information of all concerned and for inviting objections, if any within the stipulated period.
Whereas, representations regarding 2nd Tentative Seniority List of Sup. X-Ray Technicians received from various officials have been examined and requisite corrections wherever found justified have been incorporated at the appropriate places.

Accordingly, the 3rd tentative Seniority List of Sup. X-Ray Technicians (Divisional Cadre Kashmir), annexed to this notification as Annexure-A, is hereby circulated for information of all the concerned and for inviting objections, if any. Further all the concerned Sup. X-Ray Technicians are advised to carefully verify their particulars.
In case of any discrepancy, the concerned official may submit a representation duly supported with documentary evidence through proper channel to this Directorate within a period of five (05) days from the date of issuance of this notification.
No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained and no claim shall be considered without supporting documentary proof.
The date(s) of birth and category status of the officials recorded in the Seniority list shall not be treated as authentic for all purposes and shall remain subject to further verification with reference to the service records/Matriculation certificates issued by the competent authorities concerned.

No: DHSK/NG/Est-4th/E-7915296/6062-95.

Sd/-
Director Health Services
Kashmir

DIPK-7506/26
Dated: 09.11.2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT INFORMATION OFFICER ANANTNAG
Ph. /Fax: 01932-464427 Email: infdic-ang@jk.gov.in

Short Term Quotation

For and on the behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, short term quotations are hereby invited from production houses, videography agencies, private vendors, firms, agencies, groups etc for provision of videography services during the examination to be conducted by J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for the post of Accounts Assistant (Finance Department) in District Anantnag on account of requisition made by office of the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag vide DCA/Misc/2026/2188-97 dated 07.11.2026. The examination is scheduled to be held as per schedule mentioned as below:

S.No.	Date	Tentative Requirement of Videographers (No.)
1.	15.11.2026	Forty Eight (44)

There might be a requirement of additional/fewer number of videographers than this, depending upon the final requirement of the administration. Keeping in view the urgent nature of this assignment, these quotations must reach the office of the District Information Officer Anantnag by 12.11.2026 up to 02.00 PM sharp. The quotations received will be opened on 12.11.2026 at 03.30 PM in the office of the undersigned. The bids shall be submitted on a Lowest Cost Method basis (highest discount in percentage terms on the J&K Services Selection Board approved rates per videographer per day).

The format for submission of bids (on the letterhead) is:

Item	Percentage Discount offered on the J&K Services Selection Board Approved Rates (in percent terms)
Videography charges per videographer per day	

General Instruction, Terms & Conditions:

1. The agency/bidder shall be required to videograph the critical and important events and processes related to examination throughout the district Anantnag at the designated examination centres.
2. The Bidder should have sufficient manpower/capacity to cover all such activities.
3. The videographers shall be assigned to duties as per schedule, timing, requirement, need and discretion of the district administration/ JKSSB.
4. Payment will be made per videographer basis. No additional payments for TA/DA/conveyance charge etc are permissible.
5. The bidders shall ensure that the footage recorded is good in quality preferably High Definition and shall include audio as well. Deduction from the payable amount will be made if the recordings are found in unsound condition, which may go as far as no payment.
6. The videographer shall submit the unedited memory card/Storage device containing video footage in good quality including date, time and location to the officer/authority designated in this regard for storage and backup on
a daily basis. The agency shall ensure to keep a backup of the video footage at their own level.
7. Assigned videographers shall not leave the station and shall remain available whenever called for duty.
8. The bidder shall ensure that videographers assigned are capable & competent. A declaration shall be furnished by the bidder to this effect in the prescribed format.
9. In case of any technical or other problem w.r.t. either videographer or video camera or equipment, the same will be replaced by the agency from their reserve teams.
10. The videography shall strictly be done by video camera/ DSLR and as such the successful bidder shall arrange necessary & complete equipment including camera, batteries, tripod stands, storage cards etc.
11. The successful bidder must ensure that the videographers engaged shall not use mobile phones/ handsets inside examination halls or any other critical place associated with the examination process
12. The successful bidder must submit the footages within one day after culmination of the examination and the videographers engaged must not share the videographic content of the examination and other critical processes with any person, agency, platform etc anytime in future.
13. The successful bidder must ensure that the videographers engaged shall maintain the secrecy and privacy of the process and don't share the videographic content with any person/ agency/platform during the course of examination.
14. The office shall evaluate all the bids and will reserve the right to accept or reject any bid/Quotation without assigning any reason.
15. The office reserves the right to include or exclude any of the conditions in the Bid document keeping in view the requirements of the examination process.
16. The criteria used to finalize the successful bidder shall be the sole discretion of the department.
17. Preference shall be given to qualified bidders from the district Anantnag as the examination process involves continuous duty throughout the duration of the examination at late/odd times or hours and also at emergent/urgent requisition of the authorities, which can be fulfilled generally only by local videographers. This is to ensure that requirements of examination can be fulfilled in an effective, smooth and transparent manner.
18. Successful bidders will have to submit a Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) of Rs. 2000/-(Two Thousand) in the form of Demand Draft/FDR duly pledged in the name of District Information Officer Anantnag within one (01) day of receiving the work order and shall then be released on successful completion of the assignment.
19. The allotted rate (Govt. Approved rate, highest discounted) shall be inclusive of GST and any other charges. This RFQ or the bids received thereafter may be canceled at any stage without assigning further reasons in this regard.
20. The payment to the bidder shall be subject to the satisfactory fulfillment of above terms and conditions and other codal formalities besides receipt of funds from the requisitioning authority/appropriate authority.

DIPK-7490/26
DATED: 09-11-2026

District Information Officer
Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 5872 8965 8583 the name is entered as RAYEES AHMAD SHEIKH while my actual name is RAHEES AHMAD. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
RAHEES AHMAD
S/O SHAKOOR AHMAD SHEIKH
R/o TANGDHAR KUPWARA.
mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mohd Maqbool S/o Mohd Amin R/o Gasiyar Hawal declare that my name has been wrongly written as Mohamad Maqbool Dangroo S/o Mohamad Amin Dangroo in my adhar card.
My correct and actual name is Mohd Maqbool S/o Mohd Amin R/o Gasiyar Hawal for all future purposes and as such i am applying for my name correction in my adhar document along with publication of same in the official Gazette.
Any one having objection in this regard should contact within 7 days of publication of this notice after which no claim shall be entertained.
jml

PUBLIC NOTICE
My name has been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD ASHRAF on my Adhaar card bearing Adhaar No .. 7494 2776 9659 while my correct name is SYED MOHD ASHRAF S/O Late SYED SHARIEF DIEN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of concerned Adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name...SYED MOHD ASHRAF
S/O....Late SYED SHARIEF DIEN
R/O..KREERI BARAMULLA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Younis Ahmad Chopan S/o Gh Nabi Chopan, R/o Kawarhama, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir (UT), hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5458 8006 4542 as Mohammad Younis Chopan, instead of my correct name Younis Ahmad Chopan, which is duly recorded in my Passport. Both names refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. Now, I have applied for correction of the same in the Aadhaar records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may file the same with the concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.
Younis Ahmad Chopan
S/o Gh Nabi Chopan
R/o Kawarhama, Tehsil Kawarhama,
District Baramulla, J&K (UT). fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
The electricity connection with consumer ID: 0203040001973 registered in the name of Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar is proposed to be transferred in favour of Abid Hassan khan, Prop: sam jewellers R/o Gada bazar Zaina kadal.
If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact concerned department within 7 Days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Media Line Advt

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as AASHIYA MANZOOR While as my actual name is AYESHA MANZOOR C/O MANZOOR AHMAD MAJLOO R/O SHUMERIYAL KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
AYESHA MANZOOR
C/O :- MANZOOR AHMAD MAJLOO
R/O :- SHUMERIYAL , KUPWARA qns

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Naseeb Ali Dar S/o Ali Mohammad Dar, R/o Saraidangerpora, Sumbal, District Bandipora, hereby inform the general public that I have lost/misplaced my original 5th Class Passing Certificate issued by Government Middle School, Danderpora. Despite my best efforts, I have been unable to trace the same. Now, I have applied for a duplicate copy of the said certificate from the concerned school/authority. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may file the same with the concerned school/authority within seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.
Sd/-
Naseeb Ali Dar
S/o Ali Mohammad Dar
R/o Saraidangerpora, Sumbal,
District Bandipora. x

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KHANYAR
Subject: Issuance of Legal Heir Certificate in favour of legal heirs of deceased Mohammad Altaf Mir S/o Late Saif Ud din Mir, R/o Bus Stop Saida Kadal Rainawari, Srinagar.

NOTICE

The above titled application for issuance of legal heir certificate is under process. In this regard, a report has been obtained from the concerned Patwari which reveals that Mohammad Altaf Mir S/o Late Saif Ud din Mir, R/o Bus Stop Saida Kadal Rainawari, Srinagar, expired on 13/4/2019 as per death certificate. The deceased parents and wife have already been expired. The deceased has left behind the following legal heirs at the time of his death.
TABLE OF LEGAL HEIRS

S. No.	Name of Legal Heirs	Age/ Approx.	Relation with Deceased	Occupation/ Marital Status
1	Tasleema Akhter	50 yrs	Wife	Widow
2	Sidrah Altaf Mir	33 yrs	Daughter	Married
3	Ziya Altaf Mir	27 yrs	Daughter	Unmarried
4	Jibran Altaf Mir	24 yrs	Son	Unmarried

The applicants seek issuance of legal heirs certificate. If anyone is having any objection in this regard, he/she may intimate the office of undersigned either personally or through an authorised agent within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of said period no claim shall be entertained.
Naib Tehsildar Khanyar
inf Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have changed my name from (old name) Ajwa Abid Mattoo to (new name) Ajwa Abid . In future I will be known as (new name) Ajwa Abid.
If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Muneer Ahmad Mir S/o Mohammad Ramzan Mir, R/o Lasjan, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that I have lost the front number plate of my motorcycle bearing Registration No. JK01AP-1233 somewhere on the way. Despite my best efforts, the same remains untraceable. If anybody finds or has any information regarding the said number plate, they are requested to inform the undersigned or the concerned Police Station Nowgam, Srinagar. The undersigned shall not be responsible for any misuse of the lost number plate.
Sd/-
Muneer Ahmad Mir fko
R/o Lasjan, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Farooz Ahmad Bhat S/o Amir-ud-Din Bhat, R/o Chandibigh Narikhara, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my wallet containing the following documents:
1. Driving Licence No. JK0520260002240.
2. Aadhaar Card.
3. PAN Card.
Despite my best efforts, the wallet remains untraceable. I have now applied for duplicate copies of all the above-mentioned documents. If anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of duplicate documents, they may file the same with the concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.
Sd/-
Farooz Ahmad Bhat
S/o Amir-ud-Din Bhat
R/o Chandibigh Narikhara fko

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
(SUB OFFICE KUPWARA)
PUBLIC NOTICE



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 10TH) under Roll No. 15127418 session :-BI-Annual Year: 2020-21 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the school Against My Caste as PALA Instead of DOOM.
Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, sub Office Kupwara within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.
This is published for the information of the general public.

The correct particulars be recorded as under:-
Name:- SUHAIL AHMAD DOOM
Father's Name:- BASHIR AHMAD DOOM
Mother's Name:- HALEEMA BAGUM
Date of Birth: 16-03-1994
Residence: VILLAGAM KUPWARA
Mobile No.- 9797111747 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as TEHMINA BEGUM While as my actual name is TEHMEENA ALI C/O MOHD RAMZAN SHEIKH R/O TIKKER KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
TEHMEENA ALI
C/O :- MOHD RAMZAN SHEIKH
R/O :- TIKKER , KUPWARA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as QUMIAR ALI JAHANGIREY While as my actual name is QAMMAR ALI JANGERY C/O GULAM ALI JANGERY R/O HAYIHAMA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
QAMMAR ALI JANGERY
C/O :-GULAM ALI JANGERY
R/O :- HAYIHAMA, KUPWARA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as NASEEMA BEGUM While as my actual name is NASIMA BANO C/O AB AHAD KHAN R/O MISRI BEHAK DUDI MACHIL KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
NASIMA BANO
C/O :- AB AHAD KHAN
R/O :- MISRI BEHAK DUDI MACHIL , KUPWARA fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as AHMAD KHAN While as my actual name is AHMAD NAWSHAD KHAN C/O NAWSHAD AH KHAN R/O GONIPORA HAYIHAMA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
AHMAD NAWSHAD KHAN
C/O :- NAWSHAD AH KHAN
R/O :- GONIPORA HAYIHAMA, KUPWARA fko

Building Centre Trains Civil Engineering Students in Sustainable Construction Technologies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Building Centre Srinagar, functioning under the Housing and Urban Development Department, organised a two-day training programme-cum-workshop to familiarise budding engineers with cost-effective, eco-friendly and innovative construction technologies and materials.

Around 50 final-year Civil Engineering students from various technical institutions participated in the programme, which aimed at bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical applications in the construction sector.

The workshop focused on promoting sustainable, affordable and innovative construction techniques developed by Building Centre Srinagar, while highlighting their practical applications, structural viability and potential benefits.

During the programme, students were introduced to various low-cost housing technologies and alternative construction materials through demonstrations and practical sessions. The training also covered modular construction practices, standardisation techniques and the development of testing and quality-control facilities to ensure the durability, reliability and performance of construction materials.

Emphasis was laid on technology transfer and the need to take innovative construction solutions from laboratories to actual field applications. The initiative also sought to encourage future engineering professionals and other stakeholders to adopt environmentally sustainable and cost-effective building practices.

Project Manager, Building Centre Srinagar, Masroor Ahmad Shah, briefed the participants on the advantages, structural feasibility and practical applications of various cost-effective and eco-friendly construction materials.

Detailed technical presentations on specialised structural aspects, along with hands-on practical sessions, were also conducted to provide students with exposure to sustainable and hazard-resistant construction methodologies.

The programme provided an opportunity for aspiring civil engineers to understand emerging construction technologies and explore their role in developing affordable, durable and environmentally responsible infrastructure.

DLSA Srinagar Celebrates Legal Services Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the directions of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman DLSA (Principal District Sessions Judge), Srinagar and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized week long celebration through PLVs at their respective Free Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs, culminating with the concluding ceremony on the eve of Legal Services Day at the ADR Centre, Srinagar.

The concluding ceremony was attended by Secretary DLSA Srinagar, staff members and Para legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Srinagar.

The concluding ceremony was inaugurated by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman DLSA Srinagar, who delivered the special address, interacted with the PLVs and highlighted their significance in the discharge of legal services duties, with emphasis on the importance of free legal aid and the vital role played by Legal Services Institutions in ensuring access to justice for all.

The Chairman also sensitized the participants about various modes of dispute resolution, including pre-litigation services, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

The week long celebrations included organization of awareness programmes at Free Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs, with the aim of sensitizing the general public about the legal aid services available to them through the distribution of pamphlets highlighting Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.



Nishat Bagh draped in autumn hues, as Chinar trees paint the Mughal garden in shades of gold, copper and crimson. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Zainkote Grid Station To Be Augmented At A Cost Of Rs. 89.46 Cr

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Power Development Department (PDD), Revenue, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) and Elections, Ali Mohammad Sagar on Monday visited Zainkote and Bemina to review the power supply scenario, assess winter preparedness and inspect key power infrastructure in Srinagar.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, Managing Director JKPTCL, Managing Director KPDCL, Chief Engineers, Executive Engineers and other senior officers of the Power Development Department.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the functioning of the existing power infrastructure and stressed the need for ensuring reliable, uninterrupted and quality power supply, particularly during the winter months when electricity demand witnesses a significant increase.

At Zainkote Grid Station, the Minister was informed about the proposed major augmentation of its capacity from the existing 450 MVA to 780 MVA at an estimated cost of Rs. 89.46 crore. The project is aimed at strengthening the transmission network and meeting the growing electricity requirements of Srinagar and its adjoining areas, including Shari-Khas.

> **The Minister reviewed** the functioning of the existing power infrastructure and stressed the need for ensuring reliable, uninterrupted and quality power supply, particularly during the winter months when electricity demand witnesses a significant increase

The augmentation will also strengthen power supply to the 132/33 kV Grid Station at Waganpora and GIS Khanyar. It was informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been approved and the tendering process is scheduled to be initiated by November 10, 2026.

The Minister also inspected the 132/33 kV, 200 MVA Grid Station at Bemina, which caters to several densely populated areas of Srinagar, including Bemina, Qamarwari, Karanagar, Fatehkadal, Barbar Shah, PC Depot, JVC and adjoining localities through its associated receiving stations.

He directed the officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing and proposed works, remove operational bottlenecks and maintain close coordination to minimise power disruptions during the winter season.

The Minister also visited the Overview Data Centre at Bemina and took stock of its functioning and related infrastructure.

Emphasising the importance of strengthening the power transmission and distribution network in view of Srinagar's expanding urban landscape and rising electricity demand, Sagar called for a proactive and coordinated approach to winter preparedness. He directed the concerned officers to remain responsive to public grievances and ensure prompt resolution of power-related issues.

- 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: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR

29 Jumada al-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 32
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 54
Magrib	5: 34
ISHA	6: 56

This Day In History

- 1938 - Nobel for literature awarded to Pearl Buck (Good Earth)
- 1945 - Heavy battle in Surabaya between Indonesian nationalists and returning
- colonialists after World War II, celebrated as Heroes' Day (Hari Pahlawan).
- 1950 - Nobel for literature awarded to William Faulkner
- 1970 - Luna 17, with unmanned self-propelled Lunokhod 1, is launched
- 1975 - PLO leader Yasser Arafat addresses UN in NYC
- 1975 - UN General Assembly approves resolution equating Zionism with racism
- 1978- Israel's top negotiators broke away from Middle East peace talks
- 1979 - Train detrailment in Mississauga, Ontario; a 106 car train derails causing the evacuation of 200,000 people
- 1980 - Iraq captures southern port of Khorramshahr
- 1982 - IMF lends Mexico $3.8 billion due to threatened bankrupcy
- 1982 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened
- 1986 - Bangladeshi Constitution restored
- 1989 - Germans begin demolishing the Berlin Wall
- 1993 Slovakian government of Vladimír Me iar forms
- 1995 - In Nigeria, playwright and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa along with eight others from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mosop) are hanged by government forces
- 1996 - 46th NASCAR Sprint Cup: Terry Labonte wins
- 2001 - An agreement is reached at talks in Marrakech, Morocco, on rules for implementation of the Kyoto climate change treaty
- 2006 - Sri Lankan Tamil Parliamentarian Nadarajah Raviraj assassinated in Colombo.
- 2012 - 20 Syrian troops are killed by suicide bombings in Daara
- 2012 - 27 people are killed and dozens injured in a prison conflict in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2012 - Israeli counter strike on Palestinian militants in Gaza kills 5 and injure 30
- 2012 - 17 people are killed in a helicopter crash as a result of bad weather in Turkey
- 2012 - The final US presidential election results are declared after Barack Obama
- wins Florida to defeat Mitt Romney 332-206 in Electoral College votes

Two-Day IDA Dental Conference Concludes In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Indian Dental Association (IDA), Jammu & Kashmir State Branch, successfully organised its 17th Annual Dental Conference at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, on November 8–9, 2026, under the theme "Shaping the Future of Dentistry."

The conference was inaugurated by Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan (IAS), Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, in the presence of Dr Nighat Yasmeen, Director Health Services Kashmir; Dr A.M. Naqash, Conference Chairman; Dr Adil Rasool Malik, Organising Secretary; and Prof. Dr H.U. Malik, Conference Patron.

The two-day scientific event witnessed enthusiastic participation from eminent national and local dental experts, academicians, clinicians, postgraduate students and dental professionals. Renowned speakers from outside Jammu & Kashmir delivered insightful lectures on a wide range of contemporary dental topics, highlighting recent advancements, innovative technologies and evolving clinical practices.

The scientific sessions provided an excellent platform for academic exchange, professional interaction and knowledge sharing. Local dental practitioners and academicians also showcased their clinical expertise through case presentations, while students actively participated in scientific paper presentations, providing young dental professionals an opportunity to demonstrate their research and academic capabilities.

The Legacy Lives On

Remembering our beloved father:

Late Mr. Ghulam Rasool Mir



On this day, one year ago, 10th of November, 2025, you took your final walk to your resting place, in a manner that was so uniquely you, independent, dignified and self-reliant. You lived life on your own terms, never expecting anything from anyone, and even in your final journey, you remained true to the principles that defined you.

Mir Sahab, Papa, Dad, Daidi, Papa Ji, Bai-lala, Gulle, Paap Ji, Daidi Saeb, Jija Ji, Sahab Ji, Uncle Ji...

You were called by many names because you meant the world to so many. You bloomed throughout your Life. From being the kingmaker, visionary and creator of lives, turning ordinary beginnings into extraordinary journeys, creating jewels out of nothing.

As you would proudly say, ***"I started from Minus Zero."*** Those words were not just a description of your beginnings, they were a reflection of your courage, hardwork, determination and the extraordinary life you built through sheer willpower.

In a blink of an eye a year has passed, yet your presence surrounds us every day. We miss you in every breath and find you in every corner. Your values, wisdom, courage and the lives you transformed remain your greatest achievements.

Your legacy lives on. We promise to walk the path you showed us, uphold your principles and carry your name, values and vision forward for generations to come.

May Allah SWT grant you the highest ranks in Jannatul Firdous and shower you with his infinite mercy.

Forever loved. Forever missed. Forever our guiding light.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulshana Akhter C/o Ali Mohd Khan R/o Trikolbal, Pattan District Baramulla, do hereby notify that my correct name is Gulshana Akhter, whereas my name has been erroneously recorded as Afroza Begum in the records of Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank, Hanjiwera Pattan Branch, in respect of Account No. NF1015, due to a clerical error. Both names refer to one and the same person. My correct name Gulshana Akhter is duly reflected in my official identity documents. If anyone having any objection or claim regarding the same may kindly report/contact with concerned bank authorities within 7 days after seven days no objection will be entertained.

FKO

ازنیابت ہندوارہ(B)

مضمون:۔درخواست منجانب محمد اکبر بٹ ولد غلام رسول بٹ ساکن موضع ہندوارہ
بغرض حصول کرنے ڈپنڈنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

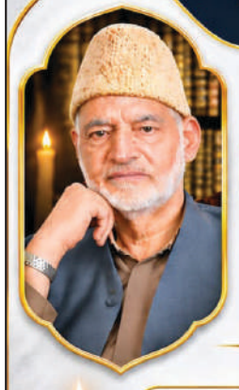
درخواست سائل نے نسبت پٹوار حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی۔مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ سائل محمد اکبر بٹ ولد غلام رسول بٹ بعید حیات موجود ہے اور سائل کا پسر خالد جہانگیر گردن کی بیماری میں مبتلا ہے اور سائل نے اوپر ڈپنڈنٹ ہے۔نیز سائل کے کنبہ میں بذیل افراد شمول ہذا ہیں:

نمبر شمار	نام افراد/ڈپنڈنٹ	عمر	پیشہ	رشتہ ہمراہ سائل
۱	خالد جہانگیر پسر محمد اکبر بٹ	34	زیر تعلیم	پسر
۲	یارس فاطمہ دختر //	28	//	دختر

علاوہ ازیں سائل کے کنبہ میں امینہ بیگم زوجہ جو کہ پیشے سے ریٹائرڈ ملازم وصوفیہ اختر دختر پیشہ سرکاری ملازم و ماجد جہانگیر پسر پیشہ تجارت ہے۔اس کے علاوہ سائل کی دو بیٹیاں فرحت اکبر و کلثوم اکبر جن کی شادی قبل ازیں از خانہ بیرون ہو چکی ہے۔اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو اس بارے میں کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اندر سات یوم دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے۔بعد گذر نے معیاد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

No:68/NTA Dt: 07/11/2026 **نائب تحصیلدار ہندوارہ**

اعلانِ فاتحہ خوانی



نہایت رنج و غم کے ساتھ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ

محترم خواجہ محمد قاسم

8 نومبر بوقت عصر جان گسل علالت کے بعد اپنی حیات مستعار پوری کر کے جان، جان آفرین کے سپرد کر گئے۔

اِنَّا لِلّٰہِ وَاِنَّا اِلَیْہِ رَاجِعُوْنَ

مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی مورخہ **11 نومبر** بروز بدھوار **صبح 7:00 بجے** ان کے آبائی قبرستان گنڈ خواجہ قاسم پٹن میں انجام پذیر ہوگی۔

مجلس تعزیت

صبح 8 بجے سے دن بھر ان کی رہایش گاہ واقعہ HIG کالونی بمنہ نزدیک مسجد انجم میں انجام پزیر ہوگی
{Housing Colony Bemina}

سوگواران

خواجہ تصدق حسین (ایڈوکیٹ) ● ڈاکٹر خواجہ تفضل حسین
و دیگر عزیز و اقارب

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KO VIEW

Rescue Existing Water

Kashmir has allowed its own springs to fill with muck while residents complain about the quality of the water piped to them.

The contradiction is the argument: a development strategy that builds supply infrastructure and ignores existing sources has misjudged what a water-stressed region needs.

The spring at Taploo Mohalla in Anchar, Soura, shows the cost.

Decades of accumulated muck left a traditional source neglected while urban demand for water kept growing. Only now has the Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation, under its Mission Ehsaas initiative and with support from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, begun restoring it.

A local organisation identified the source and mobilised residents, and the municipality supplied the machinery and institutional capacity.

That the partnership works is welcome, but that it took decades to form is an indictment, because the absence of sustained cooperation has allowed many springs, streams and channels to deteriorate while pressure on urban supplies mounted.

Khushalsar Lake supplies both a precedent and a caution.

Local mobilisation reclaimed a waterbody that had suffered years of neglect, but cleaning waste cannot secure a lake while sewage discharge, dumping and encroachment continue. Restoration without controls on pollution transfers the problem to the future. Any programme for smaller sources must absorb that lesson.

Those smaller sources are the practical place to begin.

Reconstructing buried waterways such as Nallah Mar presents considerable engineering challenges, whereas springs, fountains and streams allow immediate intervention. Restoring them could strengthen local water availability in neighbourhoods where residents have complained of impure drinking water.

The stakes are rising, because climate change is placing Himalayan water systems under mounting pressure, and population growth and higher consumption add to demand. Neglecting natural sources narrows the options open to communities precisely when options are needed.

The government should therefore commit to a coordinated programme that identifies traditional springs, assesses their condition and restores those that can be recovered. Water-quality testing, protection of catchment areas, prevention of sewage discharge and regular maintenance belong in its design.

Municipal bodies should provide technical and financial support, and local committees should monitor restored sources and stop renewed dumping.

Residents share the obligation. Communities that foul their own water sources cannot leave recovery entirely to government departments. Conservation begins with responsible waste disposal and participation in protecting shared resources.

Taploo Mohalla should become the model, and its success should be measured by the number of neglected sources reclaimed and the quality of the water they continue to provide.

A spring restored through public participation and institutional support is a practical beginning.

Kashmir needs many more such efforts, backed by a government and a society prepared to protect what remains of their water heritage.



The Apple Trade Betrayal

Local agents and outside traders are profiting from a system that leaves orchardists with little bargaining power and an unfair share of their harvest's value.



Dr. Rizwan Rumi

It begins with a knock at the orchard gate.

Traders come from outside the valley with polite smiles and sharp eyes. Beside them is a familiar face, a local trusted agent.

The agent should be a bridge. He should stand for the farmer. Instead, he often becomes the first point of loss.

Boxes are opened. Apples are inspected. "The colour is off," the agent says. "The size is too small. The market is weak this year."

Each phrase slices value from the fruit. The agent pockets a commission for himself. The orchardist watches as the sweat of his labour turns into someone else's profit.

This is a story of trust eroded. Agents were once facilitators. They helped farmers negotiate, arranged transport, and ensured smooth transactions.

Over time, facilitation turned into exploitation. The local agent now speaks the language of the trader. He measures the apple against profit, not labour, heritage, or hope.

The orchardist loses twice. First in the toil of growing. Second in the betrayal of his own community.

The fruit of the valley will sell for ten times more in Delhi or Mumbai, wrapped in cartons that do not carry the grower's name.

Traders, transporters, and middlemen climb a chain of profit built on patience, skill, and sweat. The cultivator remains at the bottom.

Once, harvests were collective. Families, neighbours, and friends worked together. Laughter echoed between the rows of trees.

Today, the orchard hums with calculation, negotiation, and resignation. Pride has been replaced with numbers. Resilience has been replaced with compromise.

The erosion goes beyond money. When intermediaries exploit their own, they corrode trust and fairness. The orchard represents inheritance, livelihood, and story. Each undervalued box diminishes dignity.

Kashmir's apple trade shows how systems can survive while people fail. Traders profit, commissions rise, boxes move fast, markets are satisfied, and yet the farmer struggles.

The sweat of decades sustains the valley's economy. The human cost remains invisible. But solutions exist.

Cooperative marketing can empower growers to negotiate as equals. Government-backed farmer unions can protect rates and ensure transparency.

Digital platforms can connect growers directly to national and international buyers. Cold storage chains can give farmers the freedom to wait for fairer prices. Shared transport networks can reduce dependency on middlemen.

Technology alone will not fix what has been broken. Systems must align with values. Agents should act in service of fairness, not personal gain.

Traders should recognize the human labour behind each box. Farmers should step out of the shadows and take control of markets.

The orchard is a heirloom passed from parent to child. It is knowledge written in soil, frost, and rainfall. When agents undervalue fruit for commission, they corrode the spirit of a people who have sustained life in one of the world's most fragile valleys.

Kashmiri apples deserve a fair market. Farmers deserve a fair voice. They should not be punished by commissions, bargaining tactics, or inflated chains of profit. The valley's economy can survive without traders, but it cannot survive without dignity.

Empowerment begins with accountability. Agents should be held to clear standards. Farmers should organize to protect themselves from exploitation. Buyers should meet producers, recognize value, and reward it fairly.

Digital marketplaces and cooperative strategies can transform orchards into hubs of fairness, transparency, and growth.

The moral economy matters as much as the financial one. Apples carry pride, identity, and centuries of labour. Each undervalued box diminishes a farmer's income and confidence. It diminishes trust between communities. It diminishes the culture of fairness that once defined rural life in Kashmir.

The solution is practical and ethical. Build cooperatives, invest in technology, enforce accountability, and reward integrity. Empower the farmer. Protect the orchardist's voice. Connect the valley directly to markets without middlemen siphoning profit. Rediscover honesty in trade.

Kashmir orchards are inheritance, song, and story. They are lessons in patience, courage, and care. When local agents and outside traders prioritize profit over fairness, they steal pride, and trust. They erode the very soul of Kashmir.

Farmers must regain control. Apples must reach markets fairly. The people who nurture the trees must see the full value of their labour.

Only then can the valley's harvest reflect the spirit of the land: resilient, proud, and just.

The author is a Srinagar-based academic and commentator. He can be reached at rizwanroomi2012@gmail.com

Don't Let Urdu Fade

As Kashmiri and Dogri gain renewed recognition and Hindi expands its reach, Urdu retains a unique cultural and institutional role in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sadaket Ali Malik

On any street in Srinagar, voices flow in different tongues. A baker calls out in Kashmiri, a student answers in Urdu, and someone nearby adds a line in Hindi.

In those few exchanges, you can hear the story of Jammu and Kashmir: diverse people, long history, and the graceful way its identities live together.

Few regions in South Asia carry such linguistic richness. From the slopes of Pir Panjal to the plains of Jammu, speech changes every few miles. Kashmiri, Dogri, Gojri, Pahari, Balti, and Ladakhi each shape local identity and memory.

Every language is a vessel of its own culture. But one tongue ties these worlds together: Urdu.

Urdu's journey in Jammu and Kashmir began with politics but grew into something far larger.

During the Dogra rule between 1846 and 1947, Maharaja Pratap Singh and later Maharaja Hari Singh replaced Persian, the old court language, with Urdu.

But what started as an administrative decision soon changed the social map of the erstwhile state.

Urdu entered schools, courts, and offices, becoming the language of governance and learning. Within decades, it also became the language of poetry, newspapers, and prayer.

Unlike Kashmiri or Dogri, Urdu did not belong to one community. It belonged to all. Muslims embraced it in literature and religion, Hindus used it in administration and education, and Sikhs found in it a shared space for communication.

In a divided landscape, Urdu became the bridge.

That bridge still stands. The Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act of 2020 recognized five official languages: Urdu, English, Hindi, Kashmiri, and Dogri. This move reflected both linguistic pride and institutional balance.

Urdu, despite losing some space to English and Hindi in schools and offices, remains the emotional and cultural glue of the region.

The numbers, however, tell a complex story.

According to the latest data, Kashmiri has more than 19 million speakers, Dogri around 7.5 million, and Hindi about 900,000. Urdu has only around 58,000 native speakers. But the influence of Urdu far outweighs its statistics.

It is the language of court records, government files, religious sermons, and the region's most enduring poetry. It shapes the pulse of daily life in ways the census cannot measure.

In markets, shop signs still use Urdu script.

> **Urdu's survival** in Jammu and Kashmir is emotional, historical, and cultural. It holds the echoes of poetry, the authority of government, and the warmth of shared understanding.

In schools, teachers explain lessons in Urdu. Radio stations broadcast in it, and local newspapers continue to publish in the same language that once guided Dogra clerks. Urdu has held its ground through continuity.

The gender distribution also tells an interesting story.

About 56 percent of Urdu speakers are men and 44 percent are women. This shows how education and government jobs once influenced who learned the language.

Even so, Urdu's poetry, songs, and spiritual writings have made it familiar in every home, spoken and cherished by both men and women across the valley.

Kashmiri and Dogri form the linguistic heart of Jammu and Kashmir's population. They express local pride, rural life, and ancestral memory. Urdu, on the other hand, represents connection: the shared space where identities meet.

It is more common in towns and cities, aligning with its long association with education, law, and media.

The revival of Dogri and Kashmiri in recent years has brought welcome attention to local identity. Dogri's inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in 2003 gave it national recognition and a cultural lift.

Kashmiri, with its deep literary past, is now finding new readers through digital platforms and school curriculums. Hindi's growing presence through television and education has added another layer of linguistic connection with the rest of India.

But Urdu continues to serve as the central thread. It connects the village teacher with the city journalist, the poet with the bureaucrat, the shrine with the newsroom. It has survived political shifts, demographic change, and institutional neglect because it speaks to the idea of a shared Kashmir: diverse, but connected.

Urdu's endurance shows that a language's power comes from how deeply it is trusted to carry meaning between people. And that trust remains in Jammu and Kashmir.

Languages can divide or unite, and Urdu has long chosen the second path. Its story is about coexistence. Each language here has its place. Kashmiri sings of memory, Dogri tells of roots, Hindi opens new connections, and Urdu keeps them all in conversation.

In the end, Urdu's survival in Jammu and Kashmir is emotional, historical, and cultural. It holds the echoes of poetry, the authority of government, and the warmth of shared understanding.

In a land of many voices, Urdu remains the bridge that keeps them speaking to one another.

The author hails from Chenab Valley and can be reached at sadaketjammu@gmail.com

The Thieves Who Never Need Bank Keys

Recent cyberattacks on financial institutions expose a growing vulnerability and raise questions about customer protection, institutional accountability and compensation.



Farooq Ahmad Khan

There was a time when stealing a family's savings meant getting past its front door.

A thief had to enter the house, find where the money was hidden, take it and escape without waking anyone.

The arrival of banks changed that arrangement.

Families deposited their savings in accounts, rented lockers for jewellery and important papers, and trusted financial institutions to protect what they had accumulated over years.

Digital banking has made money easier to access, but it has also created new ways for criminals to reach it.

Today, someone can attempt to empty a bank account without entering a branch, meeting the depositor or even touching his phone.

A Kashmiri proverb captures the danger of putting a good thing to bad use: "hoonis chou nae gaive shropaan". It means a dog cannot digest ghee.

Internet banking has given the saying a modern setting.

The same technology that allows a shopkeeper to pay a supplier after closing time can help criminals move money before a bank recognises an intrusion.

Recent incidents in different countries have exposed how vulnerable financial institutions can become when attackers gain access to their digital systems.

On November 5, Reuters reported that hackers had stolen around €100 million from Crédit Mutuel Arkéa, a French cooperative bank.

The attackers used an account belonging to the bank to execute unauthorised transfers. The institution temporarily suspended some transactions and said its customers' funds remained unaffected.

The detail that needs particular attention is where the money moved.

The attackers used the bank's own payment system, turning an arrangement designed to facilitate financial transactions into a channel for theft.

Two days later, another incident highlighted the vulnerabilities surrounding online banking infrastructure.

On November 7, Malaysia's communications minister acknowledged a hacking incident involving Bank Rakyat's website.

The bank attributed the continuing disruption to a problem with a third-party service provider and assured customers that their deposits and personal data remained safe.

Such explanations may provide little immediate comfort for someone trying to access an account through the website.

Is the website temporarily unavailable, or has someone gained access to the money?

The customer has no independent way of establishing what happened. Only the bank can provide a reliable answer.

India has already seen money transferred from financial institutions without authorisation.

On November 2, microfinance lender Spandana Sphoorty Financial disclosed that approximately ₹7.8 crore had been transferred from one of its bank accounts into several beneficiary accounts.

Two days later, India's Computer Emergency Response Team, CERT-In, issued an alert about an ongoing campaign in which attackers use artificial intelligence tools to penetrate financial institutions and exploit the software used to process payments.



A DEPOSITOR CAN CHECK HIS ACCOUNT BALANCE, EXAMINE A TRANSACTION AND VERIFY THE RECIPIENT'S NAME. He cannot inspect the bank's internal systems, know which employees or contractors have access to them, or establish whether the institution has detected suspicious activity.

CERT-In did not identify the Spandana incident as part of this campaign. The alert nevertheless raises an important question for Indian banks: how quickly can they identify unusual transactions and stop money from moving through their systems?

The challenge goes well beyond the technical teams responsible for protecting banking infrastructure. It concerns the relationship between a financial institution and the people who entrust it with their savings.

Another Kashmiri saying speaks of a blind man entrusting his wife to God.

Its meaning lies in the dependence one places on someone else when personal oversight is impossible.

A depositor can check his account balance, examine a transaction and verify the recipient's name. He cannot inspect the bank's internal systems, know which employees or contractors have access to them, or establish whether the institution has detected suspicious activity.

His pension, monthly wages and savings accumulated over a lifetime depend on safeguards he cannot personally examine.

A cyberattack can also disrupt the lives of customers whose accounts remain untouched.

A pensioner may need money for medicines while the bank suspends transfers. A small business owner may have employees waiting for their wages. Families may have school fees, electricity bills or medical expenses due while the institution investigates the breach.

The bank may eventually establish that customer deposits remain safe. Until then, delays and unclear explanations can leave people uncertain about their money and their ability to use it.

Such experiences can weaken public confidence in banking, even when the actual financial loss falls on the institution.

India's banking regulations already recognise that customers need protection against unauthorised electronic transactions.

The Reserve Bank of India provides for zero or limited customer liability in specified circumstances. The extent of protection depends on factors such as how the transaction occurred and how promptly the customer reported the unauthorised debit.

The difficulty lies in how familiar ordinary depositors are with these provisions. Many people open online banking facilities without fully understanding the circumstances in which a bank will compensate them after a cyber theft.

Banks should explain these protections in plain language when customers register for digital services. The information should remain easily accessible when someone discovers an unauthorised transaction.

The basic assurance should be straightforward.

When an unauthorised transaction causes a financial loss through no fault of the customer, the bank should restore the money promptly.

The depositor should deal directly with the institution holding the account while the bank establishes responsibility among its technology vendors, contractors and payment partners.

Any circumstances in which a careful customer may still have to bear a loss under applicable rules should also be disclosed clearly before the customer begins using the service.

A third Kashmiri saying provides an apt conclusion: "gour karun hawale gulwaansie". It describes leaving a horse in the care of a galwaan, a horse thief.

The humour lies in the arrangement. If the horse disappears, its owner knows precisely whose door to knock on.

A bank depositor also knows which door to knock on when money disappears. The larger question is what happens when he reaches it.

Digital banking rests on trust between institutions and their customers. Banks ask people to place their savings in systems they cannot see and protections they cannot independently verify.

That trust must come with a clear promise: when criminals exploit the system through no fault of the depositor, the institution entrusted with the money must take responsibility for making the customer whole.

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The Debris of a Decade

Looking back on a traumatic day in November 2016, the author reflects on the scars of the past and the person she has become.



Khusboo Javed

Ten years ago, on November 6, 2016, I was out shopping with my parents.

Those days Kashmir had a calendar for days without a curfew. I was in grade 11 and I was carrying with myself some savings of Rs 1,100.

I spent it all on a hardcover book, "The Universe in a Nutshell by Stephen Hawking".

It made me the happiest.

Back then I used to be a science and math student, unaware of the fact that I will not be able to make it beyond grade 12.

My mental health issues, which led to physical weaknesses, started in the summer of 2015. I had made it out of a huge panic attack in April 2016.

The next was going to be on this fateful day of November 6. It was triggered by a tense fight between my parents in the car. I kept begging them to stop but they could not oblige.

The only way my brain felt it could cope was by asking me to consider jumping out of the window of the running car.

That night was one of the heaviest as I kept crying in my bed. I cried a lot in the morning prayers as well the next day. Today on November 6, 2025, as I prayed in the morning, I asked myself the important question, "What has changed?"

My my! The negative energies that used to surround me have only become stronger than ever.

When I was crying in my morning prayers back in 2016, on Nov 7, I was full of pain and hardly any energy to go on. When I was praying this morning, the pain in my mass was heavier but the feelings in my chest were different.

So much around me has gotten worse but I have become an extraordinary person.

Recently I realised that one of the stages of winning at life is when you have recognised your strengths and weaknesses well, whether the sharpness of mind or bad driving skills, without feeling very proud of one or guilty of the other. Both the attributes can be imposters.

These days my room is undergoing renovation. At home, I am the one who makes choices for things. From the paint on the walls to the tin sheets on our roof, most of the stuff is of my choosing.

In my family, I am the one with the most curious eye for art but if you happen to see my room, all you shall see is someone who does not care much about herself.

"Why such a glaring contrast, Khushboo?" I had to ask myself. Could this be an embodiment of the hypocritical care I show for everyone else while back-burnering my own existence? Why has my room been an unfinished work for over a decade?

It is a relief to be able to understand that I am not responsible for the harmful things I was subconsciously made to integrate into my being. But as simple is the fact that I am the one responsible for my healing.

So, the primary question, "What has changed?" While physically I am healing at a sloth pace, I have found some inner peace which is as precious as anything.

Amidst great friction, I have developed a voice for myself that is hard for anyone to challenge.

My soul is lighter because there no longer are too many doubts or a directionless chase for the remaining unanswered questions. I have developed the courage to be very protective of myself and I cannot be thankful enough for how that has become second nature to me. The patience I have cultivated within to not lose heart or my mind even after losing my precious years leaves me in awe, as it should.

The grace or ferocity in my 'no' to things I don't want on my platter is liberating. There are not many misplaced expectations. I am trying to reduce the noise around me. I am expressing better and unlearning repression.

RECENTLY I REALISED THAT ONE OF THE STAGES OF WINNING AT LIFE IS WHEN YOU HAVE RECOGNISED YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES WELL, whether the sharpness of mind or bad driving skills, without feeling very proud of one or guilty of the other. Both the attributes can be imposters.

These are a few pretty wise things I have instilled into my cognition over time. For sure the storm within is relenting but it has left a good deal of damage behind.

I think I am seeing a shore but the roadmap to healing is something which is not very clear to me right now.

Everything is very much of debris and scattered. I cannot complain though, perhaps because no loss ever stays without being replaced by something as nice or better.

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Midlife in Motion

More Kashmiris in their forties are embracing exercise, discovering that regular movement can protect their health and improve their quality of life.



Dr. Musawir Mohsin Parsa

Turning forty once meant slowing down. That age often came with the weight of responsibility: long work hours, family duties, and less time for oneself.

But today, that story is changing.

Morning walkers fill Srinagar parks. Groups of cyclists ride through the Boulevard road at dawn. Meditation mats roll out in homes.

A new generation of Kashmiris is proving that midlife can be a time to move, rather than rest.

Science supports this shift. After our thirties, the body begins to lose muscle mass at a rate of about 3-8% per decade. Bone density declines, metabolism slows, and joint flexibility drops.

The result is predictable: stiffness, fatigue, and lifestyle diseases that often surface in the forties. But these changes are not irreversible. Regular physical activity can reverse much of the decline and restore vitality.

A large study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine found that adults who began exercising in their forties enjoyed nearly the same reduction in mortality risk as lifelong exercisers.

Another by the U.S. National Institutes of Health showed that even late starters could add several healthy years to their lives.

The message is simple: it's never too late to begin.

That message has started to resonate in the valley. Local gyms and fitness studios now see more participants in their forties than ever before. Parks are alive with joggers, while brisk walking has become a social activity for many.

For some, the motivation comes from health scares, like a high blood pressure report, and a warning from the doctor. For others, it's a desire to stay active for their children and careers.

Cardiologist Dr. R. Mehra calls exercise "the safest medicine you can take every day." Regular activity improves heart function, reduces stress, balances hormones, and keeps blood sugar and cholesterol under control.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that adults who meet the minimum weekly activity guidelines, about 150 minutes of moderate exercise, have a 33% lower risk of early death compared to inactive individuals.

Experts suggest four essentials for midlife fitness: cardio, strength, flexibility, and recovery.

Brisk walking, swimming, or cycling strengthen the heart and lungs. Strength training with resistance bands or light weights helps preserve muscle and bone density.

Yoga, stretching, and balance exercises improve mobility and reduce the risk of falls. Recovery, through proper sleep, rest, and nutrition, gives the body time to rebuild.

In India, lifestyle diseases have become a national concern. The ICMR reports that one in three Indians above forty has hypertension, and one in ten has diabetes.

These numbers are rising in Kashmir too. But there's hope in the growing awareness. People are realizing that health can't depend only on medicines or medical check-ups. It begins with movement, even a short walk or climb up the stairs counts.

Getting started, however, requires patience. Begin with low-impact exercises like walking or yoga and increase intensity gradually. Warm-up and cool-down sessions help prevent injury.

Those with chronic conditions should always seek medical advice before starting a program. Many aches that people associate with aging actually come from inactivity.

Exercise also uplifts the mind. It increases blood flow to the brain, boosts mood, and improves memory.

A 2023 Harvard study showed that people who exercised regularly after forty performed better on memory and focus tests and had a lower risk of dementia.

A RESEARCHER ONCE SAID, "IF EXERCISE WERE A PILL, it would be the most prescribed medicine in the world." That medicine is finally finding its way into Kashmir's routines.

At forty, fitness isn't about turning back the clock. It's about getting ready for the years ahead with strength and ease. Every walk, stretch, or push-up becomes a small promise to yourself, for better health, more confidence, and a little more joy in everyday life.

A researcher once said, "If exercise were a pill, it would be the most prescribed medicine in the world."

That medicine is finally finding its way into Kashmir's routines.

— The author is a Physical Therapist and Educator. He can be reached at parsamusawir@gmail.com

IUST to Mark 21st Foundation Day With Academic, Cultural Events

Observer News Service

Awantipora: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) will celebrate its 21st Foundation Day on November 11 with a series of academic, technological, cultural and community engagement activities. The celebrations will feature a University Open Day, Technology Festival, Alumni Meet, Industry Meet, Food Festival, Book Festival, art exhibition and cultural programmes.

As part of the celebrations, the University Open Day will provide aspiring students, parents and visitors an opportunity to explore the campus, interact with faculty members and students, and learn about the university's academic programmes and research facilities.

Various departments and centres will showcase their academic achievements, research initiatives and infrastructure to help prospective students make informed decisions about higher education.

The Technology Festival will provide a platform for students and research scholars to exhibit innovative projects and technology-based solutions. The Industry Meet will bring together academia and industry representatives to explore opportunities for collaboration, while the Alumni Meet will provide former students an opportunity to reconnect with the university and explore avenues of engagement.

The celebrations will also include Food and Book Festivals, an art exhibition and cultural programmes. Over the past 21 years, IUST has developed into a centre of higher education, research and innovation in Jammu and Kashmir. Its expanding academic programmes, growing research output and focus on entrepreneurship and industry collaboration reflect its commitment to academic excellence and societal development.

Thousands of students, prospective applicants, alumni, industry representatives and other visitors are expected to participate in the celebrations.

'Hands Tied': Dy CM Cites Lack of Statehood as Jammu Blaze Puts Fire Response Under Lens

Press Trust Of India



Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Monday reiterated the demand for restoration of full statehood, saying the absence of constitutional and administrative powers has severely constrained the elected government's ability to address public grievances and respond effectively to emergencies.

Referring to the fire incident at the Warehouse-Nehru Market in the heart of Jammu late Sunday night, Choudhary, who faced protests during his visit to the affected area earlier in the day, said the traders were justified in expressing their anguish over the alleged delay in the arrival of fire tenders.

"Our hands are tied. They can only be untied when statehood is restored to Jammu and Kashmir," Choudhary said, stressing the limitations faced by the elected government under the present Union territory arrangement.

Police and the Fire and Emergency Services are not under the control of the elected government, making it difficult for the administration to take immediate action against officials in cases of negligence, the senior National Conference leader told reporters during his visit to the Vishwakarma temple in Katra to take part in Vishwakarma Day celebrations.

Choudhary said nine shops were gutted in the fire, causing massive losses to the traders, and acknowledged that their anger and frustration were understandable.

"Whatever they said in anger, we accept wholeheartedly. When someone's entire business is reduced to ashes, we can understand the pain he is going through," he said.

Choudhary said people also asked him why action was not being taken against the officials responsible for the alleged delay, including demands to form a committee and suspension of the guilty.

"But how can I do that when the departments are not under our control? The police and related departments are under the Union Home Ministry. How can I suspend officials over whom I have no authority?" he asked.

Stressing the importance of statehood, he said when Jammu and Kashmir functioned as a full-fledged state, ministers and senior officials would coordinate and review the arrangements ahead of major festivals.

He asked why the deputy chief minister was not involved in such administrative consultations ahead of Navratri and Diwali.

"Had J&K been a full state, the SSP and deputy commissioner would have been standing here (in Katra) alongside us. But they are not present, and this is the difference between a state and a UT," Choudhary said.

He also said the demand for statehood is not driven by the political interests of the National Conference but by the need to empower the elected government to serve the people effectively.

"Why would we need statehood for us? We are already functioning... I am the deputy chief minister. The real question is how people will benefit. If statehood is restored, we will have full-fledged powers and the authority to act immediately on the ground," he said.

Choudhary also said that he had briefed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah about the situation after visiting the fire-hit market.

Referring to the fire incident at Shiv Market near the Jammu railway station on October 25, he acknowledged the concerns of the traders still awaiting compensation.

He said compensation to the victims of both the fire incidents, at the Warehouse and Shiv Market, would follow the same scale prescribed for fire-affected people in Kashmir.

"There will be no discrimination between Jammu and Kashmir. The compensation provided here will be at par with what is given in Kashmir," he said.

Dr Jan felicitated at National Chest Conference in Kolkata

Recognition at NAPCON marks another milestone in the career



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar, Nov 9: A senior respiratory medicine specialist from Kashmir, Dr Rafi Ahmad Jan, has been felicitated at the National Conference on Pulmonary Diseases (NAPCON), organised by the Indian Chest Society (ICS) in Kolkata, in recognition of his contribution to the field of respiratory medicine.

Dr Jan, who heads the Department of Internal and Pulmonary Medicine at Kashmir Medical College (KMC), was recognised as a senior respiratory consultant from Kashmir during the national-level conference, bringing recognition to the region's medical fraternity.

The felicitation marks the latest in a series of professional distinctions received by the pulmonologist over three consecutive years.

His previous recognitions include becoming a Fellow of the Indian Association of Bronchology (IAB) and receiving the Fellowship of the Indian Chest Society (FICS).

The latest recognition at NAPCON adds to this series of distinctions in Dr Jan's professional career.

NAPCON is among the major professional gatherings of respiratory medicine specialists in India, bringing together pulmonologists, researchers and other healthcare professionals to discuss developments in the diagnosis, treatment and management of respiratory diseases.

The recognition also highlights the participation and contribution of medical professionals from Jammu and Kashmir in national-level academic and professional platforms.

Respiratory diseases remain an important public health concern, with specialists playing a key role in the management of conditions ranging from asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to complex pulmonary disorders.

Dr Jan's consecutive professional recognitions underline his engagement with the country's respiratory medicine community and the growing presence of specialists from Kashmir in national medical forums.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

J&K Braces For

an initial Western Disturbance would approach Jammu and Kashmir on November 10, bringing the possibility of light snowfall over isolated mountainous areas, particularly in North and Central Kashmir.

He said another Western Disturbance of moderate intensity was expected to affect the region around November 12, with the possibility of widespread snowfall across the higher reaches of North, Central and South Kashmir, besides the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions.

Some higher-altitude areas could receive moderate snowfall, while thunderstorms and gusty winds were also likely at some places during the period, Ahmad said.

Cautioning about possible disruptions, the MeT Director said fresh snowfall could affect traffic on important mountain passes and hilly roads, including Zojila, Sadhna Pass, Razdan Pass, Mughal Road and Sinthan Top.

Travellers, tourists, transporters and the general public have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly, check road and highway conditions before setting out and follow traffic advisories issued by the authorities.

The Meteorological Centre has also advised farmers to suspend harvesting activities on November 12 and 13 and ensure the safe storage of crops that have already been harvested.

Ahmad said temperatures could witness a significant decline following the precipitation, with daytime temperatures expected to remain around 5-8 degrees Celsius below normal during the subsequent period.

Meanwhile, dry weather conditions prevailed across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, with the Meteorological Centre recording no rainfall during the preceding 24 hours.

According to the department's station-wise data, Shopian recorded the lowest minimum temperature at minus 0.7 degrees Celsius, followed by Pulwama at minus 0.1 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 1 degree Celsius at the automatic weather station in the city.

The department has advised people, particularly those travelling through higher reaches, to exercise caution in view of the possibility of fresh snowfall and slippery road conditions.

JKBOSE Class 10, 11,

examinations, Sheikh said the main subject papers for Class 10 had been completed, with only a few additional and vocational subject papers remaining.

He said most of the main papers for Class 12 had also been conducted, while Class 11 examinations were underway, with three papers completed in each stream.

The chairman said the examinations were being conducted smoothly.

Meanwhile, Sheikh said the distribution of free textbooks among students of government schools from Classes 1 to 8 had commenced alongside the academic session, describing it as the first such exercise in several years to begin on time.

He said the distribution of textbooks across Kashmir would be completed within 8 to 10 days. The books are being supplied to Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) for further distribution among schools.

According to the chairman, around 8.2 lakh students enrolled in government schools across Jammu and Kashmir are covered under the free textbook scheme, including approximately 3.31 lakh students in the Kashmir divisio

Diwali Night Fire

across Jammu city were rushed to the spot to contain the blaze. Divisional Commissioner Jammu Vikas Kundal said the fire had been largely brought under control, with efforts underway to extinguish the remaining flames.

"Fire and Emergency Services personnel, police teams and the civil administration are present at the spot. The fire has been brought under control, and efforts are underway to extinguish the remaining flames in the last one or two shops," he told reporters.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the incident and directed the district administration to provide immediate relief and necessary assistance to all those affected.

The Office of the Chief Minister, in a post on X, said Abdullah had conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the traders and others affected by the fire at Bikram Chowk.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also expressed deep sorrow over the incident, saying he had reviewed the situation on Sunday night and spoken to senior officials on Monday.

"I am deeply saddened by the devastating fire incident at Warehouse, Jammu. I reviewed the situation last night and spoke with senior officials today, directing them to ensure immediate and comprehensive relief for all those affected," Sinha said in a post on X.

He also extended his sympathies to the business community and traders who suffered losses in the blaze.

TRADERS' ALLEGED DELAYED RESPONSE

Meanwhile, Warehouse Association president Deepak Gupta alleged that a delayed response by the Fire and Emergency Services Department allowed the fire to spread to around 15 shops.

"What started as a small fire has engulfed around 15 shops and threatens to spread further. This is a complete failure and gross negligence on the part of the fire brigade. Despite the fire station being barely five minutes away, only two fire engines arrived after an hour and a half," he alleged.

Gupta also claimed that fire brigade officials initially did not respond to phone calls and demanded accountability, including the suspension of officials concerned.

However, officials maintained that the fire call was attended to at the earliest possible and that two fire tenders from the nearest station were immediately rushed to the spot. Additional fire tenders were subsequently mobilised from other stations to support the firefighting operation.

BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa said at least eight shops had been gutted in the blaze, with losses estimated at crores of rupees.

"It is deeply unfortunate that this incident occurred on Diwali, destroying eight shops and causing estimated losses of crores of rupees and comes days after a massive fire in Shiv Market near the Jammu Railway Station destroyed dozens of shops," he said.

Randhawa said the administration should have stationed at least two to three fire tenders at each major market, particularly after the Shiv Market incident.

"The Fire and Emergency Services have failed to learn from past incidents. The authorities must take these lapses seriously," he said.

SECOND MAJOR MARKET FIRE IN FORTNIGHT

The latest incident is the second major fire in Jammu in a little over a fortnight, after a massive blaze at Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station on October 25 gutted at least 40 shops.

The fire continued until the morning of October 26, destroying property worth crores of rupees.

The Nehru Market, which has served traders, retailers and consumers since the 1950s, is among the city's oldest commercial centres.

Meanwhile, a separate fire broke out in a storeroom at the District Police Lines in Kathua district around 9.50 pm on Sunday. Fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames.

No casualties were reported in either incident.

India's Strength Lies

vadanti", meaning truth is one and the wise describe it in many ways, he said India's strength lies in the coexistence and mutual respect of its diverse faiths.

Sinha also highlighted Uttarakhand's contributions to literature, painting, music and national service. He referred to the Garhwal school of painting, which developed in the 17th century, and praised the popularity of the state's folk music in India and abroad.

Describing Uttarakhand as both "Devbhoomi" and "Veerbhoomi", he expressed gratitude to the armed forces, veterans and families of soldiers from the region for their distinguished service to the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the developmental progress made in Uttarakhand under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly in connectivity, education, healthcare and digital infrastructure.

He said initiatives in homestays, organic farming, handicrafts, tourism and start-ups had strengthened local economic activities and created new opportunities.

"Just as the Ganga and Yamuna, emerging from the soil of Uttarakhand, connect many regions and nourish India's public life, in the same way the cultural consciousness of Devbhoomi binds the entire nation in a thread of emotional unity," he said.

Kargil To Shut Down

electoral rolls are due on November 10. However, no schedule for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections has been announced so far.

In Kargil, representatives of various political and religious organisations, trade bodies and civil society groups under the banner of Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) announced a complete shutdown on November 10, followed by a candlelight march, protesting the proposed timing of the hill council elections, delimitation irregularities and erosion of democratic rights in the Union territory.

The shutdown will be observed from morning until 5 pm, with essential services, including medical facilities, water supply and school buses, exempted, KDA co-chairman Sajjad Kargili told reporters.

Flanked by Ladakh Lok Sabha MP Haji Hanifa Jan and civil society representatives, Kargili said a candlelight march under the banner of 'Save Democracy' will be held in the evening on November 10.

Kargili accused the UT administration of imposing decisions unilaterally and ignoring public concerns over the delimitation of the hill council constituencies.

"The politics of imposing decisions on the people of Ladakh must come to an end. The people of Ladakh must be given democracy in its true sense," he said, claiming that the hill councils had been rendered ineffective through the withdrawal of their powers.

Ladakh MP Hanifa Jan also opposed holding the LAHDC elections in December, citing harsh winter conditions and seasonal migration.

He said around 20-25 per cent of Ladakh's population leaves the region during winter, potentially depriving many voters the opportunity to participate in the elections.

"I have already raised our concerns with the lieutenant governor and the chief electoral officer, but it seems they are adamant to go ahead with the polls in December," he said, urging the administration to hold the polls after the weather conditions improve.

Leh Apex Body chairman Chering Dorjay also opposed holding LAHDC elections during the harsh winter months, calling for their postponement until April-May, and a review of the delimitation exercise to ensure proper constituency representation.

Addressing a press conference in Leh, he also expressed anger over the delay in the findings of the judicial commission constituted following the September 2025 firing incidents, demanding justice for those killed and injured, along with compensation of Rs 1 crore for the deceased and appropriate compensation for the others affected.

Dorjay alleged that land previously allotted to the affected families by the LAHDC had been reallocated despite completion of formalities.

Announcing a fresh phase of agitation, he said a sustained movement would begin within the next two to three days.

"We will demonstrate our public strength. Today, from this very platform, we are sounding the bugle for the next phase of the agitation," he said, urging people across Ladakh to unite and stand up for their democratic rights, land, culture and identity.

Dorjay said the Centre had scheduled a meeting of the Ministry of Home Affairs sub-committee with their representatives for October 22 in New Delhi, but the groups had not received a formal invitation till date.

"We have started to realise that the home ministry is not sincere in resolving the issue," he said, expressing disappointment over the Centre's failure to carry forward the dialogue.

He said the Ladakh Buddhist Association and the Ladakh Gonpa Association have decided to boycott all upcoming elections, including the municipal committee and panchayat polls scheduled for November 21.

Tensions boiled over in Leh on September 24, 2025, after a youth-led protest demanding constitutional protections escalated into a clash with security forces, leaving four dead and dozens injured.

Who Will NC Field

18890 votes, Asiea polled 8595 votes.

The by-election to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat has been necessitated by the resignation of Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on November 3, 2026.

The by-poll for the constituency will be held before May 2, 2027, as the Representation of the People Act, 1951, mandates that a casual vacancy in the Lok Sabha or a State Legislature shall be filled within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy. (KNO)

NGT Flags Missing

also highlighted concerns over water quality in several wetlands. In Jammu, none of the three samples collected met the Class B primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing. In Samba, only two of the nine samples met the prescribed standards, while the sample collected from Kathua was found to be compliant.

In Kashmir, four of the six wetlands tested in Kupwara failed to meet the Class B water quality criteria, primarily on account of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The Rakhi Duslipora wetland in Baramulla was also found to be non-compliant with the prescribed standards for BOD and dissolved oxygen.

The J&KPCC had also sought details of individuals, agencies and departments responsible for violations of environmental norms in wetlands that failed to meet the prescribed water quality standards, to facilitate corrective, remedial and punitive action.

The report further stated that the Rakh-i-Daslipora wetland was not found to exist at the site, with proprietary land in the estate reportedly being used for paddy cultivation. Meanwhile, domestic effluent was identified as a source of pollution in the Mawasar wetland in Samba.

The Tribunal stressed the need for comprehensive and accurate information, directing the J&KPCC to establish the actual extent of the wetlands and compare it with their recorded revenue area before the next hearing.

New Education Minister

financial demands by some private schools across the Valley.

Pertinently, educational institutions across Kashmir commenced the academic session 2026-27 on November 2 for students from Kindergarten to Class 10.

An official had earlier said the new academic session began after schools completed annual assessments and declared results in accordance with the academic calendar.

Schools were expected to resume regular classes, distribute textbooks and initiate the new curriculum during the first week of November.

Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education had said that free textbooks would be distributed among students through various educational zones in the first week of November.

Former Education Minister Sakeena Itoo had also directed officials to ensure timely preparation of textbooks, syllabus and other academic requirements.

Meanwhile, a stakeholders' meeting was held to ensure clarity on fee structures, availability of textbooks in schools and coordination between government and private educational institutions in Kashmir.

Apple Orchard Residue Burning Adds To Kashmir's Pollution Woes

Smoke from fallen leaves, pruned branches pose health risks; experts call for sustainable alternatives to open burning

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The burning of fallen leaves, dried branches and other orchard residue following the conclusion of the apple harvesting season has sent alarm bells ringing over deteriorating air quality across Kashmir.

Environmentalists and agricultural experts who spoke to KNO warned about possible impact of the air pollution on public health and soil fertility. They called for sustainable alternatives to open burning.

Orchardists across the Valley are engaged in post-harvest activities, smoke rising from orchards has become a common sight in several rural areas, particularly in the apple-producing districts of Kashmir.

The practice, which has been followed for generations, is largely associated with the collection of charcoal from dried branches and twigs for use in Kangris, the traditional firepots that remain an important source of warmth for households during the harsh winter months.



However, experts cautioned that burning agricultural residue in the open releases fine particulate matter and harmful gases, contribute to air pollution at a time when falling temperatures and stagnant atmospheric conditions make it difficult for pollutants to disperse.

The smoke can particularly affect people suffering from asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and other respiratory ailments, while children, elderly people and those with cardiovascular conditions are considered more vulnerable to prolonged exposure.

Sameer Ahmad, a resident of south Kashmir, said his father suffers from a pulmonary illness and experiences breathing difficulties whenever smoke from nearby orchards spreads across the area.

"When smoke covers the surroundings in the evening, it becomes difficult for him to breathe comfortably. People suffering from respiratory diseases are particularly affected," he said.

Apart from its impact on air quality, agricultural experts have also expressed concern over the damage caused to soil health by the burning of orchard residue.

An agricultural scientist associated with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) said open burning destroys beneficial microorganisms present in the soil and releases pollutants into the atmosphere.

He said orchard waste could instead be managed through environmentally friendly practices, which would help improve soil fertility while reducing pollution.

One of the suggested alternatives is composting fallen leaves and converting them into organic manure. Experts have also recommended introducing sheep grazing in orchards, explaining that animals feed on fallen leaves while their droppings enrich the soil with organic matter.

The scientist said the practice could be particularly useful in orchards where pruning is undertaken at an appropriate height, allowing sheep to move freely beneath the trees.

It is pertinent to mention here that in 2017, Tassaduq Mufti, the then coordinator of the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell, had called for an immediate ban on biomass burning in orchards. Subsequently, SKUAST-K and the Horticulture Department issued advisories encouraging growers to adopt scientific methods for managing agricultural residue.

Despite repeated concerns and recommendations, the practice remains prevalent, largely because orchard waste also serves as a source of fuel for rural households.

For many families, particularly in areas witnessing frequent electricity cuts during winter, Kangris remain an affordable and dependable heating arrangement.

Experts believe that discouraging open burning without providing practical alternatives may not bring the desired results, as the practice is closely linked to traditional heating requirements and rural household needs.

They have stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the Horticulture Department, agricultural institutions and environmental authorities to educate farmers about the consequences of open burning and facilitate the adoption of alternative methods. (KNO)

Azad Expresses Grief Over Jammu Warehouse Fire

JAMMU: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday expressed grief over the fire incident at the Warehouse Market near Bikram Chowk in Jammu, which gutted several shops and godowns, causing losses worth crores of rupees to wholesale traders.

Azad expressed solidarity with the affected traders and their families, saying the incident had dealt a severe financial blow to people dependent on their businesses for livelihood.

He urged the government to immediately assess the losses, ensure proper rehabilitation of the affected traders and announce adequate compensation without delay.

Azad said the affected business owners should not be left to bear the enormous financial burden alone.

He also stressed the need for a comprehensive review of fire safety arrangements in commercial establishments and markets to prevent such incidents in the future.

He expressed hope that the administration would act swiftly and extend all possible assistance to the affected traders during this difficult time. (Observer News Service)

Two Killed As Car Hits Culvert Wall On NH-44 In Banihal

BANIHAL: Two persons were killed while several others were injured after a Swift car rammed into a culvert wall along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) near Banihal on Monday, officials said.

An official said that two people died while several others were injured after a Swift car hit a culvert wall near Shabanbass along the highway.

He said the injured were shifted to Banihal Hospital for treatment, while their identities are being ascertained.

Meanwhile, cognizance of the incident has been taken and an investigation has been initiated—(KNO)

Body Becovered In Safapora

GANDERBAL: The body of a youth who had gone missing on Sunday was recovered from a willow forest in Phalipora area of Safapora in Ganderbal district during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, officials said.

An official said that the body was found in the willow forest at Phalipora around midnight, following which a police team reached the spot and took cognizance of the matter.

He said the youth had gone missing around noon on November 8. He was identified as Inna Khan, son of Mohd Ashraf Khan, a resident of Chewa Ajas.

Meanwhile, an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death has been taken up, the official added—(KNO)

Man Dies At Home In Doda

DODA: A man died at his residence in the Kashtigarh area of Doda district, officials said on Monday.

An official said that the man was found unconscious at his home in Kashtigarh Doda.

He was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Medico-legal formalities are underway to ascertain the cause of death.

The deceased was later identified as Gandeep Singh, a resident of Kotli Banzal in Kashtigarh.

Cognizance of the incident has been taken and a probe has been initiated—(KNO)

Man Dies After Falling From Height

BARAMULLA: A 32-year-old man died after falling from a height in the Kunzer area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday evening, officials said.

An official said that the man sustained critical head injuries after falling from a height of around 20 feet at Wusan, Kunzer.

He was taken to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Magam and later referred to JVC Hospital, Srinagar, for advanced treatment, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The deceased was identified as Adil Ahmad Rather (32), son of Ghulam Nabi Rather, a resident of Chadoora in Budgam district.

Cognizance of the incident has been taken and an investigation has been initiated—(KNO)

Atiqa Mir Produces Overtaking Masterclass To Finish 6th On FIA World C'ship Debut

Press Trust of India



LA CONCA (ITALY): Indian racing prodigy Atiqa Mir produced a special rearguard performance charging through the field to gain 16 places and finish sixth in the opening race on her FIA Karting World Championship debut here.

The 11-year-old Atiqa, who is the first Indian to be backed by the Formula 1 Academy and competes in the 12-14 age category, is known for giving the more experienced drivers a run for their money. Her craft came to the fore once again in the opening race of the biggest karting competition held over the weekend.

A commendable P6 in a world class field came after a heavy setback in qualifying, where two drivers who had crashed, blocked Atiqa while rejoining the track and ruining her hot lap.

The incident put her down to second last in her group and 83rd out of 87 drivers overall. With only three heat races to make up the places, Atiqa had her task cut out and the gritty girl from Srinagar, representing the Kart Republic team, didn't let the situation faze her.

Prior to qualifying, Atiqa had zoomed to P3 in the Qualifying Sim Practice Session.

In a recovery rarely seen in this Championship, Atiqa put on an overtaking masterclass by making up 16 places in Race 1 and finishing P6, which happened to be also the highest by an Indian this weekend.

She also jumped 10 places in Race 2 and four in Race 3, tallying a gain of whopping 30 places. She was up by an overall 43 places and ranked 40 out of 87 drivers in a productive weekend.

In the Super Heat on Sunday, Atiqa started 14th on the grid and made up five places quickly before a crash dropped her down to P16 in difficult weather conditions.

"That was a lot of fun and I got amazing overtaking practice, that is how I treated this weekend after the qualifying disaster. That was out of my control so I took control of what I could and drove my heart out.

"I feel I belong at this level and with a better qualifying, I can fight at the front. I want to thank my sponsors Raise and JK Tyre without whom none of this won't be possible," said Atiqa reflecting on her weekend.

Atiqa's father Asif Mir, India's first national karting champion, said, "We were looking really strong for a top five result but the qualifying spoilt everything for her. (It was) such a shame as she (had) worked really hard to get up to pace. But what followed surprised even me. She is a gutsy little girl playing with the big boys, I was very impressed."

PMEGP 'IRREGULARITIES'

ED Attaches Assets Worth Over Rs 10 Cr In J&K

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has attached 11 properties worth Rs 10.63 crore in Srinagar and Bandipora districts of Jammu and Kashmir in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP).

The case relates to alleged misuse of funds under the PMEGP and the attached properties were in possession of suppliers-cum-brokers and officials of J&K Bank, the central agency said in a statement.

The ED investigation was initiated on the basis of FIRs of ACB and CBI, Srinagar alleging misappropriation of PMEGP scheme's loan amounts in criminal conspiracy with the PMEGP borrowers, officials of Sumbal Branch and Gamud Gadkhud Branch of J&K Bank and other unknown persons.

The agency said its probe found that a man named Hilal Ahmad Wani along with some others played a major role to avail PMEGP loans fraudulently using KYC and other documents of the borrowers and also using "fake" invoices of non-existing firms registered in the name of suppliers-cum-brokers and/or in the name of their family members.

This act was undertaken in alleged conspiracy with J&K Bank officials from the Sumbal and Gamud Gadkhud Branch, it said.

The accused persons cheated the bank and misappropriated funds to cause wrongful loss to the bank and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves, the ED said.

"Investigation revealed PMEGP loan amounts availed by projecting dummy PMEGP borrowers, by using fake invoices of non-exist firm/companies and in criminal conspiracy with bank officials branches Sumbal and Gamud Gadkhud of J&K Bank by private persons-cum-brokers," it added.

During investigation, survey conducted at the Sumbal and Gamud Gadkhud branches of J&K Bank revealed 270 term loan accounts along with 270 working capital accounts pertaining to PMEGP scheme had turned NPA. The NPA amount was found to be Rs 32 crore, the ED said.

"The suspected proceeds derived from the scheduled offences were diverted through bank accounts in multiple transactions and part of it was utilised for construction/renovation of assets and personal enrichment," it alleged.

The agency said that its investigation has been able to trace generation of proceeds of crime (PoC) to the tune of Rs 11.37 crore.

"Bulk of the PoC has been siphoned, thereby establishing the accused persons' involvement in diversion, concealment, apart from possession and use of the PoC. Therefore, identified 11 assets held under the control of suppliers-cum-borrowers/brokers and one bank officer are provisionally attached to safeguard the value of the proceeds of crime under section 5(1) of PMLA," the agency said.

J&K Bank Opens 26th Branch In Shopian At Mini Secretariat



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Strengthening its banking presence and institutional engagement in Shopian, J&K Bank formally inaugurated its Mini Secretariat Branch, taking its branch network in the district to 26.

District Development Commissioner (Shopian) S. Charandeep Singh inaugurated the branch in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Nasir Ahmad Lone, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Zakir Hussain Fayaz, ACR Shakoor Ahmad Dar, CPO Mudasir Ahmad, ALC Nida Yousuf and Zonal Head (Pulwama) Masood Ahmad Lankar. Cluster Head, Lead District Manager, other senior officers of the district administration and valuable customers also attended the inauguration.

Congratulating the Bank, the DDC expressed hope that J&K Bank would further expand its outreach across Shopian to enhance customer convenience, strengthen financial inclusion and contribute towards the socio-economic upliftment of the district.

"The administration will extend its full cooperation to initiatives that support local enterprise and advance the district's prosperity, " he said.

He expressed hope that the new branch would serve as an important link between the district administration and the Bank, facilitating closer coordination and efficient delivery of banking services.

The inauguration was followed by an interaction with departmental heads, chaired by the DDC. The deliberations focused on strengthening institutional coordination and improving banking services for government departments, employees, entrepreneurs and the general public.

No Fresh Forest Encroachments To Be Allowed, Says Minister Altaf Kaloo

Agencies

RAMBAN: Asserting that the government would not allow any further encroachment of forest land, Forest Minister Altaf Kaloo on Monday assured the forest dwellers that no existing house would be demolished in any area.

Kaloo said the Forest Department is committed to ensuring that no one's house would be demolished and that fresh encroachments would not be permitted. "This is a commitment from my department," he said.



On the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), the Minister said the matter was being discussed with the department and that the file had already been taken up. "We are discussing the Forest Rights Act. I have already spoken to my department. We will get it done. We have kept the file of the Forest Rights Act ready," he said.

He said he had taken up issues concerning the Forest Department, including pending annuities and the process of obtaining necessary clearances for road-related works.

Regarding the road development review, Kaloo said he had not yet reviewed the department's progress as he had assumed charge only a few days ago.

He said he would review the functioning of various departments and categories, including GRS, CIC operators, TATA operators, AEMs, assistant panchayat officers and DBCs, after completing the initial review. "There are a lot of issues, no doubt about it. But let me review the department. After that, I will get back to you on this question," he said—(KNO)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

MUTHI, AKHNOOR ROAD JAMMU/ ZAMZAM COMPLEX, RAMBAGH, SRINAGAR.

www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Final Answer key for the OMR Based Written Examination for the post of Junior Theatre Technician, Health and Medical Education Department, held on 29.10.2026.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the OMR Based Written Examination for the post of Junior Theatre Technician, Health and Medical Education Department, J&K advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 07 of 2025, under Item No. 109-116 on 29th October, 2026.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), notified Provisional Answer Key vide Notice No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/03/2026-03(7909564) dated: 29.10.2026 in respect of said post and the same was uploaded on the official website of JKSSB (www.jkssb.nic.in) for information of the candidates and seeking of objections/representations on the prescribed proforma, if any from the candidates; and

Whereas, in response to aforesaid notice, 02 objections were received in respect of 02 unique questions within the stipulated time; and

Whereas, the objections were examined by the subject matter experts (SMEs) and based on the opinion of the SMEs, the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of written examination held for the post of Junior Theatre Technician has been finalized.

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the Revised/Final Answer Key is hereby notified as under in respect of questions which have been challenged.

Post Name	Text Booklet Series Question ID				Changes in Answer Key	
	A	B	C	D	Previous Correct Option ID	New Correct Option ID
Junior Theatre Technician	84	54	24	114	D	C
	101	71	41	11	C	A

Further, such candidate(s) who deposited amount @₹200/- per question and whose objection(s) is found genuine/correct as per revised/final answer key, will get the refund in their bank accounts provided to the Board.

Note: No further claims in respect of final answer key shall be entertained by JKSSB through any mode.

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/03/2026-03(7909564)
Dated: 06.11.2026

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK-7504-26
DT: 09/11/2026

Time for US to Accept Iran's Proposal or 'Choose War': Araqchi

Agencies

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi on Sunday urged the United States to accept Tehran's proposal for ending hostilities on all fronts, warning that Iran's armed forces were prepared to deliver a forceful response if Washington opted for renewed military confrontation.

In a post on X, Araqchi said the proposal remained on the table and that the next move rested with the White House.

"American voters have made their choice. Time for the White House to make its own," he wrote, in an apparent reference to the political fallout from the US midterm elections.

Araqchi called on Washington to meet Tehran's conditions, including an end to the war across all fronts, saying acceptance of the proposal would produce tangible results.

"Meet the requirements, including an end to war on all fronts, and you will see results," he said.

However, he warned that rejecting diplomacy in favour of military action would invite a severe response from Iranian forces.

"Or choose war, and see our alert and battle-hardened warriors rain down hell," Araghchi wrote.

His remarks came amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington following US President Donald Trump's indication that further military action against Iran remained a possibility.

Asked by reporters about the prospect of renewed strikes after the midterm elections, Trump said that "anything is possible", keeping open the possibility of another escalation.

The latest diplomatic overture also comes against the backdrop of mounting domestic political pressure in the United States over the economic and political consequences of the



conflict.

The war against Iran has emerged as a contentious issue in American domestic politics, with Republicans facing criticism over its economic costs and implications for regional stability. Vice President JD Vance was quoted as saying that the war was a key factor behind the Republican electoral setback, remarking: "The reason we lost is the war."

The conflict has also had far-reaching implications for global energy markets, particularly because of the disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil transit routes.

Iran has effectively restricted passage through the strategic waterway since the early days of the conflict, disrupting energy shipments and raising concerns over the security of global oil supplies. The resulting uncertainty has contributed to higher energy costs, with the impact extending to fuel prices and household expenses.

The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and is a critical passage for oil and liquefied natural gas shipments from major energy-producing countries. Any prolonged disruption to commercial traffic through the waterway carries the risk of further destabilising international energy markets.

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that any renewed US-Israeli military action would trigger a response extending beyond the immediate battlefield. Tehran has maintained that its armed forces are prepared for further confrontation and that previous rounds of military aggression have failed to achieve their stated objectives.

At the same time, Araqchi and other Iranian officials have continued to signal that Tehran is not opposed to a diplomatic resolution, provided its conditions are addressed.

Iran has insisted that any agreement must include a comprehensive end to hostilities across all fronts, alongside assurances that previous commitments will be honoured. Tehran has also linked the restoration of normal maritime traffic and the resumption of broader negotiations to the terms of a settlement.

The latest proposal therefore places the responsibility for the next diplomatic move on Washington, even as both sides continue to exchange warnings.

Red Fort Blast: 300 Held, 73 Deported in Crackdown

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: As the first anniversary of the brazen Red Fort blast approaches, central security agencies have tightened vigilance nationwide, backed by a fortified counterterrorism architecture and a sweeping crackdown on cross-border terror syndicates over the past year, officials said on Monday.

On the eve of the first anniversary of the Red Fort blast, central security agencies have intensified vigilance following a year-long crackdown that led to over 300 arrests and the deportation of 73 high-value fugitives from abroad, the officials said.

The terror strike on November 10 last year had exposed a 'Doctor Module' operated by highly educated professionals. Security agencies cracked the case within 24 hours, subsequently filing a formal charge sheet against 13 accused, including absconding paediatrician Dr Muzzafar Rather, who is currently believed to be hiding in Afghanistan.

Central investigation agencies and Jammu and Kashmir police, with the help of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), identified the principal conspirator and nabbed the key perpetrators.

The Red Fort blast led the central intelligence agencies to formulate a policy to prevent such attacks. This thought led to the unveiling of 'PRAHAAR: National



CT Policy and Strategy' on February 23 this year, in which policy was formulated for zero tolerance towards terrorism.

The comprehensive policy sets a unified agenda for central and state machinery and its operational impact was further cemented during a high-level conference of state DGPs and central agency chiefs in September 2026. The efficacy of the PRAHAAR framework was visibly demonstrated in a massive, coordinated nationwide clampdown against the Pakistan-based ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN).

"The Red Fort case was unique because highly qualified professionals were involved. Now, many regulations are in place, including periodic surprise checks on the sale of ammonium nitrate and other materials," an official said on condition of anonymity.

The network, which utilised domestic nodes and local foot soldiers, faced severe setbacks as agencies registered over 100 First Information Reports (FIRs) and arrested more than 300 operatives.

Security forces recovered improvised explosive devices (IEDs), hand grenades carrying Pakistan Ordnance Factory markings, and illicit firearms.

Following these extensive operations, the SBN was formally designated as a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on September 26 this year.

Concurrently, multi-agency operations have successfully dismantled several radical modules and dented the support frameworks of proscribed outfits such as Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Action against pro-Khalistan elements (PKEs) has similarly blunted the network designs of outfits like Babbar Khalsa International and Khalistan Zindabad Force, disrupting cross-border arms smuggling and leading to key arrests.

The security agencies also stepped up containment of Bangladesh-based terror threats, arresting 27 radical operatives inspired by the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) ideology across Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

On the diplomatic and international front, counterterror cooperation with foreign governments has been significantly scaled up to cut off external sanctuaries and to fast-track the deportation of fugitives, a dedicated extradition portal was launched in September this year to optimise inter-agency coordination.

UNESCO: Cyberbullying Hits One in 10 Students, AI Adds Threat

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: One in three students across the globe experiences bullying every month, while one in ten faces cyberbullying, the UNESCO said, warning that AI is accelerating new forms of technology-facilitated violence (TFV).

UNESCO's new policy brief, "Connected and Safe", shows that nudification apps, voice cloning, automated harassment and AI companion apps used for grooming are now surfacing in school-based incidents across multiple regions.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has called upon countries to invest in digital safety measures, teacher preparation, and mental health support for students in coordination with technology companies.

According to Khaled El-Enany, Director-General of UNESCO, one in three learners experience bullying every month, while one in ten face cyberbullying. Behind these figures are millions of children whose education, health and well-being are at risk, with consequences that can extend far beyond the



classroom.

"Online and technology-facilitated violence (TFV) is no longer a peripheral concern for education systems. It is part of the reality of school life for many learners, with direct consequences for safety, well-being, participation and learning. Around one in ten learners worldwide has experienced cyberbullying, and across 44 countries in Europe, Central Asia and North America, prevalence rose from 12 to 15 per cent between 2018 and 2022, among both boys and girls," the policy brief said.

"Some learners are more exposed than others. Girls, learners with disabilities, learners of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics, and those marginalised by socio-economic status or geography face distinct and often more severe forms of harm," it said.

In the context of bullying, data shows that girls are just as likely as boys to experience bullying, although the types of bullying differ.

"Boys are generally more exposed to physical bullying and violence, while girls are more exposed to psychological bullying, particularly through cyber bullying and appearance-based bullying. Sexual bullying (sexual jokes, comments and gestures) affects boys and girls at similar rates.

"Physical sexual violence (assault, harassment and rape) can affect both boys and girls, but girls are more likely to experience this form of violence. Corporal punishment and all forms of violent discipline are also influenced by gender, with boys more likely to experience physical corporal punishment than girls and learners likely to be punished to reinforce expectations regarding behaviours deemed socially appropriate for each gender," the brief said.

