

## LG Summons J&K Assembly Session On Nov 4

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has summoned the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly session for November 4, 2024.

According to an official communication, the LG will address its first session and as per the powers vested in him under Rule 9(1) of the Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly the election for the Assembly Speaker will take place at 10:30 AM.

"Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him under section 189(1) of the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, has summoned the session of Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir at Srinagar on Monday, 4th Nov 2024 at 11.30 AM. The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor will address the Assembly," the communication adds.

The election of the Speaker and the Governor's address are anticipated to set the tone for the Assembly's legislative agenda in the coming months.

Senior NC leader Abdul Rahim Rather is the ruling party's top choice for the post of speaker of the House.

With National Conference-led alliance having support of 55 MLAs in 90 member House, Rather is set to be elected as Speaker of the House. There are chances that Rather would be unanimously elected as Speaker of the House as Bharatiya Janta Party, the largest opposition party in the House, is unlikely to field its candidate for the post.

"We have not yet decided whether to field our candidate for the election | More on P6

## GAGANGEER TERROR ATTACK

# Safety Of Workers On Major Projects Govt's Top Priority: LG

## Stresses For Foolproof Mechanism To Prevent Security Breach



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday directed the securing of vital infrastructure projects across the Union Territory (UT), saying the security of workers and officers working on key infrastructure projects is the highest priority

for the government.

Sinha also directed the security forces to conduct co-ordinated counter-terrorism operations pro-actively to wipe out terrorism in the UT.

The Lt Governor visited Gagangir area of Ganderbal district where a deadly terror attack at a tunnel construction site on Sunday left seven

people dead.

An official spokesman said Sinha travelled to Gagangir to interact with officers and workers of project implementing agency and to review the security measures on the project site.

During his visit, the LG chaired a meeting of the officers of | More on P6

## 40 Suspects Rounded Up For Probe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Investigators have rounded up more than 40 suspects for questioning as part of investigations into the deadly terror attack at Gagangir in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir in which seven persons were killed, officials said on Tuesday.

Police officials believe that the assailants had meticulously planned the attack and were able to execute their designs due to the support of the terrorist associate network.

"We will get them (terrorists) sooner or later.

We have picked up several suspects for questioning but no one has been arrested so far," a senior police officer said.

Security forces on Monday launched a large-scale combing operation in the area adjacent to tourist spot Sonamarg, a day after a horrific terror attack at a tunnel construction site.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) agents have scoured the scene for crucial evidence as the Army, CRPF and police units spread out across the hills surrounding the construction area to track down the | More on P6

## Terror Group Dismantled:CIK

Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations in seven districts across Kashmir busted a recruitment module being run by a newly floated terrorist organisation 'Tehreek Labaik Ya Muslim' (TLM), (an offshoot of LeT) headed by | More on P6

## Modi, Xi To Meet Today

Agencies

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be holding bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan, confirmed Ministry of External Affairs. He meet will underscore the upturn in the India-China relation following a consensus on patrolling arrangement along the Line of Actual Control that had faced multiple hiccups over the last few years.

"I can confirm that there will be a bilateral meeting held between Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping tomorrow on the sidelines of the Brics Summit," said foreign secretary Vikram Misri.

Both leaders are currently in Russia's Kazan, where Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazil's Lula da Silva, and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa are also attending the summit.

The breakthrough in the patrolling arrangement comes four years after the Galwan Valley clash and signals a move towards de-escalation in a region where both countries stationed tens of thousands of troops.

The arrangement, which would involve a return to the pre-2020 system, is also a move to stabilize the situation and work as a confidence-building measure between New Delhi and Beijing.

Indian and Chinese troops had clashed in Galwan Valley on June 15, 2020 amid a major escalation along the Line of Control. Both sides had sustained casualties, which had led to tension in bilateral ties.

While a gradual de-escalation was effected, a return to the pre-Galwan | More on P6

## CM To Bear Education Costs Of Slain Doctor's Son

Chief minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday visited the family of Dr Shah Nawaz Ahmad Dar, who was killed along with six other persons in a terror attack on a construction site in Gagangir area of Sonamarg on Sunday evening.

The chief minister was accompanied by his advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Khansahib Saif-ud-din Bhat and others. Speaking with reporters, Saif-ud-din Bhat said that Omar Abdullah expressed solidarity with the family and also | More on P6

## No Outside Worker Asked To Leave Valley: Govt

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday rubbished as "unfounded rumours" PDP president Mehbooba Mufti claim that non-local workers were being asked to move out of the Valley in the wake of the terror attack in Gagangir construction site, where seven persons were killed.

Taking to X, Mehbooba Mufti asked Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to prevent any exodus of non-local labourers from the Valley.

"After the barbaric attack at the Sonamarg, there are reports that the local admin is pressurising non-local labourers to leave the Valley immediately. While I understand their obvious sense of panic but asking them to leave in this manner is not a solution," Mehbooba Mufti said in a post on X.

However, police and civil administration dismissed the claim as "baseless" and urged the people not to pay heed to such false reports on social media.

In a post on X, Kashmir zone

Social media reports claiming the local administration has asked non-local workers to leave the valley are false. The Jammu and Kashmir Police is committed to ensure security and fostering a safe environment for all individuals to pursue their livelihoods without fear or intimidation.

IGP Kashmir

police quoting IGP Kashmir stated that social media reports claiming the local administration has asked non-local workers to leave the valley are false.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Police is committed to ensure security and foster a safe environment for all individuals to pursue their livelihoods without fear or intimidation," the police said.

The rumours regarding the administration forcing non-local workers to | More on P6

## Winter Preparedness Will Personally Oversee Adherence To Power Curtailment Schedule: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday directed Power Development Department (PDD) to strictly adhere to the announced power curtailment schedule, emphasizing that he will personally oversee its implementation on a day-to-day basis during the winter months.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of the PDD, a department under his portfolio, to assess its preparedness ahead of the winter season in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, and Principal Secretary PDD Rajesh H. Prasad and others concerned.

"Once a curtailment schedule is announced, we must ensure it is followed rigorously,



**WE MUST REWARD AREAS THAT DEMONSTRATE EFFICIENCY in managing power curtailment."**

otherwise our credibility is at stake. We need to re-examine the schedule, considering the resources currently available to us and what we anticipate in the near future," the Chief Minister stressed.

He further reiterated the importance of strict compliance with the schedule once it is finalized. "I will personally monitor the situation on a daily basis, especially as winter sets in," he said.

The Chief Minister also emphasized that the curtailment schedule must remain fair and equitable, without any influence from political or other external forces. "There must be no interference from those with political or other forms of influence. The schedule should be transparent and fair for all," he added.

In an effort | More on P6

## Allotment Of 12 Gas Cylinders Soon: Minister Says Govt Mulling To Double Ration Quota Per Family

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir cabinet minister, Satish Sharma on Tuesday said the government was mulling to double the ration quota per family and good news will be shared soon. He also said that allotment of 12 gas a year will be a reality soon.

Talking to the media persons here, Sharma said that the ration supply to the people will be doubled soon, adding that the people will get good news in this regard shortly.

However, he said that no discussion has been made over



passing the resolution in the assembly, but stated that "the Statehood is our right. The state belongs to us and the restoration of Statehood must be ensured. Nobody is going to favour us and I believe that New Delhi will ensure | More on P6

## CM Releases Rs 1.70 Cr To Mulwaran Victims

Jammu and Kashmir government has granted a financial assistance of Rs 1.70 crore in favour of the fire affected families of Malwarwan village of tehsil Warwan of district Kishtwar. The amount has been sanctioned by the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today. The amount has been transferred to the official account of | More on P6

## 85% of Students Rely on AI Tools For Career Counselling: Report

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Over 85 per cent school students are utilising AI tools like ChatGPT for career guidance while at least 40 per cent of them have never interacted with a career counsellor, according to a report.

The 2024 Annual Student Quest Survey, a comprehensive study exploring the transformative trends in career and college counselling, was conducted by IC3 Institute and FLAME University.

With responses from over 2,200 students from class 9 to 12 and 35,656 counsellors spanning 56 countries, the survey report has provided essential data aimed at bridging the gaps in existing counselling practices and enhancing support for students navigating their futures.



"Over 85 pc of students are utilising AI tools like ChatGPT for career guidance. In India, 62 pc of counsellors are using AI tools in their work, with 74 pc believing these tools can enhance and automate the counselling process. Moreover, 73 pc

of Indian counsellors reported that AI tools have contributed to a reduction in their workload, particularly in handling administrative tasks.

"Among students, 83 pc have access to AI tools, which are used for tasks | More on P6

## Indigo Flight Receives Bomb Threat

Srinagar Airport Goes On High Alert

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The security grid at Srinagar International Airport on Tuesday went on high alert mode after a hoax call about a possible bomb threat, officials said.

The officials said a call was received at the Srinagar airport about a bomb in the Indigo flight that had arrived here from Mumbai.

The authorities carried out a thorough search of the flight which was scheduled to take off for Delhi via Jammu at around 5.20 pm.

"However, it turned out to be a hoax," a senior official of Airport | More on P6

## 'I Am An Accidental Minister': Satish Sharma

Says 'Govt Considering Restoration of Darbar Move As Jammu Suffers Significantly'

Nazir Ganaie

Srinagar: In a bold assertion, Satish Sharma, Minister for Science and Technology, Food Supplies, Transport, and ARI and Trainings, declared that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's administration is poised to be the most powerful yet. Speaking to reporters during the Jammu Kashmir Science Congress at the Government Degree College for Women in Srinagar, Sharma emphasized that the restoration of statehood by the Centre should not be perceived as a mere favor but as a crucial step for the region.

"This government is going to be one of the finest

you have ever seen in J&K," Sharma stated. "Omar Abdullah stands for development, results, and execution. He empowers ministers, ensuring independent representation for Jammu like never before."

Sharma characterized the current moment as a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity for collaboration among politicians, officials, and the press to revive the lost glory of Jammu and Kashmir. "Together, we can restore what has been lost and enhance the beauty of Kashmir, Jammu, and Hindustan," he urged.

Additionally, Sharma indicated that the government is actively | More on P6

## J&K Govt To Buy 90 Scorpions For New MLAs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has sanctioned the release of Rs 14.85 crore for the procurement of 90 Mahindra Scorpio vehicles designated for the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

This sanction was issued under the Motor Garages Capex Budget for 2024-25, with funds drawn from the "Purchase and Replacement of Vehicles" allocation. The Director, Motor Garages, J&K, will oversee the procurement of 90 Mahindra Scorpions through the Government e-Marketplace (GEM) portal, following the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, including all necessary e-tendering and procedural formalities.

The order stipulates that the funds must be exclusively used for vehicle | More on P6



## Parents, Students Seek Change In School Timings Amid Morning Chill

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As chill grips Srinagar during morning hours, parents are urging authorities to adjust school timings to protect children from the cold. The current summer-aligned schedule is posing health risks, with students struggling to cope with cold temperatures during early morning commutes.

Parents expressed concern about their children's well-being, citing difficulties in waking up and getting ready for school. "It's challenging for kids to wake up early in this cold weather," said Rayees Ahmad, a concerned parent. "My son complains of the cold every morning. Adjusting school timings would make a big difference."

With temperatures dipping, children face increased risks of seasonal illnesses like colds, coughs, and fevers.

"Children are more susceptible to respiratory infections," explained Dr.

**“My daughter has caught a cold twice this month. Delaying school start time would really help.”**

Tariq Hassan, a pediatrician. "Changing school timings can significantly reduce health risks."

Parents seek a later start time, allowing children to begin their day in warmer conditions. Sadaf Qureshi, a parent, shared her concerns: "My daughter has caught a cold twice this month. Delaying school start time would really help."

The Directorate of School Education and school administrations are being pressed to implement winter timings promptly.

Parents hoped for a swift response prioritizing their children's well-being as harsher winter conditions approach. [KNT]

## Crumbling Infrastructure

# City Bridges in Shambles, Commuters Suffer

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The condition of several bridges in Kashmir's capital city, Srinagar, has become a major concern for commuters. The Chanapora and Nowgam Bypass bridges, in particular, have turned into nightmares due to rampant potholes, causing traffic jams and damage to vehicles.

"The Chanapora bridge is in shambles. We have been requesting the administration to repair it for months, but no action has been taken," said Abdul Rashid, a local resident. "The potholes are so deep that they can swallow a car's tire. It's a miracle no one has been seriously injured yet."

The Chanapora bridge, which connects the city's main thoroughfares, has been plagued by crater-sized potholes, making it difficult for vehicles to pass. Commuters are forced to navigate through the potholes, risking damage to their vehicles.

"It's a torture driving on this bridge. My car's suspension has been damaged multiple times due



to these potholes," said Bilal Ahmad, a daily commuter. "The administration seems to be oblivious to our suffering."

The situation is no better at the Bemina Bridge, which has become a continuous source of traffic jams. The bridge's surface is riddled with potholes, causing vehicles to slow down, leading to congestion.

"The Bemina bridge is a disaster waiting to happen. The authorities need to take immediate action to repair it," said Dr. Shaheen, a resident. "We are fed up with the constant traffic jams and the risk of accidents."

Despite repeated pleas from locals, the administration has failed to take concrete action to address the issue. [KNT]

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

AIRPORTS	
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT:	01942303311 ✈
RAILWAYS	
SRINAGAR:	0194-2103259
ANANTNAG:	01932-228243
BARAMULLA:	0194-102029
BIJHERA:	01932-228243
PAMPORE:	01933-294132
PATTAN:	01954-293507
QAZIGUND:	01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS	
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)	
Mughal Road - (Open)	
Srinagar-Leh - (Open)	

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 21
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4: 11
Magrib	6:53
ISHA	7: 12

- 1086 - Battle of az-Zallaqah: Army of Yusuf ibn Tashfin defeats the forces of Castilian King Alfonso VI.
- 1157 - The Battle of Grathe Heath ends the civil war in Denmark. King Sweyn III is killed and Valdemar I restores the country.
- 1702 - Battle of Bay of Vigo: Dutch & English fleet destroy & occupy Spanish silver fleet & French squadron
- 1739 - War of Jenkins' Ear starts: British Prime Minister, Robert Walpole, reluctantly declares war on Spain

## Sakeena Masood Chairs Maiden HED Review Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Masood Itoo, today chaired the maiden review meeting of Higher Education Department (HED) at Civil Secretariat here.

The Minister had a detailed review of the functioning of the department including achievements and challenges faced by the department in improving education outcomes, research and development besides infrastructure development and filing of vacancies.

Maintaining that the well-being of the students is top priority for the government, the Minister stated that officers should keep in mind the best interests of the stu-



dents and work towards that goal. She asked the officers to work hard for the benefit of students and strive towards enabling our institutions to match global standards of knowledge production and dissemination.

She sought details about the ongoing construction of 51 colleges and asked the concerned to expedite the work for the benefit of the student community. She also asked the officers to examine the feasibility of establishment of new colleges as per the laid down norms and guide-

lines. Regarding NAAC accreditation of colleges, HED Minister sought inputs about the progress made in respect of all the required parameters. She asked them to prioritize the areas as per the accreditation requirements so that all colleges in Jammu and Kashmir are NAAC accredited.

Regarding the annual transfer drive, the Minister highlighted that students should be made aware of the same so that they do not have to come to offices with applications.

## KPDCL Defers Power Shutdown

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The office of Chief Engineer, Distribution, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Tuesday informed that in view of the recommendations by Superintending Engineer, O&M KPDCL Circle-1st Srinagar, the shutdown of 33 KV Cheshmashahi-TRC-Nedous Line scheduled on 23 October, 2024, stands deferred.

## Anjuman Interfaith Pays Tribute to Fethullah Gulen

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anjuman Interfaith Dialogue Chapter today offered its condolences on the passing of Turkish Muslim leader Fethullah Gulen.

In a statement, the Anjuman Interfaith Dia-

logue Chapter said, "We extend our condolences and wish patience to his family and loved ones."

It is worth noting that the late Gulen had contributed an essay to the Anjuman Interfaith Chapter's book titled Interfaith Dialogue: Foundation for Peacebuilding.

**We extend our condolences and wish patience to his family and loved ones**

## Office Of The Executive Engineer Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir.

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

Corrigendum 01  
For Date Extension.

**Name of work:-** Supply of 24V Electro Hydraulically Operated Variable Snow Plough Assembly (06 No)

**Reference:-** This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2024-25/43 Date:08.10.2024 (Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK\_258771\_1)

In view of representation received from the prospective bidder, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are hereby extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous dates	New Dates
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	23-10-2024 upto 18:55 Hrs	30-10-2024 upto 18:55 Hrs
02.	Date of opening of bids online	24-10-2024 at 16:00 Hrs	31-10-2024 at 14:00 Hrs

All other terms, conditions, specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/

Executive Engineer  
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

No: MDSK/TS/3523-26  
DIPK-6604/24 Date: 22/10/2024

## Office Of The Block Medical Officer Nagam

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

e-mail- sdhnagam@gmail.com

### SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE FOR CAR PARKING IN SUB DISTRICT HOSPITAL NAGAM FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

sealed tenders are invited from the registered firms for the car parking for SDH Nagam, District Budgam for the year 2024-25 and tender document along with terms anti conditions can be obtained from the office of undersigned against non-refundable cash payment of Rs 200 w.e.f 22.10.2024 to 30.10.2024 written application on letter head. The tender must be submitted properly sealed in double water proof envelope duly super scribed as "Tender for Car parking at SDH Nagam" addressed to Block Medical Officer Sub District Hospital Nagam and should reach to the office of undersigned by or before 30.10.2024. The tender will be opened on the next day by the tender opening committee in the office chamber of undersigned. The intending tenderer shall have to deposit an amount of Rs 5000/= in the shape of CDR from the JK. bank Ltd. Pledged to the undersigned having validity not less than 12 months.

The Bid shall start for car parking: with an amount of Rs. 100000/-

No: BMO/N/838-842  
DIPK-6584/24  
Dated: 22/10/2024

Block Medical  
Officer Nagam

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**9070806160**

## MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In continuation to already announced Festival Special Trains-2024, Railways have planned to run following additional Festival Special trains as per detail given below :-

04608/04607 Jammu Tawi-Howrah-Jammu Tawi Reserved Festival Special Train						04 Trips
Train No. 04608	STATIONS				Train No. 04607	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	20:20	Jammu Tawi		15:20	---	
13:20	---	Howrah		---	23:45	

Days of Run : 04608 Ex. Jammu Tawi on 30,10,2024 & 04,11,2024 and 04607 Ex. Howrah on 01,11,2024 & 06,11,2024

Accommodation : 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy  
Stoppages: Pathankot Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Chandigarh, Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Harid, Lucknow, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappgarh Jn., Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Gaya, Koderma, Dhanbad Jn., Asansol Jn., Durgapur & Bardhaman Stations.

04680/04679 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Kamakhya-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Reserved Festival Special Train						04 Trips
Train No. 04680	STATIONS				Train No. 04679	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	18:40	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra		06:20	---	
21:00	---	Kamakhya		---	06:00	

Days of Run : 04680 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 28,10,2024 & 02,11,2024 and 04679 Ex. Kamakhya on 31,10,2024 & 05,11,2024

Accommodation : 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy  
Stoppages: Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot Cantt., Jalandhar Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Chandigarh, Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn., Kishanganj, New Jalpaiguri Jn., New Cooch Behar, New Bongaigaon & Goalpara Town Stations.

04662/04661 Amritsar Jn.-Saharsa-Amritsar Jn. Reserved Festival Special Train						04 Trips
Train No. 04662	STATIONS				Train No. 04661	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	20:10	Amritsar Jn.		18:20	---	
05:00	---	Saharsa		---	10:00	

Days of Run : 04662 Ex. Amritsar Jn. on 29,10,2024 & 03,11,2024 and 04661 Ex. Saharsa on 31,10,2024 & 05,11,2024

Accommodation : 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General  
Stoppages: Beas Jn., Jalandhar City Jn., Dhandari Kalan, Sirhind, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Simri Bhaktiyarpur Stations.

04520/04519 Ambala Cantt.-Darbhanga-Amritsar Jn. Reserved Festival Special Train						02 Trips
Train No. 04520	STATIONS				Train No. 04519	
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	---	Amritsar Jn.		06:30	---	
---	---	Jalandhar City		03:35	03:40	
---	19:00	Ambala Cantt.		02:05	02:15	
19:00	---	Darbhanga		---	21:30	

Days of Run : 04520 Ex. Ambala on 25,10,2024 and 04519 Ex. Darbhanga on 26,10,2024

Accommodation : 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General  
Stoppages: Amritsar Jn., Jalandhar City, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. Stations.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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Overlooked and Undervalued

# The Plight of Contractual Professors in J&K



Dr Syed Irfan Shafi

“  
The plight of Jammu & Kashmir's contractual educators is a crisis that demands immediate attention. These scholars are not asking for charity—they are asking for what they have earned through years of hard work and commitment

The recent discussions led by the newly elected Education Minister followed by bureaucrats and politicians about the academic calendar—whether to adopt a March or November session—may seem like a matter of priority for the education system. However, in focusing on these administrative changes, an even more pressing and deeply emotional issue continues to be overlooked: the long-standing plight of Kashmir's highly educated youth, particularly those working as contractual Assistant Professors and Lecturers in colleges and universities for decades. These individuals, despite holding advanced degrees such as PhDs, are trapped in a cycle of uncertainty, struggling to secure permanent employment, and their professional futures hang in the balance.

Imagine dedicating years of your life to study and research, achieving the highest levels of academic qualification, only to find yourself employed on a temporary, contractual basis for years, with no promise of job security. This is the harsh reality faced by thousands of scholars in Jammu & Kashmir. They are the backbone of our education system—delivering lectures, mentoring students, and advancing knowledge—yet they remain in a state of professional limbo. Their contributions are undeniably vital to the functioning of colleges and universities, but their efforts have gone largely unrecognized by the higher authorities. Each year brings renewed contracts, but no concrete steps are taken to secure their futures, leaving them feeling abandoned by the very system they serve. The emotional toll this takes on these highly qualified individuals is immense. It's not just about job security or income—it's about dignity, self-worth, and the hope of having a clear future. For many, the dream of contributing to academia is fading, replaced by feelings of frustration and helplessness. With no stable career path in sight, these scholars are forced to seek other means of livelihood. It is

heartbreaking to witness PhD scholars, people who have spent years pursuing the pinnacle of academic excellence, standing on the streets selling dry fruits. They have been pushed into this situation by a system that has failed them, and the emotional weight of such a fall from grace cannot be overstated.

Their stories are not just about unemployment—they speak to the broken promises of a society that claims to value education, yet disregards those who have devoted their lives to it. These scholars have been forced to sacrifice their intellectual aspirations for survival. Every day they wait for justice, for a decision that will finally recognize their service and dedication, but it never comes. This long wait has eroded their faith in the system, and with each passing year, it becomes harder for them to imagine a future in academia. The social consequences of this neglect are also far-reaching. An education system that does not protect its educators is a system in decline. When professors and lecturers are unsure of their futures, it affects the quality of education they provide. How can we expect teachers to inspire and guide students when they themselves are weighed down by uncertainty? The motivation and passion that once drove these educators are slowly being drained away by the harsh realities of their situation. The younger generation, seeing the struggles of their mentors, may be dissuaded from pursuing careers in academia altogether, further weakening the intellectual fabric of society. What makes this situation even more tragic is the fact that it could be resolved with decisive action. The government and higher authorities need to acknowledge the sacrifices and contributions of these contractual professors and take immediate steps to secure their futures. The regularization of their services is not just a matter of policy—it's a matter of justice. It is time for the education system to repay these scholars for their dedication with job security, fair wages, and benefits. By creating more permanent positions and providing a clear

career path, the government can restore hope to those who have been left behind.

The plight of Jammu & Kashmir's contractual educators is a crisis that demands immediate attention. These scholars are not asking for charity—they are asking for what they have earned through years of hard work and commitment. It is time to stop overlooking their struggles and start addressing the deep emotional and social impacts this issue has created. As a society, we owe them the dignity, respect, and justice that every educator deserves. If we fail to act now, we risk losing not just a generation of scholars but the very foundation of our education system. It's time to stand up for these educators and give them the future they have waited for far too long. The sight of a PhD scholar in Jammu and Kashmir selling dry fruits on a cart after serving for years in colleges as a contractual lecturer is a stark reflection of the systemic failure in the region's education and employment policies. These scholars, who have dedicated years to advanced study and the pursuit of knowledge, are left with no option but to take on menial jobs to survive. Despite their qualifications and years of service, they are kept in a cycle of uncertainty, with no job security, career progression, or recognition of their contributions to academics. The failure of the system lies in its inability to offer these scholars the dignity of stable employment, leaving them disillusioned and forcing them to abandon their academic pursuits. This not only undermines their potential but also erodes the overall intellectual and social fabric of the region, where education is meant to be a path to progress and development, not a road to despair.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is an Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, School of Business Studies

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## The Power Of Consistency

In a fast-paced and ever-changing world, the path to personal growth and success in one's life lies not in momentary bursts of motivation or in some occasional achievements, but importantly in the daily habits and routines that we cultivate. The seemingly small actions done everyday with precision and meticulousness have the power

to shape our behaviour, mindset, and ultimately our lives. Improving our daily habits is a continuous process, requiring patience, consistency and self-reflection. It is not just about striving for perfection, but for progress as well. Small steps taken consistently over time can lead to significant transformations. Needless to say that incorporating positive daily

habits into our lives is a powerful way to create a positive change. Additionally, it can be beneficial to seek inspiration and guidance from others who have achieved success through their daily habits. It is universally acknowledged that the establishment of daily routines is a cornerstone to prosperity and success. The subtle art of weaving discipline into the

fabric of everyday life does not come without its challenges. However, the rewards are manifold and long-lasting. It is through the meticulous crafting of these daily rituals that one can begin to see the transformative power of consistency.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

KO VIEW

## End of Border Standoff

The disengagement at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China is a welcome development and has brought to an end four years of tense standoff between the two Asian giants. The development not just defuses a dangerous flashpoint but also opens the door to the normalization of ties between two neighbours. Foreign minister S Jaishankar said on Monday that the two countries had reached an understanding and that India would be able to resume patrolling to the areas it controlled before the border tension began in 2020. Jaishankar said that the diplomacy was needed to manage the “double rise” of the two Asian powers.

The current face-off began in March 2020 when People's Liberation Army staged incursions at five along the Line of Actual Control - Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Hot Springs, Demchok and Depsang. The standoff was the bitterest since the 1962 war. This time China aggressively asserted its claim to its side of the LAC and also captured strategic areas in Galwan Valley, Hot Springs and Gogra besides trying to push in along the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. On June 15 in 2020, twenty Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese soldiers were killed in a skirmish in Galwan Valley. This was the first time in more than five decades that India suffered so many casualties in a clash with China along the LAC.

The de-escalation is good for the region as this will bring the Asian giants closer to each other, a need of the hour in the evolving geopolitics. It comes just in time for the BRICS summit in Russia which will be attended by prime minister Narendra Modi and Chinese president Xi Jinping. The end of the border standoff will pave the way for the meeting between the two leaders. The friendship between the two countries is the need of the hour. The world is becoming more and more multilateral as the US-led western dominance is showing signs of ebbing with each passing year. The US has staked everything in the ongoing Ukraine war to prolong its unipolar moment in history. And in this geopolitical flux, India has maintained an independent foreign policy. Rather than join the western camp, India has sought to play a mediatory role in resolving the Ukraine crisis. It has pursued its global policies while keeping its core interests in mind and steering clear of joining any geopolitical camp. This creates space for a viable India-China relationship. That said, a lot will depend on China's behaviour in the near future. We can only hope that the communist power sticks to the path of dialogue and gives precedence to sorting out the issues peacefully than unilaterally changing the facts on ground.



Did you know?

## The Magic of Early Saving and Smart Investing

Irshad Mushtaq

Saving money early and investing wisely can work wonders, especially in the stock market through ETFs, shares, and mutual funds. The secret is the power of compounding. Here's how it works:

**The Power of Time:** Compounding grows your money over time. Starting to save and invest young provides more time for your earnings to multiply. It's not about having a high salary but forming good saving and investment habits early that builds wealth.

**Growth of the Indian Economy:** The economy is growing by 5-6% annually, with inflation around 5-7%. This means a double-digit growth potential. Historically, the Nifty index has provided approximately 14% annual growth over 30 years. But many miss out because they get caught in immediate market fluctuations, leading to fear and impulsive decisions.

**Long-Term Focus:** Instead of focusing on daily market changes, invest in quality ETFs, shares, and mutual funds. Increase your SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) regularly. It's a logical approach to aim for growth over the next decade.

**Building the Right Mindset:** Understanding the basics of investing builds confidence and makes taking action easier. Learn to embrace market volatility as it's a normal part of the stock market. Mutual funds are a safe, systematic way to invest, as they spread your money across various companies, reducing risk.

**Diversified Investments:** Mutual funds are diversified portfolios, minimizing risks by investing in multiple companies. Backed by expert advisors, they build robust portfolios designed to perform well over time. In summary, whether or not the market is volatile, saving and investing regularly in quality funds and shares can lead to consistent growth. It's all about starting young and letting the power of compounding work its magic over the long haul. By cultivating good saving habits and focusing on long-term growth, you can effectively build wealth over time.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com

# The Impact of Small Changes

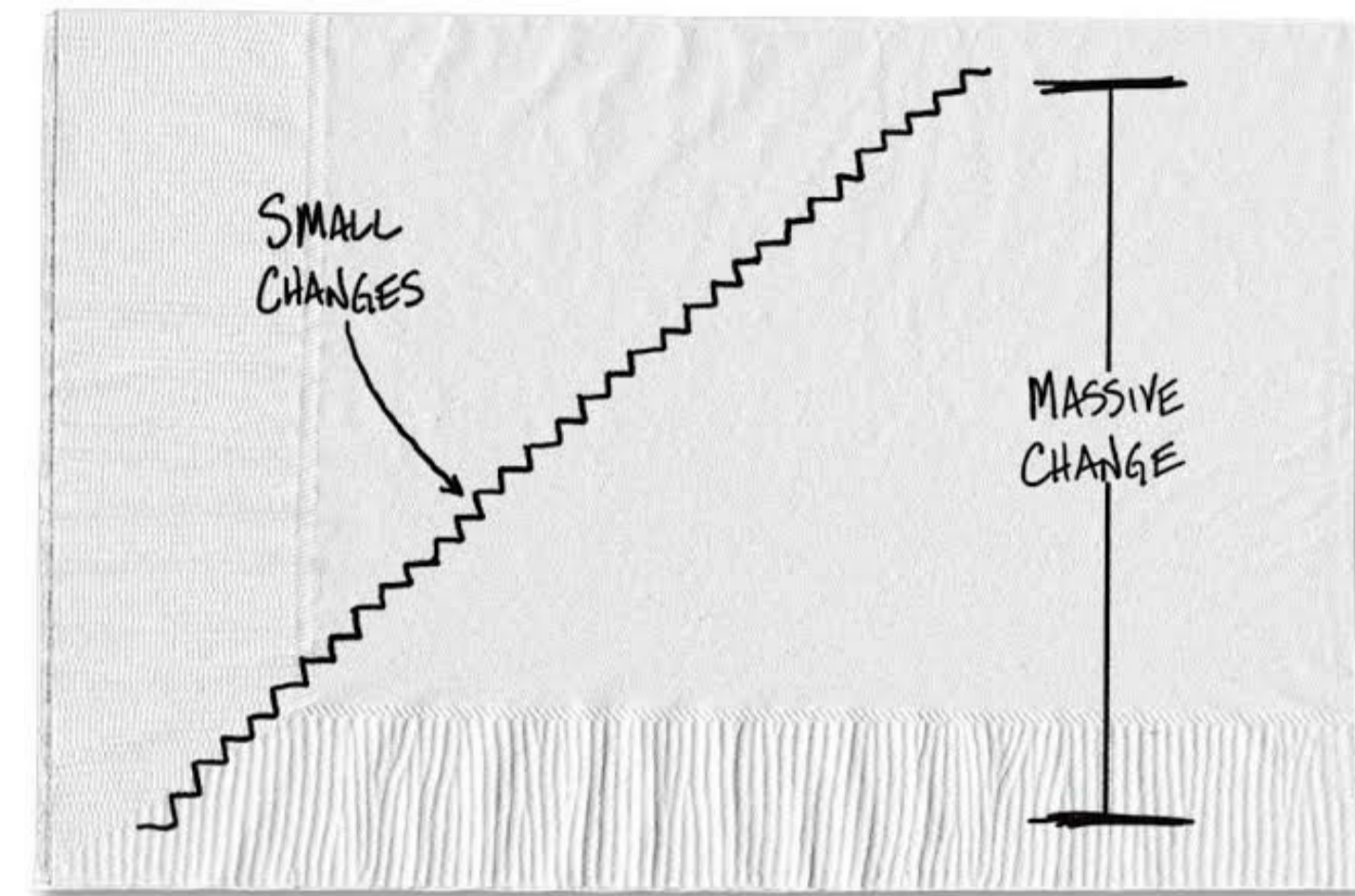
Sheikh Aqib Farooq

In a world that often feels overwhelming and chaotic, the idea that small changes can lead to significant impact is both empowering and transformative. While many people aspire to make large-scale changes in their lives, communities, or the environment, they often overlook the power of incremental adjustments. Small changes can be the building blocks for a better life, a healthier planet, and a more harmonious society. By making minor yet consistent modifications in our daily routines, habits, and perspectives, we can collectively create a ripple effect that leads to monumental shifts.

The journey toward meaningful change often begins with self-awareness. Recognizing the areas in our lives that could benefit from adjustment is the first step toward transformation. This self-reflection can be as simple as evaluating our daily routines, identifying habits that are counterproductive, or acknowledging aspects of our lives that leave us feeling unfulfilled. For instance, consider how many hours we spend on social media each day. A slight reduction in screen time, even by just 15 minutes, can free up time for more enriching activities such as reading, exercising, or spending quality time with loved ones.

One of the most impactful small changes individuals can implement is a shift in their dietary habits. The food we consume plays a crucial role in our overall health, well-being, and the health of the planet. By incorporating more plant-based meals into our diets, we can improve our personal health while also reducing our carbon footprint. This doesn't mean that everyone needs to become a vegetarian or vegan overnight; rather, adopting a "meatless Monday" or committing to one plant-based meal each day can yield substantial benefits over time. Research shows that plant-based diets are linked to lower rates of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers. Additionally, reducing meat consumption contributes to lower greenhouse gas emissions, making it a win-win for personal health and the environment.

Another area where small changes can lead to significant impacts is in our approach to physical activity. Many people find themselves overwhelmed



by the idea of committing to an intense workout regimen or spending hours at the gym. However, integrating movement into our daily routines can be achieved through simpler means. For example, choosing to walk or bike for short errands instead of driving, taking the stairs instead of the elevator, or incorporating short bursts of activity throughout the day can collectively improve physical health and mental well-being. Even a brisk 10-minute walk can elevate mood and boost productivity. By fostering a mindset that values movement as an integral part of daily life, we can gradually cultivate healthier lifestyles without the pressure of drastic changes.

Mindfulness practices are another area where small shifts can lead to significant transformations. In a society that often emphasizes productivity and busyness, taking a few moments each day for mindfulness or meditation can help center our thoughts and reduce stress. Even dedicating just five minutes in the morning or evening to breathe deeply, reflect on the

**A simple act of kindness, such as sending a text to check in on a friend, expressing appreciation, or actively listening during conversations, can strengthen connections and enhance the quality of our relationships**

day, or practice gratitude can have profound effects on mental health. Research indicates that regular mindfulness practice can improve emotional regula-

tion, increase focus, and promote overall well-being.

As individuals become more mindful, they may also find themselves more present in their interactions with others, fostering deeper connections and enhancing relationships.

The power of community should not be underestimated when discussing the impact of small changes. Often, we feel that our individual actions may be insignificant in the grand scheme of things. However, collective efforts, no matter how small, can lead to significant societal shifts. Consider community clean-up events. A group of neighbors coming together to pick up litter in a local park may seem like a minor effort, but such actions can inspire others to take pride in their surroundings and participate in maintaining a clean environment. Similarly, supporting local businesses instead of larger corporations, even through small purchases, can strengthen community ties and contribute to a more sustainable economy.

In addition to community engagement, small changes in our

daily consumption habits can lead to significant environmental impacts. For example, adopting a mindset of conscious consumption means being mindful of what we buy and how it affects the planet. Simple practices, such as carrying reusable bags, using a reusable water bottle, or opting for products with minimal packaging, can collectively reduce waste and environmental harm. When individuals prioritize sustainability in their purchases, they encourage companies to adopt more eco-friendly practices, thereby amplifying the impact of their choices.

Financial habits also represent a domain where small changes can yield substantial results. Many people struggle with saving money or managing expenses effectively. However, implementing minor adjustments to spending habits can lead to long-term financial stability. For instance, setting aside just a small percentage of income each month into a savings account can accumulate over time, creating a safety net for emergencies or future investments. Additionally,

creating a budget and tracking spending, even if done informally, can help individuals become more aware of their financial habits and make informed decisions about their spending.

Education and lifelong learning represent yet another area where small changes can have profound impacts. The pursuit of knowledge is not confined to formal education; rather, it can take many forms, including reading, online courses, or engaging in discussions with others. By dedicating just a few minutes each day to learning something new—whether it's a skill, a language, or a topic of interest—we can expand our horizons and enhance our personal growth. Lifelong learning fosters adaptability and resilience, essential traits in an ever-evolving world.

Lastly, the realm of personal relationships can also benefit from small changes. A simple act of kindness, such as sending a text to check in on a friend, expressing appreciation, or actively listening during conversations, can strengthen connections and enhance the quality of our relationships. Building a habit of showing gratitude and kindness not only enriches our lives but also creates a positive feedback loop, inspiring others to engage in similar behaviors.

The notion that small changes can lead to significant impact is a powerful reminder that transformation does not always require grand gestures or sweeping reforms. By making incremental adjustments in our daily lives—whether through dietary choices, physical activity, mindfulness practices, community engagement, sustainable consumption, financial habits, lifelong learning, or nurturing relationships—we can create a ripple effect that extends far beyond ourselves. Each small action contributes to a larger movement toward personal growth, community well-being, and environmental sustainability. As we embrace the potential of these small changes, we empower ourselves and others to create a better, more harmonious world. Ultimately, it is the accumulation of these small shifts that can lead to a brighter future, one that reflects our shared values and aspirations.

*The author is in interdisciplinary fields of educational technology, civil service training, and skill development*

## The Lonely Road of Sensitivity and Empathy You're Not Alone

Shawn Abreu

Many people think of sensitivity and empathy as gifts—and they are—but these gifts carry an unspoken burden. Those who feel deeply experience the world with heightened awareness, absorbing both the beauty and the pain around them. This emotional depth can lead to isolation, as it becomes difficult to find people who see the world through the same nuanced lens.

One hidden challenge is how this heightened awareness can easily be mistaken for, or contribute to, social anxiety. When you're constantly attuned to the smallest shifts in someone's tone, facial expression, or body language—and deeply invested in their well-being—it can become overwhelming. This is further complicated by a heightened sensitivity to the emotional states and unspoken dynamics of those in close proximity. Due to high conscientiousness, you might turn inward, replaying conversations in your mind, wondering if you said the right thing, or feel responsible for the moods of others around you. This over-awareness can leave you second-guessing interactions and exhausted by the emotional energy required to navigate social situations. You care deeply about connection, yet the very act of connecting can feel overwhelming.

This sensitivity shapes how you interact with the world, often drawing you into spaces where others share their struggles, fears, and vulnerabilities. But while holding space for others is meaningful, it also takes



a toll. It can feel like you are always the anchor, the lighthouse guiding others through their storms, yet you stand alone on the shore.

Society often pushes people—especially men—away from sensitivity. It values stoicism, control, and toughness while dismissing tender-

ness as weak. As a result, many people build emotional walls to protect themselves, shutting off the parts of them that feel too exposed. But it takes real strength to resist that temptation. It takes immense resilience to maintain softness in a world that rewards hardness.

To remain open and tender, even after being hurt, requires extraordinary courage. The easy path is to build walls, to shut people out, and to let bitterness take root. But "I'm sensitive, and I'd like to stay that way," as Jewel sings, captures a simple but profound truth: remaining sensitive,

despite everything, is a powerful act. To live with an open heart is not just brave—it's a form of strength that defies the world's expectations.

When you keep your heart open, you walk a difficult path. Because, inevitably, you will get hurt. And when the world wounds you, the in-

stinct is to lash out, to close off, or to protect yourself with anger. But true strength lies not in avoiding pain but in facing it head-on. It's in choosing to stay tender, in tending to your wounds patiently until they heal.

This is where kindness comes in—not as passivity, but as power. True strength is choosing kindness in a world that rewards cruelty. Kindness isn't about being a doormat or turning the other cheek—it's about standing firm in love, even when the world tries to push you toward bitterness. To be kind requires a deep love for yourself, one that becomes an unbreakable fortress. You cannot offer kindness to others unless you've first cultivated it within yourself. And when you love yourself, you no longer tolerate abuse or mistreatment, nor do you need to please or betray your own needs.

Kindness is not weakness—it is the hardest thing you can do when others hurt you. It's easy to lash out, to blame, or to withdraw. The real challenge is to keep your heart open, even when it hurts. That's the kind of strength we need more of—strength rooted in tenderness, resilience, and love.

So, if you feel like your sensitivity makes life harder, know that you are not alone. This path is not easy, but it's worth it. Your sensitivity is a gift, not a flaw. And even though the world may not always understand it, the courage to stay open, to stay kind, and to stay true to yourself is a rare kind of strength. Keep walking that path, and you'll find others who are ready to meet you there.

*The article was originally published by Psychology Today*

## Unhealthy Dietary Habits Fuel Disease Burden In India: NIN Institute Invites Aspirants To Study Lost Ethnic Foods Of Kashmir

Observer News Service

Hyderabad: Unhealthy dietary habits are the leading risk factor for diseases like coronary heart ailments, hypertension and diabetes in India. This was stated by Dr Santasabuj Das, Incharge Director, ICMR- National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, during his interaction with a delegation of visiting media persons from J&K.

He said nutrition is one of the most important environmental factors that determines the risk and outcome of many communicable and non-communicable diseases.

"Unhealthy dietary habits are the leading risk factor for disease burden contributing to more than half of the DALYs due to coronary heart disease, hypertension and diabetes in India", Dr Santasabuj said.

He said the prevention and reduction of communicable and non-communicable chronic diseases are intricately linked to various forms of malnutrition.

"Economically, the cost of poor nutrition is the leading cause of premature deaths and strained health systems, which in turn impede economic progress", he said adding, "Good nutrition is a resource that surpasses the



individual and influences the family, and the benefits are felt at the community level".

Media professionals led by Deputy Director of PIB Srinagar Tariq Rather, on the second day of their visit also toured several sections of NIN where a multi-disciplinary scientific team works relentlessly to address the nutrition and health challenges people face today.

NIN provides evidence-based inputs on food and nutrient consumption patterns; and trends in the nutrition status of the population across age and

physiological groups, including maternal and child nutrition.

The group of scientists headed by Dr Subbarao, Dr M. Maheshwar, Dr G.Bhanuprakash Reddy, Dr J J Babu shared their valuable inputs about the research NIN is doing, to eliminate all forms of malnutrition in India through healthy, sustainable and environment-friendly diets and lifestyles.

NIN generates high-quality evidence for tackling important public health nutrition problems such as undernutrition, anaemia, iodine deficiency and

various micronutrient deficiencies in vulnerable population groups. NIN develops various intervention models to prevent and control malnutrition in India by conducting community-based trials.

Dr G.Bhanuprakash Reddy, who heads bio-chemistry division, told Kashmir Observer that NIN invites aspirant researchers from J&K to conduct studies on Ethnic Foods in order to understand benefits of traditional understanding and knowledge of foods developed over a long time. "NIN Hyderabad has also

conducted a study in Ladakh called the Diet and Biomarker Survey in India (DABS-I)", disclosed Dr J J Babu.

He said the study aims to provide insights into the nutritional habits, unexplored food recipes, and anaemia picture in Ladakh.

The scientists at NIN described it as a mission-mode project aimed at evaluating food and nutrient intake among various demographics, assessing the prevalence of anaemia and nutrient deficiencies, and analyzing food composition.

The delegation was informed that NIN has developed a free app known as NUTRIFY INDIA NOW 2.0. It is a free lifestyle app developed by NIN ICMR for Android devices.

This app serves as a personal health assistant, catering to diverse needs by monitoring nutrition, physical activity, and overall well-being. The app aims to provide essential information on nutrients available in food and their daily requirements to promote good health and well-being.

It also offers data on raw foods and recipes with their nutrient composition to help users assess their nutritional status, required dietary allowance (RDA), daily food intake, and energy expenditure.

## Pathways Education Workshop Inspires Tribal Students In Anantnag

Observer News Service

Anantnag: The Pathways Education Workshop, organized under the Azadi Leadership Program (Kashmir Cohort), was held today at Government Middle School, K. Gojran, Khiram, Anantnag. The workshop aimed at empowering tribal students by raising awareness about their educational rights, opportunities, and government schemes designed to support their academic and professional aspirations.

At least 80 students and staff members actively participated in the workshop, which started with a warm welcome. Rafia, a key member of the organizing team, initiated the session by offering mental and emotional support to the students. She created a safe and confident environment, allowing the tribal students to openly express their dreams, challenges, and goals. Her efforts were vital in helping the children feel comfortable and engaged.

Following the introduction, Humira Tabassum, the organizer of the workshop, took the stage

to outline the objectives of the event. She spoke about the scholarships, reservation policies, and government schemes available for tribal students, urging them to take advantage of these opportunities to pursue higher education and contribute to the progress of their communities. Her motivational words encouraged the students to envision a brighter future and inspired them to break barriers through education.

In addition to the informative sessions, students were given the chance to showcase their talents. Participants were rewarded with gifts for their creativity and skill, further boosting their confidence. The workshop also featured an art competition, introduced by Sumeera, a social activist. She engaged the students in a series of games and activities that not only entertained but also helped in fostering teamwork and creative thinking.

To ensure that the participants felt energized and appreciated, refreshments were provided to all students, which further added to their enjoyment of the event.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Safety Of Workers

police, civil administration, project implementing agency and other security agencies, and directed that the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero terror incidents in order to push rapid social and economic development, the spokesman said.

In the meeting, the LG underlined the need for securing the vital infrastructure projects across JK and putting in place a multi-pronged and fool-proof mechanism for coordination with project implementing agencies to prevent security breaches.

Sinha said the safety and security of workers and officers working on key infrastructure projects is the highest priority for the government.

The LG emphasised the need for stricter access control and regular patrolling around the project sites.

He also directed the security forces and the police to conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations pro-actively to wipe out terrorism in JK.

A doctor and six labourers were killed when terrorists attacked the tunnel construction site on Sunday.

The unidentified terrorists carried out the attack when the labourers and other staff working on the tunnel project at Gund in Ganderbal had returned to their camp late in the evening.

The terrorists, believed to be at least two, opened indiscriminate fire on the group of labourers that included both locals and non-locals.

While two labourers died on the spot, four others and the doctor succumbed to their injuries later. Five people are undergoing treatment for their injuries.

### 40 Suspects

perpetrators and their accomplices involved in one of the deadliest attacks on non-local labourers in the Kashmir valley.

The assailants, believed to be Pakistani terrorists, meticulously studied the site layout before executing their plan. They first targeted the labourers' mess before proceeding to the officers' quarters.

Officials suspect that the attackers may have had prior knowledge of the site, potentially having worked there previously or receiving support from locals present at the location. Eyewitnesses recounted the cold-blooded firing by the attackers.

The officials said CCTV footage from the area is being scrutinised.

The Resistance Front, a shadow organisation linked to the banned Lashker-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the barbaric act.

In a region that has been plagued by terrorism for over three decades, this area had not experienced such a violent incident before.

The attack, which left a doctor and six labourers dead, unfolded when the staff had returned to their camp late in the evening after working on the tunnel project.

Among the deceased were Dr Shahnawaz Dar, Faheem Nasir, Kaleem, Mohammad Hanif, Shashi Abrol, Anil Shukla and Gurmeet Singh.

The NIA's investigative team visited the site to gather crucial evidence that could aid in identifying the attackers.

As leaders of various political parties and outfits condemned the attack, JK Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed determination not to let vested interests impede the region's progress and development.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha vowed to avenge the brutal attack, holding Pakistan accountable for instigating violence in the area.

### Terror Group

@ Baba Hamas, a Pakistani terrorist handler. The searches as per the statement were conducted in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kulgam, Budgam, Anantnag and Pulwama.

The statement reads that the searches at 10 locations in different districts of the valley were conducted in pursuance to search warrant issued by Court of Special Judge, designated under NIA Act, Srinagar in a case under FIR number 06/2023 under section 153-A, 505,121

& 120-B IPC r/w 13 & 39 UA(P) Act.

"The case pertains to a larger conspiracy hatched by proscribed terrorist organizations operating within J&K and across the LOC at the behest of Pakistani agencies, in connivance with their OGWs/supporters/facilitators/sympathizers in Kashmir valley are continuously in process of creating 'new terror modules' (gangs) wherein by misusing various social media applications, youths of Kashmir are lured by varied ways and means including radicalization/instigation/provocation etc. with the intention to make the youths indulge in unlawful and terrorist activities and also to join terrorist ranks for furthering the activities of these terrorist organizations," the statement said.

On the basis of information and inputs/evidence developed by P/S CIK, it was found that @Baba Hamas, a terrorist handler of LeT is going to float a new terrorist organization by the name of 'Tehreek Labaik Ya Muslim' (TLM), an offshoot of LeT in conspiracy with OGWs/supporters/facilitators/sympathizers of terrorist organizations operating in Kashmir valley with the active support of Pakistani agencies with the intention to further terrorist activities in Kashmir valley, he said.

It was further found that said terrorist handler 'Gazi Hamas' is providing seditious material and directions to OGWs/supporters/facilitators/sympathizers through various covert/encrypted social media applications for radicalization and luring the youths to join terrorist ranks of newly floated terrorist organization 'Tehreek Labaik Ya Muslim', the statement added.

"The module is in continuous touch with handlers / members of terrorist organization(s) across the border, amongst other modes of communication, it is learnt that encrypted internet messaging platforms, besides other software applications are being used, as such, the searches were conducted at 10 locations of Kashmir valley wherein besides arrest of suspects, incriminating material in the form of digital devices, SIM cards, Mobile phones, laptops and seditious material having bearing on the investigation of the case have been recovered and seized in the case," it added.

"It is notable that this newly floated terrorist organisation have claimed few incidents in recent past which includes but not limited to a fire incident in Panchayat Ghar in Seer area of District Pulwama and another fire in a remote village of Doda (though not corroborated on ground) and this outfit also remained involved in pasting of posters at various locations in South and Central Kashmir and on internet based social media platforms as well. This was aimed at to glorify the terrorism and radicalise the youth to join this new terror outfit. It is pertinent to mention here that the investigation is aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem in the UT by not only identifying Over Ground Workers (OGWs) supporting and abetting terrorism but by ensuring legal action as envisaged by the law of the land," the statement reads.

### CM To Bear

conveyed to Dr Shahnawaz; son that he will bear all education expenses.

Seven persons including Dr Shahnawaz were killed in a major terror attack in Gagangeer on Sunday late evening.

### LG Summons

but we don't have numbers to get the post," senior BJP leader Ashok Koul said.

There are indications that the NC-led alliance could give deputy speaker's post to the BJP.

### Modi, Xi To Meet

status had proved elusive.

Besides bilateral relations, it had also led to strain in other areas.

There had been no direct flight between the two nations for four years. Visa for Chinese technicians was granted after extra layers of security and investments from companies based in neighbouring countries needed extra

vetting and security clearances.

The 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan is being held under the chairmanship of Russia from October 22-24.

This visit marks PM Modi's second visit to Russia this year. He travelled to Moscow in July to attend the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit where he held a bilateral meeting with President Putin. He was also conferred with Russia's highest civilian award, the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle in the Kremlin in Moscow.

BRIC, as a formal grouping, started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St Petersburg on the margins of G8 Outreach Summit in 2006.

### No Outside Worker

leave Kashmir as "baseless, holding no merit", an official spokesperson said here.

"The divisional administration has taken all the required measures to ensure the safety and security of non-local workers in the Valley. The rumours spread on social media platforms regarding the administration pressuring non-local workers to leave the Valley are false," the spokesperson said.

The administration also urged people to desist from amplifying the unfounded rumours and sought the cooperation of locals to defeat the agenda of individuals with vested interests who want to derail the peace in the Valley.

Mehbooba Mufti said that workers leaving the area will create more difficulties and send a negative message to the country.

"(It) Will only create more difficulties & sends a very bad message to the country. J&K recently witnessed peaceful terror-free elections & this knee-jerk reaction will only prove otherwise," the former chief minister said.

The PDP president said the move also lead to outrage against Kashmiris working or studying in other parts of the country.

"Request Chief Minister @OmarAbdullah & LG @manojshinha\_ji to intervene & at least give them enough time," she added.

A doctor and six labourers were gunned down by terrorists at a tunnel construction site on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway on Sunday evening.

In a post on X, Kashmir Zone police said the claims about non-local labourers being moved out from the valley are false.

"Social media reports claiming the local administration has asked non-local workers to leave the valley are false.

"The Jammu and Kashmir Police is committed to ensuring security and fostering a safe environment for all individuals to pursue their livelihoods without fear or intimidation.

"The general public is advised not to pay heed to such false information on social media platforms," it added.

### Will Personally

to incentivize efficiency, the Chief Minister suggested that areas demonstrating better management of electricity usage should be rewarded. "Reward those areas that are more efficient in managing curtailment. The schedule should be localized and reflect performance, particularly in areas where AT&C losses are lower," he advised.

Given the forecast of an early winter onset by the Meteorological Department, the Chief Minister instructed PDD officials to expedite their preparations. "We have indications of early snowfall this year, so our winter preparedness must reflect that possibility," he said, urging that seasonal pruning be completed within the next three to four weeks.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary PDD Rajesh H. Prasad provided a detailed presentation on the current power scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

The presentation covered a wide range of topics, including the existing power supply situation, energy requirement, and peak availability during the winter months.

Key areas of discussion included strategies to mitigate the winter power deficit, banking agreements for up to 500 MW of additional energy, and allocations from the central

government. The meeting also reviewed power purchase liabilities, loans raised, payments made, and ongoing efforts to improve revenue realization through enhanced billing systems, e-governance, and IT interventions.

A significant focus was placed on reducing Aggregate, Technical, and Commercial (AT&C) losses, with the Chief Minister urging that all necessary steps be taken to minimize these losses. The status of ongoing projects and system additions were also discussed in detail, with an emphasis on ensuring timely implementation before the onset of winter.

### Allotment Of 12 Gas

its restoration."

Replying to a query, Sharma said that "I assure you that this will be one of the finest and wonderful governments you have ever seen because the chief minister is very clear. Omar Abdullah means development, results and execution. You would have never seen such a chief minister before. We are working as a team and will make Kashmir and India beautiful together."

About Darbar Move, he said that the Jammu people need it the most as their business has been affected.

Besides, the cabinet minister informed that everything that has been mentioned in the manifesto of National Conference (NC) including 12 cylinders, increase in ration will be ensured.

"I can assure you that this has happened for the first time in the past several decades that Deputy CM post was given to Jammu and the people must be thankful for it," he said.

When asked about the reports of Jammu people feeling alienated, he said that he would work as a bridge, saying that there is a need to change the mindset.

"Since the Tourism department is with the Chief Minister himself, I can assure you that I can add one crore tourists in the next three years. There is a need to give the tourists respect as they help our people to earn livelihood and also make the future of our youth bright," he said. (KNO)

### CM Releases

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar by the Director Finance.

In a letter issued to DC Kishtwar, Director Finance wrote, "The Chief Minister is pleased to sanction an amount of 170 lakh out of the J&K relief fund as financial assistance in favour of fire affected sufferers of Malwarwan. The said amount has been transferred to your official account through NEFT for its further disbursement amount of 85 fire sufferers @ Rs 2 lakh per sufferer."

On October 14, 2024, houses of 85 people were completely gutted into the devastating fire which left around 500 people homeless. After the incident, Omar Abdullah, after taking oath as CM, visited the area and assured financial help to the affected families.

Today the CM fulfilled his promise and released the money to help the people in distress.

Many NGOs are also working on the ground to provide relief to the fire victims and the rehabilitation process is underway. (KNO)

### 85% of Students

such as essay writing, career research and university selection," the report said.

The IC3 Institute is a volunteer-based organisation that provides support to high schools around the world through guidance and training resources for their administrators, teachers and counsellors to help establish and maintain robust career and college counselling departments.

The report identified ages 12 to 14 as optimal time to begin career discussions globally and noted that 40 per cent of students have never interacted with a counsellor, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive school-wide counselling programmes.

"In India, 68 pc of students report having access to counselling services, while 25 pc do not, and 7 pc lack formal or structured counselling

support. The findings also reveal that 48 pc of students are concerned with lengthy application processes, while 38 pc highlight a lack of personalized feedback.

"This advocates for more efficient student-centred application procedures that prioritize timely support and tailored guidance," the report said.

In India, counsellors face several unique challenges, including managing parental expectations (26 per cent), lack of planning by students (24 per cent), high student-to-counsellor ratios (18 per cent) and a lack of technical training (16 per cent). Additionally, 67 per cent of Indian counsellors have additional responsibilities, such as teaching and administrative tasks, which may limit their ability to provide focused counselling services.

The report noted that parents play a pivotal role in shaping students' career paths globally and in India, 73 per cent of students begin discussing career choices with their parents between the ages 10 to 14.

"The findings highlight the need for counselling in every school to help students gain clarity on their academic and career paths, ultimately reducing stress and anxiety. By integrating structured career counselling services, personalized guidance and the use of technology, we can better support students in navigating their educational and professional journeys, promoting both their personal growth and long-term success," said Ganesh Kohli, founder of the IC3 Movement.

The International Career and College Counselling (IC3) Movement is a global initiative committed to transforming career and college counselling within educational institutions worldwide.

"It is quintessential that students' career-related needs are congruent with the career counselling approach. Counselling means a journey from more confusion to less confusion. It means guiding students to choose a career path based on their passion, purpose, aptitude and competencies," said Shalaka Shah, Assistant Professor of Psychology at FLAME University, Pune.

### Indigo Flight

Authority of India here said.

The official said the hoax call did not affect the flight operations.

### 'I Am An Accidental

considering the restoration of the Darbar Move, which has been a longstanding tradition. "Jammu has suffered significantly, and we are committed to taking measures to revive the Darbar Move," he assured. "Whatever commitments

Omar Abdullah made in his manifesto, he will fulfill in totality."

The newly elected Minister Satish Sharma shared a personal reflection on his unexpected journey into politics, highlighting his roots from the Chamb area, a region lost to Pakistan. "When I sit on my balcony, I can see our neighboring village illuminated with electricity," he remarked, emphasizing the stark contrast in development.

Despite the Tourism department remaining under the Chief Minister, Sharma expressed his eagerness to contribute innovative ideas aimed at enhancing the tourism sector in both regions. "In the next three years, Jammu and Kashmir will witness a new dawn of development in tourism," he declared, outlining his commitment to revitalizing the industry and improving local livelihoods.

### J&K Govt To Buy

procurement and cannot be diverted or re-allocated for other purposes. Additionally, the department must ensure there is no idle parking of the funds, and no new posts, such as drivers, will be created.

The Director, Motor Garages, is responsible for securing and guaranteeing all financial transactions related to the procurement, with utilization certificates and red accounts to be submitted by March 31, 2025.



# India-Pakistan Ties Continue To Impact ICC Champions Trophy Prep

Agencies

The International Cricket Council (ICC) expressed its satisfaction over the detailed briefing of arrangements presented by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials for next year's Champions Trophy, sources told Geo News.

The preparations were revealed in an ICC meeting on Monday, during which the PCB chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, was also present.

Sources told Geo News that during the meeting, the PCB officials assured the ICC board members that the upgradation of the three stadiums that will host the matches of the marquee event will be completed within the stipulated time.

Naqvi has also invited ICC board members to Pakistan to review the preparations made for the tournament. The Champions Trophy will begin next year in Pakistan, but there are



certain challenges that need to be addressed. Uncertainty continues to loom over India going to Pakistan for the mega event. Since 2008's Asia Cup, India

has not played any cricket tournaments in Pakistan due to tense relationships between both nations because of terrorism. A series played from De-

cember 2012 to January 2013 in India marked the final bilateral series between the two nations. Since then, both nations have only clashed at ICC tournaments and the Asia Cup. On

the other hand, Pakistan travelled to India on three occasions since the 2008 Asia Cup.

Recently, reports started to surface about the International Cricket Council (ICC) looking at three options regarding hosting the Champions Trophy.

According to sources, ICC is either looking to have the tournament go ahead in Pakistan as planned or take place in both Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a part of the hybrid model.

As per this hybrid model, matches for India and knock-out stage games will take place in Dubai. The third option is the entire tournament, taking place outside Pakistan, with Dubai, Sri Lanka or South Africa as possible hosts.

Pakistan have not hosted any major International Cricket Council (ICC) event since the 1996 ODI World Cup, which it co-hosted with India and Sri Lanka. (ANI)

## News MAKERS

### Kane Williamson Ruled Out Of 2nd Test Against India

Press Trust of India

Senior New Zealand batter Kane Williamson will not be available for the second Test against India here as his rehabilitation from a groin strain is still not complete, the country's cricket board announced on Tuesday.

New Zealand lead the three-match series 1-0 after winning the first game by eight wickets in Bengaluru. The second match will start here on Thursday.

Williamson, who is yet to join the squad here, suffered the injury during the recent Test series against Sri Lanka. Blackcaps head coach Gary Stead said Williamson was not yet ready even though he has made significant progress.

"We're monitoring Kane and he's tracking in the right direction, but isn't yet 100 per cent fit," said Stead in a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket (NZC).

"We're hopeful to see further improvement over the coming days and have him available for the third Test.

"We'll give him as much time as possible to get himself ready, but certainly continue to take a cautious approach," he added. The third Test is scheduled in Mumbai from November 1.

### 5 IPL Franchises Bidding For Teams In The Hundred

Press Trust of India

Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants are among the IPL franchises who have submitted bids to acquire teams in the English Cricket Board-run The Hundred, according to a report.

The GMR Group, recently named the new owner of Hampshire, and Avram Glazer, co-owner of Manchester United Football Club, also submitted bids before the ECB's October 18 deadline for potential investors, reported ESPNcricinfo.

The ECB has invited bids for a 49 per cent stake in each of the eight franchises, with the board retaining majority control.

ECB chairman Richard Thompson has also mentioned the possibility of a "hybrid" ownership model, where some teams remain under ECB control while others are sold to private investors.

The report further says while several IPL franchises showed early interest, not all followed through with bids. "Global sports investors INEOS, owned by Jim Ratcliffe, which owns a 27% stake in Manchester United and run the football club's operations wing, have also opted out of bidding."

One of the main concerns for IPL franchises is whether they would be "happy being passive investors".

### Prithvi Shaw Dropped, Told To Lose Weight

Agencies

Opener Prithvi Shaw got a big jolt as he was dropped from the Mumbai Ranji Trophy team because of poor fitness.

Shaw, who has managed 59 runs in the first two games of the new Ranji season, has been told to follow a strict fitness regime and shed weight to ensure his return to the Mumbai team.

His place in the team has been taken by left-handed opener Akhil Herwadkar.

42-time Ranji Trophy winners Mumbai came down hard on the former India opener. The selection committee comprising of Chairman Sanjay Patil (chairman) along Ravi Thaker, Jeetendra Thackeray, Kiran Powar, and Vikrant Yelgite left out Shaw for the Ranji Trophy match against Tripura at Agartala from October 26 to 29.

Shaw has been instructed to shed weight for which he has been told to follow a strict fitness regime given by the MCA trainers.

The team management is also reportedly not happy with Shaw's attitude after he missed practice sessions.

Shaw, who hit a century on his Test debut against the West Indies in 2018, has played five Tests, six ODIs, and one Twenty20.

## District Amateur Kabaddi Championship Begins In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: District Amateur Kabaddi Championship kick started on Tuesday at Sports Stadium in Checki Brinty, Dialgam, for sub junior,

junior and senior boys.

The championship was inaugurated by Headmaster High School Brinty Mahjabeena Akhter. She advised the players to take up more sports activities and

keep themselves away from drugs and other socially evil things.

Six teams from each age category of sub junior, junior and senior are participating in the championship.

## DYSS Anantnag Flags Off Boys To Kokernag Trekking

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag's Trekking camp in Kokernag for Boys began on Tuesday. Seventy trekkers from all 12 zones of the district participated in this program.

The trekkers were flagged off by DYSSO Anantnag Raja Yaqoob Ali from District Headquarter Anantnag to Kokernag.

Interacting with the trek-



kers, Raja Yaqoob Ali mentioned the importance and key points of trekking and

passed the instructions for the successful completion of the camp.

## Cricketer Sarfaraz Khan, Wife Ramona Blessed With A Baby Boy



Agencies

Sarfaraz, who recently smashed a brilliant 150 in a loss to New Zealand in the first Test at Bengaluru, took to Instagram and revealed that he and his wife were blessed with a baby boy. He also clicked a picture of the baby with himself and his father and coach, Naushad Khan. Sarfaraz turned 27 on Tuesday.

Sarfaraz married his wife Romana in August last year.

After years of plundering runs at domestic level cricket, Sarfaraz finally made his international debut during the series against England at home earlier this year in February.

His breakthrough international performance came against Kiwis in the first Test, in which he smashed 150 in just 195 balls with 18 fours and three sixes and had memorable partnerships with Virat Kohli (70) and Rishabh Pant (99) to wipe out NZ's first innings lead of 356 runs, taken after bundling out India for just 46 runs in the first innings and

following up with a score of 402.

India reached 462 runs due to Sarfaraz's effort, however, the target of 107 runs was too small to defend for Indian bowlers as the Kiwis registered their first Test win in India after 36 years.

In four Tests and seven innings for India, he has made 350 runs at an average of 58.33 with a strike rate of over 77, with a century and three fifties.

Sarfaraz remains a force in first-class cricket, having made 4,572 runs at an average of 69.27 and a strike rate of almost 70 in 52 FC matches and 78 innings, with 16 centuries and 14 fifties. His best score is 301.

This year in 10 FC matches, he has scored 862 runs in 16 innings at an average of 62.92 and a strike rate of 77.55, with three centuries and four fifties. His best score is 222.

With India 1-0 down in the three-match series, Sarfaraz is expected to play a crucial role in the second Test at Pune's Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium from Thursday.

## India Hit Hard As 2026 Commonwealth Games Drops Hockey, Wrestling, Badminton, Cricket, Table Tennis

Press Trust of India

LONDON: In a body blow to India's medal prospects in the Commonwealth Games, key sports such as hockey, badminton, wrestling, cricket and shooting have been dropped from the 2026 edition by host city Glasgow, which unveiled a pruned roster of 10 disciplines to keep the event budget-friendly and free of "operational risks".

Table tennis, squash and triathlon have also been axed in a bid to limit the cost and streamline logistics given that only four venues will host the entire showpiece.

The total number of events at the Games will be nine fewer compared to the 2022 Birmingham edition.

"The Games will include 10 sports striking a balance between ensuring the event has a multi-sport feel and the need to manage financial and operational risk," the Commonwealth Games Federation said in a statement.

"The sports programme will include Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field), Swimming and Para Swim-

ming, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball," the Commonwealth Games Federation said in a statement.

The 23rd edition of the Games is scheduled to take place from July 23 to August 2, marking Glasgow's return as host after 12 years.

"The Games will take place across four venues -- Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre, Emirates Arena -- including the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, and the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). Athletes and support staff will be housed in hotel accommodation," it added.

The roster is a massive setback to India's medal prospects given that the bulk of the country's medals came from the removed disciplines in the past editions.

Shooting was never expected to return after being dropped from the Birmingham programme four years ago, owing to logistics.

While announcing the



Glasgow schedule, the CGF said "Glasgow 2026 will feature a 10-sport programme concentrated across four venues within an eight-mile corridor".

This ruled shooting out of the roster as the Barry Buddon centre in Dundee -- the venue during the 2014 CWG -- is more than 100km away from

Glasgow.

Also, archery continued to be ignored.

The sport last featured at the Games in the 2010 Delhi edition.

Glasgow Green, which hosted hockey in 2014, has been dropped from the list of venues, while the Emirates Arena, where badminton was held

that year, will be used only for cycling this time at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome there.

"Cost and operational risk were the main drivers. Every venue introduced brings added costs and complexity for venue hire, security, transport etc. To minimise those risks, it was determined that it would be too costly to add additional

venues," the organisers stated justifying limiting the Games to just four venues.

Aside from cost, hockey's exclusion could also be down to the fact that the Games are being organised close to the World Cup that is scheduled two weeks later from August 15 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands. The Australian state of Victoria was the original host of the 2026 edition but pulled out last year due to rising costs.

Scotland then stepped in to save the Games.

Hockey's omission from the Games would be a significant blow for India.

The men's team has won three silver and two bronze medals, while the women have also shone, clinching three medals, including a historic gold in the 2002 Games.

In badminton, India has racked up an impressive 31 medals -- 10 gold, eight silver, and 13 bronze.

Notably, the nation was to enter the 2026 edition as defending champions in men's and women's singles, as well as men's doubles.

Shooting was a stronghold

for India, with a staggering 135 medals to its name.

The count included 63 gold, 44 silver, and 28 bronze.

The wrestling competition has yielded 114 medals for the nation, including 49 gold, 39 silver, and 26 bronzes.

After the cricket's reintroduction in 2022, the Indian women's team claimed a silver.

Para-athletes have been a part of the Games since the 2002 Manchester edition and will continue to be there in the 2026 edition as well.

"Para sport will once again be fully integrated as a key priority and point of difference for the Games, with six Para sports included on the sport programme," CGF said.

The CGF said that the Games will deliver over 100 million pounds of "inward investment into the city" and is expected to add an economic value of over 150 million pounds for the region.

The body asserted that all this would be possible thanks to a model "that has been specially designed to not require public funding for the delivery of the Games."