

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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## J&K To Shift Back To Nov-Dec Academic Session For Classes Upto 9th

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday announced the restoration of academic session up to 9th standard to November-December instead of March session.

Omar, along with Education Minister Sakina Itoo, in a video message, said, "For a long time especially from the winter zones of Jammu and Kashmir divisions, the parents as well as students were demanding



to restore the schedule of exams to November-December session instead of March."

The Chief Minister said that today the education minister brought the proposal

to cabinet to revert the academic session to November-December and the cabinet has accepted it. "Now, the schedule of the exams for all classes upto 9th standard will be held before the winter vacations," he said.

Omar added, "However, in case of the students of 10th to 12th classes, we cannot restore the academic session this year but in the 2025, we will revert the schedule as per the old scheme and their exams will also be held before

winter vacations."

Earlier, J&K's education minister Sakina Itoo said that the academic session has been restored to November-December up to 9th standard.

"For now, we will restore the academic session back to November-December up to 9th standard. For students of 10th to 12th, academic sessions will be restored from next year," she said.

In the meantime, Itoo on her microblogging site X said, "We are announcing a change

of academic session back to November-December from this year for non-board classes i.e., upto class 9th, for Kashmir Province and Winter zones of Jammu Province. For higher classes, sessions would be restored from next year. I thank Hon'ble CM Jb @OmarAbdullah Sb for the prompt decision on the matter which was concerning students, teachers and parents."

CM Omar Abdullah assured students and parents that from next year, a similar winter-aligned | More on P6

## J&K To Celebrate 'UT Foundation Day' Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: For the second straight year, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is all set to celebrate its Foundation Day on Thursday.

The day is being celebrated on October 31. The government had organized a series of functions and events as well as the competitions to celebrate the day last year.

This year also, the UT Foundation Day is being celebrated across J&K for which the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on last Sunday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for observance of J&K foundation day among other events at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar.

The main function will be held at SKICC where LG Sinha will be the chief guest.

## NC, Congress To Stay Away

J&K's ruling National Conference (NC) and Congress on Wednesday said they would stay away from the Union Territory's foundation day celebrations on October 31 as it does not accept the status and wants restoration of statehood at the earliest.

"No one from the party will attend the UT foundation day function as we don't accept the status," NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq told reporters here, adding that NC believes the decision taken on August 5, 2019, to bifurcate the erstwhile state into two UTs -- J&K and Ladakh -- was "illegal, unconstitutional | More on P6

## Restoring Honour Of J&K My First Goal: Omar

Says This Term As CM Is Hugely Different From Past

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Stating that his first endeavour is to restore the honour of J&K citizens, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday said that people must have first rights on land, jobs and resources.

He also termed the growing drug abuse as a major issue for the government and sought support from religious heads and civil society members for eradicating the menace.

Addressing his maiden interaction with the members of Civil Society at SKICC after taking the oath as the J&K's Chief Minister, Omar gave a patient hearing to every one's speech. "Important issues were discussed here. Speeches were made and claps were seen in response to the good speeches. The points highlighted by Private Schools Association head Dr G N Var somehow touched everyone. His points were not confined to his domain only but other broader issues," he said.

The Chief Minister said that after a long time J&K has got an elected government. "I was a Chief Minister earlier also. But there is a difference, rather a huge difference between the past and the present," Omar said.

"Now I want to respond to the points raised here. Don't we have a right to live a dignified life. Sadak, Bijli and Pani is something we will get. But all these things are meaningless if



**J&K PEOPLE HAVE FIRST RIGHT on land, jobs, resources"**

we have no respect," Omar said. "Here, I want to assure you that we will fight for things. But I want our honour to be restored. People of J&K should have first rights to their jobs, land and resources."

He said that the press, judiciary, Bar Association, trade unions, labour unions need to be strengthened.

"This is a need so that people feel there is no force or fear but a real handholding and cooperative approach," Omar said.

The Chief Minister said that he recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Ministers in New Delhi. "I got assurances in full that whatever is good for the benefit of J&K will be done," Omar said.

Omar pointed out that the J&K hasn't reached a stage where it can run without a hand holding. "Be it horticulture, power or other sectors, we need to reach a stage of | More on P6



A fisherman, standing in a boat, casts his net into Dal Lake. KO Photo By Abid Bhat.

## NC, BJP Supporters Clash In Gurez; Case Filed

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Police have registered a case after several people were injured allegedly in clashes between the supporters of the National Conference (NC) and the BJP in the Gurez area of Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, officials said on Wednesday.

Several people were injured after the rally of Gurez MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan, who is also known as Gurezi, was attacked by a mob in Gujran area of Tulail in the north Kashmir district Tuesday evening, the officials said.

They said several vehicles were also damaged in the clashes.

The officials said the police have registered an FIR and an investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, Gurezi said is on a tour of his constituency to thank the voters for electing him in the recently concluded

JK assembly elections. On his return to Gujran, which is his opponent BJP leader Faqir Mohammad Khan's village, he was stopped by the police.

He was told that some people who had gathered there were not letting the vehicles move.

"Then I was taken in a police vehicle which was attacked with stones. They tried to murder me but I escaped.

"My personal vehicle and other vehicles were attacked with stones. Four to five cars were damaged. Many of our people were injured," he said.

The MLA alleged that it was complete hooliganism and he is glad that police have registered a case.

"I hope the administration and police will act soon and the culprits will be booked. They were the relatives of my opponent only and not the common villagers," Khan added.

BJP leader Faqir Mohammad Khan's | More on P6

## JKAS Results Out: 71 Candidates Clear Exam

Tailor's Daughter Tops In Valley

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has declared the result of Combined Competitive Examinations (CCE)-2023.

As per the results announced, seventy one candidates have cleared the JKAS Exam, and have been deployed for Medical Examination.

According to the JKPSC selection list, Sanjeev Kumar secured the top position with 1089 points, followed by Iqra Farooq in second with 1078 marks, and Vasudha Sharma in third place with a score of 1075.

**Reserved Categories Claim 60% Of Total Selections**



In total, 30,756 candidates were provisionally allowed to appear for the Preliminary Examination, which took place on October 15, 2023, with 18,882 candidates actually participating. The JKPSC declared 2,144

candidates qualified for the Mains Examination, including 77 who were permitted to take the exam following directions from the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

According to the JKPSC notification, the | More on P6

At least 60 percent of the selected candidates for JKAS Combined Competitive Examination are from reserved categories, sparking calls to scrap the reservation policy. Out of 71 candidates called for the medical examination, 42 belong to reserved categories for the J&K Civil Services indicating only 40 percent candidates have been selected under open category. Reacting to the | More on P6

## LG Greets People On Eve Of Diwali

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday greeted the people on the eve of the auspicious occasion of Diwali. "On the joyous occasion of Deepawali, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to all," the Lieutenant Governor said in a statement. The festival signifies the triumph of righteousness and celebrates the victory of light over darkness, goodness over evil and knowledge over ignorance, he said. "On this occasion, let us dedicate | More on P6

## HC Seeks Status Report On Cases Against MPs, MLAs

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has sought the latest status report about the trial of cases pending against MPs and MLAs in various courts of Jammu and Kashmir.

A division Bench of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice M.A. Chowdhary passed the directions while hearing a Public Interest Litigation registered suo-moto in 2021 following the directions by the Supreme Court of India, directing for monitoring the progress of the trial of cases pending against the sitting and former legislators—MPs or MLAs.

"Needful in terms of order dated 09.09.2024, has not been done," the Division Bench said. In terms of the 9 September this year order, the court sought the latest status report, observing



that the last status report had been filed in 2022.

The High Court's direction followed submissions by Faheem Nissar Shah, Government Advocate, who sought additional time, which was granted to him. "He shall file the latest status report within four weeks," the court said and posted the PIL for further consideration on December 23.

Pertinently, in compliance to Apex Court's order on 16 September 2020, directing for monitoring the progress of the trial of cases pending against the sitting/ former legislators (MPs or MLAs), the High Court's Registry registered the PIL as "Court on its own motion versus Union of India and others" in 2021. Subsequently, the "Union of India" | More on P6

## India, China Wrap Up LAC Disengagement In Ladakh Exchange Of Sweets Likely Today

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: India and China on Wednesday completed the disengagement of their armies from Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh, with both sides now carrying out joint verification of the troop and equipment pullback to a specified and mutually agreed distance from the face-off sites, sources said, adding that sweets will also be exchanged with troops from the Chinese side on the occasion of Diwali on Thursday.

"Disengagement has been completed at Depsang and Demchok, and verification is underway. Talks will continue at the level of local commanders. Both armies are expected to start patrolling the areas soon," sources said.

The sources from the Indian Army said on Wednesday that the verification process is on and the modalities of patrolling will be decided by the ground commanders. Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong told reporters in Kolkata hours later that the two countries had reached "many important understandings".

"There was a very important meeting between President Xi Jinping and PM Narendra Modi (on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Russia last week). Now that the two leaders have reached important understandings, they will be the guidelines for the further development of relations between our two countries. I hope that, under the guidance of this | More on P6

## New CID Cell In Srinagar Tackles Verification Delays

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: With a direct line for grievances now open, the recently established Public Grievance Cell at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Headquarters in Srinagar started its operations on Wednesday.

The cell is seeing a remarkable public response. Citizens now have streamlined options to address issues directly with CID by scheduling appointments through WhatsApp at 9906126468, emailing grievance-cidjk@jk.gov.in, or calling 0194-2459935.

Earlier the ADGP CID J&K, Nitish Kumar, underscored the commitment to improving public-police interaction

Opened on October 28, the cell targets delays in verifications, procedural questions, and response times, aiming to make these processes quicker

and more transparent.

Pertinently, the Special Branch (CID-SB) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police is responsible for security clearances, and emphasizes thorough background checks for applicants. According to their guidelines, applicants for government jobs and passports undergo screening to ensure no links with activities that threaten security. This includes a comprehensive review of past violations, such as participation in incidents considered hostile to anti-India activities, like stone-pelting. The thoroughness of these checks has led to delays for many, and in some cases, rejections based on familial connections to previous militancy or civil offenses.

Set up to alleviate these obstacles, the cell was designed to offer citizens a straightforward process to report and resolve grievances. | More on P6







## Diwali Preparations Finalized In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to ensure smooth celebrations of Diwali- the festival of lights in Srinagar District, all necessary preparations and arrangements were finalized today in a meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Khalid Hussain Malik today.

Besides, the senior Officers of Police and Civil Administration, the meeting was attended by representatives from Durga Nath Temple, Shankar Acharya Temple, Shivji Be-Ahtemam Wazir Santan Das, Ganpatyar Temple, Shri Maha Kaleshwar Mahadev Mandir and other concerned.

During the meeting, the ADC stressed on ensuring the uninterrupted provision of essential services, including electricity and water, health, and fire safety measures, besides proper traffic services and management throughout the District during the festive period.

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The meeting also emphasized on proper cleanliness and sanitation measures particularly around the temples in the City.



## Fire Breaks Out In Town Square Mall Gogji Bagh

No Casualties Or Major Damage To Property: Dy Dir F&ES

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Panic gripped shoppers and shopkeepers after a fire broke out on Wednesday morning in Town Square Mall in the Gogji Bagh area of Srinagar.

Eye-witnesses said that they heard a low-intensity explosion before thick smolders of smoke started emanating from the mall's basement.

They alleged that there was 30 minutes of delay from the fire and emergency services department, which was informed well in advance, creating total chaos and confusion among those present.

"Upon arrival, firefighters faced challenges due to thick, heavy smoke, which created obstacles to trace out the source of fire. Locals advised firemen to use oxygen masks, but firefighters reportedly had access to only one mask on-site. After a significant delay, a firefighter equipped with the mask managed to enter the basement and work on bringing the fire under control," eye-witnesses said.

The incident has raised serious queries about the preparedness of the fire services department, with residents criticizing the lack of adequate equipment.

They have urged the administration to ensure emergency responders are fully equipped with essential gear, including multiple oxygen masks, to handle such situations effectively.

"There should have been better safety protocols in place, and fire services should be better equipped," a local resident said. As the fire was brought under control, authorities began investigation into the cause of the explosion and subsequent fire. Initial reports suggest that the source might have been an electrical short circuit in the basement, but further details will emerge as the investigation progresses.

Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Service, Aqib Husain Mir said the firefighting crew had to use smoke extractors to put out the fire which appeared to have originated from the basement section of the plaza. Had the firefighting crew not arrived on time and begun the operation, the commercial property might have suffered serious damages, he said.

"We called fire tenders from headquarters and nearby Gaw Kadal fire station to put out the fire as soon as we received information about the incident at about 10:42 a.m. At first glance, it appears like the generators in the basement, which are used for parking cars, had caught fire. Since the investigation is on, the actual cause of the fire may be determined later," Mir added.

The extreme smoky conditions, Mir said, caused a slight delay to begin the firefighting operation; nonetheless, the fire was controlled using specialized tools. "We employed modern tools like smoke extractors to bring the fire under control because it was extremely difficult to go inside the basement section owing to the smoke and raging flames. But fortunately, no loss of life or injury was reported in the incident. The property did not sustain significant damage as a result of our firefighters' uphill efforts," said the Deputy Director F&ES department.

## Body Of Missing Srinagar Youth Found In Kulgam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) retrieved the partly decomposed body of a missing youth from the river near Hutmate area, a stone's throw away from the picturesque Aharbal waterfall in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The deceased, missing since September 30 last month, was identified as Adil Bashir, son of Bashir Ahmad, a resident of Nayid Pora Rainawari, Srinagar.

The body was handed over to the local police for further investigation and legal formalities.

The local police have initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Adil's death. [KNT]

### Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my daughter Rutba Bashir who was born on 06-03-2011. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Bashir Ahmad Khan  
F/O Rutba Bashir  
R/O Singo Narbal

laa

### BEFORE THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH AT SRINAGAR

IN THE CASE OF:  
1. Musharaf Ahmad Wani S/o Nazir Ahmad Wani R/o Mal-lawari, Newa, Pulwama.  
2. Abdul Rashid Dar S/o Mohd Shaban Dar  
3. Abdul Rahman Mir S/o Gulam Rasool Mir  
4. Mala Begum W/o Mohd Abdullah Mir  
5. Muneer Ahmad Malik  
6. Nazir Ahmad Malik  
7. Gulam Mohuddin Malik  
8. Parvaiz Ahmad Malik  
9. Gulam Mohammad Malik All Sons of Habibullah Malik All Residents of Urwan (Poshwan) Tehsil and District Pulwama.

Versus  
PUBLIC AT LARGE.

(Caveators)  
(Caveatees)

In the Matter of: Caveat Application. May it please your Lordships, The application is humbly submitted as under  
1. That the Caveator No. 1 is the supplier of soil having entered into contract with the Northern Railway of India, for the supply of soil which is required for the construction work of goods terminal and related assets.  
2. That the caveator No. 1 has obtained all permissions required under Law from all concerned departments and has also paid huge amount to the land owners and the Department of Geology, Mining and Minerals.  
3. That the Caveator No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are the land owners who have for the purpose of excavation, agreed to provide their respective land falling under Kharsa No. 409, 410 and 411, situated at Urwan (Poshwan), Tehsil and District Pulwama, to the caveator No. 1 and have received the consideration amount in advance.  
4. That the project of Northern Railway of India for which the said soil is required, is of greater importance for the overall development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.  
5. That the caveator has started the excavation work over the land mentioned herein above, however some greedy villagers after getting disappointed for not being paid the demanded extortion money, are now trying to approach the Hon'ble Court with their ill intentions and unclean hands so that they may get an ex-parte order against the caveator to stop the excavation work and to put the caveator No. 1 in huge loss. Therefore, the Caveators have apprehensions that the Caveatees may approach this Hon'ble Court by way of an appeal/application/petition/suit to halt the construction of the cold store.  
6. That in case an ex-parte order is passed in favour of the Caveatees, irreparable loss will be caused to the Caveator which can not be compensated later on, as such the Caveator is praying that the Caveator be informed and heard before any ex-parte order is passed.  
7. That the documents referred hereinabove, will be produced by the Caveators, at the time of the hearing of the apprehended writ/ suit/ petition.  
8. That a copy of this application has been published in the newspaper, the copy of which is enclosed with this application.  
In the premises, it is therefore prayed that in the interests of Justice, the Caveator may be given an opportunity of being heard before any ex-parte injunction/Order is passed by the Hon'ble Court on the presentation of suit/ application/ writ/ Petition, by the Caveatees against the Caveators.

Caveator No.1  
Counsel for the Caveator  
Zahid Hussain Dar (Advocate)  
JK/484/2014 9596595655

Dated 31-10-2024

### Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District Judge AT PULWAMA

IN THE CASE OF:  
1. Musharaf Ahmad Wani S/o Nazir Ahmad Wani R/o Mal-lawari, Newa, Pulwama.  
2. Abdul Rashid Dar S/o Mohd Shaban Dar  
3. Abdul Rahman Mir S/o Gulam Rasool Mir  
4. Mala Begum W/o Mohd Abdullah Mir  
5. Muneer Ahmad Malik  
6. Nazir Ahmad Malik  
7. Gulam Mohuddin Malik  
8. Parvaiz Ahmad Malik  
9. Gulam Mohammad Malik All Sons of Habibullah Malik All Residents of Urwan (Poshwan) Tehsil and District Pulwama.

Versus  
PUBLIC AT LARGE.

(Caveator)  
(Caveatees)

In the Matter of: Caveat Application. May it please your Honour, The application is submitted as under  
1. That the Caveator No. 1 is the supplier of soil having entered into contract with the Northern Railway of India, for the supply of soil which is required for the construction work of goods terminal and related assets.  
2. That the caveator No. 1 has obtained all permissions required under Law from all concerned departments and has also paid huge amount to the land owners and the Department of Geology, Mining and Minerals.  
3. That the Caveator No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 are the land owners who have for the purpose of excavation, agreed to provide their respective land falling under Kharsa No. 409, 410 and 411, situated at Urwan (Poshwan), Tehsil and District Pulwama, to the caveator No. 1 and have received the consideration amount in advance.  
4. That the project of Northern Railway of India for which the said soil is required, is of greater importance for the overall development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.  
5. That the caveator has started the excavation work over the land mentioned herein above, however some greedy villagers after getting disappointed for not being paid the demanded extortion money, are now trying to approach the Hon'ble Court with their ill intentions and unclean hands so that they may get an ex-parte order against the caveator to stop the excavation work and to put the caveator No. 1 in huge loss. Therefore, the Caveators have apprehensions that the Caveatees may approach this Hon'ble Court by way of an appeal/application/petition/suit to halt the construction of the cold store.  
6. That in case an ex-parte order is passed in favour of the Caveatees, irreparable loss will be caused to the Caveator which can not be compensated later on, as such the Caveator is praying that the Caveator be informed and heard before any ex-parte order is passed.  
7. That the documents referred hereinabove, will be produced by the Caveators, at the time of the hearing of the apprehended writ/ application.  
8. That a copy of this application has been published in the newspaper, the copy of which is enclosed with this application.  
In the premises, it is therefore prayed that in the interests of Justice, the Caveator may be given an opportunity of being heard before any ex-parte injunction/Order is passed by the Hon'ble Court on the presentation of suit/ application, by the Caveatees against the Caveators.

Dated: 31-10-2024.

Caveator No.1  
Counsel for the Caveator  
Zahid Hussain Dar (Advocate)  
JK/484/2014 9596595655

### Office of Advocate Mohd Moonis Manzoor

Lic No.:1070/23

In the Case of :-1.Sameer Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Johar Villa Sanat Nagar (Age 38)  
2. Iqbal Burza S/o Gh.Qadir Burza R/o Shivpora Srinagar ( Age 65)  
3. Showkat Burza S/o Gh.Qadir Burza R/o Shivpora Srinagar (Age65)

V/S  
PUBLIC AT LARGE

(Caveators)

(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C the caveator has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a writ, suit of any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble courts and on the ground of Distorted facts/ misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any other..

WALNUT ADVT

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date 22.11.2024 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form(Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
613A-TRD-FZR-2024-25	Comprehensive Maintenance Contract for various types of 04- Wheeler and 8-Wheeler Tower Wagons over Firozpur division for a period of Three years.	5,24,96,843.65	NIL	Upto 22.11.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	4,12,500/-	Thirty Six (36) Months	22.11.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
Similar Nature of Work: OEM and their authorized dealers, OR Manufacturer of Towers Wagons OR Five years Experience in Repair / Overhauling of Engines of same capacity and above. (Ref: S.No.2.4 of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 14-Elct/Pig/ Similar Nature of Work, dated 24.09.2012).								

Note: #

Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 613A-TRD-FZR-2024-25 Dated: 30.10.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 337224

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 18.11.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
Open	Works	Two Packet System	28.10.2024	04.11.2024	18.11.2024/15:00 Hrs.	
Details of Tender						
S.N.	Tender No.	Construction of Type II Qtrs 16 Nos. Type III 18 Nos., 16 Nos Type IV QTRS at BDGM and allied works at Railway station on BAHU-BRML Section in the jurisdiction of ADEN/BDGM.	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1	225-2024-25-BDGM-DRM-FZR		19,53,91,455.45	1127000.00	90 Days	18 Months
Similar Nature of work: -"Construction of building/quarters".						

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 225-2024-25-BDGM-DRM-FZR Date: 30.10.2024

Serving Customers With A Smile 3378/2024

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- 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  
BUBHERA: 01932-228243  
PAMPORE: 01933-294132  
PATTAN: 01954-293507  
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**  
Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )  
Mughal Road - (Open)  
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

**PRAYERS**

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
27 Rabi-ul-Sani  
1446

FAJR 5: 26  
ZUHR 12:15  
ASR 4: 02  
Magrib 5:43  
ISHA 7: 04

- 1876 - Great Backerganj Cyclone of 1876 ravages British India (Modern-day Bangladesh), over 200,000 killed
- 1914 - Great Britain & France declare war on Turkey
- 1917 - World War I: Battle of Beersheba in southern Palestine - "last successful cavalry charge in history" performed by the 4th Australian Light Horse.
- 1922 - Benito Mussolini (Il Duce) becomes premier of Italy
- 1924 - World Savings Day was announced in Milan, Italy, by the Members of the Association at the 1st International Savings Bank Congress (World Society of Savings Banks).
- 1940 - Battle of Britain, fought between the RAF and Luftwaffe over the En
- 1942 - 9th day of the Battle of El Alamein
- 1943 - World War II: F4U Corsair accomplishes the first successful radar-guided interception.
- 1956 - Britain and France join Israeli forces in Egypt and begin to bomb Egypt to reopen Suez Canal
- 1959 - USSR & Egypt sign contracts for building Aswan Dam
- 1960 - Cyclone hits coast of Gulf of Bengal; about 10,000 die
- 1968 - US President Lyndon B. Johnson orders a halt to all bombing of North Vietnam
- 1980 - Senegal routes troops to Gambia due to Libyan threat
- 1984 - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated by her bodyguards, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh at her home in New Delhi
- 1985 - Last day in Test cricket for Zaheer Abbas
- 1989 - Turgut Ozal elected president of Turkey
- 1989 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1990 - Pakistan make 3-0 drubbing of NZ, Waqar Younis 29 series wkts
- 1991 - Palestinians attend US mideast peace talks in Madrid
- 1992 - Don Keller makes his 18,000th sky dive
- 1993 - 25 people killed during Ghana-Ivory Coast soccer match
- 1998 - Iraq disarmament crisis begins: Iraq announces it would no longer cooperate with United Nations weapons inspectors.
- 1999 - Roman Catholic Church and Lutheran Church leaders sign the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, ending a centuries-old doctrinal dispute over the nature of faith and salvation.
- 1999 - Egypt Air Flight 990 traveling from New York City to Cairo crashes off the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, killing all 217 on-board.
- 2000 - The last Multics (Multiplexed Information and Computing Service) machine was shut down.
- 2000 - A chartered Antonov An-26 explodes after takeoff in Northern Angola killing 50
- 2000 - A Singapore Airlines Boeing 747-400 operating as Flight 006 collides with construction equipment upon takeoff in Taipei, Taiwan killing 79 passengers and four crew members
- 2002 - A federal grand jury in Houston, Texas formally indicted former Enron Corp. chief financial officer Andrew Fastow on 78 counts of wire fraud, money laundering, conspiracy and obstruction of justice related to the collapse of his ex-employer.
- 2003 - A bankruptcy court approves MCI's reorganization plans, essentially clearing the telecommunications company to exit bankruptcy.
- 2003 - Mahathir bin Mohamad resigns as Prime Minister of Malaysia and is replaced by Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, marking an end to Mahathir's 22 years in power.
- 2010 - Belgium leaves the recession with 0.5% growth in the third quarter
- 2011 - The world population reaches 7 billion inhabitants according to the United Nations
- 2015 - Russian airliner crashes killing all 224 on board in Sinai Peninsula, Egypt - Russia's worst air disaster
- 2015 Breeders Cup Classic: American Pharoah ridden by Victor Espinoza
- 2016 - Lebanon parliament elects Michel Aoun President after 2 1/2 years without a leader



## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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### KO VIEW

## Statehood Hopes Rise

From the utterances and confidence of the chief minister Omar Abdullah, it appears that the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir is around the corner. Speaking to administrative secretaries in Srinagar on Monday, Abdullah said that he had “had successful meetings” during his recent visit to Delhi to hand over the resolution on statehood passed by his cabinet to the prime minister Narendra Modi. He told the officials that he had received “assurances at the highest level that the commitments made to Jammu and Kashmir, particularly with regard to our governance model, will change.”

Although the CM mentioned this in the context of the warning to bureaucrats against exploiting the existing hybrid system, his remarks have renewed debate about the prospect of early reinstatement of statehood. There is now hope that J&K could get statehood in the near future

Centre had abrogated Article 370 in August 2019, stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and reorganizing the region into two Union Territories—Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Both PM Modi and the home minister Amit Shah have already assured the restoration of statehood to J&K at an appropriate time. What, however, they have not given so far is a timeline. So, there is a section of people who believe that statehood might take longer than expected. And if and when statehood is restored, it is expected to be more or less a truncated one just like that of Delhi. Considering the troubled state of affairs prevailing in the UT, Centre, it is believed, is unlikely to let go of control on the security agencies and the allied security related matters, lest it unravel the gains made in recent years. The recent rise in militancy-related violence is likely to further dissuade the central government from handing over complete control over the region to an elected government. Should this happen, a future governor will continue to wield a strong say in the affairs of J&K.

While all of this is still in the realm of speculation, a hybrid system where an elected government will have no responsibility for security related issues may not be helpful beyond a point. System will only work better if the elected government is made accountable for all aspects of governance including security. J&K has always been a complex state and hence difficult to govern. A gubernatorial system may have its advantages in swifter decision-making but it is not known for nodding to the sentiment and sensitivities of people, thereby sowing alienation. An elected government, on the other hand, takes people along and thus its decisions have a better chance of success. Here's hoping for an earlier restoration of full statehood where an elected government enjoys true power and is thus responsible for its actions.



Did you know ?

## Mastering Wealth: Consistent Investment Over Market Timing

Irshad Mushtaq

Timing the market is notoriously difficult. Rather than attempting to predict peaks and troughs, invest strategically in quality companies, mutual funds, and ETFs, where consistent engagement in the market fosters wealth.

### Regular Investment: The Key to Financial Growth

Market timing is elusive, but regular investment in quality shares, ETFs, and mutual funds harnesses the power of compounding. The essence isn't in predicting the right time to buy or sell but maintaining a steady course.

### India's Entrepreneurial Potential: The Future of Growth

With a vibrant entrepreneurial scene, India is poised for immense growth in the coming decades. Historical market lows like 1990, 2004, 2008, and 2020 showcase profitable opportunities amidst downturns, underlining the importance of investing in quality assets.

### Psychology of the Stock Market: Trading vs. Investing

Understanding stock market psychology is critical. Many retail investors confuse trading with investing, leading to losses. SEBI reports reveal that 90% of aggressive F&O traders incur losses, often due to a trading mindset lacking the discipline of investing.

### Patience and Education: Core to Successful Investing

Patience and understanding are the backbones of successful investing. Educate younger generations by gifting shares or mutual funds, teaching them the value of investing in quality companies. Investing transcends mere profit-making—it's about comprehending the asset class. Nifty potentially reaching 50,000 is a realistic aspiration aligned with India's growth trajectory, its matter of time and patience.

### Commitment to Lifelong Learning: Distinguishing Trading from Investing

Develop a lifelong learning approach, differentiating between trading and investing. Equity is a generally appreciating asset class; understanding its long-term benefits is crucial for a sound financial plan. By focusing on these principles, investors can build a robust financial foundation while leveraging the broader economic growth of India.

### Conclusion

Timing the market is tricky! Instead of chasing peaks and bottoms, consistent investments in quality companies, ETFs, and mutual funds are key to building wealth.

India's entrepreneurial spirit and resilience create a bright growth future. Historical lows remind us that opportunities arise even in downturns. Stay disciplined, educate future generations, and embrace patience. Let's distinguish between trading and investing—patience + knowledge = success!

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



## Higher Education in Decline

### Unemployment, Vanishing Scholars, and Falling College Enrollment in J&K

Dr Basharat Mushtaq



**This shift from a dictatorial teaching style to one that nurtures curiosity and creativity is crucial for reversing the decline in student engagement. The current system, as illustrated by various dialogues in films like 3 Idiots: “A great man has said, study not to be successful, but to improve yourself, don't chase after success, pursue excellence,” and in A Beautiful Mind: “Classes will dull your Mind and Destroy Your Creativity.”**

The recent call for suggestions by the Directorate of Colleges in Jammu and Kashmir regarding the sharp decline in college enrollments reflects the alarming state of higher education in the region. This issue, multi-dimensional and deeply rooted in systemic challenges, has worsened over time. The region's education system is facing a critical decline, with gaps in governance, administrative inefficiencies, and inadequate support from all stakeholders—government, administrators, principals, teachers, and even students. Without immediate attention and corrective measures, the higher education framework could collapse like a house of cards.

A fundamental problem lies in the rigid focus on conventional career options, leaving little room for innovative or less competitive fields. Students are burdened with societal and familial expectations, which often overlook their personal interests and aptitudes. A shift towards choice-based education, where the focus is on the student's will and potential, could relieve this pressure.

The college curriculum is also in dire need of reform, as it remains focused on rote learning, leaving little scope for creativity and practical application. Degrees, once considered gateways to promising careers, have lost their value and are now mere certificates with no job security attached. The classroom environment, often uninspiring, must evolve into a space that promotes interactive and interest-driven learning. Teachers should act as facilitators and mentors, guiding students to pursue excellence rather than just success. This shift from a dictatorial teaching style to one that nurtures curiosity and creativity is crucial for reversing the decline in student engagement. The current system, as illustrated by various dialogues in films like 3 Idiots: “A great man has said, study not to be successful, but to improve yourself, don't chase after success, pursue excellence.” and in A Beautiful Mind: “Classes will dull your Mind and Destroy Your Creativity.” It is crushing creativity, replacing curiosity with fear of failure.

Unemployment is another critical issue exacerbating the decline in college enrollment. The lack of jobs is not limited to government positions but extends to the failure to foster entrepreneurship. Colleges have yet to integrate entrepreneurial education into their curricula, further stifling creativity and

innovation. Sir Ken Robinson's famous TED talk highlights how education systems globally are “educating people out of their creative capacities.” He said: “I don't mean to say that being wrong is the same thing as being creative. But what we do know is if you are not prepared to be wrong you will never come up with anything original and by the time they get to be adults most kids have lost their capacity. They have become frightened of being wrong. We are not companies by the way, we stigmatize mistakes and we are now running national education systems where mistakes are the worst thing you can make and the result is, we are educating people out of their creative capacities.” Picasso once said, “All children are born Artists.” In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation is no different—mistakes are stigmatized, and the fear of failure discourages risk-taking and original thinking, which are essential for entrepreneurship. Some argue that the rise of online education platforms has contributed to the decline in student numbers, but while technology can supplement learning, it cannot replace the invaluable human interaction and development fostered in traditional classrooms. The absence of teachers and peers in a physical setting affects students' moral, emotional, and cognitive growth.

The problem of declining college enrollment can be addressed through several strategies. First, learning must become an enjoyable and interactive process, with creativity and critical thinking embedded in the curriculum. Additionally, the government must ensure job security for those who have invested in higher education, which remains an unfulfilled promise. The disconnect between theoretical knowledge and real-world application must be bridged, with regular career counseling sessions to guide students toward unconventional career paths. According to recent data, Jammu and Kashmir faces a staggering unemployment rate of 28%, the second-highest in the country. Young women are particularly affected, with a 48% unemployment rate, the highest in India. The government's failure to fulfill promises of job creation after the abrogation of Article 370, compounded by the issuance of 12,000 domicile certificates to non-locals, has worsened the situation for the region's youth.

One of the primary reasons for the declining student ratio in colleges is the growing sense of

futility among students who pursue higher education but find no job security. Many college contractual lecturers, after serving for over a decade, have become over-aged and are now left with no prospects. In a heartbreaking example, a Ph.D. holder with years of teaching experience was recently seen selling dry fruits on the streets, a stark symbol of the unemployment crisis. This bleak reality dissuades students from pursuing higher education, as they see no viable future in it. The situation is particularly dire for the nearly 3,000 contractual lecturers who are underpaid, seasonally employed, and often go without pay during winter months. Despite their qualifications—ranging from Ph.D./Post-Doc to NET/SET/JRF, Publications, Teaching experience certifications, they receive only a meagre salary of 28000 which is not as per UGC norms-57,700. While neighboring UT of Ladakh have implemented salary reforms for college teachers as per UGC norms, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has yet to follow suit, despite peaceful protests and media coverage.

The 2018 decision by the State Administrative Council (SAC) under Governor Satya Pal Malik further compounded the crisis in education. The regularization of Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers, originally hired on a temporary basis, while offering job security to them, has inadvertently blocked opportunities for highly qualified youth seeking teaching jobs. This move has stifled recruitment and worsened the employment crisis in the education sector, particularly for fresh graduates and postgraduates who find themselves sidelined. Thousands of teaching posts remain vacant, yet the government has taken no meaningful steps to fill these positions. The focus on internal promotions rather than new hires has led to a brain drain, with qualified candidates leaving the region in search of better prospects. Without a comprehensive job policy and secure employment for its educated youth, Jammu and Kashmir's higher education system is rapidly deteriorating, leaving a once-promising future in disarray.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a Lecturer at Govt Degree College Pulwama*



# Navigating Adolescent Relationships

A parent's role in guiding teenagers as they navigate adolescent romantic relationships

Iqbal Ali

In an era where digital access is nearly universal, the influence of smartphones on teenage behavior is an increasing concern. One issue that has emerged is the rise of romantic relationships among teenagers, occasionally venturing into risky and inappropriate territory. While personal choices remain central, parents undeniably play a significant role in guiding their children through this critical stage of life. Addressing issues like adolescent involvement in adultery requires a proactive approach, where parents are engaged, informed, and equipped to understand the modern challenges teens face with smartphones.

## The Influence of Smartphones on Teen Behavior

Smartphones open doors to vast digital landscapes. Social media platforms, messaging apps, and dating websites are readily available, sometimes even encouraging exploration of relationships well before a teenager is emotionally ready for it. This constant exposure can inadvertently normalize behavior that might be inappropriate for their age and maturity level. The trend of seeking validation and connection online can lead some teenagers to develop relationships that mimic adult partnerships, occasionally resulting in risky behavior.

## The Parental Role in Guiding Digital Behavior

### 1. Setting Boundaries and Expectations

Parents should set clear expectations regarding phone usage, especially when it comes to apps that may connect teens with people outside their immediate peer group. Discussing bound-



aries in a respectful manner enables teenagers to understand the rationale behind such rules. Creating a safe space for these discussions helps build trust and establishes parents as approachable allies rather than punitive figures.

### 2. Open Communication on Relationships and Values

Honest conversations about relationships, respect, and personal values are crucial. By fostering an environment where teens feel comfortable discussing their thoughts, emotions, and

experiences, parents can offer perspective and advice. Parents who openly discuss concepts like loyalty, respect, and empathy lay a strong foundation that can steer teens away from risky behavior.

### 3. Setting Examples through Actions

Teenagers often look to their parents as role models, so exhibiting healthy, respectful relationships at home goes a long way. Actions speak louder than words, and when teens observe healthy communication, trust, and

boundaries within their family relationships, they are more likely to mirror these behaviors in their interactions.

### 4. Monitoring Without Invading Privacy

Striking the right balance between privacy and supervision is delicate but necessary. While privacy is essential for developing autonomy, parents can still employ subtle ways of monitoring behavior, such as regularly discussing app usage or setting up parental controls on devices. However, this should be done

Adolescents should be made aware of the possible consequences of premature romantic relationships and how these can impact their emotional and mental health. This education could extend to understanding how digital interactions can sometimes lack sincerity and may foster misunderstandings or unhealthy dependencies

transparently, with teens understanding that the goal is their well-being, not an invasion of their personal space.

## 5. Educating on the Potential Dangers of Adultery and Digital Relationships

Adolescents should be made aware of the possible consequences of premature romantic relationships and how these can impact their emotional and mental health. This education could extend to understanding how digital interactions can sometimes lack sincerity and may foster misunderstandings or unhealthy dependencies.

## The Broader Impact on Adolescents

When adolescents engage in adult-like relationships, they may face emotional consequences they are ill-prepared to handle. Such experiences can lead to stress, lowered self-esteem, and a distorted understanding of relationships. Parental involvement is critical in helping teens build resilience and confidence so that they can prioritize personal growth and academic commitments over potentially damaging relationships.

## Conclusion

In today's digital age, parenting adolescents requires an added layer of vigilance, understanding, and adaptability. Smartphones will remain an integral part of teenage life, but by fostering open communication, setting reasonable boundaries, and modeling healthy relationships, parents can significantly influence their teens' choices. Rather than blaming technology itself, the focus should be on building resilient, informed, and responsible young adults equipped to navigate the complexities of the digital world responsibly.

The author is a teacher

# How Social Media Turn Societies Upside Down

Nigel Barber

Successful real-world communities follow a few basic rules that maintain civility and order. These rules are neglected in social media. Indeed, they may be turned completely upside down. That is why social media may increase anxiety and loneliness.

## Simple Rules for Simple Communities

In properly functioning communities, every individual is valued regardless of ability, or social status. A child is as deserving of attention as an adult and an old person gets the same consideration as a young person, and so on. There is universal basic respect.

The second principle (universal civility) is a practical ramification of the first. Because every person is deserving of respect, the community practices universal civility. This means that members of the community greet strangers with the same consideration as they would greet an acquaintance.

Universal civility works best in a community where most of the individuals know each other but typically breaks down in large cities where one encounters mostly strangers.

The third principle is a willingness to follow rules that reinforce cooperative behavior and punish bullies and cheats.

A functional community is easy to recognize because its members are well-integrated, and happy. Social media networks clearly fail this test. Indeed, the longer young people spend online, the lonelier they report themselves to be (1). There is something terribly wrong with social media (2). The problem is that they are run by an engagement algorithm that ignores the principles of successful communities.

## Enter the Engagement Algorithm

Social media are failing their users because they are corrupted by



money, by the profit motive. This is implemented by the engagement algorithm that runs social media content feeds. The engagement algorithm is good at monetizing social media attention but undermines, even inverts, the three rules of successful communities.

Large media companies like Facebook monetize sensationalism, hate and antisocial expression and behavior. Forget about universal civility and basic respect! Their plat-

forms also lack the social control mechanisms that maintain civil relations in real-world communities.

These issues can be illustrated by the triggering of a genocide in Myanmar, in 2016. At this time, the Internet was new to the country and access was largely through Facebook. Government propaganda was treated as though it were reliable journalism.

Around the globe today, news coverage is skewed towards coverage of

interpersonal rivalries, scandalous rumors, and conspiracy theories because this is the content that attracts readers. The engagement algorithm promotes petty rivalries and hate speech more generally. In the process, it is turning the rules of simple communities on their heads.

## Turning the Rules Upside Down

The main problem is that the worst actors receive the most attention. This is partly due to basic

human psychology. The child who throws the most, and worst, tantrums gets rewarded with a monopoly of parental attention and the underlying psychology is similar on social media.

The most effective way for parents to deal with tantrums is to give the child a time out during which they are punished by withdrawal of parental attention. The engagement algorithm does exactly the opposite.

We should not be surprised that key voices on the Internet are of people behaving badly whether it is wealthy actors squabbling over their divorces, scantily clad influencers, politicians insulting each other, or a person spinning the most unhinged conspiracy theory. (Conspiracy theories are alive and well despite some recent efforts at fact-checking).

Real-world social interactions are organized very differently. People who behave obnoxiously are avoided like the plague. They become pariahs and their reputational damage brings real-world consequences.

While uncivil people are punished in real-world social networks, those who are kind and civil get rewarded. They are greeted warmly in public. They get engaged in conversations and are invited to join in leisure activities and social occasions. In real life, attention mechanisms operate almost exactly opposite to how the engagement algorithm works.

Real-world bullies and cheats are treated harshly. They are socially punished and exposed to the rigors of law enforcement. Online bullies operate with near-complete impunity, however. They go unchallenged because potential opponents would face the same kind of abuse.

Internet trolls often operate under a cloak of anonymity – whether by hiding under fake profiles with spoofed identities, or by using virtual private networks that make them impossible to trace. This shields them from reprisals. There is no protection for young people who experience anxiety and depression in a society dominated by virtual communities (3).

Can social media be fixed? It is hard to say because they have been a law unto themselves. There are really just two options. Either we cure them, or we quit them.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today



## Hezbollah's New Leader Vows to Uphold Nasrallah Strategy

### Agencies

Beirut: Hezbollah's newly appointed leader Naim Qassem on Wednesday said that he will adhere to the war strategy established by his predecessor, Hassan Nasrallah, who was assassinated by Israeli forces last month amid escalating conflict. Sheikh Naim Qassem, in his first televised address on Wednesday since being elected on Oct. 29, said that his practical plan is to continue the work of the late leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. "We will continue to implement the war plan laid out by Sayyed Nasrallah, and we will remain on the path of war within established political directions." Nasrallah was assassinated by Israel in the Lebanese capital in September.

"Hezbollah will continue to fight to disrupt the Israeli regime's plot against the entire region", Sheikh Naim Qassem said and warned that the regime and its backers in the US and Europe are engaged in a "major scheme" to dominate the region. The Hezbollah secretary-general said he would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms. "If the Israelis decide that they want to stop the aggression, we say we accept, but on the conditions that we see as appropriate and suitable," said Qassem, though he added a suitable agreement has not been offered. He also addressed criticisms that the Resistance in Gaza and Lebanon provoked the Israeli aggression. He urged the public not to forget 75 years of Israeli atrocities and the role of Resistance in ending the



occupation of Lebanon. "Some argue that Israel was provoked, but does Israel need a pretext? Have we forgotten 75 years of killing Palestinians, displacing them, seizing the land and sanctities, and committing massacres?" "It is the Resistance that drove Israel out of our land in the past in cooperation with the army and the people. International resolutions did not expel Israel from our land. Rather, it was the

Resistance," he said. Qassem said Benjamin Netanyahu himself stated at the beginning of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon that it was for the sake of a "New Middle East." "We are facing a significant project in the region; this is a war that extends beyond Lebanon and Gaza; it is a global war against Resistance." "This Zionist war is American, European, and global in nature, seeking to eliminate Resistance in the region." "All forms of brutality and extermination are being used in this aggression to advance their project, and we must confront it rather than stand by and watch." The Hezbollah leader said this confrontation has discredited Western values in light of their bias toward Israel's barbarism. The Hezbollah leader

emphasized that Resistance in the region is fighting for a dignified future. "The legendary steadfastness of the Resistance in Gaza and Lebanon is an epic of dignity; it will shape our generations' future." Sheikh Qassem clarified that Hezbollah is not fighting on behalf of any party but is defending Lebanon. "No one fights on our behalf, and we do not fight on behalf of anyone. Our project is to protect our land and defend our country." He also praised Iran's support for the Lebanese Resistance. Iran has never sought anything in return for its assistance, Sheikh Qassem stated. "Iran understands the price it pays for its support of the Resistance and has provided it—through martyr General Soleimani—with what no one else has offered," he said.

"We fight on our land and liberate our occupied territory; no one asks us for anything, nor does anyone impose anything upon us." Sheikh Qassem thanked Hezbollah's executive council for choosing him as the leader of the movement, viewing this decision as a sign of trust. Qassem's appointment as the new Hezbollah leader was announced on Monday. Qassem is one of the few senior Hezbollah leaders who remains alive, after Israel killed most of the group's leadership in a series of attacks. Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant shared a photo of Naim Qassem on X, saying: "Temporary appointment. Not for long." For over 30 years, Qassem served as Hezbollah's deputy secretary general and became one of the group's most prominent figures.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### J&K To Shift Back

schedule will be implemented for higher classes, allowing board exams to conclude ahead of the harsh winter. "This shift will provide relief to our children and their parents," added CM Abdullah, expressing his appreciation for Sakina Itoo's dedication to the initiative. People's Conference Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday welcomed the decision to revert the academic session for students up to class 9 to end-of-year examinations in November, describing it as the correction of a previous wrong decision. Taking to the microblogging site X, formerly known as Twitter, Lone said, "Good that a wrong decision has been reversed. Welcome reverting the academic session up to class 9 back to end-of-year exams in November. This should be extended to classes 10, 11, and 12, where it matters most." Lone highlighted that while this adjustment is positive, it is essential for the change to be applied to higher classes, particularly for students in classes 10, 11, and 12, where the academic schedule significantly impacts students' preparation and performance. The Jammu and Kashmir administration led by Lieutenant Governor in 2022 had issued orders for the implementation of a "uniform academic Calendar" for both Jammu and Kashmir divisions "in sync with the higher education department and the rest of the country."

#### Restoring Honour

self-sufficiency. Then we can tell the Centre that thank you very much for holding our hand so far but now we are self-sufficient and can run our affairs on our own," Omar said. He said the issue of drug abuse raised by Civil Society members needs special attention. "When I was the CM, I made a speech on drugs in 2012. At that point of time, drugs were not that big an issue. It was confined to codeine and other pills etc. But today, things have changed. There is a consumption of heroin, brown sugar and other substances which is consuming the lives of our younger generation," the CM said. He urged the religious heads and civil society members to join hands with the government to eradicate the drug menace from the society. "At the same time, there is a need for opening more Drug De-addiction (DDA) centres across J&K," he said. The CM said that next time he would meet the Civil Society members, Action Taken Reports (ATRs) will be shared on the issues discussed today. Cabinet Ministers Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Javid Dar, Javid Rana, Sakina Itoo, Satish Sharma were present besides Chief Secretary Atal Dullo, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir V K Bhiduri, IGP Kashmir V K Bhirdi, and other officers were present on the occasion. Over 100 Civil Society members participated in the interactive session as well. (KNO)

#### LG Greets People

ourselves towards illuminating the lives of all with joy and prosperity and spread the light of love, affection and brotherhood," Sinha said. May the festival of lights this year usher in peace, prosperity and happiness for all, he added.

#### NC, BJP Supporters

son Aijaz Ahmad said whatever happened is condemnable. "But, it was the NC workers who provoked the clash. They provoked the BJP supporters in front of their houses and shops and used inflammatory language. "They also pelted stones on our houses and abused women folk. Then clashes took place and I held Nazir Khan and his party or hooligans responsible for it," he said. Ahmad, who is also a District Development Council (DDC) member, appealed to the BJP high command to

intervene.

"I urge the LG (Lt Governor) administration to put a stop to it and provide security to the people in Gurez-Tulail as they feel insecure," he said.

#### NC, Congress

and immoral". "We want the restoration of statehood to J&K as soon as possible so that we can enjoy our status just like the other states," Sadiq said. The NC spokesperson also said the government will restore the "Darbar move" -- a bi-annual practice of shifting the seat of power between Jammu and Srinagar during winters and summers, respectively.

"Darbar move is a legacy of J&K. We mentioned in our election manifesto that we will restore it. The move is directly linked to statehood and that is why we want its restoration. Once statehood is restored, the Darbar move will also be reinstated," Sadiq said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President, Tariq Hameed Karra also said that they will not attend to celebrate the occasion since the party has never recognised J&K as the Union Territory.

"How can we go and celebrate something, which has been arbitrarily thrust upon us. If they are glorifying it, but we cannot be a part of the glorification of injustice meted to us," he said.

#### JKAS Results Out

results for 266 candidates who appeared in the interview for the post of JK CCE-2023 were announced, while the results of 11 candidates are withheld due to ongoing court orders. The commission has directed

the selected candidates to undergo medical examinations at their chosen medical boards in either GMC Srinagar or Jammu, in accordance with the established rules.

#### Tailor's Daughter Tops In Valley

Iqra Farooq, the second topper of Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) 2023 never budged to the financial challenges and was determined to reach a position where she could serve people.

In an interview, Iqra, a daughter of a tailor, said her parents supported her education despite their middle-class background.

Having completed her post graduation in 2021, Iqra dedicated 5-6 hours daily to her studies. "I had to start afresh in a different field. There were a lot of financial challenges but my parents never took a back step regarding my studies," she said.

She said it is important to stay focused and minimise distractions to focus on studies and the career. "I want to reach a position where I can be helpful to people," she remarked.

Her father, Farooq Ahmad, praised her achievement, saying she had no private coaching. "Both of my children have been doing well in studies from the very beginning. Although my daughter did not receive any private coaching, she qualified for the prestigious exams with Rank-2. Like every father, I have worked round the clock to provide financial support to my family," he said.

Another KAS qualifier, Anka Binti Irshad, who secured 33rd rank, remarked, "One exam does not define your merit. I congratulate all who qualified. Those who didn't make it this time will get more opportunities to serve people in the world," she

said.

Anka expressed her desire to serve at the grassroots level. "I want to be the beacon of change. I could not dream of qualifying for the exam without my family's support," she said. "If I can change something in society, it would be the health and education sector."

Danish Hussain, who achieved 30th rank and has a background in electrical engineering, said he began his civil service preparation in 2019. "My preparation lasted two and a half years, but I managed to maintain a balance in my personal life," he said. (KNO)

#### Reserved Categories

results, PDP MLA Waheed ur Rehman Parra called for the reservation policy in Jammu and Kashmir to be abolished, arguing that it could compromise the long-term quality and competence of institutions.

"The J&K PSC 2023 results show that only 40 percent of candidates were selected on open merit, despite more than 70 percent of the state's population being in the unreserved category," Parra said.

Former SMC Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu echoed this sentiment, stating, "Every interview or advertisement notice based on this inhumane, unjust, and undignified reservation policy is a fresh wound for the unemployed meritorious youth of J&K. The reservation policy must be scrapped without delay, with at least 70 percent reserved for open merit."

Senior journalist Ahmad Ali Fayyaz posted on X, "The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission has announced the final results of the Combined Competitive Examination 2023 (J&K Administrative Service). Of the 71 selected candidates, only 29

(40%) are from the Open Merit category, which comprises over 70% of the population. Sixty percent of the selected candidates are from reserved categories, including some candidates from so-called 'backward' villages that, in reality, are among the most advanced. This discrepancy is due to the fraudulent practices of bureaucrats and politicians over the past decades. It's high time for the National Conference government to implement its manifesto agenda, review the reservation policies, and ensure justice for Open Merit candidates."

According to the selection notification, in April 2023, the General Administration Department referred 75 posts for the J&K Combined Competitive Examination-2023 to the J&K Public Service Commission. The posts were advertised by JKPSC on April 13, 2024, and 30,756 candidates were provisionally allowed to appear for the Preliminary Examination. (KINS)

#### HC Seeks Status

was arrayed as a party through Home Secretary, "Union Territory of J&K" through Commissioner Secretary, Home and "Union Territory of Ladakh" through Commissioner Secretary, Home.

On the day, the court had directed the parties to inform it as to the number of trials which are pending in different subordinate courts as well as the matters pending in the High Court against the MPs or MLAs.

#### India, China Wrap

consensus, our relations will be moving forward smoothly in the future and they will not be restricted or interrupted by specific disagreements between our two sides," the ambassador said.

"As two neighbouring countries, it is natural that we have some differences and the most important thing is how to handle and solve them. The meeting of the two leaders has set a very good example for us on how to handle these differences," he added. Satellite Images

On October 21, India had announced that a patrolling agreement had been reached for the two contentious areas of Depsang and Demchok and the troops would return to the positions that existed before the stand-off between the two countries began in 2020. The disengagement process included the dismantling of structures and the restoration of the land on which they stood to their original condition.

Days after the agreement was announced, NDTV had accessed the first satellite images proving that structures were being removed by the Chinese side.

An image from the Depsang plains taken on October 11 showed four vehicles and two tents and, in another from October 25, the tents were gone and the vehicles could be seen moving away. The images were of an area near the 'Y Junction' from where Indian soldiers were prevented from travelling east to India's patrolling points, which mark the extent of the Line of Actual Control that India claims in these areas.

#### New CID Cell

"We are addressing prolonged issues such as delays in passport processing, and providing a direct solution pathway," a CID official noted. As a result, the cell witnessed a large turnout, with residents eager to resolve long-standing issues tied to bureaucratic hold-ups and verification protocols.

27<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION



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## Urs Sheikh-ul-Alam (RA) Celebrated With Devotion At Charar-e-Sharief



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The annual Urs of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA), popularly known as Sheikh-ul-Alam, was observed at Charar-e-Sharief in Budgam district on Wednesday with great religious fervour.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Protem Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul, paid their respects at the revered shrine and prayed for peace and prosperity in the region.

Thousands of devotees from

across the valley flocked to the Charar-e-Sharief shrine, where special prayers and supplications were held. Religious scholars highlighted the life, teachings and spiritual legacy of the saint, who dedicated his life to the preaching of Islam.

Devotees recited Darood and Naats, and many were seen distributing toffees, almonds and walnuts at the shrine.

Nightlong prayers took place on Tuesday-Wednesday night, with devotees continuing to visit the shrine throughout the day. The Urs celebrations will continue until Friday—(KNO)

## Harvest Time In Pampore Young Cousins Help Family Collect Saffron



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** As Pampore's saffron town prepares for harvest, the air is filled with the fragrance of the "red gold". The little duo of nine-year-old cousins, Zainab and Nadiya, joined their family to help with the collection.

The saffron season in Kashmir is a time that stretches from late October to mid-November when families come together to handpick one of the world's most precious spices.

With small, careful hands, Zainab and Nadiya pick the flowers one by one, filling the baskets with beautiful petals. "It makes me happy to help. I want to pick as many flowers as I can," Zainab said.

My family members taught me how to hold the flowers carefully so we don't hurt them, she added.

Nadiya, a shy girl, said, "The flowers are soft. I like picking

them with my care."

Saffron, known locally as "kong posh" and also referred to as the "red gold" of Kashmir, has been grown in these fields for centuries and is a symbol of Kashmir's rich culture.

As the annual saffron season brings families together, they start picking up flowers and sorting out the bright red stigmas, which will later be dried to become the world-renowned saffron spice.

From early morning till dusk, villagers walk through the fields, bending over to pick each flower by hand and placing them gently into woven wicker baskets.

Kashmiri saffron is prized for its deep colour, unique aroma and flavour, making it highly sought after across the world. Besides being a cherished cooking spice, it's also valued in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, perfumes, and textile dyes—(KNO)

## Man Grows Saffron From Household Waste

Agencies

**ANANTNAG:** A man hailing from South Kashmir's Anantnag district continues to make waves with his innovative environmental efforts.

Advocate Farooq Ahmad Ganai, a resident of far-flung village of Sadiwara Dooru in Anantnag district had initially got the recognition for his "Give Plastic, Take Gold" initiative, has now cultivated saffron by using household waste.

Ganai said that in his lawn, he made a few layers of the household waste as a growth medium for saffron cultivation.

"I contacted one of my clients from Awantipora area, who provided me with some dozens of saffron corms that I sowed after preparing the part of my lawn with the help of waste with a mixture of soil," he said.

He said that around 20 days after sowing the corm, the saffron flowers bloomed and they plucked flowers several times already.

Ganai said the aim behind the move is to spread a message that nothing is waste if it is properly used and he is planning to increase the saffron production in the coming time.

The Lawyer by profession said that he will make his home a learning center for all and will invite MLAs and Ministers besides officials of various departments and show them how magic of domestic waste works and conduct awareness programmes in schools and colleges.

"I believe that there won't be unemployment in J&K if people of J&K will work hard on their land and try different things that are pro-environment," he said.

Earlier, Ganai had taken the 'Give Plastic, Take Gold' initiative," in which gold coins were being awarded to those who collected substantial quantities of waste, highlighted the importance of personal accountability in environmental conservation and saw substantial local participation.

For this initiative, he was named "Garbage Man of Kashmir," and he received appreciation at many mega platforms.

Through these efforts, Ganai continues to pioneer solutions that merge environmental stewardship with community well-being, earning widespread admiration at country level.

Today, Chief Agriculture Officer Ajaz Ahmad Dar visited Sadiwara and acknowledged the initiative of Advocate Farooq Ahmad Ganai.

The CAO said the green thumb initiative of Farooq Ahmad Ganai is an inspiration for all.

Dar who was accompanied by Zone level officers of Dooru Agriculture Zone and Verinag Agriculture Zoon was surprised to see various varieties of vegetables cultivated in organic manner by using compost made up of Domestic Waste.

He said such initiatives will definitely help in carrying forward the Holistic Development programme.—(KNO)

## Kashmir Dispatches Fruit Worth Rs 600 Crores In Last 4 Months

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a remarkable season for Kashmir's horticulture industry, approximately 9 lakh metric tons of fruit, valued at around 600 crores, has been dispatched over the past four months, with Sopore Fruit Mandi alone contributing 4-5 lakh metric tons to this total.

The president of Sopore Fruit Mandi, Fayaz Ahmed Malik, known as Kaka Ji, said that with the peak apple season, around 250 trucks are loaded with fruit daily from Sopore Mandi, the second-largest fruit market in Asia, where prices are robust and meeting expectations.

He said this positive trend is due to favourable market rates and a steady demand despite less-than-ideal weather conditions this year. "The rates, including those for early varieties, are strong and align with expectations," he said.

Malik compared this to last year's decline, saying they have seen a considerable improvement in rates. "This is a relief for growers," he said.

"Despite a drier season, nearly 95% of the apples are meeting high-quality standards. The high production and favourable rates are positive indicators for an industry that supports a vast number



of families in Kashmir," he said, adding, "Horticulture is a year-round sector in Kashmir, and we are hopeful these rates will stay favourable."

Asked if they face any challenges, Kaka Ji said the transportation issues that previously hindered the supply chain have been improved, with goods now reaching their destinations in three days rather than four.

He, however, expressed that if the Line of Control (LoC) trade were active, it would significantly boost the local economy by opening new avenues for Kashmir's fruit production to reach Gulf countries.

"Our production is vast and should reach every corner," he stressed, adding that while the

Indian subcontinent is already a major consumer, the region's potential stretches far beyond.

Currently, exports reach only nearby countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, but with LoC trade, Kashmir's produce could access larger, high-demand markets in the Gulf and can further diversify and strengthen the economy.

Malik also called for further investment and attention from the government to support the mandi's infrastructure needs. He urged the administration, particularly Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the horticulture minister, to address the mandi's infrastructure gaps, noting that the lack of proper facilities limits its growth potential—(KNO)

## Migratory Birds Begin Arriving In Wetlands

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** With the onset of winter in the Kashmir Valley, migratory birds have started flocking to wetlands, seeking refuge from the harsher climates of Siberia, China and Eastern Europe.

According to officials from the wildlife department, hundreds of birds, including species like mallards and gadwalls, have already started arriving at Hokersar.

"We are expecting a good number of migratory birds this winter season. As the temperature dips in the coming months, the number of migratory birds will increase," the official said.

He said hundreds of migratory birds, including mallards, gadwalls and various other species, have arrived at Hokersar wetland. Notably, more than 90 species of birds trek to breed and feed in the valley's wetlands, travelling from Siberia, China, and Eastern Europe. These include mallards, common teals, bitterns, graylag geese, pintails, shovellers, tufted ducks, and cormorants.



According to the officials, last winter recorded over 1 million bird arrivals in Kashmir. Migratory birds arrive every year to stay in lakes, marshes, and at least five wetland spots in Jammu and Kashmir, typically for about five months. The annual migration brings not only birds but also wildlife photographers, hobbyists, and bird watchers who flock to these wetlands for a glimpse of the rare visitors.

"For bird watchers, it's an exciting time, especially as sightings can vary each year," a local photographer said. However, despite the beauty and biodiversity, poaching remains a challenge for the wildlife department.

An official said they have al-

ready identified areas vulnerable to poaching and plan to intensify monitoring to prevent illegal activities in and around the boundaries of the wetland areas. "We are committed to safeguarding these migratory species, and efforts to prevent poaching incidents are being prioritized with extra vigilance around the wetlands," he added.

This year, Kashmir experienced a prolonged dry spell, although recent snowfall in mountainous and hilly areas is signalling a return to colder conditions. With colder months ahead, the wetlands of Kashmir will continue to serve as a vital sanctuary for migratory birds, adding to the valley's natural beauty and ecological diversity—(KNO)

## Another Kashmiri Craft, Pinjirakari, On The Verge Of Extinction

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The traditional craft of Pinjirakari, a unique form of latticework from Jammu and Kashmir, is facing a slow demise as handmade creations are increasingly overshadowed by machine-produced items. With only a handful of master craftsmen remaining, the future of this intricate art is in jeopardy.

Pinjirakari involves creating elaborate patterns from light deodar wood, with strips arranged in geometric designs. The craftsmanship relies on precise joinery, without the use of glue, making each piece a testament to the artisan's skill.

Fida Hussain Baba, a renowned Pinjirakari craftsman from the Nawa Kadal area of Srinagar, has dedicated nearly five decades to this art.

Baba said that while interest in Pinjirakari had grown in recent years among those outside J&K, local demand has waned. "Now, only a few households in Kashmir request this decorative work," he said.

Fida expressed concern over the dwindling number of skilled craftsmen, with only about 5-6 masters remaining—most of whom are aging and unable to work. He lamented that the rise of machine-made products, which are cheaper



and more readily available, has significantly impacted traditional craftsmanship.

"With my death, the mill where I work with four others will likely close, as few are interested in becoming proficient in this art," he said. "People want quick results and don't prioritize whether the work is handmade or machine-made."

Similar to another woodcraft known as Khatamband, Pinjirakari involves joining carved wood pieces without glue or nails. This technique is believed to have been introduced to the region by the famous saint Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA).

Baba said there are countless patterns used in this craft, but no one from the younger generation, including his own children, is interested in learning. "At least 50 people have learned

this art at my mill, but most have passed away," he said.

He added that middlemen exacerbate the situation by taking a larger share of profits while artisans receive minimal compensation. "Despite pouring our efforts into the craft, artisans are left with very little," he said, adding that government initiatives for revitalizing this art form have been lacking.

Deodar and walnut woods are preferred for their aesthetic appeal, yet demand remains low. While a few foreign buyers still seek handmade pieces, Fida said that 95 percent of workshops associated with this craft have already shut down.

Fida and his fellow craftsmen urge the government to take proactive measures to revive and preserve this endangered art form before it disappears completely—(KNO)

## Iltija, Waheed To Take Center Stage As PDP Eyes Youth Leadership For Revival

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** After suffering significant setbacks in both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) is looking toward youth leadership to revamp its organizational structure.

As the party navigates the changing political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, it plans to prioritize public outreach and grassroots engagement, with a focus on identifying potential candidates for the upcoming Panchayat and Municipal elections.

Sources privy to this development said that the PDP is set to increase the involvement of young leaders, including Iltija Mufti and Waheed ur Rehman Para, in its revival efforts.

"The renewed strategy aligns with party president Mehbooba Mufti's vision of transforming the PDP into a dynamic force, driven by youth energy but guided by seasoned political hands," sources divulged.

In the most recent elections, the PDP was reduced to three seats in the Assembly, failing to secure any representation in the Lok Sabha. Mehbooba Mufti, who did not contest the assembly elections, saw her daughter Iltija Mufti make her electoral debut from Bijbehara—considered a PDP stronghold—only to suffer a defeat.

This was the worst electoral performance in the party's history since its formation in 1999. Following the losses, Mehbooba dissolved all party units and abolished the spokesperson panel to initiate a complete overhaul of the organization.

A senior PDP leader, speaking



on condition of anonymity, disclosed that a recent high-level meeting chaired by Mehbooba Mufti analyzed the factors behind the party's electoral decline. The consensus in the meeting was that the PDP's 2014 alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had alienated its core voter base, particularly in Kashmir. The exodus of several senior leaders over the past five years further fragmented the party's vote bank.

Despite the setbacks, the PDP sees an opportunity to rebuild by tapping into the support of the youth, who, according to party insiders, still resonate with the party's agenda.

Mehbooba Mufti aims to reorganize the PDP with leaders who can actively engage with the public and strengthen the party's connection with grassroots communities. "We want to build a party for the youth, for the youth," said a PDP official, adding that the intention is to restore the PDP's influence in the region, especially in Kashmir.

A panel comprising senior leaders Abdul Rehman Veeri, Sartaj Madni, Hameed Chaudhary, and Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura has been tasked with setting up district and regional units. The panel will gather feedback from workers at the Panchayat level, assessing the party's standing and the effectiveness of local leaders based on voting patterns in the recent elections—(KNO)

## Haj Committee Of India Extends Deadline For 2025 Pilgrimage Advance Payment

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Haj Committee of India has extended the deadline for depositing the Advance Haj Amount for the 2025 Haj pilgrimage, now set to 11 November 2024.

The decision follows numerous requests from State Haj Committees and various organizations seeking more time for prospective pilgrims to secure their places.

News agency KINS reported that the original deadline, as per Circular No.10 dated 21 October 2024, was 31 October 2024. The new deadline allows provisionally selected pilgrims to deposit the required amount of ₹1, 30,300 and is aimed at accommodating those who may have faced difficulties in meeting the initial timeline.

Nazeem Ahmed A, CEO of the Haj Committee of India, stated, "We recognize the importance of the pilgrimage for many individ-



uals and families. This extension is intended to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to fulfill their religious obligations without unnecessary stress."

Following the deposit of the Advance Haj Amount, pilgrims are required to submit several documents, including a self-attested copy of their International Machine-readable passport and a Medical Screening and Fitness Certificate, to their respective State or UT Haj Committees by 14 November 2024.

The Haj Committee emphasized the necessity of adhering to this new timeline. In their circular, they noted, "It is imperative that all provisionally selected pilgrims comply with the stipulated deadlines. Failure to submit the required documents on time will result in the cancellation of their Haj seat, and no further extensions will be granted."—(KINS)

## Mubarak Gul Pays Obeisance At Hazrat Noor-ud-Din Noorani's (RA) Shrine



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** On the auspicious occasion of the annual Urs of Hazrat Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA), Protem Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Mubarak Gul on Wednesday paid obeisance at the revered shrine in Charar-e-Sharief and prayed for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

During his visit, Mubarak Gul emphasised the importance of proper arrangements for the comfort and convenience of large number of devotees who visit the shrine. He instructed the Auqaf management to ensure that all necessary facilities

are in place. He also directed the Floriculture Department to undertake the development and beautification of nearby park, enhancing the serene environment for the visitors.

The annual Urs of Hazrat Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA), a renowned saint known for his contributions towards spirituality and peace, is a significant event that draws devotees from various regions.

The deep concern of the Protem Speaker towards development of the holy Shrine reflected a commitment towards honouring and preserving the cultural and spiritual heritage of the region.



# Kiwis Eye Historic Whitewash Against India At Wankhede

Agencies

**MUMBAI:** A first ever series loss at home to New Zealand notwithstanding, India still have the "wood on us" while playing on turning wickets, said Kiwis spinner Ajaz Patel in Mumbai on Wednesday.

New Zealand have outplayed India on all fronts in their backyard so far in the three-Test series, particularly in the spin department as they head into the third and final match starting here on Friday with an unassailable lead of 2-0.

While New Zealand hammered India in a rain-truncated opening Test at Bengaluru by eight wickets, exposing their shortcomings on a challenging pitch at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, the world No 2 side was given a taste of its own medicine on a spin-friendly track in Pune in the second Test, which the hosts lost by 113 runs.

Ahead of the final Test at the Wankhede Stadium, another spin-friendly track is in making despite



the struggles of the Indian batters. Patel hoped that New Zealand, who have an opportunity to inflict a 3-0 whitewash on India, would need to continue to make all the right moves despite the hosts being more

adept in playing on such tracks. "India still have the wood on us when it comes to playing on turning wickets, and traditionally, the Indian batters have done well in turning surfaces," Patel told the media after New

Zealand's training session. "Obviously, they haven't had maybe as much success as they would have liked in this series so far but they're certainly an opposition that are very, very skilled and not the easiest to

come up against."

"Their skill set is very vast and for us as a spin group, especially it's about being able to control what we can control and making sure that we can apply pressure for long periods of time and making sure that we're delivering the best balls on a given surface," he added.

New Zealand's accuracy and recentness in attack, both with the bat and the ball, has been the feature of their first-ever series win in India and Patel acknowledged that the visitors will need to stick to the basics.

"It is really about continuing to challenge them. As a batter it's not easy out there when you're facing a ball that's turning as much, and so it's about us making sure we put the balls in good areas for long periods of time," he said.

"On the flip side, India have got phenomenal spinners so our batters are trying to do the opposite and they're trying to create opportunities to score runs," he added.

## News MAKERS

### Indian Cricket Team's Tactical Revamp For NZ Challenge



Agencies

The Indian cricket team is under pressure after unexpectedly falling behind 0-2 in their home series against New Zealand. With the third Test approaching, emphasis is being placed on improving the batters' performance against New Zealand's efficient bowlers, particularly the spinners, who have dominated the series so far.

During practice sessions at the Wankhede Stadium, even senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma faced challenges, highlighting the urgency felt by the team management. The team has introduced new methods, including extended white lines at practice nets, to enhance players' awareness of line and length.

The Indian lineup notably struggled against left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner, whose deliveries have been particularly challenging. Assistant coach Abhishek Nayar emphasized reading the spinners' hands and maintaining mental focus as essential strategies for the final Test, as the team continues preparations amid speculation about a spin-friendly pitch in Mumbai.

## DYSSO Budgam Organises District Level Trekking Camp For Girls

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Office Budgam organised a District Level Trekking Camp for girls of all age groups at Yousmarg.

Wednesday marked the second day of trekking, as participants set out from the Yousmarg base camp to the picturesque Nilnaag Lake and returned under the guidance of Shakeel-ur-Rehman, member of the Activity Section at DYSSO Budgam.



The trekking camp aims to foster a spirit of adventure and resilience among young girls, offering them an opportunity to connect with nature while building confidence and physical endurance.

"DYSSO Budgam remains committed to creating memorable experiences that inspire and uplift young participants as they explore the captivating landscapes of Yousmarg," the department said.

## IPL: Pooran Eyed As Potential Leader For Lucknow Super Giants

Agencies

Former India cricketer Saba Karim has proposed Nicholas Pooran as a prospective leader for LSG, should the franchise decide to part ways with KL Rahul ahead of the 2025 IPL.

As all 10 franchises gear up to announce player retentions on Thursday, Rahul's position with LSG is in jeopardy after a heated exchange with the franchise owner following a heavy defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad last season.

The rumors surrounding Rahul's departure have gained traction, with recent reports suggesting he may not



be part of LSG's plans for the next season. In the event of his departure, a new captain would be required, and Saba Karim sees Pooran, with his widespread leadership experience, as an ideal candidate.

"We might witness a leadership change as Nicholas Pooran has led teams in other leagues," Karim remarked during an exclusive interview on JioCinema.

Pooran's impressive 2024 season with LSG included scoring 499 runs across 14 matches with an average of 62.38 and a strike rate of 178.21. However, despite his commendable efforts, LSG failed to secure a playoff position, finishing seventh with seven wins and 14 points.

Reports indicate that LSG is likely to retain Pooran, alongside Indian stars Mayank Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi, and uncapped players Mohsin Khan and Ayush Badoni. Retention costs for these players are undisclosed, but Rs 51 crore will reportedly be deducted from LSG's budget in accordance with IPL retention guidelines.

## Rabada Dethrones Bumrah As No 1 Test Bowler



Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** South Africa quick Kagiso Rabada has dethroned Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as the top bowler in the latest ICC Men's Test Player Rankings released on Wednesday.

Rabada has claimed the No.1 spot on the back of strong form for SA during the ongoing World Test Championship, with the right-arm taking his 300th Test wicket during the recent seven-wicket triumph over Bangladesh in Mirpur.

Bumrah, who failed to take a single wicket in the second Test against New Zealand in Pune, has dropped two places and is now third, behind Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood, who has moved up to second.

Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has also dropped two spots to be fourth with Australia skipper Pat Cummins rounding up the top five among bowlers.

Pakistan spinner Noman Ali is a new member inside the top 10 after his heroics in the recent third and final Tests against England in Rawalpindi.

New Zealand's hero from their historic series-clinching victory over India, Mitchell Santner also

earned a new career-high rating for his 13-wicket haul in Pune. The left-arm spinner has risen a whopping 30 rungs to move to 44th in the latest list for Test bowlers.

Among batters, young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal rose up a rung to third, following contributions of 30 and 77 against the Black Caps in Pune. He continues to be the top ranked batter for India in the format.

However, explosive wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant and Virat Kohli have fallen in the batting rankings. While Pant has dropped five spots to be 11th, Kohli has lost six places and is 14th.

New Zealand trio Devon Conway (up eight places to 28th), Tom Latham (up six runs to 34th) and Glenn Phillips (up 16 spots to 45th) and South Africa's Kyle Verreynne (up 14 places to 32nd) have made significant gains.

India's Ravindra Jadeja (number one) and Ashwin (number two) maintain a healthy lead at the top of the rankings for Test all-rounders with Bangladesh star Mehidy Hasan, the biggest eye-catcher this week as he gains two places to move to third following solid contributions with both bat and ball against South Africa.

## Shorts No Requirement: English FA After Muslim Barred From Match



Agencies

England's Football Association (FA) said women players across its competitions are allowed to wear clothing that follows their religious beliefs after former Somalia captain Iqra Ismail was prevented from playing a match for not wearing shorts.

Ismail, who is also a coach, said in an Instagram video that she had been playing in the Greater London Women's Football League (GLWFL) for five years wearing tracksuit bottoms but on Sunday she was not allowed to come on as a substitute for United Dragons.

"The Middlesex FA referee for yesterday's game said that the league had told him strictly not to allow women like me to wear tracksuit bottoms... if it matches our kit or not," Ismail, a Muslim, said.

"If we do not wear shorts, we cannot play. That is what I was told yesterday."

The FA said that they were aware of the matter and were in contact with the Middlesex FA to ensure it is quickly resolved.

"We proactively wrote to all county FAs and match officials across the women's grassroots game earlier this year to confirm that women and girls should be allowed to wear clothing that ensures their faith or religious beliefs are not compromised," a spokesperson from the FA said on Wednesday.

The Middlesex FA said they were in contact with the FA and the league to resolve the matter.

## Kirsten Broke His Contract & Made Some Breaches: PCB Chief Naqvi

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday said that South African Gary Kirsten ended his tenure as Pakistan white-ball head coach as he made "some breaches" of his contract with the Board.

However, it was widely reported that Kirsten, who guided India to 2011 World Cup triumph, resigned following a rift with the Pakistan Cricket Board after the coaches were stripped of their powers in selection matters.

Kirsten has so far not made any comments to give his side of the story.

Naqvi said Kirsten had ended the contract with the Board and it was not the other way round.

He (Kirsten) broke his contract with the PCB and made some breaches. He ended the contract with us," Naqvi told the media Tuesday night during an informal discussion. He refused to make any more comments on the matter.



Though the PCB had not given the reason for Kirsten's sudden resignation, sources have confirmed that it was because he was not involved when the Board announced the squads for the Australia and Zimbabwe tours and the new captain of the white ball format on Sunday.

PCB sources, on their part, claimed that Kirsten had breached some clauses of his contract, notably by not spending enough time

in Pakistan and insisting on having a full foreign coaching support staff.

Naqvi said that the PCB had started the process of finding a new head coach of the white ball team and he had already spoken to some 4-5 candidates.

"We will have a new white ball head coach by the end of this month because Jason Gillespie has only agreed to manage the team in Australia for the white ball matches on an interim

basis. He is more focussed on his role as red ball head coach," Naqvi said.

"The team will have a new white ball coach for the Zimbabwe tour."

Insiders say that Aaqib Javed, a senior selector who Naqvi wanted to take over as Kirsten's replacement, has said he is more interested in working on development of players and grooming of young talent at the National Cricket Academy.

## Test Series Win Against India One Big Thing I Want To Tick Off: Cummins

Press Trust of India

**SYDNEY:** Pat Cummins has never been part of a victorious Test series campaign against India, and the Australian captain wants to erase that blemish from his CV during the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy, starting with the first match at Perth from November 22.

Under the leadership of 31-year-old, Australia have won the World Test Championship, the ODI World Cup, both beating the Indians, and the Ashes, but never managed to beat India in a bilateral rubber in the traditional format.

"It's kind of the one big thing that I want to tick off," Cummins told AAP at the launch of his book on Tuesday.

"Particularly winning at home. Most Australians, me included, expect us to do well whenever we play at home," added Cummins, a veteran of 62 Tests.

India are the only team Australia have failed to



defeat in their last 16 Test series.

Since 2014-15, Australia could not lay their hands on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with India winning four consecutive series including the historic triumphs Down Under in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

"We've lost the (last) two series against them (in Australia), so this is a big one. We feel like our team's in a really good place, so we've got no reason why we shouldn't perform re-

ally well.

"I just always expect us to do well against whoever we play. But India, particularly, is a big year, big season," Cummins said.

India remain the only Asian nation to beat the Australia at their home in a Test series but the tourists will be under pressure heading into the marquee tournament, having suffered their first home series loss since 2012 to New Zealand. To add to their woes, skipper Rohit Sharma and

talismatic India batter Virat Kohli are struggling for runs.

"I think any time a team's under pressure, it's not a bad thing if you're playing against them.

"But they've been out here before and performed well. Our job is to try and keep them quiet, see how we go."

The five-match series, a part of the World Test Championship, gets underway from November 22 in Perth.