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Srinagar Has Season's Coldest Night

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar and some other places in Kashmir on Wednesday experienced the coldest night of the season as the minimum plummeted below the freezing point in most places of the valley, officials said.

Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 0.7 degree Celsius.

The officials said many other places in the valley also experienced the coldest night of the season as most places of the valley registered sub-zero minimum temperature.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, while the minimum in Pahalgam tourist resort settled at minus 3.7 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in the valley. Gulmarg ski resort registered a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara town minus 0.8 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag was the only weather station where the minimum settled above the freezing point at 1.2 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The Meteorological Department has said the weather would stay generally till November 23.

On November 24, the weather would | [More on P6](#)

Is Economic Hardship Derailing Hajj Dreams of Kashmir?

Hajj 2025 Applications Drop Sharply, Over 700 Pilgrims Opt Out

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The number of Hajj pilgrims seems to be further dwindling as over 700 pilgrims who applied for the pilgrimage have opted out of Hajj 2025, reducing the number to only 3,602.

According to details, out of 4,313 applications received for the Hajj 2025, 711 pilgrims were unable to pay fees.

According to the J&K Hajj Executive Officer, 711 application forms will be cancelled within a week and the second installment will be announced in the coming weeks. He said the airfare and hotel accommodations tender was about to be finalised, followed by the payment.

Notably, a low response was again witnessed for Hajj applications this year in Jammu and Kashmir, leaving authorities with no option other than repeatedly extending dates for receiving the applications for Hajj 2025.

With over 35,000 Hajj applications submitted in 2017 from Jammu & Kashmir, the numbers are rapidly declining, with the current year receiving just over 4,300 applications,



Year	Applications Received
2017	35,215
2018	32,330
2019	21,566
2020	(No applications due to COVID-19)
2021	7,000+
2024	8,147
2025	4,313

of which over 700 applicants could not proceed due to the non-payment of the fees.

Despite multiple extensions for submitting Hajj 2025 forms, Jammu and Kashmir's Hajj Committee has just remained with 3,602 applications, a decrease of more than 55% from the previous year.

According to the official data, the year 2024 received 8,147 Hajj application forms against the allocated quota of 8,200, while in the ongoing year with a tentative quota of around

8,000, a mere 3,602 have opted for the pilgrimage.

In 2017, 35,215 people planned to embark on the pilgrimage, followed by 32,330 applications from various districts in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018. Hajj authorities received 21,566

applications for the pilgrimages in 2019, with 2020 witnessing no applications owing to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

Despite the pandemic, the data reveals that more than 7,000 applications from various J&K districts were submitted in 2021 for the Hajj pilgrimage. However, the authorities subsequently cancelled the pilgrimage for a second year in a row due to the virus's continued spread.

Ideally, the demand for Hajj used to exceed the quota, after which a draw system was introduced for Hajj slot allocation for intending pilgrims.

The comparative data for 2024 and 2025 reveals a sharp decline in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir in the number of pilgrims applying to take up the Hajj 2025 journey, with only district Doda witnessing a nominal increase of over 9 per cent.

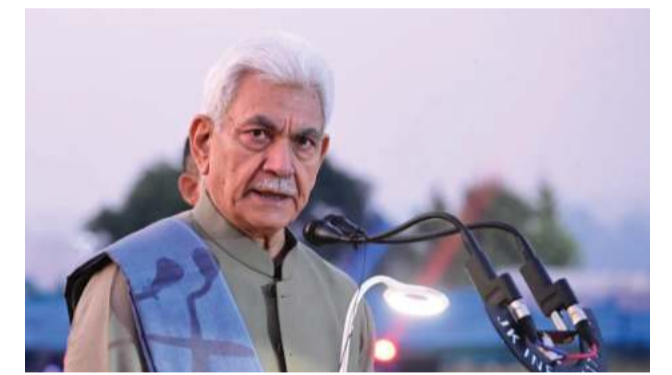
According to the data, Srinagar district, which received 2,607 Hajj applications in 2024, has registered a decline of over 64 per cent for this year. It has received just over 930 applications for the Hajj 2025.

Similarly, | [More on P6](#)

J&K To Host Int'l Film Festival Next Year: LG

'Cinema Is Soft Power That Bonds Cultures Globally'

Those Who Threaten India's Integrity Will Be Dealt With Firmly: LG



Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday inaugurated the joint edition of Jammu Film Festival (JFF) and The International Film Festival of Srinagar (TIFFS), at Aquaplex Crown, Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the organizers and all the participants. He said the entries from more than 50 countries are a testimony to vibrant, peaceful and prosperous J&K UT under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Peace, vibrant movie culture and economic prosperity are interlinked and I want to warn those who are trying to disrupt normal life or day dreaming of bringing disorder that existed before 2019", the LG said.

He said, "Our law enforcement agencies are monitoring

the anti-India elements and separatists' ecosystem and if they try to put people's lives in danger or compromise India's integrity, we will ensure exemplary punishment for them."

The LG called upon filmmakers to utilise their craft to inspire people to follow the right path, serve their art and also give priority to national interest. He observed that cinema is a vital element of soft power and global popularity of our film industry has contributed to bonding with different cultures across the world.

"Good Cinema is not just entertainment but also influences the greater cause of service and human values. I believe a good film is one which strikes a balance between entertainment and social concern," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor exhorted film-makers that they possess | [More on P6](#)

703 Die On J&K Roads In Last 10 Months

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an alarming rise in road traffic accidents in the first ten months of this year, with 4,990 accidents resulting in 703 deaths and 6,820 injuries across the Union Territory.

Official data reveals that 703 lives have been lost in road accidents till October this year.

"703 people were killed, while 6,820 others were injured in 4,990 accidents across J&K in the past ten months," the data reveals.

The major accident hotspots include the twin capitals of Jammu and Srinagar, as well as the Chenab Valley, particularly Doda district.

"Jammu district recorded 105



deaths in 910 road accidents, while 43 people lost their lives in 394 accidents in Srinagar. Kulgam district followed with 42 deaths in 138 road accidents," the data reveals.

Statistics show that 893 people were killed and 8,469 injured in road accidents across J&K in 2023. In 2022, 805 fatalities and 8,372 injuries were reported, while in 2021, 774 people lost their lives in 5,452 accidents. In 2020, there were 728 deaths in | [More on P6](#)



On a misty morning, a school girl crosses a foot bridge in the interiors of Dal Lake. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

J&K Govt. To Begin Pre-Budget Meetings On Nov 27

To Hold Consultations With 36 Departments

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir government's pre-budget meetings with different departments will begin from November 27 to firm up budgetary proposals for 2025-26 and finalise revised estimates for 2024-25.

This will be for the first time after a gap of six years that J&K's budget would be presented in

the Assembly of the Union Territory.

As part of its budget preparations, the Finance department will begin the series of meetings on November 27.

During the pre-budget meetings, the J&K Government will hold consultations with 36 administrative departments before concluding the exercise on December 20, reads | [More on P6](#)

'All Conceivable Excuses Consumed'

HC Raps Govt Over Non-Compliance Of Its 2016 Verdict

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has warned to direct personal appearance of two senior officers if a file sought by it reflecting compliance to its 2016 directions regarding regularisation of services of the daily rated workers and work-charged employees was not produced before it.

The Government of UT of J&K through all its departments concerned, be it General Administration Department (GAD), the Public Health Engineering/Irrigation and Flood Control Department and the Finance Department have consumed all conceivable excuses and exigencies with respect to matter of compliance of

the writ court judgment dated 11.08.2016 ...in terms whereof services of the writ petitioners on account of being daily rated workers/work charged employees are mandated to be regularized under the aegis of Jammu and Kashmir Daily Rated Workers/Work Charged employees (Regularization) Rules 1994, i.e. SRO 64 dated 24th March, 1994 from the date each and every petitioner was respectively entitled thereto without consequential benefits," a bench of Justice Rahul Bharti said while hearing a contempt plea filed in 2018.

".....The requisite compliance has yet to come to make its realization from the end of the writ respondents (authorities) and this | [More on P6](#)



'New Year Gift'

J&K To Soon Get Ration Boost, 12 Gas Cylinders: Minister

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister Satish Sharma on Wednesday said that enhancing ration quota and 12 gas cylinders will be the New Year gift to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking with reporters, minister Sharma said that all arrangements have been put in place for winter.

He also said that statehood restoration is a priority and chief minister Omar Abdullah has himself met top leadership in New Delhi. "I believe PM Modi is himself interested in restoring the statehood and all other issues will be addressed after it's restoration," he said.

The Minister sought 11 months time to fill the gaps created in the last 11 years. On being asked about winter



preparedness, he said that officers in the administration are quite intelligent, but there are some deficiencies, which will be filled.

"All arrangements, like dumping of essentials, have been put in place. But, we need to stay alert to tackle any challenge," he added.

Agriculture Key To J&K's Economic Growth & Climate Resilience: CM

Inaugurates National Agriculture Summit & Mela -2024 At SKUAST-Jammu

Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday emphasized the critical role of agriculture in addressing climate change and improving the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. He was speaking at the inauguration of the four-day National Agriculture Summit & Farmers' Fair-2024 at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu.

Highlighting the exigency of climate change, the Chief Minister said, "Climate change is a huge challenge, and the responsibility lies on SKUAST (Kashmir and Jammu) to address it and assist our farmers. We can no longer depend solely on rain and snowfall, as climate patterns have drastically shifted. For instance, in



CABINET MEETS ON FRIDAY

The cabinet headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is holding its meeting on Friday. Sources said that the cabinet would hold its meeting in Jammu at 10:00 AM on Friday.

our childhood, snowfall would arrive in December; now, it comes in February. Our average

temperatures are also rising. To adapt, we need to promote modern agricultural practices, introduce new techniques and technologies, and raise awareness among farmers."

He lauded the progress made by SKUAST-Jammu in recent years, saying, "I felt elated on visiting SKUAST-Jammu. Since my last visit, the university has made remarkable progress, for which I congratulate the Vice-Chancellor and his entire team." The Chief | [More on P6](#)



NOTICE

I Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh S/o Gh.nabi Sheikh R/o Mirza Kamil Sahib Hawal Have Lost My No.plate While Travelling From Lal Bazar, Bearing No.jk01a M0527. Now I Wants To Duplicate. In This Regard, If Any Person Should Have Any Objection He/she May File The Same To The Rto Office Sgr Within A Week At The Most,after That No Objection Well Be Entertained.
 Media Line

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 244254 Session: Oct-Nov Year 2004 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/ Board against my name as Showkat Ali Malik instead of Showket Ali Malik



Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Showket Ali Malik
F/N: Ali Mohd Malik
M/N Kulsoma Parveen
DOB: 01-03-1989
Residence: Iskanderpora Beerwah
Mobile: 7006819204

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

My mother's name in my DOB Certificate issued by Municipal Committee Magam has been wrongly written as Afshana Bano while her correct name is Afshana Rasool which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sartaj Ahmad Kumar
Father's Name: Parvaiz Ahmad Kumar
Mother's Name: Afshana Rasool
R/o Magam Near Taj Collection

bmj

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Shafayat Zahoor S/O Zahoor Ahmad Khuroo R/O Trilwal Tehsil Singhpora District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 11-05-2008 occurred at Home. In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پٹن

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب توصیف احمد تیلی فضائیں اولاد ان غلام محمد تیلی ساکن پٹن تحصیل پٹن برادر اجرائی OBC بحق سالان

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں سال 2008 تک ایک درخواست پٹن OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بزمہ تیلی پٹن کی ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوں میں اس بارے میں پوری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سال واقعی حجام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سال پٹن میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے۔ سال کا کتبہ ذیل اثر پر مشتمل ہے
 غلام محمد تیلی ولد سناؤندہ تیلی
 سال 57 Property Dealer
 حازرہ بیگم زوجہ غلام محمد تیلی
 گھر یوکام 56 سال
 توصیف احمد تیلی
 تجارت 35 سال
 توفیق احمد تیلی ولد غلام محمد
 زیر تعلیم 28 سال
 فضائیں دفتر غلام محمد تیلی
 زیر تعلیم 32 سال

سال مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کتبہ کی مبادیہ آمدنی 20000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بدستور اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے اعتراض وادعا حتمی اور حتمی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے یہ جانو کہ یہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار
 FKO

Egg-Shaped Galaxies May Be Aligned To The Black Holes At Their Hearts, Astronomers Find

Press Trust Of India

Black holes are famously elusive. They have few identifying features—one color (black) and one shape (spherical)—but their most notable distinction is mass. Some black holes weigh roughly the same as a star like our Sun, while others weigh millions of times more. Stellar-mass black holes are scattered throughout galaxies, while supermassive black holes, which are much larger, are typically found at the centers of galaxies. Even though supermassive black holes are colossal, they are still tiny in cosmic terms. Typically, they make up only around 1 percent of their galaxy's mass, and

their size spans just a millionth of the galaxy's width. However, our recent discovery has revealed an unexpected link between activity near these black holes and the shape of the galaxies they reside in. Our findings were published in Nature Astronomy.

When black holes light up Supermassive black holes are rare. Our Milky Way hosts one at its center—Sagittarius A*—and many other galaxies have similar giants at their cores. Under certain conditions, gas and dust falling into these black holes can form a hot, spinning disk of material, known as an "accretion disk." This disk generates a superheated jet of



charged particles that shoot out at nearly the speed of light. When a supermassive black hole emits this jet, it's known as a quasar. To study the jets of quasars, as-

tronomers often use radio telescopes. Sometimes, they combine data from multiple radio telescopes located around the globe. Using a technique called Very

Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI), astronomers create a virtual telescope the size of the Earth. This allows us to see incredibly fine details, even finer than what the James Webb Space Telescope can detect.

In fact, VLBI was instrumental in capturing the first-ever "image" of a black hole in 2019, showing the halo of light around the supermassive black hole at the center of the galaxy M87. Quasar jets, which can stretch millions of light-years, are almost always found in elliptical galaxies. With VLBI, we can track these jets all the way down to just a few light-years from their source—providing key insights into the black hole's properties.

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POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 27.03.2024 thereby calling upon 1. Suhail Ahmad Wani S/o: Ghulam Hassan Wani R/o: Shah Mohalla Lar Ganderbal Prop. M/S Wani Garments / Borrower), 2. Ghulam Hassan Wani S/o: Abdul Aziz Wani R/o: Shah Mohalla Lar Ganderbal (Mortgagor / Guarantor), 3. Riyaz Ahmad Mir S/o: Abdul Rahman Mir R/o: Repora Lar Ganderbal (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs 26,46,071.64 (Rupees Twenty Six Lacs Forty Six Thousand Seventy One and paise Sixty Four only) being the balance outstanding as on 29.02.2024 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 20th day of November of the year 2024.

The said borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs 28,60,189.64 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lacs Sixty Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine and Paise Sixty Four Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2024 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Land measuring 05 Marlas along with shops constructed thereon falling under Khasra No 285 min, Khata No 677 and Khewat No 186 situated at Qasba Lar, Tehsil Lar District Ganderbal standing in the name of Mr Ghulam Hassan Wani S/o: Abdul Aziz Wani R/o: Shah Mohalla, Lar Gaderbal.

Authorized Officer

Dated: 20.11.2024

AB

Study Finds How Hormone Therapy Can Reshape Skeleton

IANS

Skeletons of men and women vary in size and proportion. For instance, men typically have broader shoulders while women have a wider pelvis. According to new research, skeletal size may be altered by gender-affirming hormone therapy only if puberty has also been suppressed during adolescence. The study, presented at the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology Meeting in Liverpool and carried out by Amsterdam University Medical Center (UMC) in the Netherlands, not only help researchers further understand the roles sex hormones play on the skeleton but may also improve counselling on gender-affirming treatment in transgender individuals.

Gender-affirming hormones are used to better align an individual's physical appearance with their gender identity. What's more, puberty blockers can be used to delay or prevent the changes associated with puberty in transgender youth. However, how sex hormones affect the skeleton such as the shoulders and pelvis of transgender individuals is still unclear. To investigate this, researchers from Amsterdam UMC analysed data on the shoulder and pelvis dimensions of 121 transgender women and 122 transgender men who were either undergoing gender-affirming hormone therapy – with or without previously taking puberty blockers – or had not taken any therapy.

The researchers found that only transgender men who had been treated with puberty blockers from early puberty, followed by hormone therapy, had broader shoulders and a smaller pelvic inlet (upper opening of the pelvis) compared to untreated individuals, while transgender women had smaller shoulders only after treatment from early puberty. In addition, transgender women under treatment had a larger pelvis, but this change was most noticeable in those who started blocking puberty earlier. "To our knowledge, this is the first study to explore the effect of both gender-affirming hormones and puberty blockers on the pelvic dimensions," said Lidewij Boogers, a PhD student at Amsterdam UMC who led the study.

Office of the Executive Magistrate

1st Class Narbal Budgam

Tele Fax 01951-260-276 Pin Code 193401

Notice For General Public
 It is hereby notified that the applicant namely Shameema Bano W/o Late Gulzar Ahmad Bhat R/o Narbal tehsil Narbal District Budgam had applied for the issuance of Birth Certificate of his son namely Musaid Ahmad Bhat S/o Gulzar Ahmad Bhat. The applicant intends to register the DOB of his Son as per school record/vaccination card School Record 23-01-2010. In this connection, if anybody having any objection regarding the same he/she may contact office of the undersigned within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Narbal
 bmj
 Dated: 20-11-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name and Date of Birth (DOB) in my Adher Card has been wrongly mentioned as Ab Arshid Chopan DOB 18.06.1950, instead of Abdul Rashid chopan and DOB is 06.03.1950 As per School record. Now I am applying for its Correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.



Abdul Rashid Chopan
S/O. Khazir Mohd Chopan
R/O :- Yaroo .Tehsil .Langate Distt :Kupwara .

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CS Reviews Progress On Development Of 'Bagh-Gul-E-Dawood'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday in a meeting of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks Department, assessed progress on development of Chrysanthemum Theme Park (Bagh-e-Gul-e-Dawood) here at Botanical Garden, Srinagar.

Present in the meeting were Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture Department, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, DG, Codes, DG, Budget, representative from SKUAST-K and other concerned officers.

Dulloo, while reviewing the current status of the project, enquired about its viability from the concerned faculty of SKUAST Kashmir. He said that establishment of such gardens should be explored at other tourism destinations, besides in and around the Jammu city.

He asked the department to look into creating these autumn season attractions for further prolonging the tourism season in J&K. He advised them to coordinate with the local Agricultural Universities and Tourism Department for enhancing their access and reach in most of

the feasible locations of J&K. Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Sheikh Fayaz, in his presentation, informed that following the success of world famous Tulip Garden the Department has initiated the process of establishing Chrysanthemum Theme Park under the name of (Bagh-Gul-e-Dawood) near Botanical Garden, Srinagar on an area of around 100 Kanal of land.

He revealed that this flower is known as 'Queen of East' and blooms lately in the months of October and November in diverse hues and colours. It was informed that the flowers would add true delight to autumn months being considered as a symbol of royalty.

The meeting was apprised that the Rs 40 lakh work has been allotted to R&B Department for execution this year. The total cost to be incurred on establishment of this park has been estimated at Rs 1.87 crore together with creation of other amenities and utilities for the visitors who would be able to visit it from next autumn when it would be thrown open for public.

City Petrol Pump Declares No Fuel For Minors

Agencies

Srinagar: A petrol pump at Bypass, Srinagar has put up a poster about road safety, declaring no fuel for vehicles driven by minors and those driving two-wheelers without helmets.

The poster reads: "For 2 Wheelers, No Helmet, No Fuel" and "For Minors, No Fuel".

On November 14, two young boys died, while another one was critically injured after a tragic collision between two vehicles occurred near the Tengpora area in Srinagar, which triggered debate about minor driving and road safety in the valley. Also, the traffic police on Tuesday issued a WhatsApp number to report traffic violations.

The poster which specifically targets minors riding in the valley and two-wheelers without helmets, has gone viral, drawing praise from residents and urging authorities to take action.

The initiative, dis-

played by a fueling station near Bypass Srinagar, focuses on preventing minors from riding without proper safety measures, especially helmets.

The message aims to enforce stricter safety norms, stressing that fueling stations should not provide fuel to minors or those without helmets. This initiative soon received support as it went viral on social media.

Nadeem Bashir, a local from Bemina Srinagar, said, "I fully support this initiative. It's high time something is done to stop minors from riding without helmets. This rule should be made mandatory across all fuel stations."

He added, "Too many young people are riding recklessly, and this will certainly make a difference."

Another resident, Sahi Mir, said, "The authorities should implement this idea as soon as possible. It's not just about helmets or giving fuel to minors, but saving the lives of minors who are often seen riding dangerously." —(KNO)



Abi Gurpora Fire Incident Govt Will Think About Permanent Rehab Of Fire Affected Families: Nasir

Agencies

Srinagar: Nasir Aslam Wani, the advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Wednesday said that the government will think about permanent rehabilitation of fire affected families of Rainawari Srinagar and other inhabitants of Dal Lake.

Talking to reporters after visiting the fire affected families in the interior areas of Dal lake, Wani said that under the SDRF Rs 1.30 lakh cash relief has been provided to the fire affected families besides RS 1 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

"Dal lake residents are prone to fire during winters. Fire service approach is also absent in the interiors of Dal lake. We had initiated permanent rehabilitation of Dal dwellers and for that Rakhe-Arth had been identified. We are committed to rehabilitate all Dal dwellers and relocate the houseboats," he said. "Deputy Commissioner Srinagar is identifying the land for the fire affected families

DC Urges Caution With Heating Devices

Srinagar: After a devastating fire in Abi Gurpora Rainawari, which left at least 18 small-sized residential structures damaged and nearly two dozen families homeless, the District Magistrate Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat expressed concern over the unfortunate incident and provided an update on ongoing relief efforts.

"Our teams have been deployed here since yesterday to assess the damage and provide necessary assistance," said Dr. Bhat while

speaking to the media persons.

He said, "We are making arrangements for accommodation and food for those displaced, and the SDRF will be providing relief today, as well." Bhat further said efforts are being made to improve connectivity in the affected area, with plans to widen roads and ease access.

In light of the ongoing winter season, Dr. Bhat urged residents to exercise caution while using heating devices. "These incidents can be averted with proper care," he said

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Satish Sharma said that fire affected families will get free ration for three months. "My department will ensure that the ration reaches the affected families to-

day evening," he said. "Thank God there was no loss of life in the fire incident."

Pertinently, at least 18 residential structures were damaged in Rainawari fire incident on Tuesday, leaving nearly two dozen families homeless—(KNO)

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

AIRPORTS
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
18 Jumada al-Awwal
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 40
ZUHR 12:14
ASR 3: 50
Magrib 5:30
ISHA 6: 51

This Day In History

- 235 - St Anterus begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 695 Pope Sergius names Willibrord as Archbishop Clemens of Friesland
- 1272 - Following Henry III of England's death on November 16, his son Prince Edward becomes King of England.
- 1317 - Frederik of Sierck/Zyrick becomes bishop of Utrecht
- 1620 - Pilgrim Fathers reach America: Provincetown Harbor, Mass
- 1729 - Netherlands signs Treaty of Seville
- 1759 - Battle at Maxen: Prussian army surrenders to Austrians
- 1794 - Honolulu Harbor discovered
- 1806 - Decree of Berlin: Emperor Napoleon I bans all trade with Britain
- 1813 - Stettin surrenders to allied armies
- 1818 Russia's Tsar Alexander I petitions for a Jewish state in Palestine
- 1877 - Thomas Edison announces his "talking machine" invention (phonograph), the 1st machine to play and record sound
- 1906 - China prohibits the opium trade
- 1914 - British army conquers Bazra
- 1917 - Maxim Gorky calls Vladimir Lenin a blind fanatic and unthinking adventurer
- 1918 - 2 German ammunition trains explode in Hamont Belgium, 1,750 die
- 1924 - British Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin cancels Labour contract with USSR
- 1942 - Hitler names field marshal Erich von Manstein commander of the newly-created Army Group Don (Heeresgruppe Don)
- 1944 - Personnel & executive staff of Philips demonstrate for more food
- 1945 - Benjamin Britten's 2nd String quartet in C premieres
- 1945 - General Motors workers go on strike
- 1946 - Georgi Dimitrov elected premier of Bulgaria
- 1946 - Harry Truman becomes 1st US President to travel in a submerged sub
- 1947 - Bill Longson beats Lou Thesz in St Louis, to win National Wrestling Association world heavyweight title
- 1949 - Bill Vecek sells Indians for \$22 million
- 1952 - 1st US postage stamp in 2 colors (rotary process) introduced
- 1953 - Authorities at the British Natural History Museum announce the "Piltdown Man" skull, one of the most famous fossil skulls in the world, is a hoax
- 1955 - Argentina asks Panama for return of ex-president Peron
- 1962 - The Chinese People's Liberation Army declares a unilateral cease-fire in the Sino-Indian War.
- 1967 - Vietnam War: American General William Westmoreland tells news reporters: "I am absolutely certain that whereas in 1965 the enemy was winning, today he is certainly losing."
- 1970 - General Hafez al-Assad becomes Prime Minister of Syria following military coup
- 1971 - Battle of Garibpur: Indian troops aided by Mukti Bahini (Bengali guerrillas) defeat the Pakistan army
- 1974 - Birmingham pub bombings: 21 civilians killed when bombs explode at two pubs in Birmingham, England (deadliest attack in England during "the Troubles")
- 1989 - Law banning smoking on most domestic flights signed by US President George H. W. Bush
- 2002 - NATO invites Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to become members.
- 2012 - An Israel and Hamas ceasefire is negotiated
- 2013 - 31 people are killed by a truck bomb in northeast Iraq
- 2013 - The Alabama parole board grants posthumous pardons to three members of the Scottsboro boys
- 2016 - India celebrates 50th anniversary of IR8, rice variety specially bred that saved much of Asia from famine

Remembrance

In loving memory of Mr Mohd Shafi Sofi

It has been a year since we lost our beloved Mr. Mohd Shafi Sofi (DADDY) yet his warmth, wisdom and kindness remains etched in our hearts. A guiding light for our family, we honour his memory with gratitude for countless cherished moments and his unyielding love.

May almighty grant him the highest place in *Jannah*

FONDLY REMEMBERED AND MISSED BY ALL ESPECIALLY Samrah, Ibu, Zeyan, Dida, Janu, Aisha

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Firozpur acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/services listed below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make online payments against these tender. Document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Bidding System	Date of Uploading tender	Bid Closing Date/Time	Date and Time of Opening E-Tender
Open	Single Packet System	19.11.2024 Time 14:00 hours	11.12.2024 Time 15:00 hours	11.12.2024 Time 15:05 hours

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	20-2024-Laundry ASR	Setting up of Infrastructural for linen management facilities at Amritsar coaching Depot

Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of completion
23197754.90/-	266000/-	45 Days	180 Days

Funds are available in Allocation Number 080-593-32 for more details please log on to www.ireps.gov.in

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It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN, distress, myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMER (Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research)

in collaboration with **HPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust)**

is initiating a **free 8 weeks Group therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

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You do not have to fight your battles alone.

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NC's Balancing Act

The omission of Article 370 in the resolution reflects NC's effort to voice regional concerns without provoking the centre



RIYAZ WANI

KO VIEW

The Rail Way

The long-awaited Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project connecting Delhi to Kashmir is set to commence operations in January 2025, a development that is going to change Kashmir forever. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to dedicate the railway line to the nation on January 26. The project is in the last stages of its completion and the remaining work is set to be finished by December. The challenging terrain, characterized by the young Himalayas, has posed unforeseen infrastructural challenges to the engineers. The trial runs on the iconic Chenab bridge have turned out to be successful. The bridge is considered an engineering marvel standing 359 meters above the riverbed—about 35 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower—making it the world's highest arch railway bridge. Made of steel and concrete, it is designed to withstand wind speeds of 260 km/h and the highest intensity earthquakes.

In terms of tunnels and bridges, the USBRL project boasts one of the largest such numbers in the world. It has 38 tunnels spanning 119 km, including the country's longest transportation tunnel, Tunnel T-49, measuring 12.75 km. It also includes 927 bridges covering a combined length of 13 km. These features make it one of the world's unique railway tracks, adding to its tourism friendliness.

Tourism, a key driver of Kashmir's economy, stands to benefit immensely from the operationalization of the USBRL. The scenic route, passing through Chenab Valley, Anantnag, Awantipora, Pampore, and other stations, presents a unique opportunity to highlight the natural beauty of the region. The prospect of a Vande Bharat Express running through this picturesque landscape adds an extra dimension to the tourist experience, making Kashmir more accessible for travelers, otherwise held back by the high-priced air tickets. In the short term, more visitors could also pose challenges for the government. The Valley's existing tourism infrastructure is not in a position to accommodate a disproportionately enhanced inflow of tourists.

The train would also make the rest of the country more accessible for Kashmiris. More so, in winter when due to the unreliability of the road transport, the people in the Valley have no option but to travel by air. However, whether the train would run uninterrupted even during the harsh winter months remains to be seen. But the addition of yet another means of connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country is full of possibilities. Apart from a boon for tourism and businesses, it would bridge the geographical and emotional gap with the rest of India.

“Public mood in the Valley is that the passing of resolution for the return of special status is a powerful expression of regional sentiment. Could its wording have been stronger and more specific? Certainly. But why the NC has shied away from doing that is something only the NC can explain

The resolution calling for special status passed by J&K Assembly on November 6 has since been in news not just in the union territory but also in the poll-bound states of Maharashtra and Jharkhand. In J&K, there have been as many interpretations of the resolution, as the number of political parties. For the NC, the resolution is specifically for the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A, and the other far-reaching changes flowing from August 5, 2019 decisions such as the Reorganization Act and downgrading of J&K into two union territories - J&K and Ladakh. However, the carefully-worded resolution conspicuously omitted mention of Article 370 that granted J&K its special constitutional position. It also stayed short of condemning the August 5, 2019 move and instead sought dialogue with the centre for the return of special status.

Other opposition parties have since been slamming the NC for these omissions to prove that actually the resolution was a betrayal of the public trust as it neither condemned the August 5, 2019 move, nor specifically sought the reinstatement of Article 370. Their argument has a certain veneer of plausibility that could appeal to masses. The parties peddling it comprise the PDP, the People's Conference and Awami Ittehad Party

The NC's coalition partner, the Congress, on the other hand, has preferred to be non-committal over the issue. And understandably so. It can't support Article 370 as that risks its public support in the rest of the country. The reason for this is that the abrogation of the constitutional provision now enjoys widespread support of the majority community in the country. So much so that this has now made it difficult for the Congress to retain its equivocal

stance on the issue. More so during the ongoing elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. In response to the BJP's accusations that the Congress wanted to restore Article 370, the separate flag and constitution to J&K, the latter has been forced to clarify its position. The Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has made it clear that his party didn't want Article 370 back.

The BJP, as is well-known, has a black and white position on the issue. The party argues that the removal of Article 370 has opened pathways for greater integration with the rest of the country. BJP legislators vehemently opposed the motion in the house, citing that a resolution of this kind was beyond the Assembly's purview since Parliament had already annulled the constitutional provision. The party considers the issue done and dusted. And which, given the tacit political consensus across the country over the issue, it is. There is also a certain recognition of this fact in Kashmir. And everyone understands that a resolution in the Assembly changes nothing on the ground. It is simply meant to convey a symbolic rejection of the centre's withdrawal of J&K's special status by the newly elected government. On August 5, 2019, it was the then governor Satyapal Malik who had recommended the move to the centre.

The significance of the resolution cannot be thus understated, given that the debates over autonomy, and identity, have been central to J&K's political discourse. Public mood in the Valley is that the passing of resolution for the return of special status is a powerful expression of regional sentiment. Could its wording have been stronger and more specific? Certainly. But why the NC has shied away from doing

that is something only the NC can explain. Had the party done this, it would have certainly resonated with its support base. But it may not have got the Congress, its alliance partner, on board - albeit, the NC had enough numbers that the resolution would have passed independently of the Congress. More than getting the Congress on board, would the BJP have taken a strongly-worded pro-Article 370 resolution lying down? Wouldn't this have pitted the NC directly against the BJP-led central government very early on in its tenure? These are the questions whose answers may or may not explain the NC decision.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has mentioned that the cautiously phrased resolution was framed so as not to provoke the centre into throwing it into the dustbin. By saying so, Omar, in a sense, harked back to the NC's 1999 autonomy resolution that was summarily rejected by the centre, also led by a BJP-dominated coalition under Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The difference is then J&K was an empowered state underpinned by Article 370. Now, it is a union territory looked after by the centre. The role of the newly elected government is restricted to some aspects of basic governance. Its maneuvering space on pressing ambitious demands such as Article 370 is limited. And within this space, it has chosen to abstractly respond to the public sentiment while staying short of antagonizing the centre.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



Did you know?

Investing for First-Time Investors: A Guide to SIPs in Mutual Funds

Irshad Mushtaq

Venturing into the stock market can be intimidating for first-time investors. However, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) in mutual funds offer a structured and user-friendly pathway to building wealth over the long term without the emotional rollercoaster of direct stock investments. Understanding SIPs and Their Benefits SIPs allow you to invest a fixed amount regularly into mutual funds, which is automatically deducted from your bank account.

This mechanism not only simplifies the investment process but also instills discipline in saving habits. One of the key advantages of SIPs is their ability to mitigate risk through rupee-cost averaging: when market prices are high, your fixed investment purchases fewer units, and when prices are low, it buys more, effectively lowering your average cost per unit over time. Why Now is the Time to Invest Currently, India's rapidly growing economy presents a promising prospect for long-term investors. While market fluctuations are inevitable, over time, the growth of quality stocks and mutual funds is highly probable. Declines in the market, often feared by investors, can be viewed as opportunities to purchase more units at lower prices, strengthening your portfolio.

Leveraging Modern Technology

Today's investors benefit from technologies that were unavailable two decades ago. With online platforms and trusted financial advisors, managing your investments and seeking advice has never been easier. These resources provide you with real-time insights and expert guidance, ensuring you're informed every step of the way. *Adopting a Long-Term Perspective* Investing is a marathon, not a sprint. It is crucial to maintain patience and allow the market cycles to play out. Historically, economies like India's have shown a long-term upward trajectory despite temporary dips.

Thus, investing consistently and thoughtfully with a long-term goal can lead to significant wealth creation. Educating Yourself and Future Generations As you embark on this investment journey, take the time to educate yourself and your family about the strengths of SIPs and the power of compounding over time. Making informed decisions today can set the foundation for financial solidity in the future. Utilize the available resources, maintain a disciplined investment strategy, and embrace the benefits of technology in managing your investments. These steps will not only enhance your financial literacy but also contribute to securing a prosperous future for yourself and upcoming generations.

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Facilitate Drug De-Addiction

A recent study conducted by Srinagar based Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (IMHANS) in a Drug De-addiction centre in Srinagar, found that over two-third of patients in the study had started substance abuse in the age group of 11-20 years. The most common substances of abuse identified included nicotine (94.4%), medicinal opioids (65.7%), cannabis (63.6%), benzodiazepines (45.5%), other prescription medications (43.4%), alcohol (32.5%), inhalants (11.1%), and cocaine (7.5%). The study revealed that poly-substance abuse was found in 91.9% of the studied patients. Inhalant use was seen predominantly among adolescents (54.5%) whereas nicotine (50.2%), cannabis (49.2%), alcohol (51.1%), opioids (58.4%), and benzodiazepines (53.48%) were more predominant in the age group of 21 to 30 years. According to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

(MoSJE) in February 2019, 600,000 people, i.e. 4.6 percent of the total population of Jammu and Kashmir use opioid drugs, 80 percent of the drug addicts in Kashmir use heroin and morphine.

The problem of drug abuse not only affects the physical, mental and social health of the individuals but it disturbs and burdens the whole family. It also gives great threat to family happiness and creates individual, family, economic and social disorganization.

The Kashmir disputes such as political turmoil, armed conflict, Militancy, violence, terrorism, psychological distress, unfavorable environmental conditions and rapid socio-economic problems like poor industrial and infrastructural development, mass unemployment, corruption, poverty, underdevelopment etc. have leading a rising number of drug addicts in Kashmiri society. The use of tobacco, charas, Ganga, cocaine, heroin, opiates cannabis,

alcohol and inhalant substances etc. has been growing rapidly among the adolescents in Kashmir. The use of these illicit drugs posing a big threat to humanity, by deteriorating adolescents mentally and physically, damaging family relations, spoiling potentiality, dreams, degrading the social and moral values and becoming a hindrance in shaping their career as well as progress and development of the societies

The measures of drug abuse are critical, because drug use, at its core, is a health issue. Unless we reduce demand for illicit drugs, we can never fully tackle cultivation, production or trafficking. Governments have a responsibility to counteract both drug trafficking and drug abuse, but communities can also make a major contribution. Families, schools, civil society and religious organizations can do their part to rid their communities of drugs. Businesses can help provide legitimate livelihoods. The

media can raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics. We can succeed if we reinforce our commitment to the basic principles of health and human rights, shared responsibility, a balanced approach to reducing supply and demand, and universal access to prevention, treatment and support. This will foster communities free of drug-related crime and violence, individuals free of drug dependence who can contribute to our common future and a safer world for all.

It is high time to save our generation from drug abuse and If we do not take concrete steps now, then after some years, the young generation of Kashmir will be destroyed. Police taking action against drug abuse is not enough. We as a society have to act responsibly.

M Ahmad
abhome78@gmail.com

An Emotional Journey of Silent Sacrifices

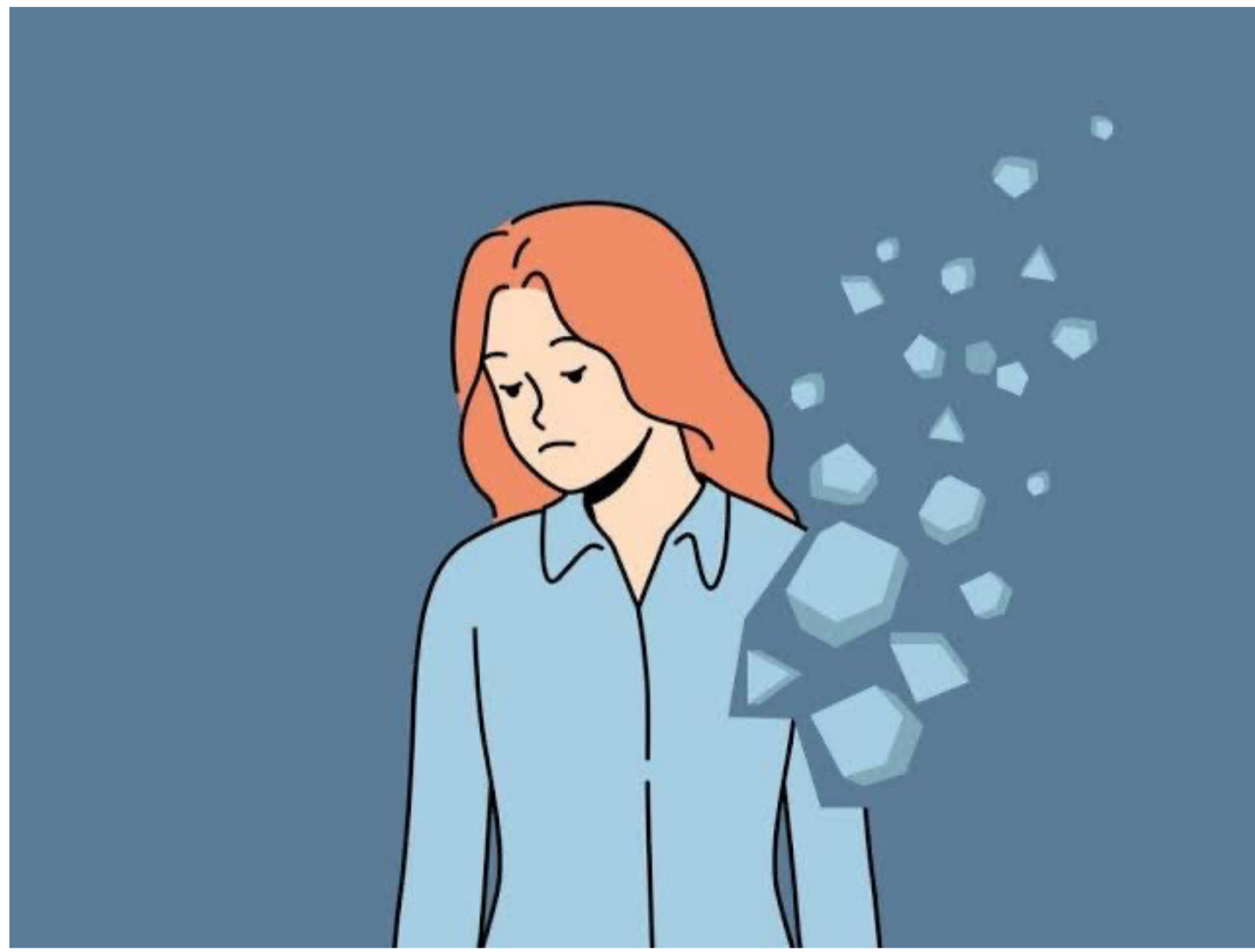
Dr Aneesa Farooq

Marriage is frequently pictured as a holy and beautiful union, a ceremonial expression of love, collaboration, and the joining of two lives. Yet, beneath the surface of the glittering festivities and joyous celebrations, there lies a deeply emotional and transformative journey that every bride embarks on – a journey marked not only by the physical transition from her father's home to her husband's house, but also by the emotional, psychological, and, in many cases, spiritual upheaval that comes with it. This voyage is a pulchritudinous and heart-wrenching story of transformation, in which she leaves behind not only the comfort and closeness of her family, but also, in many cases, her dreams, desires and agonizingly, aspects of herself that may never be retrieved.

When a bride leaves her father's house, it is more than just a movement to a new house; it is the end of a highly private chapter packed with beloved memories and the loving aura that created her identity. The house she once called home, its walls alive with the reflection of her laughing, her parents' soothing words, and the sibling's squabble, has transitioned from a lived reality to a recollection of memories, a place that, although remote, remains emotionally charged.

This departure represents the loss of not just physical space, but also the invaluable shelter and protection that her family has offered. It is sometimes stated that a daughter is her father's pride, his little girl, no matter how many years pass. The father who once held her little hand and guarded her from the world's uncertainties, now stands witness to her leaving, well aware that her life, and their link, will never be the same. He feels the silent anguish of seeing her embark on a new chapter where he can no longer be the supporter and protector that he always was.

The mother who has led her through life's challenges, discreetly observes this transformation. She knows all too well the quiet sacrifices her daughter would be asked to make, having travelled the same route herself. Though frequently unspoken, a mother genuinely feels the silent



THIS VOYAGE IS A PULCHRITUDINOUS AND HEART-WRENCHING STORY OF TRANSFORMATION, in which she leaves behind not only the comfort and closeness of her family, but also, in many cases, her dreams, desires and agonizingly, aspects of herself that may never be retrieved

resignation that comes with a daughter having to let go of her own aspirations, dreams that may fade into silence and never be expressed again.

Perhaps most profoundly, she says goodbye to her brother, her confidant and companion in both mischief and introspection, with whom she had moments of love, laughter, care and joy.

The bond that bloomed in childhood, fostered by whispered secrets and late-night talks/discussions, now meets the

unavoidable snag of distance, as she goes on to a new family, a new world.

The symbolic weight of her departure weighs hard on her heart, as each corner of her childhood home has a piece of her story, loaded with meaning that must now be discarded.

چھوڑ آئے جو زندگی کے موڑ پر
اب بھی کھڑی ہے یادوں کی منزل وہیں
بچپن کے قصے، گھر کے کونے
سب یاد بن کر دل کو تھامے

As the bride takes one fi-

nal glance back before entering her new life, she shoulders the weight of knowing that her connections – with her parents, brother, and the childhood home that moulded her – have irreversibly changed. Though her family will always be a source of comfort, she understands that they are no longer the core of her existence. That focus must now shift as she establishes a life in her husband's house.

This delicate, melancholy moment, tinged with both optimism

and grief, represents her silent acknowledgement of a world left behind as she moves forward to create another.

A bride's journey is particularly extraordinary due of her modest strength. Despite inner turmoil, she pushes on with elegance, establishing a new life and home. Her sacrifice is more than just leaving her father's house; it is also an emotional change, as she learns to balance the world she left behind and the one she now enters.

When a bride enters her husband's house, she is received warmly, but there is an unspoken understanding that her new job requires flexibility and perseverance. She is no longer only a daughter, but now a wife, partner, and valuable member of a new family. Expectations, both explicit and implicit, surround her and influence her path in

fundamental ways.

This new home, while promising, frequently seems strange. The rituals, habits, and family dynamics all force her to change, as she struggles with the emotional pull of abandoning her previous existence. She is experiencing inner turmoil as she attempts to reconcile her former self with the woman she is becoming.

Cultivating a sense of belonging in a previously unknown house takes time. She must balance the difficult challenge of forming ties with her new family and maintaining her own individuality. She frequently encounters invisible problems such as fulfilling expectations, fitting in, and showing her worth—struggles that are rarely obvious to the outer world. In this delicate balance, she gradually alters, balancing both love and expectations while maintaining the core of who she is.

Society, in its many manifestations – relatives, neighbours, and even her own parents – signals, either quietly or loudly, that her happiness comes second. She is praised for her patience, negotiating skills, and willingness to adjust. However, rather than praising her, this adulation frequently undermines her distinctiveness. The aspirations she once nourished, lively and full of promise, are now consigned to the background, perceived as remote and impracticable – as if dreaming for oneself were a privilege she no longer had.

The pressure to follow these silent, unwritten standards may be oppressive, leaving a bride feeling as if she must extinguish her own dreams and muffle her voice only to avoid judgement or condemnation. In doing so, she may be compelled to separate aspects of her identity, gradually losing sight of the person she once was, until her reflection in the mirror becomes strange.

This delicate balancing act, in which the self is sacrificed in shards, has the potential to destroy her sense of self-worth, leaving behind a woman who no longer recognises the lively individual she was.

The author is Assistant Professor, Department of English, Kashmir College of Engineering and Technology, Ranbirgarh, Srinagar

Being “There” for Others: What’s in It for You?

Kelly-Ann Allen

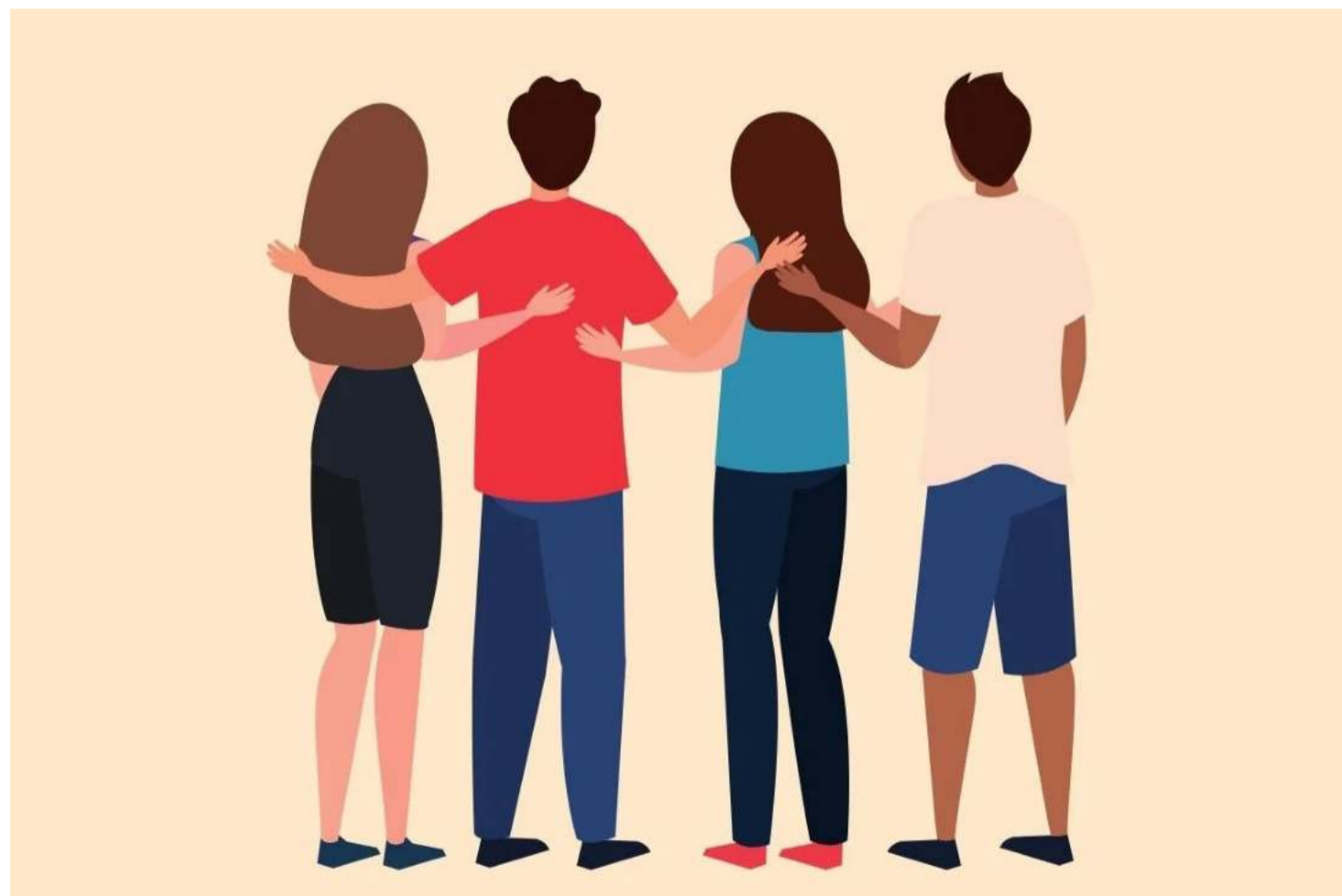
As Phoebe Buffay wisely said in Friends, “No good deed is selfless.” This insight is supported by evidence showing the reciprocal nature of the benefits of helping others.

Growing up with an older brother, I always had to share the last piece of cake or had to pick between two plates of food. I often found myself choosing the smaller piece or the plate with a slightly smaller portion and intentionally handing the other to my brother. At first, when I was too young to understand my reasoning behind this, it intrigued me. Over time, I began to realize how that act made me feel. I used to feel immense joy and happiness seeing him happy.

From “Me” to “We”

The emotions tied to such actions go far beyond the simplicity of the gesture itself. Approaches that prioritize others' well-being, often called other-focused or other-centered, are gaining significant attention in fields like positive psychology. Traditionally, research has emphasized individual well-being based on the “Oxygen Mask Assumption”—the belief that improving our own well-being naturally enhances our capacity to support others. However, this perspective is now being reconsidered.

Recent research suggests that focusing on others' well-being can be as beneficial for your mental health as prioritizing your own. A study by Rosset et al. (2024) challenges the Oxygen Mask Assumption, advocating for an other-oriented approach to well-being. The researchers propose that well-being is a reciprocal process, expanding the positive psychology concept of



“positive relationships” to emphasize that these connections involve not just receiving support but also giving it.

Connecting Research to the Real World

Rosset and colleagues' findings highlight the psychological benefits of prosocial behaviors, like providing support and volunteering. Their study shows that these actions can boost happiness, reduce stress, and increase

life satisfaction. In a world where children are growing up exposed to more short, information-based videos about self-care than in the past, it's vital to also teach them the value of caring for others.

Take, for example, 9-year-old Ewan from West Yorkshire. Using his pocket money, he bought flowers, stood on the street, and handed them to strangers. When asked why, he simply said, “I just want to see people smile,

because that makes me smile.” His story perfectly illustrates the benefits highlighted by Rosset and colleagues.

How Can We Help Ourselves by Helping Others?

Helping others to enhance your well-being can be composed of simple and authentic practices, reminding us of our shared humanity. Here are a few ways to connect with this:

- **Skill Swaps:** Organize a

community or online skill exchange where people offer their expertise (e.g., tutoring, crafting, coding) in return for another skill.

- **Micro-Kindness Challenges:** Create a daily or weekly challenge to perform unique acts of kindness, such as writing anonymous thank-you notes or leaving encouraging messages in public spaces.
- **Try Reverse Mentoring**

Sessions: Pair up with someone from a different generation or background and learn from their experiences while sharing your own insights. This builds empathy and mutual growth.

- **Volunteer:** Dedicate some time to a cause you are passionate about, like mentoring youth or helping at a food bank.
- **Be thankful:** At the end of the day, take a moment to express gratitude to others.
- **Build positive relations:** Call a friend you have not seen in a while or that distant aunt you see once a year. Make a conscious effort to be supportive to those around you.
- **Desk Boosters:** Leave small, thoughtful desk additions like notes, stress balls, mini plants, or snacks to encourage wellness in the workspace.
- **Cheerleader Circle:** Create a small online group with friends where people share challenges, goals, or problems. The group's role is to cheer each other on with encouragement, solutions, or small acts of kindness.

Embracing an other-oriented approach to well-being isn't just about being a good person, it's also about feeling good yourself. The next time you help someone out, remember that you're not just making their day better; you're boosting your own happiness, too. After all, in the words of the late Christopher Peterson, “Other people matter”—and so do you!

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Dr Jitendra Launches India's First Indigenous Antibiotic 'Nafithromycin' For Resistant Infections

NEW DELHI, Nov 20 : In a groundbreaking step for India's biotechnology sector, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today formally launched the first indigenous antibiotic "Nafithromycin" for resistant infections.

It is only after 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over that our researchers received the right kind of support to explore their potential, said Dr Jitendra Singh and added that Modi's personal intervention has made the task far easier now.

The antibiotic "Nafithromycin" has been developed with the support of "Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council" (BIRAC), a unit of the Department of Biotechnology and has been

brought to market under the trade name "Miqna" by pharma company "Wolkard". It is the country's first indigenously developed antibiotic aimed at tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

This innovation is designed to treat Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP), a severe illness caused by drug-resistant bacteria, which disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly as well as immunocompromised hosts like Patients with Diabetes, Cancers etc.

Dr. Jitendra Singh described the three-day treatment regimen of Nafithromycin as a game-changer in addressing drug-resistant pneumonia, a condition responsible for over

two million deaths globally each year. India, which bears 23% of the world's community pneumonia burden, faces challenges with existing treatments, including widespread resistance to drugs like azithromycin. The new antibiotic, developed by Wockhard with support from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), is ten times more effective than current options and offers a safer, faster, and more tolerable solution for patients.

Nafithromycin's efficacy stands out as it targets both typical and atypical pathogens, offering a potent solution where no new antibiotic in this class has been developed worldwide for over three decades.

Remarkably, it is ten times more effective than azithromycin and achieves comparable outcomes with just a three-day regimen, as validated by clinical trials. Beyond its efficacy, Nafithromycin boasts superior safety and tolerability. The antibiotic has minimal gastrointestinal side effects, no significant drug interactions, and remains unaffected by food, making it a versatile option for patients.

Nafithromycin marks a historic breakthrough as the first new antibiotic in its class to be developed globally in over 30 years. This significant milestone comes at a time when antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global health crisis, with few new drugs entering

the pipeline. The development of Nafithromycin is a testament to India's scientific advancement, offering a much-needed solution to combat multi-drug-resistant pathogens. Its innovative design, targeting both typical and atypical organisms, and its ability to overcome existing resistance mechanisms, positions it as a beacon of hope in the fight against AMR, with the potential to save countless lives worldwide.

The development of Nafithromycin represents 14 years of dedicated research and an investment of 500 crores, with clinical trials spanning the U.S., Europe, and India. Supported by BIRAC under its Biotechnology Industry

Partnership Program (BIPP), the initiative showcases the power of public-private collaboration in advancing healthcare innovation. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that the drug is now awaiting final approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) for manufacturing and public use, marking a major leap forward in India's fight against AMR.

The Minister underscored the importance of addressing AMR, calling it a global crisis that prolongs illnesses and raises healthcare costs. He pointed to the critical role of innovation and collaboration in tackling this issue, emphasizing that the COVID-19 pandemic had significantly increased public

awareness of biotechnology and its potential. Dr. Jitendra Singh also urged the scientific community to leverage this momentum to drive further advancements in diagnostics, AMR surveillance, and new antibiotic research.

As World AMR Awareness Week shines a spotlight on the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance, Dr. Jitendra Singh rallied stakeholders from the government, pharmaceutical industry, and research institutions to work collectively in combating this threat. "Today's achievement reaffirms our commitment to addressing AMR and improving public health, while positioning India as a global leader in biotechnology innovation," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Srinagar Has

likely be cloudy with a possibility of light rain/light snow, especially in the higher reaches, at scattered places of Kashmir.

Is Economic Hardship

district Budgam, which received 873 applications in 2024, this year received over 320 applications, recording a decline of over 62 per cent.

District Anantnag and Bandipora too have recorded a decline of over 50 per cent in the number of people applying to undertake the Hajj, the holy pilgrimage. District Baramulla received over 345 applications against the 781 applications in 2024.

Any intending Hajj pilgrim embarking from Srinagar has to pay around 4.2 lakh rupees, while from Delhi, it is Rs 3.6 lakh only. The authorities are attributing the difference in amount to airfares.

Officials said the airfare from Srinagar embarkation is Rs 1.7 lakh, while from Delhi; it is Rs 1.1 lakh for pilgrims. However, they add that people are not bound to travel from any specific destination and are free to take up the Hajj journey from any embarkation of their choice.

Meanwhile, as per experts, economic realities are forcing many to deprioritise the pilgrimage in favour of essential expenses like healthcare, education and other family needs.

They attribute the decline in the Hajj applications to rising prices and economic strain in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the people in the region were struggling to make ends meet.

Economic experts said many families are prioritising essential expenses such as healthcare and education over the pilgrimage due to financial strains.

Advocate Zahoor, a local social activist, said the decline is due to rising prices and economic hardship. He said daily survival has become increasingly challenging for people of the region.

"People are struggling to make ends meet, and basic living costs have skyrocketed. Even local contractors are finding it hard to compete with outsiders for work," he said. "Works they used to do is done by outsiders. Where will the money come from? People are in economic stress as there are minimal jobs and businesses."

Zahoor said the economic stability could return if policies for the region are revised and opportunities will be provided to the locals. (KNO)

J&K To Host

a powerful medium of change which can play an important role in establishing equality, social justice and help in eradicating social evils.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the progressive Film policy of J&K and series of initiatives, including operationalization of Cinema Halls in Kashmir, incentives to film makers, Single Window portal, taken by the government to create a vibrant film ecosystem in Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. He said that Jammu Kashmir will host the International Film Festival next year.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to famous Theatre and Film personality of J&K, Mushtaq Kak and recalled his outstanding contribution to the world of cinema and theatre.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the efforts of 'Vomedh Organization' for promoting cinema in Jammu Kashmir and felicitated various stakeholders associated with the event. Renowned film-maker and actor, Pankaj Khajuria was conferred with the Mushtaq Kak award. Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department; Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu -Samba -Kathua Range; Rohit Bhat, President Vomedh and Festival Director of Jammu Film Festival & TIFFS; senior officials, participants of the Film Festival, industry

professionals, prominent artists and cinema enthusiasts were present.

J&K Govt. To Begin

the schedule released by the Finance Department.

Ahead of the meetings, the Finance Departments has directed departments to submit the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on budget announcements, if any, besides the complete details of establishment budget and fiscal resource and budget management (FRBM) to it.

The details have also been directed to submit data on staffing, trends of scheme-wise revenue and capital expenditure, revenue receipts etc.

This would be after a gap of six years that J&K's budget would be presented in its Assembly.

After the imposition of central rule in J&K in 2018, J&K's budget was presented in Lok Sabha due to absence of the Assembly. (KNO)

703 Die On

4,860 accidents. The Traffic department has intensified its drive against traffic violators across the Union Territory, issuing 1,211,085 challans till October this year. Of these, 899,110 were court challans, while 311,975 were compound challans, according to official figures. (KNO)

HC Raps Govt

contempt petition of January 2018 has overstretched along with patience of this Court in putting up with routine excuses of the respondents (authorities concerned) to the contempt petition in carrying out the compliance of the writ Court judgment," the court said, adding, "Exhausted of the lame excuses from the respondents' side, this Court, in terms of an order dated 11.09.2024, came to frame rule against one of named contemnors but even this indulgence has not made the things to happen at the end of the

respondents except saying that the matter has been forwarded to the GAD for seeking the final approval as well as relaxation of the rules to implement the judgment dated 11.08.2016."

The seriousness of recurring non-compliance, the court said, is "perhaps lost to the authorities given the fact that even the Special Leave Petition came to suffer dismissal in terms of an order dated March 18 this year from the Supreme Court of India."

"In terms of an order dated 11.11.2024, this Court called upon ...GA (Government advocate) to get words from the Financial Commissioner, Jal-Shakti, Department and the Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department with respect to time line within which the letter and spirit compliance of the writ Court judgment is to come forth," the court said and directed the Government Advocate to produce the file from the Commissioner Secretary to Jal-Shakti, Department whereby the process for compliance of the court judgment has been initiated and "is being purportedly processed towards its compliance."

"Let requisite file be produced on the next date of hearing failing which this Court shall be constrained to direct personal appearance of the Financial Commissioner as well as Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department, UT of J&K," the court said and ordered listing of the case on November 26.

Agriculture Key

Minister expressed concern over the neglect of agriculture in discussions about J&K's development. "In Jammu and Kashmir, we find farmers in every corner, yet when we discuss progress, we focus on factories, tourism, and facilities for pilgrims at religious places. Sadly, the contribution of farmers and the agriculture and allied sectors often goes unnoticed," he said.

He stressed the economic potential of agriculture and allied sectors, stating, "I firmly believe that focusing on these sectors can significantly transform J&K's economy. We rely heavily on imports for many necessities, such as dairy products, meat, and oilseeds. Our efforts should aim to produce these locally through import substitution. If we achieve surplus production, we can sell it outside, leading to a positive shift in J&K's economy."

Omar Abdullah called for efforts to restore farming as a viable and respected livelihood for future generations.

"Our farmers must feel confident that their hard work on the land will generate income. However, it is disheartening that the younger generation is distancing itself from agriculture. Productive agricultural land is increasingly being used for non-agricultural purposes because our children hesitate to connect with agriculture and allied sectors. This mindset needs to change," he lamented.

Speaking about Jammu's agricultural potential, he said, "Multiple-farming, cultivating staple crops, and utilizing land for high-value products hold immense potential. Jammu is already renowned for its RS Pura Basmati, Rajma and Guccchi mushrooms from Kishtwar. Products like olives and exotic fruits, which were unheard of just a few years ago, are now becoming common in our homes. There is no scarcity of potential here."

He further emphasized the importance of undertaking research and ensuring that its benefits reach every corner of J&K.

"The practical implementation of research is crucial, and the responsibility lies in ensuring that its benefits reach every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. Farmers must be informed about the advantages of these practices so that agriculture becomes productive and attractive, even for the younger generation."

The Chief Minister also pledged his government's unwavering support to SKUAST, saying, "This four-day program is an excellent initiative for farmers and visitors to learn and benefit from. My government will fully support and assist the university in its endeavors. We stand shoulder to shoulder with you, and you will always find our doors open to help this institution thrive."

During the event, Omar Abdullah released several books on agriculture and research authored by various experts.

He also felicitated progressive farmers from Jammu division for their contributions to the sector.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated the National Agriculture Summit & Farmers' Fair-2024 in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu BN Tripathi, MLA RS Pura-Jammu South Dr. Narinder Singh Raina, and other dignitaries.

On the occasion, Omar Abdullah laid the foundation stone of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development at the main campus of SKUAST-Jammu and planted saplings of various fruit plants alongside the Deputy CM, Agriculture Minister, MLA, and VC SKUAST-Jammu.

The Chief Minister also inspected stalls set up by agriculture and allied departments, interacting with staff and farmers.

He inaugurated the Krishi Mela Rural Sports by blowing a whistle and witnessed a tug-of-war competition among boys and girls of different categories.

The event witnessed the participation of scholars, researchers, scientists, students, and progressive farmers, making it a significant platform for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building in agriculture.

27th year OF PUBLICATION

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OR SCAN



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UNRAVEL KASHMIR

Australia Stars To Aim For Major Milestones In First Test Against India

Agencies

PERTH: Australian batter Steve Smith, skipper Pat Cummins, pacer Mitchell Starc and spin veteran Nathan Lyon will continue their milestone hunt during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, with the first Test in Perth to be played from Friday.

Both sides, placed at the top two spots of the ICC World Test Championship points tally will be aiming to make their chances for the final stronger. While India seeks to bounce back after a rare, but humiliating home setback against New Zealand, Australia would be aiming to avoid a hat-trick of series losses to India at home.

Smith needs just 315 runs to become the fourth Australian batter after Ricky Ponting (13378), Allan Border (11174), and Steve Waugh (10927) to reach the landmark of 10,000 Test runs. Currently, he has scored 9,685 runs in 109 Tests, averaging 56.97, with 32 centuries and 41 fifties. His best



score is 239.

He also needs 559 runs and a bumper Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in order to become the sixth Australian to touch the 17,000-run mark in international cricket. Currently, he has scored 16,441 runs at an

average of 47.79, with 44 centuries and 80 fifties. His best score is 239.

Smith is just 507 runs away from becoming Australia's leading Test run-getter against India. With 2,555 runs in 29 matches, with eight tons and

12 fifties, Ponting holds this record.

England's Joe Root has 10 Test tons against India, the most by any batter against Asian giants. Two more tons can help Smith surpass Root.

Also, skipper Cummins is

also approaching a new milestone which will solidify his legacy as a modern-day great. 22 more wickets and he will become the seventh Australian bowler to get to 500 international wickets.

Interestingly, his bowling partner Josh Hazlewood also is awaiting this landmark. Currently, Cummins has taken 478 scalps at an average of 24.55, with best figures of 6/23. Also, 31 more wickets could take him to 300 Test wickets, making him the eighth Aussie to achieve the landmark. Hazlewood also has 478 scalps in 213 matches, averaging 25.15.

Also, ace spinner Lyon sits at 187 wickets in 43 ICC WTC matches and at second place in the all-time charts. 13 more wickets will make him the first-ever bowler to reach 200 wickets in the competition. Currently, his rival, India's veteran all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin sits at the top of WTC charts with 194 scalps in 40 matches, averaging 21.32.

J&K Beats Hosts Punjab 1-0 In Santosh Trophy Opener

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's football team secured a spectacular victory in its opening Group A game of the 78th Men's Senior National Football Championship 2024-25 (Santosh Trophy) on Wednesday.

In an electrifying showdown, J&K triumphed over hosts Punjab with a

nan broke the deadlock in the 50th minute. The J&K Bank FC midfielder was named Player of the Match for his performance.

The J&K Football Association celebrated the win and said it was a "testament to the dedication, resilience, and teamwork displayed by our players, coaches, and management. Their collective effort has made the entire

wishing them success in their upcoming matches. Similarly, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Sarhad Hafeez, IAS, praised the team's efforts and expressed confidence in their continued success in the tournament.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, commended the players and officials for their inspiring win against a formidable



hard-fought 1-0 victory at Guru Nanak Dev University Sports Complex in Amritsar, thanks to a sensational goal by the ever-dynamic Adnan Ayoub, wearing the iconic No. 11 jersey. His stunning strike proved to be the decisive moment, securing a historic win for the team.

J&K is being coached by legendary footballer Mehrajuddin Wadoo, who put out a strong team against a solid opponent. He is supported by Chief Coach Satpal Singh Kala and other officials.

After a 0-0 first half, Ad-

nan broke the deadlock in

"A special shoutout to Adnan Ayoub, whose brilliance on the field continues to inspire and uplift J&K football to new heights," the FA added.

The J&K team is sponsored by the J&K Sports Council and underwent rigorous coaching camps in both Srinagar and Jammu before heading to the competition.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, also lauded the team's performance, congratulating them on their brilliant display and

Punjab side.

J&K will next play Himachal Pradesh on November 22. Ladakh forms the other squad in the four-team Group A.

J&K PLAYING XI:

21 Nirdosh, 3 Arun, 12 Farhan, 19 Ather, 23 Dimple, 25 Musaab, 5 Shahmeer, 6 Aakif, 10 Hayat, 11 Adnan, 14 Huzafah

Substitutes: Rishi, Sahil Rashid Dar, Moomin Bhat, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, Aditya Mahajan, Ishan Gupta, Rishab Mehra, Kamran Hameed, Talib Nazir, Nadeem Ali Bhat, Majid Ahmad

Argentina Football Team Featuring Messi To Play In Kerala



Press Trust of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala government announced on Wednesday that the Argentina national football team, led by legendary player Lionel Messi, will visit the state next year for an international friendly match, which Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan hailed as a tribute to state people's passion for soccer.

Addressing a press conference here, Sports Minister V Abdurahiman said that the world-renowned team would play two friendly matches in Kerala, with the event being conducted under the complete supervision of the state government.

The venue and the opponent team would be decided at a later stage, Abdurahiman said, reacting to a query.

"The world's number one football team, Argentina, including Lionel Messi, is coming to Kerala... There will be two matches," he said.

The management of the Argentina team would make an official announcement in this regard upon arriving in the state, Abdurahiman said.

Representatives of the football team are expected to visit the southern state within one and a half months, the minister said.

"We (government) have decided to make a joint announcement in this regard with the Argentina national team management," he said.

The minister said that he had recently

visited Spain to hold discussions with representatives of the Argentina national team and to extend an official invitation for their visit to the state.

He said that talks were held with individuals associated with the team, who agreed to visit India in 2025 and participate in the friendly match event.

Responding to a question, he said that the decision regarding the team's arrival has been finalised, and there are no changes to it.

He noted that the government would directly oversee the match, security, and other arrangements.

The minister said that the match would take place next year, but the date would be announced by the Argentina Football Association (AFA) in accordance with their procedures.

Making it clear that the match would be held in a stadium with a capacity of at least 50,000 people, he indicated that Kochi is likely to be the venue.

The minister pointed out that India has the largest support base for the Argentina football team, with one-fourth of the fans residing in Kerala. This is the primary reason for the Argentina team's decision to visit the state.

Financial support for organising the high-profile football event will be provided by the traders of the state, he added.

Abdurahiman also expressed confidence in Kerala's capability to host this historic occasion.

Short TAKES

India Not Ruling Out Gill Playing In Series Opener

India will give Shubman Gill every chance to prove his fitness to start the opening test against Australia at Perth Stadium with the batsman showing improvement after fracturing his left thumb, bowling coach Morne Morkel said on Wednesday.

Gill, 25, sustained the injury while fielding at slip last week as India were gearing up for the match, which starts on Friday, with squad sessions instead of a tour game against a local side.

"Shubman is improving every day. Obviously he picked up a nasty blow in that intra-squad warm-up game. I think with him it's going to be a day-to-day process," Morkel told reporters.

"Fingers crossed for that improvement. We'll wait to take a call on him up until the morning of the test match."

With skipper Rohit Sharma set to miss the match following the birth of his second child, Gill's absence could heap more pressure on India's less experienced batsmen on fiery Australian pitches but Morkel backed them to rise to the occasion.

South Korea Can Learn From Palestinians: Son After Draw

South Korea captain Son Heung-min praised the resilience of the Palestinian team after the Tottenham Hotspur forward earned his side a point in a 1-1 draw with the war-hit outfit in Amman on Tuesday in the third phase of Asia's World Cup preliminaries.



Son levelled the scores in the 16th minute after Zeid Qunbar gave the Palestinians a shock early lead, pouncing on an under-hit back-pass by Bayern Munich defender Kim Min-jae.

The Palestinians frustrated the Koreans with a 0-0 draw in their previous qualifier in Seoul in September, as Makram Daboub's side continue to perform under the shadow of the Israel-Hamas conflict, which has claimed more than 40,000 lives in Gaza since last October.

"I'd like to applaud them," Son said of the Palestinians, who were forced to play in neutral Amman due to the ongoing security situation.

"I think they were really well prepared despite being in such a difficult situation and they executed their plans really well."

"I think that's something we can learn from them. I am disappointed that we didn't win and hopefully, we will play better next year."

The Palestinian team is bottom of the group.

Romania Awarded 3-0 Win Over Kosovo After Walk-Off

Romania have been awarded a 3-0 victory over Kosovo after their Nations League match in Bucharest was abandoned when the visiting team walked off, UEFA said on Wednesday.

The Group C2 game was abandoned in stoppage time on Friday after the Kosovo players left the field with the score at 0-0 when they heard pro-Serbia chanting from home fans, which Romania has denied.

UEFA concluded that Kosovo were responsible for the match not being completed and ruled that they should forfeit the game.

The Romanian Football Federation (FRF) was fined 128,000 euros (\$135,000) following multiple charges, including discriminatory behaviour and improper conduct by the team.

The FRF was also ordered to close its stadium for the next home match due to xenophobic anti-Hungarian chants.

The Football Federation of Kosovo (FFK) will pay a fine of 6,000 euros for the improper conduct of its team.

Romania topped the group with 15 points and Kosovo finished second with 12.

Captain 'Disheartened', Federation Says 'Setback' After Withdrawal From Blind T20 WC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Captain Durga Rao Tompaki on Wednesday said it is disheartening to miss out on the chance to compete in the T20 Blind Cricket World Cup in Pakistan following India's withdrawal from the tournament while the national federation described the development as a "setback".

The Indian team withdrew from the tournament after the government denied the permission to travel to Pakistan due to security concerns.

The Indian team was supposed to cross the Wagah border on Wednesday for the event, scheduled to begin on Saturday.

"We play with passion, and we represent our country with immense pride. We have always looked forward to competing at the biggest stage, and it is disheartening to



miss out on this opportunity," Tompaki said in a media release.

"However, we know that the next World Cup is just around the corner, and we remain committed to our training and preparation."

The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) had conducted a 25-day training camp in New Delhi before selecting the World Cup squad.

"We have had a successful coaching camp and have seen emerging talent that we believe can

lead our team to greater heights. It's time to nurture these talents and ensure that our team is ready when the next tournament comes," Tompaki added.

The team had initially got a No Objection Certificate (NOC), at no-cost to the government, from the Sports Ministry to participate in the tournament. However, it couldn't get clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"While this is a significant setback for the team, CABI fully respects the gov-

ernment's concerns and the decision for the same," CABI said in a statement.

"The team had been training rigorously and was eager to compete. However, we prioritise the government's guidance and remain steadfast in our commitment to the continued development of Blind Cricket in India."

"Though the timing of the next World Cup remains uncertain, the commitment to the sport and the country remains unwavering," the statement read.

The government has also not given clearance to the Indian national cricket team to travel to Pakistan for next year's ICC Champions Trophy.

The BCCI had informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) about India's inability to travel to Pakistan and the global governing body, in turn, passed the information to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Hardik Reclaims Top Spot Among T20I All-Rounders, Tilak 3rd Among Batters

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Star India player Hardik Pandya on Wednesday re-claimed the top spot in the T20I all-rounders' list while rising star and teammate Tilak Varma made a massive jump of 69 rungs to occupy the third place among batters in the latest ICC men's player rankings.

Pandya overtook England dasher Liam Livingstone and Nepal dynamo Dipendra Singh Airee at the top of the T20I all-rounder charts on the back of some strong form during India's recent series in South Africa, with the 31-year-old producing some eye-catching efforts with both bat and ball.

His innings of 39 not out in the second game of the four-match series helped balance India's innings, while his spell of 1/8 from three overs during the decisive fourth contest ensured his side claim an impres-



sive 3-1 series triumph. It is the second time Pandya has held the No.1 ranking for T20I all-rounders, with the consistent India performer first rising to the

top at the end of this year's ICC men's T20 World Cup. Pandya wasn't the only India player to make giant strides in the latest rankings update, with Player of

the Series and rising player Varma shooting up the batting charts a whopping 69 places following his two centuries and 280 runs for the series against the Proteas.

The rise sees Varma improve to third place overall behind No.1-ranked T20I batter Travis Head and England's Phil Salt and means he is now the highest-rated batter from India, with skipper Suryakumar Yadav dropping one spot to fourth behind him.

Teammate Sanju Samson -- who also managed two centuries during the series with South Africa -- climbs 17 spots to 22nd on the same list for T20I batters.

Australian duo Adam Zampa and Nathan Ellis are among the biggest movers on the updated rankings for T20I bowlers, with India seamer Arshdeep Singh gaining three places to move to ninth and a new career-high rating following his efforts against South Africa.