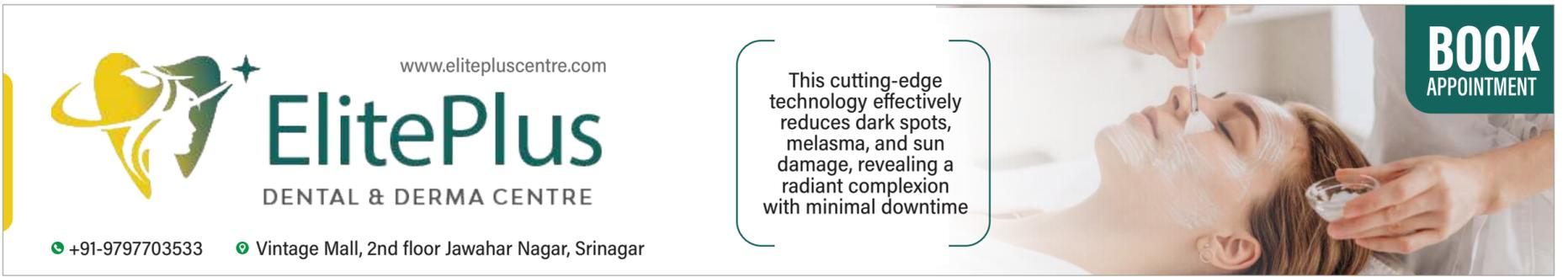


# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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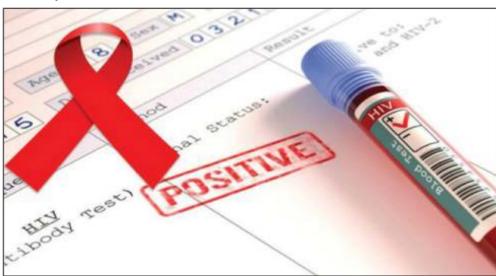
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**BOOK APPOINTMENT**

## HIV Cases In J&K Cross 6,600 Mark



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Around 6,600 HIV-positive cases have been registered in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three decades, revealing a persistent public health challenge exacerbated by stigma and underreporting.

According to official data, around 6600 HIV-positive cases have been reported in J&K over the last three decades.

The actual number of HIV cases is likely higher, as societal discrimination deters individuals from seeking testing or treatment.

An official from the Jammu and Kashmir State AIDS Control Society (JKSACS) stressed the critical role of awareness in curbing the spread of the virus. "HIV transmission in the

Kashmir valley is primarily linked to drug abuse, while in the Jammu region, high-risk groups such as female sex workers, truck drivers, and laborers contribute significantly to its spread," the official explained. Additional causes include unprotected sex, unsafe blood transfusions, and shared needle use.

While recalling the case of a teenage truck driver who tested positive for HIV, months after injecting opioids into his veins, a psychiatric social worker told Kashmir Observer that injecting drug users (IDUs) are more vulnerable to acquiring AIDS HIV because of their high-risk behaviors. "It has been observed that large numbers of addicts use drugs in pairs. They either reuse the needles or share them, mostly | More on P6

## J&K Gets Rs 5,835 Cr For Power Infrastructure Under RDSS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over the last five years, Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated a total of Rs 5,835 crore under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) to improve the state's power distribution infrastructure, Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal informed the House on Thursday.

The RDSS, launched by the Government of India in July 2021, aims to enhance



the operational efficiency and financial sustainability of power distribution utilities, reduce technical and commercial losses, and ensure reliable power supply.

While providing data for all states in the country, the Union

Minister mentioned that the sanctioned amount for Jammu and Kashmir includes Rs 1,064 crore for metering works and Rs 4,771 crore for loss reduction initiatives.

"In addition, the government has approved a grant-based support (GBS) of Rs 272 crore for metering works and Rs 4,294 crore for loss reduction, bringing the total GBS allocated to Jammu and Kashmir to Rs 4,566 crore," he said.

He also said that the funds aim to improve the operational efficiency | More on P6

## Rs 4.5 Cr For Drinkable Water

The Central government has sanctioned a Rs 4.5 crore project under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 scheme to provide drinkable tap water across Jammu and Kashmir, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil informed Parliament on Thursday.

Launched on October 01, 2021, AMRUT 2.0 aims to make cities 'self-reliant' and 'water secure' by improving urban water supply and wastewater management. The scheme focuses on ensuring the availability of clean and safe drinking water in urban areas. | More on P6

## CBI Plea To Shift Trial To Delhi SC Seeks Yasin Malik's Response

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought response from J&K separatist leader Yasin Malik and others on a plea by the Central Bureau of Investigation to transfer the trial in two cases from Jammu to New Delhi.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih issued notice to Malik and other accused and directed them to file a response by December 18.

During the proceedings, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that Malik need not be physically taken to | More on P6

## By-Polls For Budgam, Nagrota Seats By April 2025

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The by-election for two vacant seats of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly would be held before April 20, 2025 as per the law governing the electoral exercise. Election Commission of India has

to hold elections for Budgam and Nagrota seats before April 20 as per legal provisions mandating ECI to fill vacant seats.

While Omar Abdullah, who won both Budgam and Ganderbal seats, decided to vacate the former on October 21, Nagrota | More on P6

## Srinagar Records Coldest Night At -2.1°C

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Srinagar city and other places in Kashmir experienced the coldest night of the season so far as most parts of the valley reeled under sub-zero night temperature, officials said on Thursday.

They said Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.1 degree Celsius – 1.5 degrees down from the previous night's minus 0.6 degree Celsius.

The night temperature was 1.7 degrees Celsius below the normal for this time of the season.

Qazigund – the gateway town to the valley in south Kashmir – recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, which was the season's lowest so far.

The minimum in Pahalgam tourist resort, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, settled at minus 5 degrees Celsius – the coldest weather station in the Valley.

It was also the coldest night of the season at the resort.

The famous ski resort Gulmarg registered a low of minus 2.5 degree Celsius, while Kupwara shivered at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag in south Kashmir was the only weather station in the valley where the minimum settled above the freezing point at 0.2 degree Celsius, the officials said.

The Met department said the weather would likely stay generally dry until Friday evening, after which there is a possibility of light rain or snow at isolated places in the | More on P6

**THE SOCIAL STIGMA ASSOCIATED with HIV often leaves patients vulnerable."**

## DGP Conference Begins Today Internal Security, J&K To Be Discussed

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The annual all-India conference of directors general of police and inspectors general of police will begin in Bhubaneswar on Friday where issues related to internal security, Jammu and Kashmir, and pro-Khalistan elements, among others are likely to be discussed, officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, among others will attend the three-day conference where cyber crimes, challenges posed by AI tools and threats emanating from drones are also expected to be discussed. | More on P6

## PMAY-U 26,748 Houses Sanctioned, 23,497 Delivered In J&K: Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U), a total of 26,748 houses have been sanctioned for construction, with 27,627 houses grounded over the last five years, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, informed the House on Thursday.



While providing data for all states across the country, the Union Minister informed that a total of 26,748 houses have been sanctioned | More on P6

## 'J&K Highway Toll Revenue Crosses Rs 1,800 Cr'

The total toll revenue collected from national highways in Jammu and Kashmir has surpassed Rs 1,800 crore since the commencement of toll collection, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

According to data provided by the | More on P6

## Decade-old Case Unlicensed Driver Gets 2 Yrs In Jail For 'Accident' Killing

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court in Uri Baramulla has convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment an unlicensed driver of a vehicle which had met with an accident more than a decade ago in the north Kashmir area, leading to the death of three persons and injuries to twelve others.



Trex vehicle (JK05B-8962), carrying passengers was on way from Uri when it went out of control from the hands of the driver namely Naseer Ahmad Kali of Balakot and fell into deep gorge near Thajal, leading to the death of 3 passengers and injuries to a dozen others.

Soon after the accident, police had registered a case (FIR No. 30/2014) for commission of | More on P6

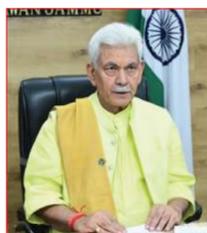
## J&K Textile Sector Witnessing Resurgence: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday delivered the keynote address at the "Jammu & Kashmir Textile Sourcing Fair-2024," through virtual mode.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke about J&K's rich textile traditions and increasing market access and export opportunities for artisans and local manufacturers.

He said, "Jammu & Kashmir Textile Sourcing Fair" is now a gathering point for buyers from India and abroad, and is making a



valuable contribution to the growth and development of the textile industry and benefiting the local artisans, manufacturers, and entrepreneurs. | More on P6

## FUNDRAISER - FOR CANCER

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Mother Helpage JK Seeks Your Compassionate Support For: Patient Name: Manzoor Ahmad Baba S/o: Late Abdul Ahad Baba R/o: Illahi Bagh Buchpora Srinagar Diagnosis: Sigmoid Colon Cancer 3rd B Stage of Adenocarcinoma Cost: 6,00,000. our team visited the patient & find the need genuine please come forward to help this patient

### Patient's Family Message

We have used up all our savings to pay for expenses that amounted to a lot. We can't bear any more expenses and need your help immediately. We need a huge amount to complete the medical procedure. My father is closest to my heart, and I can't see him in this condition.

Please help in this hour of need by kindly contributing towards the treatment. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!



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Jammu and Kashmir

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عنوان: درخواست از جانب گلشن زوجہ مرحوم محمد یاسین شمس کاندالہ لالہ زار سے نسبتی
اجرائی ایگل سربنگر

اطلاع عام
خوشخبر احمد اور محمد صدیق ڈارسا کے متعلق پیشگی تصدیق اور رجسٹرڈ ہارمول کے پروفیشنل احمد ڈار کی
تاریخ پیدائش بانی سکول جی بی بی میں سے 06-04-2010ء اور رجسٹرڈ ہارمول کے پروفیشنل احمد ڈار کی

PUBLIC NOTICE
I am applying for the issuance of D Class contractor card. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the SE PWD Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

University of Kashmir, Srinagar
NOTICE
The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

University of Kashmir, Srinagar
NOTICE
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از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار انکھام ایگزیکیوٹو کمپلکس دیو اول انکھام
درخواست منجانب: عام اہلین بٹ ولد محمد یعقوب بٹ ساکن مہری پورہ کورنگہ ضلع ہتہاگ
بغرض حصول آرنی اے سرٹیفکیٹ

The Jammu and Kashmir
State Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public
The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT & COUNSELLING CENTRE, GANDEBAL
Email: empexgbl@gmail.com; Contact: 0194-2950509

Re-advertisement Notice
Subject: Notice inviting applications to undergo 3-Month Skill Development Course.
Applications as per the format given below are invited to fill the vacant seats from interested youth of the district Ganderbal to undergo three months skill development course in Front Office Management to be conducted by District Employment & Counselling Centre Ganderbal in collaboration with Design Innovation Centre, Central University of Kashmir, Green Campus, Duderhama, Ganderbal.

APPLICATION FORM
1. Name of the candidate
2. Parentage
3. Permanent Residence
4. Date of Birth
5. Contact Details
i) Email ID
ii) Mobile No.
6. DE&CC Registration No.
7. Qualification
a) Academic Qualification

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SHOPIAN
Fax No/ Tell No: 01933-260226 Email: rnbdivisonshopian@gmail.com
EXTENSION NOTICE
It is notified for the information of all concerned that due to zero tender response for the works advertised vide this office NIT No:- 46/5268-77/SPN/RnB/e-tender of 2024-25 Dated:- 25-10-2024, figuring at S.No. 03,04,05,06,07,08 & 09 and zero tender response for the works advertised vide this office NIT No:- 45/5258-67/SPN/RnB/e-tender of 2024-25 Dated:- 25-10-2024 figuring at S. No. 05,06&07, accordingly the critical dates for the works are hereby:

Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir (U.T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOO
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No.63/6297-6306 of R&B/Vailoo /2024-2025/e-tendering/ DATED:27/11/2024

Table with 8 columns: S. No, Name of Work, Approved Amount (Rs. In Lacs), Cost of T/Doc.in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs.), Earned Money (2% of Adv. Cost) (in Rs.), Time of completion, Project Intending Department, Class of Contractor, Major Head of account

Government of Jammu & Kashmir electricdivisionrnb@gmail.com
Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh. Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No.102/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/5333-5342 DATED:25-11-2024.
For and on behalf of The Government of J&K(U/T)e-tenders (in Doublecover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

## Four Day WCC 60th Jubilee Celebration Concludes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The World Craft Council's (WCC) 60th Jubilee celebration extension programme concluded today in Srinagar, marking a historic four day event that showcased rich craftsmanship and cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir on a global platform.

The extension event followed the WCC Jubilee celebration held in New Delhi from November 21-24, 2024.

The Srinagar event saw participation from 15 international WCC delegates hailing from countries including Kuwait, Australia, France, the UK, Ireland, and Central Asia. In addition, artisans from various parts of the world attended, showcasing their unique crafts and fostering a cultural exchange with local artisans.

Organized by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the event was aimed at promoting the region's rich artisanal heritage while strengthening global networks within the craft sector.

The celebration began

with a Craft Safari in Srinagar's Old City, allowing delegates to experience the vibrant local craft scene firsthand. Following this, a meeting with local stakeholders and government officials was held at the Government Arts Emporium, Srinagar, where valuable discussions on promoting traditional crafts took place.

The main two-day event, held on November 26-27, 2024, at SKICC, featured expert panel discussions, a craft bazaar and presentation of Excellence Awards in various crafts by the Lieutenant Governor of J&K to distinguished local artisans.

The awards recognised exceptional artisans for their invaluable contributions towards preserving and promoting the region's rich craftsmanship. The inaugural session set a vibrant tone, highlighting the significance of Jammu & Kashmir's craft heritage on the global stage.

Following the inaugural ceremony, the event moved into a series of insightful discussions.



## Govt Determined To Address Every Issue Concerning Public: Sakeena Itoo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of Hazratbal Constituency of Srinagar and inspected several institutions of public importance.

The tour, spanning several key health and educational institutions in Hazratbal like Sub District Hospital (SDH), Habbak, Government Middle School Habbak, NTPHC Zakura and Government School Zakura, was aimed to assess the condition of these public institutions and gather on-spot feedback for further improvements.

At SDH Zakura, the Minister held a detailed inspection of the facility and assessed infrastructure, patient care facilities and medical equipment. She interacted with the medical staff, including doctors, nurses and technicians, to understand their concerns and requirements. The medical staff present on the occasion briefed the Minister about the facilities available at the facility and also highlighted intervention on sev-

eral matters concerning the hospital.

She also discussed the issue of halt in construction of the additional block of the hospital. The Minister directed the DC Srinagar and VCLMA to sort out the issues in coordination with other stakeholders and restart the work as soon as possible for timely completion of the project.

On the sidelines of the visit to the hospital, the Minister also addressed the gathering of local people.

During the address, Sakeena Itoo underlined the Omar Abdullah led Government's commitment to providing quality healthcare services to all citizens. "Our Government is of the people and for the people and we are determined to address every issue concerning the public at large", Sakeena said.

The Minister, in her address, also assured the locals that any shortcomings in the functioning of Sub District Hospital will be addressed promptly.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar assured the people that the Government is committed to address grievances and issues of people. He also

brought several issues concerning the Hazratbal Constituency in the notice of the Minister.

Afterwards, Itoo visited Government Middle School Habbak and reviewed the functioning of the institution. She interacted with the school administration and took first-hand appraisal from them about the requirements at the institution.

The Minister, on the occasion, gave on-spot instructions to the Director School Education for initiating the process of upgrading the school. She also directed the authorities for immediate renovation of the school building.

Later, the Minister also inspected Mini Maternity Centre Zakura, NTPHC Zakura and Government School Zakura.

MLA, Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat; Principal GMC Srinagar, VC LMA, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir and other senior officers of district administration also accompanied the Minister during the tour.

## 'Prolonged Delay' In Installing AB Cables Irks Consumers

Agencies

Srinagar: Despite the tall claims of government to install Aerial Bundled (AB) cable to combat the power theft in Kashmir, the locals of several areas Thursday allege that 'several ground staff has developed some nexus and are delaying the project of cabling for their own reasons'.

Some of the locals of Iqbal Abad Bemina said that the installation of Aerial Bundled (AB) cable in the area was going on since March this year. "There seems to be no progress further since then."

"The installation of Aerial Bundled (AB) cable has been under progress since March this year. All these months, residents

pressed them to complete the project but to no avail. The area was already covered with prepaid smart meters last year on conductor wires," said one of the locals.

He said, "We see the KP-DCL responsible for prolonged delay in getting the area cabled to bring down losses. Now for the last four days, we were without electricity for day and night. For days, the PDD was carrying out the cabling works and power shutdown was genuine."

The residents however said that once they resume power in the evening, some fault starts developing—plunging them into darkness all these days. "We expected PDD Assistant Executive Engineer Bemina should have addressed the issue after bringing into his notice too."(KNO)

## Transporters Protest Against 'Unfair Treatment'

Agencies

Srinagar: The private transporters in Srinagar staged a protest on Thursday against the operation of RTC and Smart buses within the City routes, accusing the authorities of 'unfair practices'.

The All Jammu and Kashmir Transporters Welfare Association said the private buses are being restricted under the pretext of reducing traffic,

while RTC and Smart buses are being allowed to operate freely.

"This is injustice. If RTC buses can enter the City, why are private buses being stopped? We are losing our livelihood," a protester said.

Another protester said, "This policy is destroying our livelihoods. We are not against RTC buses, but we demand fair treatment. Either allow all buses to operate in the City or stop discriminating against private transporters."(KNO)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. 19/2024-2025 Date: 27.11.2024

**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, NRIy. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, Amritsar for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due date
1	62245349	MIG MAG SYNERGIC AND MMA INVERTER BASED WELDING PLANT WITH AIR COOLED TORCH 500 Amp. Duties and taxes as quoted by the bidder, insurance and freight as per tender specification.	18 Nos.	02.01.2025

NOTE:- Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted. 3665/2024

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### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Nigar Tariq to Nigar Tariq Wani. In future I will be known as Nigar Tariq Wani, if anybody is having any objection He / She may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 ( Seven ) days, after that no objection will be accepted.

Media Line Advt

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- 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

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- 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**

26 Jumada al-Awwal  
**1446**

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5: 45
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	3: 47
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	6: 50

## This Day In History

- 1581 - Doornik (Tournai) surrenders to Duke of Parma
- 1596 King Philip II devalues Spanish currency
- 1812 - Napoleon's Grand Army crosses Berezina River in retreat from Russia
- 1850 - The treaty, Punctuation of Olmütz, signed in Olomouc means diplomatic capitulation of Prussia to Austrian Empire, taking over the leadership of German Confederation
- 1864 - Battle of Spring Hill, TN (Thomason's Station)
- 1870 - Compulsory education proclaimed in England
- 1872 - Indian Wars: The Modoc War begins with the Battle of Lost River.
- 1877 - US inventor Thomas Edison demonstrates his hand-cranked phonograph for the first time
- 1893 - Ziqiang Institute, today known as Wuhan University, is founded by Zhang Zhidong, governor of Hubei and Hunan Provinces in late Qing Dynasty of China after his memorial to the throne is approved by the Qing Government.
- 1900 - General Horatio Kitchener assumes command of the British forces in South Africa from General Lord Roberts
- 1916 - US declares martial law in Dominican Republic
- 1917 - A Supreme Allied War Council meets at Versailles to define war aims
- 1918 - Serbia annexes Montenegro
- 1933 - Japan begins persecution of communists
- 1935 - Michael Joseph Savage becomes the first Labour Prime Minister of New Zealand
- 1935 - Physicist Erwin Schrödinger publishes his famous thought experiment "Schrödinger's cat", a paradox that illustrates the problem of the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum mechanics
- 1939 - USSR drops diplomatic relations with Finland

## SAD DEMISE

*And this worldly life is not but diversion and amusement. And indeed, the home of the Hereafter - that is the [eternal] life, if only they knew (Surah Ankabut Verse 64)*

With Profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Atiq Begum wife of Late Abdul Gani Misger R/o Zaindar Mohalla Habba Kadal**, who passed away on **28th of November 2024**, May Allah (swt) grant highest place in Jannah to the departed soul (Ameen)

The congregational Fateh Khawai will be observed on **Saturday 30th of November at 11: A.M** at their ancestral graveyard **Astan Mohalla, Zaindar Mohalla Habbakadal Srinagar.**



**LADIES ARE VEHEMENTLY REQUESTED NOT TO BRING ANY FRUITS ETC. BEREAVED FAMILY : 7006833499**

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION – IV.

Pampore Kashmir – 192121  
Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com

**EXTENSION NOTICE-3**

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/01 of 2024-25 for "Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Spherical balls at various Grids including Transmission lines under the jurisdiction of TLMD-IV, Pampore is extended as under:

S. No	e-Bid submission end date and time	09-12-2024 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	10-12-2024 at 16:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

--sd--  
Executive Engineer,  
TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-2556/24 dated: 28-11-2024

Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION PATTAN

Fresh NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS  
Fresh NIT No:43 /RnB/ Pattan of 2024-25/ 3241-47 /E-TENDERING DATED: 27-11-2024

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S.No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Snow Clearance Stage-2	200/-	5000/-	3054 Snow	ALL Classes

1 The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-Table:1

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27.11.2024
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28.11.2024
3	Bid submission Start Date	28.11.2024
4	Bid Submission End Date	05-12-2024 upto 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-12-2024 04:30 PM Office Of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan

The Department shall be at liberty to add or delete a road or a stretch there of from the listed stage contract scope.  
2 Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.  
3 All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan in strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the unsuccessful bidders will receive the earnest money/ bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completed successfully performance of the Contract.  
3 The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority).  
4 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.  
5 The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-  
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within three days from the date of intimation.  
c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days.

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Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Pattan

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KO VIEW

## Welcome Truce In Middle East

The ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah offers much needed respite in a region scarred by relentless violence. It is the first positive development after more than a year of devastating conflict that has killed thousands and displaced hundreds of thousands in both Lebanon and Gaza. However, there is an equally urgent need for a truce between Israel and Palestinians. Over 44,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel in Gaza since the war began on October 7, 2023, and there is no let up in daily killings. Israel and its western backers trace the ongoing conflict to Hamas's onslaught inside Israel that killed 1139 Israel. While that onslaught too was the result of the longstanding Israeli occupation and oppression, the powerful Jewish state has since exacted a grotesque revenge disproportionate to what Hamas did. In fact, Israel is on course to exterminate Palestinians and take over their land.

That said, the cessation of hostilities with Hezbollah is a welcome relief, but it can't be merely a pause in a long history of cyclical violence. The need is for a permanent and inclusive resolution to the conflicts that plague the Middle East. But this is not what is going on. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has indicated plans to intensify war against Hamas in Gaza and address the perceived threat from Iran. This is a cynical way to deal with the fraught regional situation. There is hardly anything left to fight in Gaza, most of which has been leveled. The civilians there are now sitting ducks. Hamas by Israel's own admission has been drastically degraded. As for Iran, war with it will hardly remain limited but could potentially destabilize the region. Attacks on oil refineries would steeply push up oil prices and cripple the global economy.

If the Israeli provocations continue, the region could very well be heading towards a big conflagration whose outcome would be catastrophic not just for the region but the world too. This is why, world needs to act and put an end to this madness. So far, the major western powers have just been making occasional right noises, calling on Israel to halt its operations but actually funding and arming it to lay waste to the region. The Middle East has endured decades of conflict, with each war leaving deeper scars on its people and landscapes. The current ceasefire is a step in the right direction, but it cannot be the end goal. All sides must commit to a vision of peace that prioritizes human dignity and regional stability over territorial ambitions and ideological divides.



This is an AI generated image. For representational purposes only

## Finally, RTI to go Online in J&K!



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

After several years of waiting, citizens can now avail the benefits of seeking information under the Right to Information Act (RTI) through a Digital Platform from public authorities in Jammu & Kashmir. For several years, RTI campaigners have been demanding this facility in J&K but it never matured even after getting assurances, year in and year out. This author has written many articles on this issue and done a lot of advocacy for it with the Government along with my colleagues associated with the Jammu & Kashmir Right to Information Movement (RTI Movement).

Recently, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo while taking stock of the setting up of an online RTI portal in J&K impressed upon the officers to make all efforts to launch an online RTI portal by 10th of December this year. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance and IT Departments; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), State Informatics Officer (SIO) and other officers. The CS, while going through the plan of the NIC for setting up of Online RTI portal which is a very significant public service, urged the officers to create an end-to-end digital solution for it along with a proper digital interface for payment of application fees, and sending email as well as SMS alerts to the RTI applicants, as is the case in Central Govt Departments.

### Promises made in past

With regard to launching an online RTI portal in J&K, the J&K Govt has been making promises for almost 5 years now. I remember more than 4 years back the then Secretary Information Technology J&K Govt Amit Sharma gave an assurance that "within weeks time", the RTI portal would be launched in J&K. He made this statement publicly on Doordarshan Srinagar when this issue was being discussed. This author was also part of that panel discussion. The promise was never fulfilled. We then approached the Chief Secretary and my colleague Syed Adil from Ganderbal made a lot of communication with the Govt of India and J&K Govt on this. The delegation of RTI activists on November 3rd 2024 met with the then Chief Secretary Dr A K Mehta in Srinagar during the vigilance awareness week celebrations. The CS had assured us that online RTI would be launched soon and had given clear direction to the Secretary IT JK Govt. This didn't happen and we couldn't complain before CS Mehta who retired by the end of November 2023.

### Constant Communication

My colleague Syed Adil continued to make constant communication with the Govt on this issue. In September this year, he received an official communication from Information Technology Department JK Govt, in response to his online grievance filed on the Samadhan Portal. The official communication dated 04.09.2024 signed by Under Secretary to Govt IT Department reads:

"With reference to your Grievance ID : GRV2024/205 dated 24.07.2024 and DLH/2024/3745 dated 9.08.2024 received on JK Samadhan Portal regarding status of implementation of online RTI services in Jammu & Kashmir. In this context it is to inform that the process of implementation of RTI portal is in active consideration and shall be implemented soon, as almost all formalities for its implementation have been completed and once GAD conveys its approval for go-ahead with regard to payment gateway, the same shall be implemented accordingly."

In fact, some government departments had started rolling out online portals a few months back. The PWD (R&B) Department issued an order No: 273-PW (R&B) of 2024 Dated: 17.09.2024 wherein Shuaib Mohammad Naikoo Deputy Secretary was appointed as Nodal Officer for the purpose of roll out of RTI portal in J&K in PWD, R&B Department.

### Training of officers

The Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, during a recent meeting regarding the launching of online RTI service in J&K advised the officers for imparting necessary training to designated Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs). He directed the senior officers especially administrative secretaries to make sure all the PIOs and FAAs in all government departments and at the district level are well versed about the use of RTI portal so that RTI

applications are disposed off swiftly.

He also asked for the necessary security audit of the portal before its launch here.

The Commissioner Secretary, GAD, Sanjeev Verma apprised the meeting about the present status of the development of this portal. He revealed that the portal is based on the software that is employed by the Department of Personnel and Training - DoPT, Govt of India. The State Informatics Office - SIO of NIC, JS Modi informed the meeting that nearly 3300 PIO/FAAs have to be on-boarded on the portal before dedicating it to the public. He made out that an end to end solution for filing of applications would be developed for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

### Benefits of Online RTI

There are several benefits in filing an online RTI application as applicants don't have to travel all the way to the Govt office. There is no need to buy the Indian Postal Orders (IPOs) to pay the application fees. These IPOs are hardly available in Govt offices. The PIOs cannot say that he or she hasn't received the RTI application as digital RTI application provides the applicant with the instant receipt. The RTI portal ensures that the process of seeking information from government agencies is transparent and accountable. This is a convenient and easy way to file RTI requests. The RTI applicants can track the status of their applications in real-time. The portal provides access to information about public authorities, public information officers and appellate authorities etc. Citizens can also file first appeals online if they are not satisfied with the information provided. The applicants living below the poverty line (BPL) can file RTI applications without paying any application fee.

### Conclusion

Let us hope that the promise made by Chief Secretary Mr Atal Dulloo to launch an online RTI portal by December 10th 2024 is fulfilled in letter and spirit. I remember such promises were made earlier also when the then Chief Secretary had assured that by Jan 15th 2023 the RTI would go Digital in J&K.

The Govt should undertake rigorous training programmes at district and sub division level so that all the PIOs get well versed with the online RTI portal. The services of professional IT service agencies can also be hired for this work. Lastly, I would request the Govt of India to make sure all the Union Territories (UT's) have a dedicated State Information Commission where people would file second appeals. There is an urgent need to amend RTI Act 2005 and incorporate this provision. The RTI appellants from J&K especially suffer a lot as our State Information Commission has been shut down after article 370 was repealed. For the last 5 years we have been filing appeals in the Central Information Commission -CIC which takes years to get the decision.

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



### Did You Know?

## Mastering the Stock Market: A Guide to Mindful Trading

Irshad Mushtaq

In the world of stock market trading, many find themselves caught in a cycle of continuous losses by relying solely on screen-based strategies without proper tools. Simply watching the stock prices move and placing orders impulsively is a guaranteed way to lose money. This approach fosters a negative mindset, leading to blame where it's undeserved—on systems, exchanges, or trading platforms. It's crucial to lay a logical foundation from the beginning, avoiding irrational practices. Over time, failing to establish a solid foundation can hinder one's ability to understand the right strategies. Essential elements like listening, acceptance, education, and discipline are vital. Trading discipline, effective money management, and strategic learning are fundamental. To prevent losses, one must first understand strategies, accept mistakes, and adhere to rules diligently. It's well-known that many lose money due to impulsive screen-based trading. Yet, trading with discipline can reap rewards. The first step is accepting mistakes, followed by dedicated learning. A negative mindset only breeds more negativity, creating a detrimental cycle. By breaking this chain and educating oneself, trading becomes less about hard work and more about smart strategies. Remember, it's impossible to combat the market; rather, embrace it as a friend. Listening to the market is mandatory, as it teems with endless opportunities. Ultimately, understand that success is not solely about financial gain but also personal happiness. This encompasses positive thinking, continual learning, and acceptance, all of which extend beyond trading to enrich family, friendships, and all aspects of life. Let's pray for the wisdom to learn and the foresight to create opportunities. Money is not merely the result of relentless hard work but thoughtful planning. Let us educate our minds to value good human qualities over mere earnings, fostering success through thoughtful living and engaging positively with others.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M1 Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [miscurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:miscurities@bp.sharekhan.com)

# The Void in the City of Mind

## Navigating the Cognitive Challenges of Gen-Z

Umair Ashraf

The human brain, an intricate city of neural pathways and signals, finds itself grappling with an unsettling void—a decline in cognitive stimulation and growth. This decline reflects broader societal patterns, especially within Generation Z, whose lives are heavily intertwined with technology, instant gratification, and social pressures. The brain's natural inclination for growth and exploration is stifled in this environment, much like a city that ceases to innovate, stagnating amidst its potential.

Generation Z, often labeled as the "digital natives," lives in a world of constant connectivity yet increasing isolation. The neuroscience of their experiences reveals profound implications for their cognitive development and societal contributions. Addressing these challenges requires understanding the brain as a dynamic, evolving entity deeply influenced by its surroundings.

### Threshold Stimuli: Rekindling the Spark of Cognitive Exploration

In neuroscience, the concept of threshold stimuli—challenges that push the brain beyond its comfort zone—is essential for neural plasticity and growth. In societal terms, this translates to the opportunities that nurture creativity, critical thinking, and resilience. For Generation Z, however, these stimuli are often replaced by passive consumption. Social media algorithms and instant content gratification discourage active engagement,

Without adequate cognitive challenges, the brain prioritizes efficiency over innovation. Synaptic connections weaken, and neural pathways remain underutilized. The societal parallel is clear: when individuals avoid meaningful challenges, communities risk becoming intellectually stagnant. Generation Z, with its immense potential, must be encouraged to embrace discomfort and complexity—whether through problem-solving, creative endeavors, or interpersonal engagement—to reignite the brain's adaptive capabilities.

### Autopilot Brains: A Generation Stuck in Routine

Operating on autopilot is a common neural response when the brain is exposed to repetitive tasks without meaningful variation. For Generation Z, the autopilot mode is exacerbated by a culture of multitasking and constant distraction. The brain, much like a city dependent on outdated systems, sacrifices flexibility and creativity for short-term efficiency.

This societal shift is reflected in declining attention spans, reduced critical thinking, and an overreliance on quick fixes. For example, the ease of accessing information online often replaces the deeper cognitive process of synthesis and analysis. Neuroscience warns that prolonged autopilot states can lead to rigid neural patterns, diminishing the brain's capacity for innovation. To counter this, society must cultivate environments that challenge the brain to think critically, adapt, and grow, ensuring that



### Cognitive Overload: The Congested Highways of Modern Life

In the digital age, the brain is constantly inundated with information, leading to cognitive overload. This phenomenon, where the brain's processing capacity is overwhelmed, mirrors the congested highways of a city unable to manage its traffic flow. For Generation Z, the relentless

Neuroscience reveals that the prefrontal cortex, responsible for decision-making and focus, becomes compromised under such conditions. The result is a fragmented attention span and diminished capacity for sustained thought. On a societal level, cognitive overload contributes to widespread stress, anxiety, and burnout, as individuals struggle to navigate the sheer volume of demands placed on them. Addressing this requires intentional efforts to reduce mental clutter, prioritize meaningful engagement, and create spaces for reflection amidst the chaos of modern life.

### Overthinking: The Endless Loops of Generation Z's Inner Worlds

Generation Z faces another cognitive challenge: overthinking. Neuroscience identifies the

default mode network (DMN) as the brain region responsible for introspection and self-referential thought. While the DMN is crucial for personal growth, its hyperactivity can lead to excessive rumination, trapping individuals in cycles of doubt and anxiety.

This societal trend is particularly pronounced in a generation shaped by social media's performative culture, where self-worth is often tied to external validation. Overthinking, like an incomplete construction project in a city, drains the brain's energy and disrupts its focus on the present. To mitigate this, both individuals and society must promote emotional resilience and cognitive clarity, enabling Generation Z to break free from unproductive mental loops and channel their energy into purposeful actions.

### The Societal Brain: A Community Reflecting Neural Patterns

Just as the brain mirrors societal influences, society itself reflects the collective cognitive state of its members. A brain that lacks stimulation, clarity, or adaptability leads to individuals who are less creative, resilient, and collaborative. For Generation Z, this manifests in rising rates of mental health issues, reduced interpersonal connections, and challenges in addressing global problems.

Neuroscience underscores the importance of balance—between stimulation and rest, innovation and tradition, introspection and action. Societies that fail to nurture these balances risk fostering generations unable to reach their full potential. However, like the brain's capacity for neuroplasticity, communities too can adapt and grow. By fostering environments that prioritize mental well-being, intellectual engagement, and social connection, society can create a positive feedback loop of cognitive and cultural growth.

### A Renaissance of the Mind: Cultivating Cognitive Resilience

In the face of these challenges,

the brain—like a city—possesses an incredible capacity for renewal. Practices rooted in neuroscience, such as mindfulness, cognitive behavioral strategies, and active learning, offer pathways to enhance cognitive resilience. For Generation Z, adopting these practices can help mitigate the effects of digital distractions, overthinking, and cognitive overload.

At a societal level, integrating these insights into education, workplace culture, and community initiatives can create a supportive environment for cognitive growth. Encouraging critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence can empower individuals to navigate the complexities of modern life. This renaissance of the mind is not just a personal journey but a collective one, with the potential to redefine societal norms and expectations.

### Generation Z and the Future of the City of Mind

The challenges faced by Generation Z are both unique and universal, shaped by the rapid technological advancements and societal shifts of the 21st century. Neuroscience provides valuable insights into how these experiences influence the brain, highlighting both the risks of stagnation and the opportunities for growth.

The metaphor of the mind as a city underscores the interconnectedness of individual and societal well-being. Just as a thriving city requires innovation, diversity, and adaptability, so too does the brain. By addressing the cognitive challenges of Generation Z, society can unlock the potential of its youngest members, ensuring a brighter, more adaptive future for all.

*The author is a Master's student in Clinical Psychology with a focus on neural networks, Brain Chemistry and their societal implications. He can be reached at 6005751054*

**THE CHALLENGES FACED BY GENERATION Z ARE BOTH UNIQUE AND UNIVERSAL**, shaped by the rapid technological advancements and societal shifts of the 21st century. Neuroscience provides valuable insights into how these experiences influence the brain, highlighting both the risks of stagnation and the opportunities for growth

much like a city overwhelmed by redundant infrastructure that impedes genuine progress.

autopilot does not become the default state for an entire generation.

stream of notifications, messages, and media creates a state of perpetual mental congestion.

## Scholarly Legacy of Prof. Osman Bakar

# Shaping the Intellectual Landscape of Muslim World

Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi

Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar, currently the Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), stands as one of the leading figures in contemporary Islamic thought, philosophy, and the study of civilization. With a career that spans decades, Dr. Bakar has made pioneering contributions to understanding the intersections of Islamic science, philosophy, epistemology, and civilizational studies. His academic work bridges the gap between the classical Islamic intellectual tradition and modern academic discourse, making him an influential figure in global discussions on the relationship between faith and reason, science and religion. His books and intellectual contributions continue to inspire scholars worldwide, particularly in the realms of Islamic philosophy, interdisciplinary studies, and cross-cultural dialogue.

Dr. Osman Bakar's academic journey began with his advanced studies in Islamic philosophy at Temple University in Philadelphia, USA, where he earned his doctoral degree. This period was crucial as it took place during a time when Islamic scholars were grappling with the challenges of modernity, the legacy of colonialism, and the integration of Islamic teachings with Western philosophical traditions. His exposure to both the Islamic intellectual heritage and Western philosophical schools has deeply shaped his work, allowing him to synthesize Islamic thought with contemporary academic discussions. Dr. Bakar's scholarly training

in both Islamic and Western traditions enabled him to critically engage with major intellectual movements in the philosophy of science, metaphysics, epistemology, and theology. This dual exposure has led him to explore and articulate a vision of knowledge that harmonizes material and spiritual dimensions, challenging the common dichotomy that exists between science and religion in Western discourse.

One of Dr. Bakar's most significant contributions is his influential work, *Classification of Knowledge in Islam* (1992). In this groundbreaking book, Dr. Bakar offers an in-depth exploration of how Islamic epistemology categorizes knowledge and integrates it into a unified worldview. His work in this area focuses on presenting a comprehensive model that moves beyond the Western distinction between secular and religious knowledge. Dr. Bakar argues that, within the Islamic tradition, all knowledge—whether scientific, theological, or ethical—is interconnected and ultimately serves a single, divine purpose. This comprehensive vision contrasts with the secularization that has characterized much of the modern West, where the sacred and secular realms are often treated as separate domains. The holistic approach Dr. Bakar advocates the interrelatedness of knowledge across various fields, underscoring the idea that the pursuit of knowledge is not merely intellectual but also a spiritual journey aimed at understanding God's will.

Through his classification, Dr. Bakar explores the dis-

inction between theoretical knowledge, such as philosophy and theology, and practical knowledge, which encompasses areas like law and ethics. He argues that these categories, while distinct, are part of a unified system that ultimately aims at understanding God's creation. This approach fosters an intellectual framework where faith and reason work in harmony, a perspective that has been instrumental in contemporary debates on the relationship between science and religion. His classification of knowledge continues to serve as an important reference for those seeking to understand Islamic epistemology and its implications for various academic disciplines.

Another seminal work by Dr. Bakar is *Tawhid and Science* (1992), in which he examines the relationship between Islamic theology, particularly the concept of Tawhid (the oneness of God), and the pursuit of scientific knowledge. Dr. Bakar's work on this topic challenges the prevailing materialistic worldview that often dominates Western scientific discourse. He argues that Tawhid, the central tenet of Islamic theology, is not just a theological principle but also the foundation for a coherent and ethical approach to science. For Dr. Bakar, a truly Islamic science is one that is inherently connected to spiritual and ethical values. Rather than separating science from morality and religion, Dr. Bakar advocates for a vision of science that is rooted in reverence for the Creator and ethical responsibility.

In this work, Dr. Bakar redefines the concept of scientific inquiry as a tool for exploring

not only the material world but also the divine order. This view challenges the modern conception of science as a neutral, value-free discipline. Instead, Dr. Bakar proposes that scientific exploration should be infused with a sense of awe for the Creator and guided by ethical considerations that are deeply rooted in the Is-



His works have redefined the relationship between Islamic thought and modern academic disciplines, emphasizing a holistic approach to knowledge that integrates spiritual and material realms. Through his scholarship, leadership, and advocacy for interdisciplinary education, Dr. Bakar has played a key role in shaping the intellectual landscape of the Muslim world and bridging the gap between East and West, tradition and modernity

lamic tradition. His advocacy for a science that integrates spirituality with empirical research offers an important counter-narrative to the often mechanistic and materialistic approach of modern science, affirming that scientific inquiry can and should be aligned with higher moral and spiritual principles.

Dr. Bakar's interest in the integration of Greek philosophy with Islamic thought is reflected in his scholarly work on Al-Farabi, a 9th-century

philosopher often referred to as the "Second Teacher" after Aristotle. In his book, *Al-Farabi: Life, Works, and Significance* (2018), Dr. Bakar revisits the contributions of this influential philosopher, whose work bridged the gap between Greek philosophy and Islamic intellectual traditions. Al-Farabi's writings on logic, metaphysics, and political philosophy had a profound influence on the development of Islamic philosophy, and Dr. Bakar's analysis provides valuable insights into the ideal society envisioned by Al-Farabi. Al-Farabi argued that a society should be governed by philosophers who apply reason and virtue in the management of political affairs. Dr. Bakar's examination of Al-Farabi's vision offers an essential framework for contemporary discussions on ethics and governance, especially regarding the role of reason in political life.

Dr. Bakar's scholarship on Al-Farabi emphasizes the role of reason as a guiding principle in both philosophy and governance, presenting a model of philosophical and ethical leadership that remains relevant for modern political theory. His work on Al-Farabi provides an intellectual bridge between Islamic philosophy and Western political thought, demonstrating the enduring significance of Al-Farabi's ideas. By highlighting Al-Farabi's commitment to reason and virtue, Dr. Bakar brings attention to the importance of philosophical guidance in the ethical and just management of society.

Dr. Bakar's scholarly engagement extends beyond philosophy to address the socio-

political dynamics shaped by colonialism. In the edited volume *Colonialism in the Malay Archipelago: Civilizational Encounters* (2020), Dr. Bakar and his co-editor explore the impact of colonialism on Islamic societies in Southeast Asia. The book examines how these societies responded to the intellectual and cultural challenges posed by Western imperialism. Dr. Bakar highlights how Islamic thought in Southeast Asia adapted to the changing political landscape under colonial rule, underscoring the resilience of Islamic intellectual traditions. His analysis of inter-civilizational dialogue offers critical perspectives on the long-lasting effects of colonialism, particularly on intellectual and cultural exchanges between the West and the Muslim world.

Beyond his scholarly work, Dr. Bakar has held prominent leadership positions in several prestigious academic institutions. As Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Dr. Bakar played a pivotal role in shaping the university's academic mission, promoting interdisciplinary education that integrates Islamic thought with modern fields like science, business, technology, and medicine. His leadership helped establish IIUM as a center for holistic education that prepares students to address contemporary challenges while remaining grounded in Islamic principles. Dr. Bakar's leadership has been instrumental in fostering an academic environment that emphasizes the interconnectedness of knowledge across disciplines, creating opportunities for students

and scholars to engage with both Islamic and Western intellectual traditions.

Dr. Bakar's contributions to Islamic philosophy and science have earned him recognition on the global stage. He has been named among the 500 most influential Muslims in the world since 2009. His intellectual influence extends far beyond academia, and he has been honored with the titles of Dato' and Datuk in Malaysia for his contributions to Islamic thought and education. These accolades reflect the profound impact of his work, not only in academic circles but also in the broader social and cultural landscape.

Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar's legacy is a testament to his profound impact on the development of Islamic philosophy, science, and epistemology. His works have redefined the relationship between Islamic thought and modern academic disciplines, emphasizing a holistic approach to knowledge that integrates spiritual and material realms. Through his scholarship, leadership, and advocacy for interdisciplinary education, Dr. Bakar has played a key role in shaping the intellectual landscape of the Muslim world and bridging the gap between East and West, tradition and modernity. His legacy continues to inspire scholars, policymakers, and intellectuals around the world, ensuring that his contributions will shape the future of Islamic thought for generations to come.

*The author is a senior academic and an award-winning philosopher and author*

# Spirited & Resilient- Lebanese Return To Rebuild Shattered Homes

Beirut- As a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah came into effect, much of Lebanon was quiet for the first time following 14 months of a conflict that has killed thousands of people.

The displaced residents of southern Lebanon started returning to their homes amid celebrations hours after the ceasefire started at 4am (02:00 GMT) on Wednesday.

While there were concerns about whether the truce would hold and lead to the permanent end of fighting between the Israeli military and Hezbollah, there was also relief across the tiny Mediterranean nation.

Thousands of people made their way to southern Lebanon, defying a warning from the Israeli military to stay away from previously evacuated areas.

Cars jammed the highway linking the capital, Beirut, to the south, with people returning with their belongings tied on top of their cars. Traffic was gridlocked at the northern entrance of the port city of Sidon.

Displaced people also started returning to the coastal city of



Tyre on motorcycles and in cars.

The vast scale of the Israeli military's strategy of forced displacement and intense bombardment that laid waste to towns and cities means that many people may not have much to return to.

At least 3,823 people have been killed and 15,859 wounded in Israeli attacks in Lebanon since the war on Gaza began last October.

While Lebanese returning to their homes were cheering and celebrating despite enormous losses, there was unease in Israel.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah,

which has yet to issue an official statement on the ceasefire, emerges from the conflict significantly weakened but not defeated, still reeling from the loss of its longtime leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

Unsease in Israel In Israel political opponents and allies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have denounced the deal as weak, and many have been left wondering what happened to the total victory promised by the prime minister.

There is confusion and disappointment in Israel over the sudden

announcement of the truce with Hezbollah, newspaper analysts say.

Political analyst Meron Rappaport quoted by Middle East Eye said that confusion and disappointment in Israel over the Hezbollah deal in part reflected the government's failure to deliver the decisive outcome it had promised in a conflict which has enjoyed widespread popular support.

According to Itamar Ben-Gvir, the security minister and leader of the Jewish Power party, "This (Ceasefire) agreement does not meet the goal of the war - to return the residents of the north safely home."

Sharp criticism also came from Yoav Gallant, the former defence minister who was sacked by Netanyahu earlier this month. Both men were this week the subjects of arrest warrants for war crimes charges issued by the International Criminal Court.

The mayor of the northern town, Kiryat Shmona, vividly captured Israeli frustration with the ceasefire agreement.

Posting a video of people in Lebanon celebrating the truce, Avihay Shtern wrote on

Facebook: "You promised us a complete victory, so how is it that Hezbollah is celebrating?"

Netanyahu's illusions Meanwhile reacting to the Lebanese deal Hamas said the ceasefire Israel eventually clinched with Hezbollah has shattered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "illusion" of reshaping West Asia by force.

"The enemy's acceptance of the agreement with Lebanon without fulfilling the conditions it set is an important milestone in shattering Netanyahu's illusions of changing the map of the Middle East by force," Hamas said in a statement published on its Telegram channel on Wednesday.

It said Netanyahu's "illusions of defeating the Resistance forces or disarming them" were also sent to oblivion.

"We commend the pivotal role played by the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon, in support of the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian resistance, and the great sacrifices made by Hezbollah and its leadership, led by the late Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah."

## Shriram Finance Launches Inspiring Campaign #TogetherWeSoar with Legend Rahul Dravid

Mumbai: Shriram Finance Ltd., the flagship company of the Shriram Group and one of India's leading financial services providers, has launched an inspiring new brand campaign titled '#TogetherWeSoar'. This campaign reflects Shriram Finance's commitment to partner with aspiring India, highlighting the power of connection and unity.

Today, many Indians are embracing the 'So, what?' philosophy, reflecting the aspiration to overcome any challenges in their journey to success. This campaign aims to celebrate this spirit and depict partnership as a means to soar ahead, with a slice from Rahul Dravid's own life.

The message is clear: "Together, we soar. By building strong relationships with our customers, we help them step into their power and achieve their dreams."

Cricket legend Rahul Dravid features as the brand ambassador, embodying the values of teamwork and resilience that Shriram Finance also



stands for. His presence reinforces the brand's commitment to nurturing partnerships that inspire growth.

Adding to the campaign's impact, renowned actor Naseeruddin Shah lends his voice to the Hindi version of the ad film, titled 'Har Indianke Saath: Judenge. Udenge.' Having acted and directed in films for more than 50 years, the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri Awardee has received multiple accolades for his exceptional contributions to Indian cinema. His powerful voice to the message of Shriram Finance emphasizes the dedication to helping individuals achieve their dreams through meaningful partnerships.

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

### HIV Cases In J&K Cross

in isolated places where they don't have access to distilled water and other clean equipment," Khan said.

Research also suggests that young people who inject drugs in India have high HIV incidence and behavioral risk. According to a report by the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO), while HIV prevalence in India among the general population stands at 0.40 percent, HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is as high as 7.17 percent.

Dr. Mohammad Shafi, a physician, stated that while there is no cure for HIV, timely treatment can help individuals lead healthy lives. He emphasized recognizing early symptoms and understanding the virus's long-term impact on the immune system.

Doctors strongly advise against syringe reuse and advocate for a multidisciplinary approach to combat HIV/AIDS, emphasizing that it is as much a behavioral issue as a medical one.

The social stigma associated with HIV often leaves patients vulnerable.

Mehak Jan (name changed), an HIV-positive woman, concealed her condition from her husband and family, living in constant fear. Her anxiety intensified after becoming pregnant, as she worried about transmitting the virus to her unborn child.

In another instance, a man, diagnosed with HIV during a pre-treatment dental test, fled the hospital to protect his secret after being referred to an Anti-Retroviral Therapy Centre.

Experts stress the need for widespread awareness campaigns to combat the stigma and promote testing, as early detection and treatment are critical to managing the condition and preventing its transmission.

The alarming data highlights the urgency of addressing both the medical and societal dimensions of HIV in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure a safer and healthier future. (inputs from KINS)

### J&K Gets Rs 5,835 Cr

and financial sustainability of power distribution utilities in the region, with a focus on reducing losses and enhancing the reliability of power supply.

The Union Minister said that the government has made significant progress in electrifying households in Jammu and Kashmir under the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya).

Over the past five years and the current year, he said that the total number of willing un-electrified households in rural areas, as well as all willing poor households in urban areas, have been electrified, ensuring access to electricity for a large number of residents.(KNO)

### Srinagar Records

higher reaches till December 1.

From December 2, there are chances of light rain or snow at scattered places in the higher reaches over two days.

The weather is likely to stay generally dry from December 4-6, after which light rain or light snow is possible at isolated places in the higher reaches over two days from December 7, the weather office said

### Rs 4.5 Cr For Drinkable

The minister said that between 2023 and November 22, 2024, a total of 4,39,464 water samples were tested across Jammu and Kashmir.

Giving details, he said that in the year 2023-24, 2,53,364 water samples were tested in laboratories, and an additional 34,793 samples were tested using Field Testing Kits (FTKs), bringing the total to 2,88,157 tests for that year.

For the current year (2024-25), as of November 22, 2024, 1,51,062 water samples had been tested in laboratories, and 409 samples were tested using FTKs, adding up to a total of 1,51,471 tests for the ongoing year, Paatil said.

As of November 22, 2024, Jammu and Kashmir has 98 water quality testing laboratories, including 76 at the block sub-division level, 20 at the district level, and 2 mobile units, the minister said, adding that these efforts are part of the government's push to ensure safe drinking water for every citizen in the region.

### SC Seeks Yasin

Jammu court for trial in the kidnapping case as Tihar jail has a court with video-conferencing facilities.

"We have filed applications for amending the cause title. We have also placed on record the fact that there already exists a fully functional court in the jail itself with all the facilities of video conferencing also, if needed. And in the past proceedings have taken place in that courtroom in jail," SG Mehta submitted the court.

The matter has been posted for next hearing December 18.

The top court was hearing a CBI plea against the September 20, 2022 order of a Jammu trial court that directed Malik, serving life term in Tihar jail, to be produced before it physically to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses in the kidnapping case of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of politician Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Observing that even Mumbai terror attack convict Ajmal Kasab was given a fair trial, the bench had earlier said that it could order the trial to take place inside the jail besides asking the judge to come to the national capital for the proceedings.

Mehta had said Malik physically appearing in the Supreme Court had raised security concerns previously.

In 2023, Mehta wrote to then Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla flagging a "serious security lapse" after Malik was brought to the Supreme Court to appear in a case.

Malik, serving life sentence in a terror-funding case, was brought to the high-security apex court premises in a prison van escorted by armed security personnel without the court's permission.

Voicing surprise at his presence, Mehta informed the apex court there was a procedure for high-risk convicts to be allowed into the courtroom to argue their case personally.

The CBI said Malik, the top leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, was a threat to national security and cannot be allowed to be taken outside the Tihar jail premises.

The apex court on April 24, 2023, issued notices on the CBI's appeal following which the incarcerated JKLF chief wrote a letter to the registrar of the Supreme Court on May 26, 2023 seeking permission to appear in person to plead his case.

An assistant registrar took up his request on July 18, 2023 and said the apex court would pass necessary orders — a decision the Tihar jail authorities reportedly misconstrued to allow Malik to appear and argue his case.

Mehta referred to the CBI's contention in its appeal against the trial court order to bring Malik to Jammu for in-person examination of the witnesses in the kidnapping case, and said under Section 268 of the CrPC a state government may direct certain people to not be shifted from the confines of a prison.

On September 20, 2022, a special TADA court in Jammu directed Malik to be physically produced before it on the next hearing for him to cross-examine prosecution witnesses in the kidnapping case.

The CBI challenged the trial court order before the Supreme Court as appeals in TADA cases are only heard by the top court.

Rubaiya Sayeed was abducted near Lal Ded Hospital in Srinagar on December 8, 1989 and freed five days later after the then BJP-backed V P Singh government at the Centre released five terrorists in exchange.

Sayeed, who now lives in Tamil Nadu, is a prosecution witness of the CBI, which took over the case in early 1990s.

Malik is lodged in Tihar jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in May, 2023 in a terror-funding case.

### By-Polls For

seat became vacant on October 31 due to the demise of Devinder Singh Rana.

According to section 151A of Representation of Peoples Act-1951, a bye-election for filling any vacancy shall be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy.

"The election for these two seats has to be held before April 20, 2025," the officials said, adding that, however, it can be held

beyond six-month deadline only if the Election Commission in consultation with the Central Government certifies that it is difficult to hold the bye-election within the said period.

In 2024 state polls, Omar Abdullah won Budgam seat by defeating Muntazir Mehdi, son of separatist leader Agha Hassan, by a margin of more than 18000 votes. Rana won Nagrota seat by defeating Joginder Singh of National Conference by 30,472 votes.(KNO)

### DGP Conference

About 250 officers of DGP and IGP ranks will physically attend the conference while more than 200 others will participate in it virtually, the officials said.

Presentations will be made by designated officers on specific subjects such as counter-terrorism, online fraud, narcotics smuggling, cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, activities of pro-Khalistani groups and left wing extremism (LWE), among others, an official said.

There will be detailed deliberations on how to face all these emerging internal security challenges.

While the home minister will inaugurate the conference, the prime minister will be present on the remaining two days and deliver the concluding address on Sunday.

The conference also provides an opportunity to identify tangible action points and monitor their progress, which is also presented before the prime minister every year.

The conference is the culmination of extensive deliberations involving police and intelligence officers from district, state and national levels on identified themes, the official said.

Best practices from states and Union territories under each of the themes will be presented at the conference so that the states can learn from each other.

Since 2014, the prime minister has taken a keen interest in the DGP conference.

Free flowing thematic discussions over breakfast, lunch and dinner have also been planned in this year's conference.

This will provide an opportunity to the senior police officials to share their views and recommendations with the prime minister on key policing and internal security issues affecting the country.

Till 2013, the annual meet was held in New Delhi. The following year, after the Modi government came to power, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB), outside the national capital.

Accordingly, the conference was organised at Guwahati in 2014, Dhordo in Rann of Kutch in 2015, National Police Academy, Hyderabad in 2016; BSF Academy, Tekanpur in 2017; Kevadiya in 2018; IISER, Pune in 2019; Police Headquarters, Lucknow in 2021; National Agricultural Science Complex in Pusa, Delhi in 2023 and Jaipur in 2024.

Continuing with this tradition, the conference is being organised in Bhubaneswar this time.

The number of business sessions and topics have increased significantly, with a focus on improving policing in the service of the people.

Before 2014, the deliberations largely focused on national security matters. Since 2014, these conferences have a twin focus on national security as well as core policing issues, including prevention and detection of crime, community policing, law and order and improving the police's image, among others, another official said.

Earlier, the conference was Delhi-centric with officers coming together only for the meet.

Residing on the same premises over two to three days has served to build a heightened sense of unity among officers of all cadres and organisations since 2014, the official added.

Direct interaction of the police's top brass with the head of government has resulted in a convergence of views on crucial challenges faced by the country and the emergence of doable recommendations, the official further said.

In the past few years, the topics have been selected after detailed discussions with the highest echelons of the police service.

Once selected, several interactions on presentations are held before committees of DGPs to encourage participation and incorporate ideas from the field and from younger officers.

As a result, all presentations are now broad-based, content-intensive and carry a set of content and actionable recommendations.

Since 2015, detailed follow-up of recommendations of past conferences has become the norm and is the topic of the first business session which is attended by the prime minister and the home minister, the official said.

Recommendations are tracked closely by the conference secretariat, led by the IB with the help of nodal officers in the states.

Decisions made in the past few conferences brought in significant policy changes, leading to improvement of policing, including setting higher standards for effective policing in rural and urban areas and improved methods of modern policing based on smart parameters, the official added.

### 26,748 Houses

for construction in Jammu and Kashmir, with 27,627 houses grounded.

"As of now, 23,497 houses have been completed and delivered to beneficiaries in the region," he said, presenting the data report card.

"In terms of financial assistance, Rs 394.97 crore was released by the government, with Rs 401.79 crore utilized for the construction and delivery of houses under the scheme," he said.

He said that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched PMAY-U 2.0, effective from September 1, 2024, as part of the 'Housing for All' mission.

The scheme aims to provide central assistance for the construction, purchase, or rent of houses in urban areas, targeting one crore additional households across the country.

"This will be implemented through four verticals: Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing (ARH), and Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS)," he said.

So far, 29 states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir, have signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to implement PMAY-U 2.0. (KNO)

### 'J&K Highway Toll Revenue

Union Minister in response to a question in the House, the toll revenue has been generated from several toll plazas located along key national highways in J&K.

The Lakanpur National Highway (NH44), which serves as the main entry point into Jammu and Kashmir, has contributed Rs 348.05 crore in toll revenue, the minister said. The Bann Toll Plaza on NH44 has recorded the highest toll collection in the region, amounting to Rs 626.90 crore.

Other toll plazas which contributed include: the Mada-Nashri Toll Plaza on the Udhampur-Ramban section of NH44 collected Rs 270.98 crore, while the Lamber & Ujroo Toll Plaza generated Rs 227.85 crore. The Kaichachkoot User Fee Plaza collected Rs 328.86 crore in toll revenue.

The Union Minister further said that the collection of user fees will begin within 45 days from the completion of each section of the national highways. For private investment projects, user fee collection will be carried out in accordance with agreements made with the concessionaire, he said.

The toll fees are collected as per the National Highways Fee Rules, 2008, and their amendments.

In response to another question, Gadkari provided details about the construction costs of key national highways in Jammu and Kashmir. The total construction cost for these highways has reached Rs 13,813.42 crore.

He said the Pathankot-Jammu (NH44) section was constructed at a cost of Rs 895.75 crore; the Kunjwani to Jakhain section of NH44 was built at a cost of Rs 2,086.67 crore; the Udhampur-Ramban-Maroo section of NH44 was constructed at Rs 7,782 crore; the Banihal-Quazigund section cost Rs 1,947 crore; and the Srinagar to Quazigund section had a construction cost of Rs 1,101 crore.

### Unlicensed Driver

offences under erstwhile RPC sections of 279, 337 and 304-A against the accused. Accordingly, after investigation, police filed a charge sheet against the accused before the court on 3 February 2015.

Subsequently trial commenced and after

hearing both the sides, the presiding officer of Court Of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Uri, Fozia Paul, convicted the accused driver Naseer Ahmad Kaali under Sections 279, 337, 338 and 304-A of RPC as well as 3/181 and 113/194 of M.V.Act.

"The accused was found without a valid driving license and could not produce the same before the I/O. As such, as in proviso under section 304-A of RPC that where the death is caused by rash or negligent act by a person driving a motor vehicle without holding a driving license, the minimum imprisonment under this section shall be two years," the court said, adding, "For that reason, it prompts me not to take a compassionate view in this matter."

Accordingly, the court sentenced the convicted person to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of two years and imposed a fine of Rs 5000 under section 304-A of RPC. Further, the convicted person was sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of one month and fine of Rs. 1000 for the offence u/s 279 of RPC. In addition, he has been sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of one month under section 337 of RPC and to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of six months and a fine of Rs 1000 under section 338 of RPC. Also he has been sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of one month under section 3/181 of M.V. Act and fined Rs 2000 under section 113/194 of M.V. Act. "In case of default in payment of fine, the accused shall undergo further imprisonment for a period of six months," the court said and ordered that all the sentences shall run concurrently.

### J&K Textile Sector

"A resurgence of the textile sector is underway in Jammu & Kashmir. Over the past 50 months, this sector, while celebrating rich textile traditions of the Union Territory, has achieved impressive growth rates and we are determined to go much further with new initiatives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the reform-oriented policies and programmes of the government, especially in the textile sector, are designed to provide a boost to the craft industry.

He said the unique cultural and artistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir are globally competitive and invariably gifted. Further, the Government has given a major thrust to the development of necessary infrastructure, financial assistance and skill training to the artisans, he added.

"The rich textile tradition of Jammu & Kashmir is the pride of India. The intricate designs, marvelous themes and subtle shades of our textile products are truly priceless. Our artisans have shown to the world that our artistic heritage stands not only for excellence but also for sustained excellence in the field of creativity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor called upon national and international buyers to play their crucial role in promoting the unique textile products of Jammu Kashmir and ensuring access of J&K's talented artisans to new markets.

"We have great opportunities to work together. We must build upon the tradition of our cooperation and elevate our productive partnership to a new plane," the Lieutenant Governor told the buyers.

The Fair, organised by the Department of Industries & Commerce, J&K Trade Promotion Organisation and Handloom Export Promotion Council, at SKUAST Kashmir, was attended by the National and International buyers, exporters and importers. It provided a platform for B2B meetings, exhibitions, and workshops, enabling participants to connect with national and international buyers, update all the stakeholders about market trends and enhance the requisite skills.

Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir; Sh Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Sh Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Sh Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Sh Khalid Jahangir, Managing Director, JKPTPO; senior officials, artisans; entrepreneurs and various stakeholders were also present.

## Kashmir Has Only One PET-CT Scan Machine

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Despite the increasing number of cancer cases in Kashmir Valley, the region is facing a severe shortage of PET-CT scan machines, which are essential for staging cancer and assessing treatment responses.

Currently, there is only one such machine available at the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura. As a result, patients from other hospitals, including GMC Srinagar, are facing numerous challenges in accessing timely and accurate cancer diagnostics.

Since 2017, GMC Srinagar has registered around 7,000 new cancer cases, but it lacks a PET-CT scan machine, a vital tool used for detecting cancer and evaluating the effectiveness of treatments.

Oncologists said that PET-CT has become indispensable in modern oncology practice. However, with only a single machine serving the entire valley, there is a backlog of patients waiting for scans, said one oncologist.

"The lack of adequate PET-CT facilities in Kashmir is a major hurdle for cancer diagnosis and management," he said. "This single machine at SKIMS serves the entire region, leading to long waiting times for patients."

Healthcare experts have called for the establishment of additional PET scan centres to improve the timely diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

They said the rising prevalence of cancer in Kashmir is due to several factors, including genetic predisposition, lifestyle changes, environmental factors and delays in diagnosis due to insufficient resources.

Many patients and their families have expressed concerns over the limited availability of PET scans, which are crucial for detecting and monitoring

cancer progression. Due to this, many patients are forced to seek diagnostic services outside the region, adding both financial and emotional strain, the doctors said.

Dr Manzoor, an oncologist, said there is an urgent need for more PET-CT machines in the valley. Dr Aijaz, another oncologist, said that PET scans play a vital role in the initial diagnosis, treatment evaluation, prognosis and monitoring of cancer relapse.

PET-CT, which stands for Positron Emission Tomography-Computed Tomography, combines the functional imaging of PET with the anatomical detail of CT to create 3D images of the body.

This hybrid imaging modality helps doctors choose the best course of treatment and can detect primary cancer sites, influencing chemotherapy decisions.

"The long wait times for PET scans are especially difficult for cancer patients, and many are forced to seek treatment outside Kashmir," said Dr Aijaz. "Patients, especially those who cannot afford private clinics or out-of-state treatment, face delays that could impact their chances of successful treatment."

According to data, around 45,000 new cancer cases have been registered at SKIMS Soura since 2013, while GMC Srinagar has registered about 7,000 new cases since 2017.

An official from the health department confirmed that the process of installing a PET-CT machine at SMHS Srinagar has been initiated, and the facility is expected to be available soon.

Cancer rates in Jammu and Kashmir have been on the rise, with the Union Health Ministry reporting 51,577 cases between 2019 and 2022. The number of cancer-related deaths in the region has also increased, with 35,623 deaths recorded between 2018 and 2022. —(KNO)



## Work On Highway Connecting Rajouri With Baramulla To Begin Soon

Rs 3,300 Crore Project To Boost Connectivity In J&K: Official

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Work on a major 300-kilometre highway connecting Rajouri with Baramulla in north Kashmir is set to begin soon. The stretch has been handed over to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for construction.

According to the details available, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), through its Regional Officer in Jammu, has assigned the task of engaging a consultant to provide Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services. This includes conducting a feasibility study, preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR), providing pre-construction services, and overseeing construction supervision for a two-lane highway with paved shoulders along NH-701A. The highway will connect key areas, including Shopian, Kellar, Pakher-

pora, Yousmarg, Doodhpathri, and Magam in Jammu and Kashmir.

An official said that the project, estimated to cost around Rs 3,300 crore, will link the Rajouri and Poonch districts in the Jammu division with the Kashmir Valley via the existing Mughal Road. The highway is being designated as National Highway 701A, with plans for its extension to the Gulmarg and Baramulla regions in the Kashmir Valley.

The road will feature four lanes, with a total width of around 70 feet. Some parts of the project have already been declared as national highways.

The highway will begin at its junction with NH-1 near Narbal, connecting areas such as Magam, Doodhpathri, Yousmarg, Pakherpora, Kellar, Shopian and Bafliaz, and will terminate at its junction with NH-144A near Surankote in

Poonch, the official said.

The section between Magam and Surankote (Poonch) spans 159 km and will pass through several prominent tourist destinations, including Yousmarg and Doodhpathri in the foothills of upper Budgam. The route will also pass through Charar-e-Sharief, Pakherpora, Kellar, Shopian and Bafliaz.

The four-lane road will serve as an alternative to the Jammu-Srinagar highway and boost connectivity in the region, the official said, adding that it is expected to reduce traffic congestion on the existing route.

In south Kashmir, the road will follow the Mughal Road, passing through Zawaora, Mushwara, Shadimarg, Drabgam, Aglar, Charipora, followed by Pakherpora, Yousmarg, Charar-e-Sharief, Doodhpathri and Magam in Central Kashmir. —(KNO)

## J&K Now Under Democratic Rule: Deputy CM

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday said that J&K is now under democratic rule and the previous rule is over.

Talking to reporters, Choudhary said that they have clearly told officials that they are elected representatives and are accountable to the people of J&K.

"We have clearly told the officials that we are elected representatives and are accountable to the people. They, too, are accountable to the people. It is now the rule of the people, the rule of democracy, and the rule of the poor," he said.

Speaking to the reporters on the sidelines of a surprise visit to PWD, Jammu, Choudhary said that the loot of rivers in Jammu and Kashmir will not be allowed at all. He added

that the sand and stones extraction shall be kept exclusively for the poor people.

"The government led by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed towards ensuring accountability. We have been elected by the government and nobody will be allowed to do any misconduct," he said.

He said that accountability will be ensured in every department and the government is committed to prove its words on the ground.

Pertinently, Choudhary made a surprise visit to PWD office, Jammu, wherein he gave strict directions to the officers to ensure cleanliness within the office and also ensure the proper use of biometric attendance.

He said that the visit comes after multiple complaints against the department—(KNO)

Hajj 2025

## HCOI Reserves 500 Seats For Female Pilgrims Under Mehram Quota

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant development under the 2025 Hajj policy, the Haj Committee of India (HCOI) has announced the allocation of 500 Haj seats in India under the 'Mehram Quota' for Haj 2025.

Notably, as per the officials during the 2024 Hajj pilgrimage, 49 such female pilgrims who applied under the Maharam quota from Jammu and Kashmir were selected. A senior officer at J&K's Haj committee office said that there was no such number allocation under the Mehram quota for J&K, but that they facilitated 49 such pilgrims during the 2024 Hajj.

According to a circular, a copy of which also lies with Kashmir Observer, the provision addresses the cases where female pilgrims intending to perform Haj could not apply due to reasons like the unavailability of passports, while their male companions (Mehram) successfully applied and were

selected. The circular states that to address such cases, provisions have been made to include these intending female pilgrims in the cover of their selected 'Sharai Mehram'. It further states that without this arrangement, such lady pilgrims would face challenges in performing Hajj in subsequent years due to the absence of a Mehram.

"To accommodate them, 500 Haj seats have been specifically allocated under the Mehram category as per the policy applicable for Haj-2025," the circular states.

The norms lay down in the circular for the selection of lady pilgrim's state that the lady pilgrim must have never undertaken the Haj pilgrimage earlier, either through the Haj Committee of India, Haj Group Organizers (HGO), or any other means.

The norms state that she must fulfil all criteria for making an application for Haj-2025.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION - IV. PAMPORE KASHMIR - 192121

Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com

### EXTENSION NOTICE-2

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/02 of 2024-25 for "Replacement of old 132KV SF6 Hydraulic Circuit Breakers at 450MVA,220/132/33 KV Grid Substation Zainakote Srinagar is extended as under:

1	e-Bid submission end date and time	09-12-2024 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	10-12-2024 at 16:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from websitehttp://jktenders.gov.in.

DIPK-NB-2552-24  
DT: 28/11/2024

--sd--  
Executive Engineer,  
TLMD-IV Pampore

**J&K AGRO INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.**  
GOLE PULLY, TALAB TILLO JAMMU.

E-mail Id - [dmpsammu@jkgro.com](mailto:dmpsammu@jkgro.com)  
E NIT No. 42 of 2024-25 JK Agro

NO: -Agro/DM/PSJ/5153-56 DATED:-26.11.2024

For and on behalf of J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, bids are invited from Registered Contractors having valid license/Registration for Supply, Application & Finishing of Specialised (PU)Coating for Floor for Cold Store (Package 4) - Construction of Multipurpose Cold Storage and Ripening Chambers at Talab Tillo, Jammu (J & K). The last date for applying for the tender online is 16.12.2024. For detailed info kindly visit the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in).

Sd/  
Divisional Manager (P&S)J.  
Member Secretary,  
J&K Agro Ind. Dev. Corpn.Ltd.  
Talab Tillo, Jammu

DIPK-NB-2550-24  
DT: 28/11/2024

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA**  
Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: [xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com](mailto:xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com)

**EXTENSION NOTICE**

Subject: Fixing of rate contract for repairs to Sub Stations (HT Distribution Transformers) installed at different WSSs of PHE Mechanical Sub-Division PAMPORE, BIJBEHARA, SHOPIAN, QAZIGUND (District Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian) for the financial year 2024-25.

Reference: ENIT No.: 27 of 2024-25 Dated: 20-11-2024 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/5916-22 Dated: 20-11-2024.

Due to poor response of the above subjected work advertised vide this office eNIT under reference, the date of downloading/uploading of the bids of these work are hereby extended upto 02/12/2024 (12:00 PM) and the opening date of the Technical Bids is 02/12/2024 (13:00 PM). Other terms and conditions of the ENIT shall remain same.

No.-: MDSA/6079-81  
Dated: 28/11/2024  
DIPK-8750-24  
DT: 28/11/2024

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division  
South Awantipora

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA**  
Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: [xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com](mailto:xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com)

**EXTENSION NOTICE**

Subject: 1. Providing and fitting of submersible pumping unit for 125 mm tube well at Kharbatpora Ratnipora under M&R.  
2. Repairing of 63 KVA H.T Transformer at Water Supply Scheme Tawheedabad under M&R.

Reference: ENIT No.: 26 of 2024-25 Dated: 19-11-2024 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/5902-06 Dated: 19-11-2024.

Due to poor response of the above subjected works advertised vide this office eNIT under reference, the date of downloading/uploading of the bids of these works are hereby extended upto 02/12/2024 (12:00 PM) and the opening date of the Technical Bids is 02/12/2024 (13:00 PM). Other terms and conditions of the ENIT shall remain same.

No.-: MDSA/6076-78  
Dated: 28/11/2024  
DIPK-8751-24  
DT: 28/11/2024

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division  
South Awantipora

**OFFICE OF THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS OF J&K CARROM ASSOCIATION.**  
OFFICE: NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK, BAKHSHI STADIUM, SRINAGAR -190008 | EMAIL: [musbat.wani@gmail.com](mailto:musbat.wani@gmail.com)

RefNo:- SC/Legal/318 /153-56 Dated: 28-11-2024

**NOTIFICATION**

ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR J&K CARROM ASSOCIATION FOR THE TERM 2024 -2028.

In pursuance to the J&K Sports Council letter No-SC/844/7398-7404 dated 06-11-2024 regarding conduct of elections of J&K Carrom Association, I hereby notify the particulars of the Office bearers to be elected, the manner of election and the election schedule for information of the members of J&K Carrom Association, who are eligible to participate in the upcoming elections. The Voter list of eligible candidates/ members representing the concerned Districts stands already published by the Association in Rising Kashmir and GJ State, Jammu on 15th of November 2024 and is open for objections till 29th of November -2024.

Particulars of the Office Bearers to be elected for the term of 04 years i.e 2024-28 is given here as under;

S.No	Name of the post	No of posts
1.	President	One
2.	Senior Vice President	One
3.	Vice President	two
4.	General Secretary	One
5.	Secretary	One
6.	Treasurer	One
7.	Joint Secretary	Two

**ELECTION SCHEDULE**

S.No	Activity	Date	Time	Remarks
1.	Date of submission of Nomination form	2nd of Dec. to 5th of Dec.	Upto 4:00PM	Submission to the Returning Officer, at Office in person or by Email: <a href="mailto:musbat.wani@gmail.com">musbat.wani@gmail.com</a>
2	Withdrawal of Candidature Form	6th of Dec. to 7th of Dec.2024	Upto 4:00PM	Submission to the Returning Officer, at Office in person or by Email: <a href="mailto:musbat.wani@gmail.com">musbat.wani@gmail.com</a>
3.	Final list of contesting candidates / voter list	9th of Dec.- 2024		In the office of Deputy Legal Remembrancer JK Sports Council at Administrative Block Bakhshi Stadium Srinagar and same shall be available on the official website of J&K Sports Council.
4.	Polling	10th of Dec.-2024	At 12:00 PM	The poll shall be taken post wise to cast one vote as against the name of each candidate and the vote by way of secret ballot will be by way of (✓) mark.
4	Counting / declaration of result	10th of Dec.2024	After polling (if any)	By the Returning officer.
5	Venue			Sher-I- Kashmir Indoor Sports Stadium Gogilbagh Srinagar.

Nomination Forms must be supported with passport size photograph and an affidavit (notarized), which is available in the office of Returning Officer and also on the Official Website of the JK Sports Council. The Nomination Forms and Withdrawal forms and objections if any to the conduct of elections have to be submitted to the Office of Returning Officer in person or through Email before the scheduled dates.

Musbat Ismail,  
Deputy Legal Remembrancer,  
J&K Sports Council

DIPK-NB-2586-24  
DT: 28/11/2024

Returning Officer, J&K Carrom Association, Election 2024. Administrative Block Bakhshi Stadium Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**ANANTNAG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**Subject: Tender Notice for hiring of machinery/vehicles for snow clearance during 2024-25 winters.**  
e-Auction Notice No. AMC/Winters/2024/269  
Dated: 27.11.2024

For and on behalf of the Government of J&K UT, term e- tenders (in a two-cover system) are invited from the firms/interested parties/agencies for hiring of machinery/vehicles for clearance of snow during 2024-25 winters within Municipal limits of Anantnag.

**Scope of Work:**

- Deployment of Back Hoe Loaders/Excavators, Tractors with attachments and tippers for snow clearance across Municipal Limits of Anantnag.
- Snow removal during and after snowfall events to maintain clear pathways/Roads/Lanes.
- Clearing snow accumulated in intersections, turns, and other critical areas.
- Emergency response to heavy snowfall or unexpected weather events.
- 24/7 availability of Machinery during snowfall events and Immediate deployment upon request from Anantnag Municipal Council.

S. No	Name of the vehicle	Rate to be quoted in Indian rupees	Availability
01.	Back Hoe Loaders/Excavators	Per Hour including Fuel.	24x7
02.	Tractors with attachments	Per Hour including Fuel.	
03	Dumpers	Per Trip including Fuel.	

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities(BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be sought/downloaded from the official website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule of dates given below;

01.	Date of issue of tender notice	27.11.2024
02.	Online tender down/start date.	27.11.2024
03.	On line tender submission end date	03.12.2024
04.	Date and time of opening of Technical document online (cover 1st)	03.12.2024
05.	Date and time of opening of financial document online (cover 2nd)	After evaluation of cover 1st in the office of Chief Executive Anantnag Municipal Council.

Sd/  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Anantnag Municipal Council

DIPK-NB-2583-24  
DT: 28/11/2024

## Hybrid Model For Champions Trophy Not Acceptable: PCB Tells ICC

Press Trust of India

**KARACHI:** The Pakistan Cricket Board informed the International Cricket Council on Thursday that it will not accept the Hybrid model for the Champions Trophy, and asked the global governing body not to discuss the option in Friday's board meeting.

The ICC has convened a meeting of the executive members virtually to resolve the scheduling imbroglio surrounding the marquee event after India's refusal to send the team across the border.

"I can confirm that PCB has a few hours back told the ICC that a Hybrid Model is not acceptable to them," a source told PTI. The PCB has been rigid in its opposition to the hybrid model and had advised the ICC to look at other options to stage the Champions Trophy.

The Pakistan board maintained that having a Hybrid



model would mean giving preferential treatment to India. "I can confirm initially the

PCB had looked at the possibility of a Hybrid model on the condition that if India can't play

in Pakistan, then in future there would be Hybrid models in all ICC events in India right until

2031 (ODI World Cup in India and Bangladesh) as Pakistan would not go and play in India," the source said.

Another source confirmed that PCB has also reminded the ICC to inform whether the BCCI had submitted a letter in writing from their government stating that clearance was not given to the Indian team to play in Pakistan.

"Under ICC regulations if any team says its government is not allowing it to play in another nation on whatever grounds that board has to submit their government's directives in writing which we have not seen so far," the source said.

He said the PCB had acknowledged the contribution of the BCCI and Indian market in ICC's income generation but reminded the ICC that as per numbers from the last few global events Pakistan also played a major part in ensuring the revenues through their matches against India.

### Short TAKES

#### Team India Calls On Aussie PM Ahead Of Practice Game

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Thursday hosted a reception for the travelling Indian cricket team ahead of its two-day pink-ball practice match against PM's XI here from November 30.

The game will take place at the Manuka Oval serving as good preparation for the day-night Test in Adelaide from December 6.

India recorded their biggest win on Australia soil when they hammered the hosts by 295 runs in the opening game of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Perth.

Following the protocol, India skipper Rohit Sharma introduced all his teammates to Albanese, who praised heroes of the first Test including Jasprit Bumrah and Virat Kohli.

The PM's XI, led by Jack Edwards, also called on Albanese.

Replying to Albanese's post, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on 'X' that he was glad to see his good friend with the Indian and PM's XI teams.

Rohit also addressed the parliament briefly. In his speech, he highlighted the rich history of bilateral relations between India and Australia including their shared love for cricket.

#### Sri Lanka All Out For Record-Low 42 In Durban Cricket Test

Sri Lanka was bowled out by South Africa for 42 at Kingsmead on Thursday, its lowest total in test cricket.

Sri Lanka's previous worst was 71 just over 20 years ago in Kandy against Pakistan.

South Africa needed only 83 legal deliveries — 13.5 overs — to rout the Sri Lankans in their first innings. That's the lowest number of deliveries in 100 years. England routed South Africa in 75 balls in 1924.

The 42 was also a record low for a test at Kingsmead, and the record low against South Africa, eclipsing New Zealand's 45 in 2013 in Cape Town.

The pitch was considered batting friendly on day two of the first test, as South Africa scored 111 runs in an extended morning session, resuming on 80-4 and being dismissed for 191.

Kamindu Mendis top-scored with 13 in a Sri Lanka lineup which featured four ducks.

Medium-pacer Marco Jansen took a career-best 7-13 in 6.5 overs.

Jansen was only the second player after Hugh Trumble of Australia, in 1904 against England, to take seven wickets inside seven overs of a test innings.

#### Man City's Rodri Aims To Return This Season After ACL Injury

Ballon d'Or winner Rodri is hopeful he will play again this season after sustaining ACL damage.

The Manchester City midfielder was expected to be out for the rest of the campaign following surgery in September, but has said he is making good progress in his recovery.

"My target is to come back this season. In terms of my mentality it is going to be positive for me to don't give up the season and throw it," Rodri told "The Rest Is Football" podcast. "I don't want to make any mistakes. My target is six or seven months."

Rodri injured his right knee in City's 2-2 draw against Arsenal in September. An ACL injury can take from six months to a year to heal and City manager Pep Guardiola declared his season was over after the surgery.

City has struggled in his absence and is on a six-game winless run in all competitions.



## Real Kashmir Play Gokulam Kerala At TRC In I-League Today

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Real Kashmir FC is all set to take on Gokulam Kerala FC on Friday at TRC Stadium in an I-League 2024-25 match. The game will kick off at 2:00 PM.

Both teams are coming off wins in their season openers. The Snow Leopards comfortably beat Rajasthan United FC 2-0, while Gokulam Kerala was made to toil in their dramatic come-from-behind 3-2 win over Sreenidi Deccan FC.

Speaking at the pre-game press conference on Thursday, Real Kashmir coach Ishaq Ahmad said Gokulam will be a tough opponent and hoped his team will play "excellent football and deliver a positive result."

Ishaq also lauded the



Image via I-League

home support the team received in their game against Rajasthan and wanted the same to continue on Friday.

"We appeal to everyone to come, watch Friday's match, and support Kashmir's team," he said.

After the first round of games, Real Kashmir is currently top of the I-League table, while Gokulam is placed second. These two have played five times with the Snow Leopards winning three of those

meetings. Sony Sports will broadcast the game.

J&K Football Association has also called upon fans to create an electric atmosphere for the match.

"We call upon the entire football fraternity of J&K to join us in the stands, cheer with pride, and inspire our team to greatness. Let's come together, show our unwavering support, and fuel our players with the energy to secure a memorable victory!" the FA said in a statement.

## Ahmed Taha Masoody Wins 4 Golds In National Pencak Silat C'ships

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Ahmed Taha Masoody, a young martial artist from Srinagar, has etched his name in the annals of Indian sports with an incredible performance in two national Pencak Silat championships. Held from November 16 to 21 in Srinagar, these events saw participation from over 1500 athletes representing 32 states from across India. Despite the fierce competition, Ahmed clinched four gold medals across different events, showcasing his unparalleled skill and determination.

With these victories, Ahmed has now amassed an impressive total of 12 gold medals, 2 silver and 1 bronze at the national level over the last five years, un-



derlining his dominance in Pencak Silat. His consistency and excellence have earned him a spot at the upcoming World Championship, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi from December 18 to 22, 2024.

Ahmed attributes his success to the unwavering support of his family and

the guidance of his coaches, particularly Mr. Mohd Iqbal, who has been a key figure in shaping his martial arts journey. Speaking about his achievements, Ahmed expressed gratitude for the opportunities and pledged to bring laurels to India on the international stage. (ANB)

## CUS Inter-College Football Tournament Kicks Off

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Inter-College Football Tournament, organised by Cluster University Srinagar in collaboration with Indian Army (31 Sub Area), kicked off at Amar Singh College on Thursday.

The event brings together 16 teams from the eight constituent colleges of Cluster University Srinagar. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mohammad Mobin was the Chief

Guest while Deputy GOC (31 Sub Area), Brigadier Udai Jawa was the Guest of Honour at the inaugural function.

Those present on the occasion included Dean Academics Affairs, Prof. Yasmeen Ashai, Registrar, Dr. Syed Wilayat Hussain Rizvi, Controller of Examinations, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Mir, Nodal Principal, Prof. Seema Naz, Deans of various schools including Dr. Naseer Hussain Shah (Sci-



ences), Dr. G.M Lone (Commerce & Management), Dr. Deeba Iqbal (Humanities & Liberal Arts) and Dr. Nazir Ahmad Kotey (Social Sciences). Principals of constituent and affiliated colleges were

also present on the occasion.

Teacher Education and Sports Secretary, Dr. Munir Ahmad Mir welcomed the guests and briefed the audience about the tournament, which was followed by March Past presented by the participating teams and a pipe band performance by 31 Sub Area. The first match was played between the male teams of Amar Singh College and Govt. Degree College Eidgah.

## Mbappé's Misfire At Anfield Compounds His Rocky Start At Real Madrid

Agencies

**BARCELONA:** When Kylian Mbappé stepped up to the penalty spot, it was his moment to show he joined Real Madrid to shine in the biggest games, against the biggest opponents.

Instead, Mbappé's kick was saved by Liverpool's backup goalkeeper, adding another frustrating stumble to the striker's first season with the Spanish powerhouse.

It is hard not to believe the player who led France to a World Cup title as a teenager will eventually start clicking at a Madrid loaded with other top talents. But the marriage of soccer's hottest commodity and its most successful club has yet to produce magic on the field.

Madrid has lost three of its last five games overall. It lost at home to Barcelona 4-0, at home to AC Milan 3-1, and was outclassed at Liverpool 2-0 after wins over modest Spanish sides Osasuna and Leganes.

The depth of its poor play is best seen in the Champions League that Madrid won a record-extending 15th time last season: Madrid sits in 24th

place this season after two wins and three losses, including a defeat to Lille.

While Madrid has been hit with some injuries and is clearly missing the retired Toni Kroos in midfield, Mbappé's struggles are a big part of the problem as he labors to live up to his status as the leader



of the post-Messi-and-Ronaldo generation.

Only one of his nine goals this season has come in the Champions League, and Mbappé didn't score

in the losses to Barcelona, Milan and Liverpool.

His penalty miss against Liverpool rivals his dud of a game against Barcelona, when he fell offside eight times for the low point of his rocky arrival in Spain.

Mbappé didn't speak after the loss at Anfield on Wednesday, when he

what is going wrong.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti admitted his player's confidence may be wavering. Luka Modric, who knows better than anyone the demands placed on a Real Madrid player, said Mbappé was going through a typically difficult transition to the club that has no qualms pro-

claiming itself the best ever. Mbappé and Madrid have a good opportunity to get back to winning when they host Getafe in La Liga on Sunday.

## Guardiola & Shellshocked Manchester City Face The Match They Dread

Agencies

Pep Guardiola doesn't like going to Anfield at the best of times.

"They scare me," the Manchester City manager said of Liverpool and its prolific, Mohamed Salah-led strikeforce during a fly-on-the-wall documentary back in 2018, when Guardiola's team was comfortably the finest in England.

Just imagine what he is thinking now?

Amid the worst run of results in his coaching career, Guardiola probably would prefer any other fixture on the calendar than Liverpool away.

But that's what is facing him and his beleaguered defending champions on Sunday in the biggest modern-day Premier League rivalry which, on current form, threatens to be a mismatch.

Indeed, Liverpool and City — the league's current top two, separated by eight points — are trending in opposite directions.

Liverpool not only leads the Premier League but also the 36-team Champions League. It is coming off a win over Real Madrid,



and has won 17 of its 19 games in all competitions this season, losing just once.

City just squandered a 3-0 lead from the 75th minute to draw 3-3 with Feyenoord, having previously lost five straight games including 4-0 at home to Tottenham.

Guardiola has never lost so many in a row in his coaching career. The team has conceded at least two goals in each of those six games and 17 in total. City is in 17th place in the Champions League standings and might be out of

the Premier League top four come Sunday night.

Guardiola acknowledged fairly bluntly this week: "We're not able to win games now. As a team, we always found a way to win games ... but right now, nothing happens."

So how have things fallen apart for City, the winner of the last four Premier League titles, so spectacularly?

City is clearly missing season-long absentee Rodri, the Ballon d'Or winner and the holding midfielder who is so important in conducting their attacking play and protecting the defense.

Mateo Kovacic has been acting as Rodri's replacement but returned from Croatia duty injured last week and missed the 4-0 loss to Tottenham, as well as the Feyenoord game.

None of City's four senior center backs — John Stones, Ruben Dias, Manuel Akanji and Nathan Ake — seems 100% healthy either. All were absent two weeks ago and are being rushed back, possibly prematurely. Meanwhile, star playmaker Kevin De Bruyne hasn't started a match since the middle of September because a nagging groin injury.