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BOOK APPOINTMENT

## No Political Lines In Public Welfare: CM Omar

Says MCCs, Polls Halted Developmental Works



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday reiterated his government's commitment to unbiased governance, emphasizing that decisions would not be influenced by political affiliations or party lines.

He urged officers to address public issues brought forth by elected representatives with seriousness and urgency. Chairing a district review meeting at the Conference Hall in Samba, the Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Saakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar, and Satish Sharma.

Highlighting the importance of responsive governance, the Chief Minister stated, "I urge all of you and your officers to address the public issues raised by MLAs with seriousness and urgency. They are elected representatives

of the people, and it is natural for people to expect solutions through them. As I have always maintained, this government—or any government—should not make decisions based on the basis of political affiliations. We must prioritize whether a project holds public utility or a public issue benefits the people. If it does, it must be processed and dealt with without delay."

The Chief Minister acknowledged the challenges faced by the administration this year, citing two major elections as key reasons for delayed developmental activities.

He remarked, "The Parliament elections stretched over a long period, and the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct brought work to a halt. Even in some areas, where the work season coincided with the elections, progress was further delayed."

Addressing | [More on P6](#)

**ACCELERATE THE PACE OF WORK** as much as possible, ensuring it is executed effectively at the ground level. Efforts must focus on completing the work satisfactorily."

## Ruhullah Urges One-Time Age Relaxation For JKPSI Aspirants

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference Member Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Monday made a fervent plea in Lok Sabha, urging the central government to grant a one-time age relaxation for aspirants of the Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub-Inspector (JKPSI) posts.

He said that the issue

concerns thousands of candidates who have been rendered ineligible after exceeding the upper age limit due to prolonged delays in the recruitment process.

These events, he argued, delayed critical recruitment opportunities, depriving many aspirants of their chance to serve in the police force despite their qualifications and dedication. | [More on P6](#)

## Practising Advocate Can't Work As Journalist: BCI To SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Bar Council of India on Monday informed the Supreme Court that practising advocates cannot simultaneously work as journalists, whether on a full-time or part-time basis.

A bench comprising Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Manmohan took on record the position of the BCI, which cited Rule 49 of the BCI Rules.

"We have heard the learned counsel for BCI which has submitted that as per the rules laid down, an advocate cannot be allowed to pursue part-time or full time journalism. The petitioner has filed an affidavit of undertaking stating that he is no longer working as a journalist and will only practice as an advocate," the bench said.

It noted the | [More on P6](#)

## Repairs/ Renovations In Restricted Dal Zone HC Asks Govt To Take Policy Decision By Feb 7

M AHMAD

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed the government to take a "policy decision" by February 7 as to how to deal with repair and renovation of buildings and houses within the 200 meters from the Dal Lake which were "legitimately" constructed before the ban came into effect.

The High Court on 19 July 2022 had directed the authorities to ensure that no erection of buildings shall be allowed within 200 meters from the center of the foreshore road wherever the road has been constructed, and that no changes will be made in the buildings as it existed on that date (19.07.2022).

However, subsequently, another order was passed by the



Court on 16 September 2021, which took cognizance of several applications moved by different persons seeking permission for repairing of their houses, renovation, face-lifting and for interiors as well as for development of parks within the 200 meters of the prohibited area of the Dal Lake.

Of the cases, the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (previously LAWDA) passed orders stating that the

applications cannot be considered as the properties were within the 200 meters of the prohibited area.

"This Court feels that a human angle also must be taken into cognizance alongwith the well being of the Dal Lake as human habitation is as much a part of the ecosystem as the Lake," said a Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani while hearing an application on behalf of the Chairman, Building Permission Authority /Vice Chairman of the LCMA, seeking appropriate directions.

There are two kinds of constructions within the 200 meters boundary which may be existing as on date, the court said.

The first category is of construction which was made legitimately under the existing law before the | [More on P6](#)

## NEP Laying Strong Foundation For Our Future Growth: LG

Asks Educational Institutions To Focus On Access, Quality & Outcome

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The visionary National Education Policy is laying a strong foundation for our future growth, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday.

"Focus on knowledge connectivity, skilling, entrepreneurship and sustained growth has made India the world's new growth engine," Sinha added.

LG felicitated and interacted with the Youth during Pratibha Samman Samaroh at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Degree College, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. The event was organized to commemorate the death anniversary of former Member of Parliament and senior BJP Leader Shri Satya Deo Singh.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the changes taking place in the higher education sector, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the past few years.



The Lieutenant Governor emphasized the crucial role of educational institutions in capacity building of the future workforce and realizing the vision of Developed India.

He observed that the educational institutions are driving the nation's progress and they should promote learning beyond the classroom.

National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes on capacity building to adjust to continuously changing scenarios. It has given the college campus the courage to make

new discoveries, new inventions. We need to make necessary reforms, aligned with NEP 2020, to develop a conducive environment where students acquire skills and values to deal with the challenges of the real world, the Lieutenant Governor added.

"We are the fastest growing economy today but our challenge is to make sure India's share of world GDP is more than a quarter by 2047," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also gave his valuable suggestions on promoting

innovation, invention and research and encouraging interdisciplinary education in the educational institutions.

Every higher educational institution should focus on four important aspects - Access, Equity, Quality and Outcome, and nurture scientific-thinking, curiosity and creativity among the students. Youth should be prepared for moral leadership and also motivate others to work for the welfare of the society, he further added.

At the memorial event, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to Shri Satya Deo Singh and recalled his dedicated service to the nation and commitment to the public good.

"Satya Deo Singh was a widely respected leader who distinguished himself in various capacities in a public career spanning more than four decades. He understood the needs of the future and the challenges India was facing and remained committed to | [More on P6](#)

## Light Snowfall On Dec 21-22: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chelleh or Chellai Kalan, the 40-day harshest winter period is all set to commence by this weekend, the weatherman here has forecasted a light snow over higher reaches on the occasion. However, there is no forecast of any major wet spell till the next 10 days.

The cold wave continued to tighten its grip across Kashmir amidst the persistent dry spell at the majority of places.

As per the details, Srinagar witnessed a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a low of minus 4.0 degree Celsius.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 5.0 degree Celsius while in Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, it settled at minus 4.0 degree Celsius. North Kashmir's Kupwar recorded a low of minus 4.2 degree Celsius while Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of 3.9 degree Celsius.

Furthermore, the Meteorological department has predicted persistent cold wave conditions at isolated to scattered places.

For the next four days till December 20, the Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has predicted generally dry and cloudy weather conditions.

However, on December 21 when the 40-day harshest winter period commences, the MeT Director has said that generally | [More on P6](#)

## 'SIMULTANEOUS POLLS' Bill To Be Introduced In LS On Dec 17

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A constitutional amendment bill for holding Lok Sabha and assembly elections simultaneously is likely to be introduced in Parliament on Tuesday and could be referred to a joint committee of the two Houses.

A top government functionary said the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, popularly being referred to as the Bill on "one nation, one election," was expected to be introduced by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

After its introduction, Meghwal will request Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to refer the Bill to a Joint Committee of Parliament for wider consultations.

The joint panel will be constituted on a pro-rata basis,

based on the strength of MPs of various parties.

As the largest party, the BJP will get chairmanship of the committee, besides several members, the functionary said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was a member of the high-level committee led by former president Ram Nath Kovind that recommended holding Lok Sabha, state assembly and local body elections simultaneously in a phased manner, is likely to be present in the Lower House at the time of Bill's introduction, the functionary said.

The Union Cabinet last week decided to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies but opted to leave "as of now" how local body polls are held.

Meghwal will tell the Lower House that since the Bill will need wider | [More on P6](#)



A breathtaking view of Doodhpathri adorned with a fresh coat of snow. KO Photo By Abid Bhat.

## Install CCTVS In School Buses By Jan 31: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has set January 31 as the deadline for the mandatory installation of CCTV cameras in school buses to monitor the activities of drivers and assisting staff during transit, thus ensuring the safety of students, officials said on Monday.

The government has assured that all safety measures, as outlined by the Supreme Court guidelines, are being implemented to safeguard the children.

"The transport commissioner has set January 31 as the deadline for the mandatory installation of CCTV cameras in school buses. This will ensure that every activity of the driver and assisting



staff is monitored, enhancing the safety of students at all times," a government spokesperson said.

Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan announced the deadline during a meeting with the representatives of school authorities regarding the safety audit of vehicles ferrying students in line with the Supreme Court's directions.

"The initiative aims to encourage active | [More on P6](#)

## J&K Has 8 Polluted River Stretches:Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has eight polluted river stretches identified in 2022, according to Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav.

The pollution in these river stretches is primarily attributed to the discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage from urban areas, industrial effluents, improper solid waste management, operational issues in sewage and effluent treatment plants, lack of dilution, and other non-point sources, the minister said.

Yadav further said that J&K has one Grossly Polluting Industry (GPI), which is operational and complies with environmental standards. "GPIs are defined | [More on P6](#)





# Shrinking Wings, Bigger Beaks: Birds Are Reshaping Themselves In Warming World

## The Conversation

For wildlife, climate change is a bit like the "final boss" the protagonist faces in a video game: big, hulking and inescapable. This formidable enemy has forced wildlife to alter where and how they live. Higher temperatures exert so much stress on wildlife that over generations, they are forced to change and adapt. We wanted to better understand how this pattern of change was playing out in Australian birds. Our two pieces of recent research identified that, in response to warming, more than 100 species of Australian birds have developed smaller bodies and bigger beaks over time.

## Shape-shifting wildlife

When we talk about shape-shifting, we're not talking about werewolves or Ant-Man. Rather, we are referring to body size getting smaller and appendages such as beaks, tails and limbs getting bigger. This enables animals to shed excess heat more efficiently by providing more surface area to do something engineers know when designing radiators, for instance. Just as the hot water pipes in radiators help dissipate internal heat through the periphery, bird beaks are perforated with blood vessels that transfer heat from the body's core to the beak surface, where it

is then lost to the environment. This way, for both a radiator and a beak, increasing the surface area of the structure (while minimising the distance the heat has to travel from the core) maximises the heat loss.

The link between body shape and heat loss has led to the prediction that animals will change body shape over time, in response to climatic warming.

Three years ago, Deakin University researchers published a paper showing examples of such changes occurring in a handful of diverse species all across the world. Now, we significantly expand on this with two recently published studies focusing on Australian birds. We identified decreasing body sizes and increasing beak sizes over time, in response to climatic warming. Combined, the studies include over 100 species of birds from across Australia.

## What we did and what we found

Our studies used two different data sets and methods to detect shrinking and shape-shifting. The first used an extraordinary dataset collected by community scientists of the Victorian Wader Study Group and the Australian Wader Studies Group, who have been monitoring Australian shorebirds for nearly 50 years. Their monitoring includes measurements such as bill length,



wing length and body mass in more than 100,000 individual birds. The data allowed us to identify increasing beak sizes and decreasing body sizes in both resident and migratory species of shorebirds in northern and southern Australia.

For example, iconic migrants like red knots and sharp-tailed sandpipers have both increased beak size over the last 50 years.

The second dataset, collected by Deakin researchers, used 3D scans of museum specimens to measure the beak surface area of specimens from the past century.

Through this approach, more than 5,000 specimens were measured for beak surface area, which was

supplemented by measurements of wing length.

The results showed the same pattern of bigger beaks and smaller body sizes were identified across a vast range of birds, all the way from ducks to songbirds.

For example, the chip-stealing silver gull and dazzling common bronzedwing have both increased beak size over the past century.

Australia is heating up. The shape-shifting and shrinking that we see in birds indicate ways in which they may be adapting to cope with these higher temperatures.

## Short-term weather versus long-term trends

One surprising aspect, reflected

in both studies, is that short-term spells of excessive heat can cause responses in bird shape that contradict the long-term trends.

While body size decreases in response to shorter-term periods of higher temperature, bill size also shrank. Since beak sizes increase over the long-term because of climatic warming, why would they decrease in response to short-term bursts of higher temperature? Climatic warming does not only affect the temperature birds experience, but also their environment.

In an environment with high baseline temperatures, such as Australia, periods of high temperature may mean less food. This can hamper the growth of young birds.

In this way, both body and beak size would decrease after hot temperatures due to stunted growth as food gets more scarce. And in short-term periods of extreme temperatures, having a big beak can be a liability. Hot air from the environment will actually move into the beak, causing the bird to heat up too much, with potentially fatal consequences. Whatever their cause, the contrasting trends between short and long-term responses to hot environments show things are complex in a changing climate.

**Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan**  
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class  
**Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth**  
**Public Notice**  
 The registrar Births and deaths Block Development Officer Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Furkan Majeed S/o Abdul Majeed Ganie R/o Ganiepora Burn Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 05-03-2011 occurred at Home  
 In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.  
**Executive Magistrate 1st Class**  
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan  
 fko\_

**THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR**  
**ATTENTION PLEASE**  
 The Candidates whose photograph is Published in this notice is claiming to have lost her 10th Class Qualification /Diploma Certificate of Secondary School Examination issued by BOSE with the following particulars  
**Name :- Safoora Bano**  
**Parentage :- Mohd Maqbool Lone**  
**Mothers Name :- Jana Begum**  
**Residence :- Langate, Distt. KUPWARA**  
**Roll No 10th Class:- 507523.**  
**Session :- Annual Pvt 2005 Reg No:- 03NKF5004964**  
**Certificate Serial No :- 3207078**  
**D O B :- 01.06.1988. Result Qualified Class 10th Marks :- 181/500. Grade. Two**  
 Now the candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate Qualification /Diploma Certificate before the same is processed and issued in the candidate anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Asst Secretary, BOSE or undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above referred Qualification / Diploma certificate bearing serial no :- 3207078 .are be treated as cancelled,  
**No:-F(Certs-I-DOC)B/KD/24**  
 SD/= Assistant Secretary Certificates .KD  
 fko

**ASF ENTERPRISES**  
**Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K] , Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176 , 9419776235**  
**Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners**  
**Registered Government order Suppliers.**

**Subject:-Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name and style M/S" The Opel Retreat" Situated at Ahmad Nagar 90 feet Road Srinagar Kashmir.**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Whereas, I Mr/Ms Sakeena R/O Ahmad Nagar, 90 feet road Srinagar Kashmir intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House /Home Stay under the name and style "The Opel Retreat" Situated at Ahmad Nagar 90 Feet Road Srinagar Kashmir under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011.  
 Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/Issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable) NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.  
 Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley, Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit. Media Line

**THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE/J/HSE-II Class 10<sup>th</sup> under Roll No.19057038 Session: Annual Regular 2024 year. 2024 through Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by School The Legends School Of Education against my Mother's name as Kousar instead of Sabia Kousar  
 Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after their expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.  
 This is published for the information of the general public.  
 The correct particulars are recorded as under:  
**Name:- Sheikh Sharif Tariq**  
**Father's Name:- Sheikh Tariq Ahmad**  
**Mother's Name:- Sabia Kousar**  
**Date of Birth:- 29-8-2007**  
**Residence:- Mirza Kamil Sahib- Hawal-Srinagar**  
**Mobile No.- 7006201425**  
 Media Line

**OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI**  
**Subject :- Application of Anayatullah Zarger S/o Mohammad Abdullah Zarger R/o Kreeri Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance Of OBC (Other Backward Classes)**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought Which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Kreeri and belongs to the Zargar Community having annual Income of Rs 644652/- (Six lack Fourty four thousand Six Hundred and Fifty two rupees) the details of the family of the applicant are as follows:  

Name Of the Family Member	Relationship with the Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
Tabasum Arif	Wife	36	H/W	644652/-
Ahmadullah	Son	04	Infant	
Mohammadullah	Son	02	Infant	

 Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days ) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.  
 fko Naib Tehsildar

**UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR NOTICE**  
 The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he has lost his University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s:-  
**Name: SHANU BASHIR D/O: BASHIR AHMAD MALIK**  
**Residence: PEER BAGH SRINAGAR Reg No: 50939-W-2007**  
**Certificate/s Lost: B.Ed Marks Card**  
**Roll No. 1272290 Session/Year: Oct-2013**  
 Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of the notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled.  
 No. F(Dup) M Cards /JKU SD/Asst. Controller of Examinations (PG/UC/Prof)  
 Dated: inf

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I want to Change my name from RAFIQA BUGUM To RAFIQA BEGUM. In future I'll be known as RAFIQA BEGUM. If anybody has any objection kindly report to passport office Srinagar within 7 working days after this no objection will be accepted.  
**RAFIQA BEGUM**  
**W/O: ABDUL HAMID TANTRAY**  
**R/O: SHEERPORA BANGIL, PATTAN**  
 jvd

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 My father's name has been wrongly written on his electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 020102002347 as Gh Mohmmad Dar while his correct name is Ghulam Mohamad Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the PDD Sub Division Dalgate within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**Nissar Ah Bhat**  
**S/o Ghulam Mohamad Bhat**  
**R/o Ishber Nishat**  
 inf

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I waheed Hassan On Behalf Of Mrs. Rukhsana Akhter W/o Dr Showkat Ahmad Wani had sold a Alto car bearing Regd NO: JK05B6521 to Kumail Abbas Malik R/o Sehpora Magam On 10 Oct 2023. till date he had failed to transfer the ownership of said vehicle. in that case the vehicle in question is found to be involved in any unlawful activity/ Accidental case the purchaser (Kumail Abbas Malik) is himself holy and soly responsible.  
**Waheed Hassan War**  
**R/o Adina Magam**  
 bmg\_r

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I am applying for issuance of Pesticides License under name and style Bhat Pesticides Pudsoo Shopian. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**Mohammad Aarif Bhat**  
**S/o Manzoor Ahmad Bhat**  
**R/o Pudsoo Shopian**  
 fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my daughter namely Aliya Zehra who was born on 07-01-2013 . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**Muzaffar Ahmad Malla F/o Aliya Zehra**  
**R/o Kralpora Bala**  
 fko

**Al-Rashid International School Of Education (ARISE)**  
 Magam Beerwah Road (ARISE Campus, Magam, 193401  
 Email: Ariseplayschool@gmail.com  
 We hereby notify the public that the current fee structure for the academic session is as follows:  

Fees	Nursery To 5th Class	6th to 8th class
Tuition Fees	Rs 1000 / month	Rs 1200/ Month
Annual Fees	Rs 2000 / Year	Rs 3000/Year

 This fee structure is regulated by the Jammu and Kashmir Fee Fixation Committee via order no. 674-FRRC (FF) of 2021 .Dated: 8-11-2021 and will remain in effect until a revised structure is approved by the committee.  
**Principal**  
**Al-Rashid International School Of Education (ARISE)**  
 bmg\_r

**From the office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool sheikh**  
 In the case of Ghulam Rasool sheikh S/o: Abdul Ganie sheikh R/O: Tantraypora Palhallan pattan Baramulla  
 V/s Public at large  
 In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A  
 The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.  
 fko Sd/advocate

**NOTICE**  
 I, Gulzar Ahmad Shalbal, F/o Fatima, R/o Shalbal Mohalla, Anchar Saura, Srinagar do hereby declare. That my daughter's mother name has been wrongly entered in Birth certificate records as Shalbal Javaida instead of Javaida Akhter. That my daughter's true and correct name is Fatima D/o Gulzar Ahmad Shalbal and her Mother Name: Javaida Akhter R/o Shalbal Mohalla Anchar Saura Srinagar as per new birth certificate under Regd. No.12641 Dated 13-09-2015. That in case any body has any objection in this regard then I shall be personally responsible for the same. After the stipulated period, no objections will be entertained.  
 Media Line Ads

**NOTICE**  
 I Mufti Nissar Ahmed S/o Sona-Ullah R/o Sir Syed Abad Ahmed Nagar Srinagar, want to transfer my Electricity Connection bearing Consumer Id 0204040028571 from Mufti Nissar Ahmed S/o Sona-Ullah R/o Sir Syed Abad Ahmed Nagar Srinagar To Mufti Nahida D/o Mufti Nissar Ahmed R/o Sir Syed Abad Ahmed Nagar Srinagar. In this Regard, if anybody is having any objection may file his/her objection in the Sub division Office Hawal within a weeks time after that no objection will be entertained.  
 Media Line Ads

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Kulsuma Begum W/o Zahoar Ahmad Lone R/o Nowpora Jagir while my correct name is Rafeeqa Begum W/o Zahoar Ahmad Lone R/o Meragund Nowpora which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the BDO Wagoora within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**Rafeeqa Begum**  
**W/o Zahoar Ahmad Lone**  
**R/o Meragund Nowpora**  
 fko

**The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited**  
 B/ u: SSI Lal Chowk Srinagar Near Ganta Ghar  
 Contact: 0194-2481072, 2482340  
 Email: sssigr@jkbmail.com

**Possession Notice**  
**Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002**  
 Whereas, Mrs Nuzhat Parveen, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices dated 13.10.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Nasir Ahmad Kalla S/o Ali Mohammad Kalla R/o Naidyar Rainawari Srinagar to repay an amount of Rs. 35,39,316.84 (Rupees Thirty Five lac Thirty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen Paise Eighty Four only) being the balance outstanding as on 13.10.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.  
 The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken Physical possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 11 Dec 2024  
 The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 26,47,160.09 (Rupees Twenty Six lac Forty seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty Paise Nine only) together with future interest thereon from 01.12.2024 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.  
 The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.  
**Description of the Immoveable Property**  
 (As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)  
 Equitable Mortgage of Residential house along with land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 06 Marlas and 68 sit, falling under khasra no. 711,713 of khata No. 561, Khewat No. 301, Khasra No. 712 of Khata No. 562, Khewat No.301 and Khasra No. 2468/710 of Khata No. 565 and khewat No. 301, standing in the name of Mr. Ali Mohammad Kalla and Nazir Ahmad Kalla both sons of Mohammad Sultan Kalla situated in mouza Rainawari Naidyar Near J&K Bank Tehsil Khanyar & District Srinagar.  
**Mr. Mohammad Yaqoob Bhat**  
**Authorize Officer**  
 Dated: 11 Dec 2024 Place:



## Illegal Excavation Threatens Hokersar Wetland

Agencies

Srinagar: Concerns are mounting over illegal excavation activities at the Hokersar wetland in central Kashmir's Srinagar district, a vital ecological zone in Kashmir that serves as a key habitat for migratory birds.

Locals said that the excessive soil removal and mismanagement are severely damaging the wetland's biodiversity and disrupting the natural habitat of migratory birds.

They said the continuous activity by heavy machinery and trucks in the area has caused significant ecological disruption.

"We used to see large flocks of migratory birds every season, but their numbers have dwindled drastically," said Nazir Ahmad, a resident living near the wetland. "The noise and disturbance from these activities are pushing them away," he said.

Bashir Ahmad Khan, another local, said that unauthorized soil excavation and improper management have led to a drop in critical water levels in the wetland. "Wetlands are delicate ecosystems, and any imbalance can have cascading effects on biodiversity," he said.

Notably, the Hokersar Wetland, which is part of Kashmir's network of wetlands, plays a crucial role

in supporting migratory bird species during their seasonal movements.

Conservationists warn that the ongoing activities could have long-term consequences for the region's ecosystem if left unchecked.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Policy Group (EPG) has called for immediate action to address the issue.

It accused the Wildlife Department of failing to safeguard the wetland, alleging that unauthorized contractors are excavating soil beyond permissible limits, leading to large dump sites that further compromise the wetland's integrity.

An EPG representative said, "This is ecological vandalism. The department's inaction has facilitated these activities, which are not only damaging the wetland but also forcing migratory birds to abandon their natural habitat."

The group also claimed that one of its members was threatened while attempting to document the illegal activities.

It demanded a high-level inquiry into what they describe as the "Mitti Scandal" and an audit of wetland management funds.

Meanwhile, an official stated that a team will visit the site to assess the situation. "Those found guilty will face necessary action," the official said—(KNO)



## Smart City Buses Clock Over 61 Lakh Passengers From Jan To Nov 2024

Agencies

Srinagar: Smart City's eco-friendly city bus service witnesses an increase in the flow of passengers with an average of 30,000 people boarding on a daily basis across 16 operational routes.

The eco-friendly public transport system was launched in November 2023 and has now witnessed a remarkable growth in commuting, transporting 61,33,160 commuters from January to November this year.

According to the data, in September alone, the service recorded its highest passenger count of over 7.2 lakh, followed by August with over 6.82 lakh passengers.

However, as per the data when the bus services were started by Srinagar Smart City in November 2023, the month recorded a passenger count

of just 1.3 lakh, followed by over 3.25 lakh in December 2023.

As per the officials, the green bus fleet includes 100 electric buses, with 75 nine-meter and 25 twelve-meter variants, with two additional buses kept on standby to address potential breakdowns.

The officials said that these electric buses are praised for being emission-free and that they offer advanced features like air conditioning, air curtains for consistent interior temperature, and five strategically placed cameras for enhanced safety.

The officials add that a panic button inside the buses is connected directly to a command-and-control centre, ensuring immediate assistance during emergencies.

Officials looking into the operations of smart buses under Srinagar

Smart City earlier told KNO that they have developed an Integrated Public Transport System, detailing bus routes, stops, halting points, depots, and charging stations to streamline the service.

The officials said that to enhance passenger convenience, authorities plan to establish 360 ultra-modern bus stops across Srinagar.

As per the officials, these new bus stops will feature a Passenger Information System (PIS), providing real-time updates on bus movement and displaying route maps. Equipped with monitor displays, the stops will offer comprehensive information on bus timings and routes.

"Work on these advanced bus stops is expected to begin next month, with surveys currently underway," an official stated—(KNO)

## SKIMS Performs Complex Cardiac Surgery

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The department of CVTS, SKIMS performed "Bentall's Procedure with Replacement of Arch of Aorta".

A 40-year-old male patient had presented to a peripheral hospital with symptoms of acute chest pain and headache. A CT scan in the periphery had revealed acute aortic dissection. He was immediately referred to the department of CVTS, SKIMS where further investigation revealed that he had acute Aortic dissection involving Arch of Aorta including arch vessels which supply blood to the brain and upper part of body, a statement issued Kashmir Observer reads.

There was associated severe leakage of Aortic Valve. The condition if untreated has a risk of 100 percent mortality, it added.

"The patient was successfully operated with restoration of blood flow to the brain and the rest of the body. The procedure involved replacement of the Aortic valve along with the major blood vessel called Aorta and blood vessels supply brain arising from Aorta by an artificial Dacron tube graft. The surgery lasted for 6 hours

during which the patient was on cardiopulmonary bypass. The patient was shifted to Cardiac ICU and was extubated after 3 hours without any neurological or Vascular deficit recovered and has been discharged," it added.

The statement reads that the program has been going on in CVTS SKIMS for the last 2 years with simple Bentall's procedures being done earlier also wherein both surgical correction as well as endovascular stenting of such patients was done. It is pertinent to mention here that after procurement of "State of Art equipment" the department has done more than 15 "Endovascular Stenting (EVAR & TEVAR)" in the last one year.

Earlier, the patients needed to go outside for these procedures. These procedures are being done at a few reputed cardiac centres in the Country. The procedures now done at SKIMS will benefit the patients and they don't now require to go outside for these treatments, it reads.

The department of CVTS expressed their gratitude to Prof. Mohd. Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS & EOSG, for encouragement and administrative support.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**HIJRI  
CALENDAR**  
14 Jumada al-Sani  
1446

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5: 58
ZUHR	12:25
ASR	3: 46
Magrib	5:27
ISHA	6: 52

### This Day In History

- 1638 - French and Swedish troops occupy Breisach on the Rhine
- 1788 Russian army of Grigory Potemkin occupies Ocharov
- 1790 - Aztec calendar stone discovered in Mexico City
- 1885 - France declares Madagascar a protectorate
- 1893 - Russia ratifies Double Alliance with France
- 1908 - In Turkey the new parliament convenes with reformist Young Turks as the majority
- 1912 - Albania's de facto independence from the Ottoman Empire is recognized at the London Conference of Ambassadors
- 1918 - A conference of workers' and soldiers' councils take control of German government in Berlin, until elections in January selects new national assembly
- 1920 - Japan receives League of Nations mandate over Pacific islands
- 1920 - South Africa receives League of Nations mandate over SW Africa
- 1922 - Last British troops leave Irish Free State
- 1925 - Soviet Union & Turkey sign non-aggression pact
- 1925 - Sultan Abdulaziz Ibn Saud conquers Jeddah, the last major stand of the Hashemites against the Saudis
- 1927 - US submarine S-4 sinks after collision killing all 34 aboard
- 1938 - Discovery of nuclear fission using uranium by Otto Hahn and his assistant Fritz Strassmann
- 1939 - German pocket battleship Graf Spee scuttled by its crew off Uruguay
- 1940 - British troops occupy Sollum, Egypt
- 1941 - Dutch & Australian troops land on Portuguese Timor
- 1941 - German submarine U-31 sunk
- 1941 - World War II: Beginning of the Siege of Sebastopol.
- 1942 - Allies in London sentence German war criminals
- 1944 - US Army announces end of excluding Japanese-Americans from West Coast, detainees released
- 1944 - US destroyers sink in storm off Philippines, 790 killed
- 1947 - British industrial company BTH receives a patent for holography, invented by Dennis Gabor in their development lab
- 1954 - 1st fully automated railroad freight yard (Gary, Indiana)
- 1957 - US successfully test-fires Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile
- 1957 - The largest trade in NHL history at the time in terms of quantity; Chicago Black Hawks move Nick Mickoski, Jack McIntyre, Bob Bailey & Hec Lalonde to Detroit Red Wings for Earl Reibel, Billy Dea, Bill Dineen & Lorne Ferguson
- 1961 - India seizes Goa & 2 other Portuguese colonies
- 1963 - Tsjoij Doo Sun forms government in South Korea
- 1963 - West & East Berlin sign accord about travel rules
- 1965 - British government proclaims ends oil-embargo against Rhodesia
- 1965 - David Levy begins his search for comets
- 1971 - Cease fire between India & Pakistan in Kashmir
- 1972 - New line of control agreed to in Kashmir between India & Pakistan
- 1978 - OPEC raises oil prices by 18% and agrees on a 14.5% petroleum price increase for 1979, to be implemented quarterly
- 1987 - Czechoslovak party leader Gustav Husak resigns
- 1989 - Brazil elects conservative Fernando Collor de Mello as president
- 1989 Michael Bevan scores cricket century on Ist-class debut (114 SA v WA)
- 1993 - Muslims in Bangladesh call for the murder of feminist Taslima Nasrin
- 1999 - The United Nations General Assembly passes resolution 54/134 designating November 25 as the annual International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

T. Notice No.: 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR- 267-2024-25-ADEN-JRC & 268-2024-25-ADEN-LDH acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders E-Tenders against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date 07.01.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
13.12.2024	24.12.2024	07.01.2025

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	267-2024-25-ADEN-JRC	Construction of L.H.S 5m X 2.5m RCC Box by "Box Pushing Method" in lieu of L-xing No. C-107 at KM 71/3-4 on SCPD-PTKC section Vande Bharat Route under ADEN/JRC.
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of offer
	5,98,73,849.81	60 Days
		Period of completion
		8 Months
2.	268-2024-25-ADEN-LDH	Pre and post-tamping track measurement survey using Trimble GEDO VORSYS trolley system between LDH-JRC (UP & DN Line) in the Jurisdiction of ADEN/LDH
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of offer
	19,77,233.00	60 Days
		Period of completion
		6 Months

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3849/24**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**

No 264-2024-25- DEN-HQ-FZR Date : 12.12.2024

DEN/HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date 01.01.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Two Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
10.12.2024	18.12.2024	01.01.2025 15.00 Hrs.

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	264-2024-25-DEN-HQ-FZR	Supply, installation, and commissioning of track based Electronic type rail gauge face lubricator 31 nos. (31x12x5yrs=1860 months) in the section of ADEN-1/FZR & ADEN-2/FZR under the jurisdiction of DEN-HQ/FZR for 5 years.
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money
	4,13,96,503.20/-	3,57,000.00/-
		Validity of Offer
		90 Days
		Period of Completion
		60 Months

Special Technical Criteria: - "Only RDSO Approved/Development Vendors for Track based Lubricators, can participate with this tender. Copy of approval certificate with validity date is to be submitted along with the tender."

**NOTE 1.** Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. 3839/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



## KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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### KO VIEW

## Look Past EVMs

The Congress and the J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are at odds over the reliability of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Omar recently slammed Congress' selective criticism of the EVMs, saying the party can't celebrate when it gets 100 MPs using the same machines and then find fault with them when it loses polls. This has drawn a sharp reaction from the Congress, otherwise an ally of Omar's party, National Conference. The party has clarified that Samajwadi Party (SP), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Shiv Sena (UBT) have also voiced concerns over EVMs. More tellingly, the Congress MP Manickam Tagore has accused Omar of taking on their "partners" after "being chief minister." Incidentally, Omar's statement was cited by the BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya as proof that there was nothing wrong with EVMs.

However, the controversy over EVMs apart, the incident reveals the ongoing rumblings within the INDIA bloc. More so, after the stunning defeat of the Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra. This was the second successive setback to the INDIA bloc after Haryana, and came after the alliance spectacularly denied the BJP an absolute majority in the general elections. Ever since, the INDIA bloc has struggled to retain its gains. On the contrary, the BJP is back in the driving seat and looks set to further cement its dominance.

This has naturally caused strains in the INDIA Alliance with some partners questioning the Congress' leadership of the bloc. As Omar rightly said, the Congress has to earn its place as the leader of the political grouping. It can't lose election after election and still command the following of opposition parties. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sought to lead the bloc and she has been supported in this by some other constituent parties. Having been elected successively for the third time as the chief minister of West Bengal, Banerjee deserves to be the leader of the opposition alliance. And Congress should certainly back her. The party should learn the lesson from the exit of the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the run up to the national polls early this year. Had he been given responsibility to steer the INDIA bloc, the alliance might very well have been in power. Kumar's party Janata Dal (United) went on to win 22 seats in Bihar which would have brought the opposition closer to majority figure of 272. Going forward, the opposition parties, particularly the Congress, need to rethink not just their election strategy but also the political narrative they need to craft to take on the might of the BJP. The alternative is a fragmented opposition, unable to present a united front, thereby ensuring continued dominance for the BJP.



# Online RTI Error Government Fails on its Promise Yet Again



Raja Muzaffar Bhat

“Citizens who seek information under RTI regarding developmental works are labelled as anti-development by a group of corrupt officials. They set up this narrative in such a fine way that even the honest officers are also made to believe that all the information seekers are either blackmailers or anti-development”

The residents of Jammu & Kashmir were eagerly waiting for December 10th 2024 to see RTI online. Once again the Government couldn't fulfil their promise and we missed this deadline once again. For the last many years, RTI campaigners have been demanding this facility in J&K but this was always delayed by the Government on one pretext or the other. Even at the highest levels in Government, assurances were given by Chief Secretaries but these promises were derailed by some corrupt Govt officers who don't want to be accountable under the RTI Act. Earlier, Dr A K Mehta former Chief Secretary gave assurance to make online RTI a reality and now the incumbent Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo recently made the announcement that by or before Dec 10th 2024 RTI will be online in J&K, but this hasn't happened yet again.

Last month, the Chief Secretary 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. 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 and SMS alerts to the RTI applicants as well like it is done by Central Govt Departments. For the last few weeks a lot of exercise was done to make sure the online RTI portal is launched by December 10th but it didn't mature again. Why so?

Being a Right to Information Activist myself I have observed in the last 15 years that Govt officers don't want to be questioned. This is the kind of mindset they have developed in their service career. They don't treat themselves as public servants and are unaware of these facts. Citizens who seek information under RTI regarding developmental works are labelled as anti-development by a group of corrupt officials. They set up this narrative in such a fine way that even the honest officers are also made to believe that all the information seekers are either blackmailers or anti-development? But when the same Govt officers retire they are the ones who keep seeking information under RTI from Govt offices. I know many Govt officials who were designated PIOs and were reluctant to share information but when they have retired from Govt service they want to access a lot of information from Govt offices and in fact use some RTI activists to get the information from Govt offices.

Recently an RTI Activist from

Handwara namely Rasikh Rasool Bhat who is also a lawyer served a legal notice of civil and criminal defamation to an Executive Engineer-Xen who works in Roads & Buildings Department. The news was circulated on some social media platforms and news portals.

Rasikh alleges that the officer while responding to LG's Grievance Cell last year had written some disgraceful remarks. He has now sought an unconditional apology from the Executive Engineer and also asked him to retract

lic Authority who is executing a project and destroying natural resources like streams and rivers? Infact, the aggrieved activist Rasikh Rasool has now taken up the mining issue matter with National Green Tribunal (NGT) as he failed to get justice from Govt officers. How can we now expect such Govt officers allowing RTI to go online in J&K?

### Why Online RTI?

There are several benefits in filing an online RTI application

“There are several benefits in filing an online RTI application as applicants don't have to travel all the way to reach the Govt offices. If central Govt offices entertain online RTIs why not the officials in J&K?”

from the para - which allegedly damaged his reputation. Contrary to the condition, the activist has warned the Executive Engineer to be ready to pay him damages in tune of Rs 25 lakhs after expiry of the set deadline.

The Legal Notice was sent by Badru Duja, Advocate at J&K High court Srinagar on behalf of his client Rasikh Rasool. In the legal notice served to Executive Engineer, the counsel for Rasikh Rasool has mentioned that his client is a reputed Right to Information (RTI) Activist working in the field of Law, Governance and Public Policy who wants to ensure transparency on a project that is being executed in the Kupwara district. Rasikh Rasool had submitted a complaint to LG's grievance cell depicting 'shabby and irregular work' on Bangus Road plus large scale illegal riverbed mining in Bakiaker-Zachaldara Nallah. The contractors were using 'heavy machinery which is a criminal act and clear violation of J&K Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2016. Instead of addressing the grievance the Executive Engineer mentioned in his reply which reads:

“Rasikh Rasool 'is habitual of making such grievances and files applications under the Right to Information Act and defaming the name of R&B Division Handwara and sabotaging the Prestigious Handwara Bangus Road Project.”

### Can't citizens seek information?

The Right to Information Act was enacted by Parliament in 2005 and empowers citizens to seek information from Govt officers and ensure transparency and accountability in governance. How can an Executive Engineer say that this or that man is habitual of making grievances or filing RTI applications? If law or constitution has given certain rights to citizens can't they use these rights? Can't they seek information from a Pub-

as applicants don't have to travel all the way to reach the Govt offices. If central Govt offices entertain online RTIs why not the officials in J&K?

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, appellate authorities etc. The citizens can 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

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of the Information Department recently stressed on Digital Outreach by the Information Department so as to ensure more transparency and efficiency in working of the department. In such a scenario if there is a group of gov't officers who are trying to derail the process of digital RTI in J&K need to be identified and taken to task. I will appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take it very seriously. What are the reasons that RTI isn't going digital in J&K while Central Govt Ministries are giving this facility to citizens for more than 7 years now?

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect 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 M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com)



# From Hope to Hopelessness

## The Plight of JKPSC Aspirants

Aamir Altaf

The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) Civil Services Examination (CSE) is a beacon of hope for thousands of aspirants seeking to contribute to public administration. However, its disorganized functioning and lack of accountability have plunged countless candidates into despair, costing them valuable time, opportunities, and a fair shot at realizing their dreams. Compared to the disciplined and transparent framework of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), JKPSC's inefficiencies and repeated failures to meet expectations highlight a pressing need for systemic reforms.

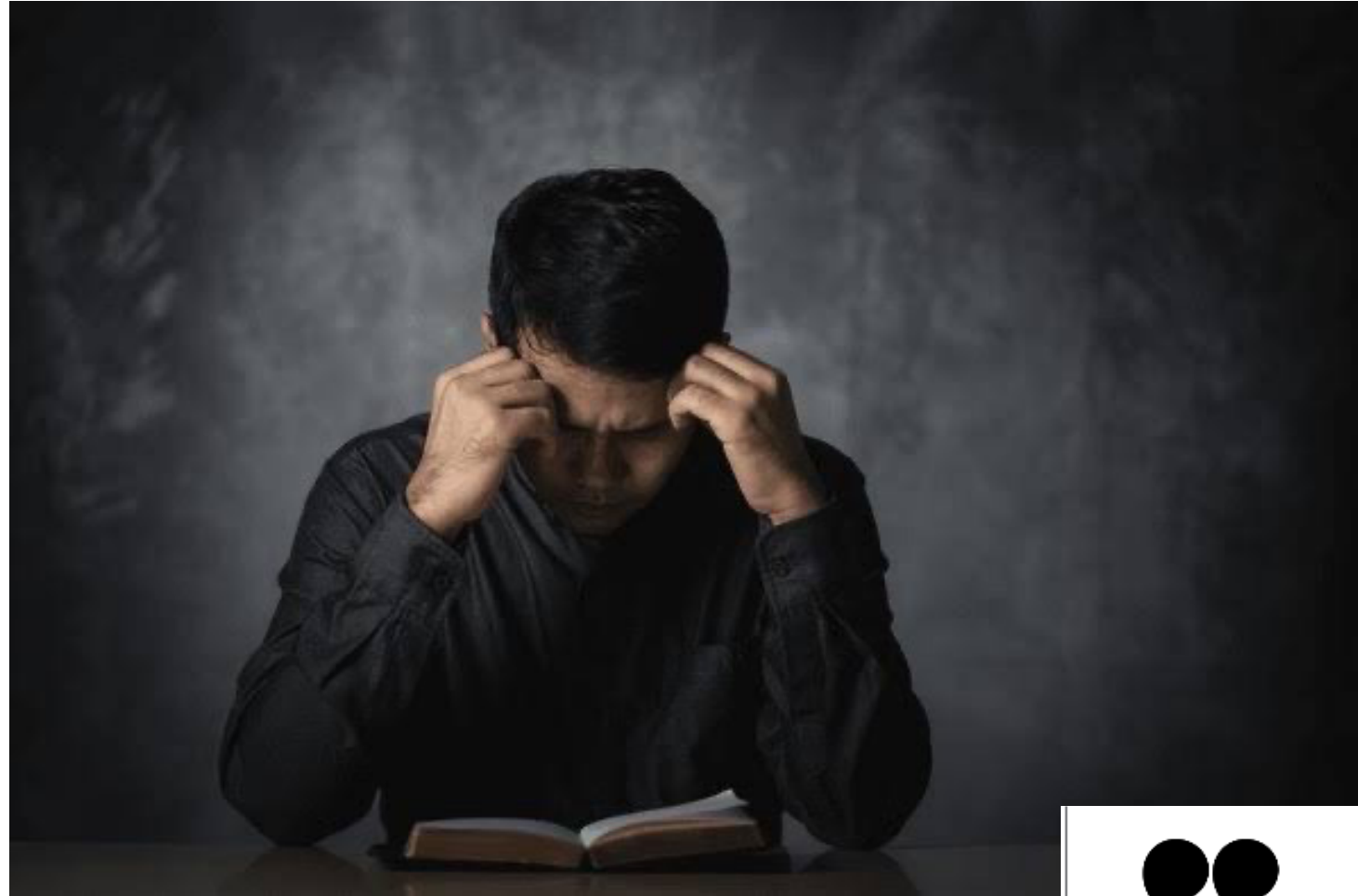
### A Stark Contrast: UPSC vs. JKPSC

The UPSC, the benchmark in competitive examinations in India, maintains a defined model by publishing the calendar for the year in advance and following a strict schedule. Such reproducibility does indeed enable candidates to be very specific with respect to the time points for their preparation phases, and thereby make sure that they are able to properly coordinate the demands of both prelims and mains.

Conversely, the inconsistent timetable of the JKPSC has been one of the major sources of agony to prospective students. For example, the JKPSC CSE Prelims 2023 that took place on October 23, fell in the overlap of the critical mains preparation of UPSC candidates. Those preparing for UPSC CSE in May or June lost precious time, forced to divert their focus to JKPSC's prelims. This disarray did not end there. The JKPSC mains, which ran from March to April 2024, not only about to exhaust the aspirants with meager time to gear up for UPSC CSE Prelims 2024 which is undoubtedly a highly competitive exam.

### Give preference to JKPSC over UPSC or vice versa

Many candidates have been left disheartened, with some missing the UPSC prelims entirely or failing to qualify due to inadequate preparation time. The lack of synchronization and foresight in JKPSC's scheduling has effectively cost aspirants not just a year but also one precious



attempt in a career-defining examination.

### An Alarming Trend in Question Setting

The second glaring issue lies in the quality and relevance of questions asked in JKPSC's CSE. Prelims questions for exams are laden with nonspecific and irrelevant questions, providing little value in answering questions from the static parts of syllabus, which candidates study for months. Although the problem is not unique to JKPSC, it is very evident here, revealing a deficiency in a consistent approach to formulating the examination papers.

### A closer look at JKPSC Mains 2023 further concerns

The weightage of subjects across General Studies papers displayed a troubling lack of balance and coherence:

**GS 1:** Despite society being a critical part of the syllabus, no questions were asked from this section, undermining its importance and candidates' prepara-

tion efforts.

**GS 2:** A disproportionate 120 marks out of 250 were allocated to International Relations, heavily favoring students with Political Science and International Relations (PSIR) backgrounds, while polity and governance—core sections with a vast syllabus—were limited to just 100 marks.

**GS 3:** Internal Security, a vital and expansive topic, received scant attention, despite its significance in the context of Jammu and Kashmir's unique geopolitical challenges.

These discrepancies indicate a lack of responsibility and a fragmented approach to paper-setting. Not only is it a work of bias, it also damages the confidence of aspirants towards the whole examination process as well as the system it represents.

### The Cost of Negligence

The ripple effects of JKPSC's inefficiencies are profound. Candidates devote years of their personal and occupational time to

preparation for conviction tests. However, blame (either on the commission's failure to stick to schedules, or on the commission's failure to design fair and impartial question papers) has caused the students to grow cynical. Uncertainty leads candidates to a never-ending state of flux and makes it extremely difficult to plan strategically.

In addition, the commission's failure to hold exams on schedule ripples through the system, cascading into recruitment cycles that are delayed and for which the administration is deprived of new personnel. In a zone such as Jammu and Kashmir, where administrations are challenged in such ways, such ineptness is worst.

### The Way Forward

So as to rebuild the credibility and bring about a fair, meritocratic system, the JKPSC should proceed with progressive reform orientation.

Strict Adherence to Timelines: Similarly, the JKPSC, rather than

just issuing an annual calendar long in advance, should follow the annual calendar strictly. This will allow aspirants to plan their preparation efficiently.

**Transparent and Balanced Question Papers:** Paper-setters should be made responsible to see to it that questions pertain to the set syllabus and all sections have an equitable weighting. Independent review committees could help achieve this.

**Aspirant-Centric Approach:** The board of commission shall interact with applicants, taking into account their feedback and experience. Regular revisions, open dialogue lines, and workshops with specialists may overcome the lacuna between commission and candidates.

**Capacity Building:** Investing in better technology, training for officials, and an overhaul of administrative processes can make JKPSC more efficient and transparent.

**Broader consultative role:** There is a need to expand the advisory role of the UPSC in matters concerning the governance and administration reforms.

### Conclusion

The JKPSC CSE is not just another test, but it is a gateway for young potential to serve the development and administration of the region. On the other hand, the current approach has destroyed its standing and crushed its potential in the commission which has now lasted for over five years. It is high time for JKPSC to rise to the occasion, prioritize accountability, and align its processes with national standards. Aspirants deserve a system that respects their time, effort, and aspirations—not one that repeatedly lets them down.

The future of Jammu and Kashmir depends on the talent and dedication of its youth. The onus lies on JKPSC to ensure that this talent is nurtured, not wasted. The time for reform is now.

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

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**The ripple effects of JKPSC's inefficiencies are profound. Candidates devote years of their personal and occupational time to preparation for conviction tests. However, blame (either on the commission's failure to stick to schedules, or on the commission's failure to design fair and impartial question papers) has caused the students to grow cynical**

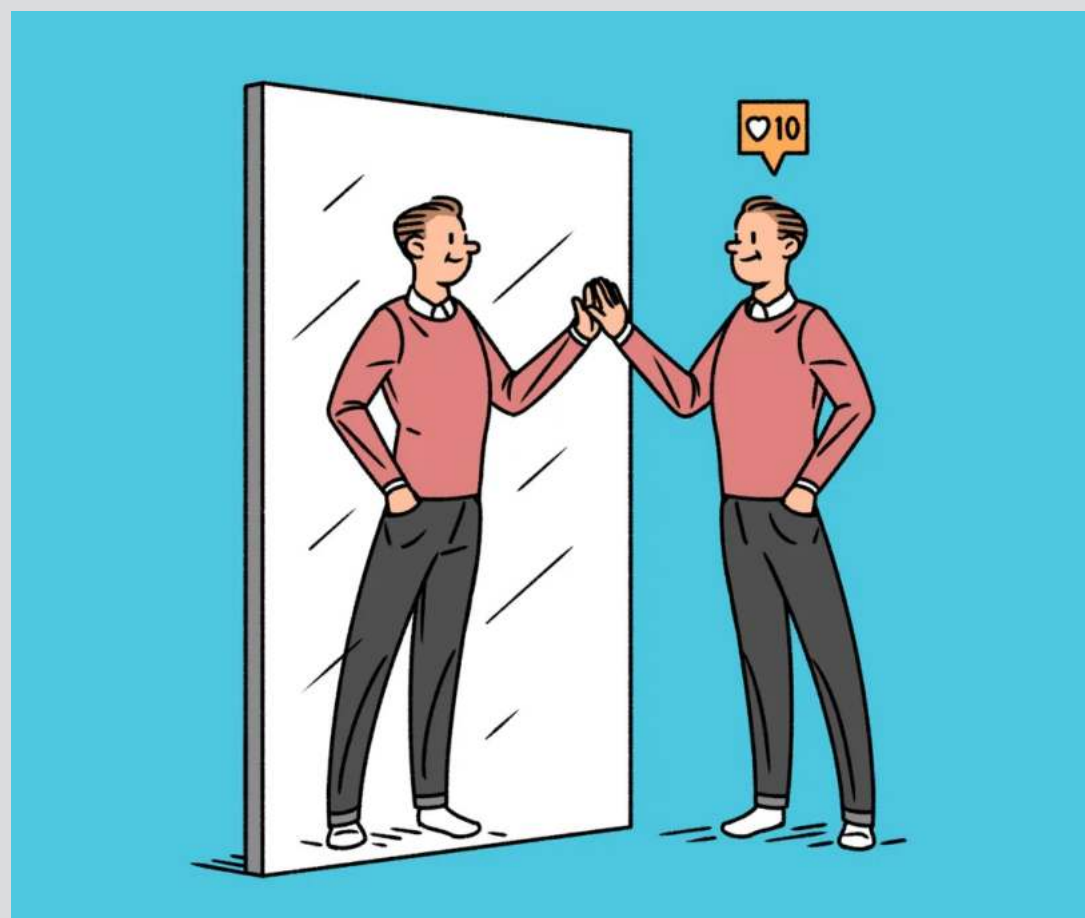
# Images of the Self: How Technology Encourages Narcissism

Peter Gardenfors

Recent technologies have had a profound effect on our self-image. The advent of photography gave the average person the opportunity to nail down their appearance. Photography makes it possible to replace the momentary subjective image we create of ourselves with a permanent picture.

Unlike a mirror image, the photograph stands still and cannot be interacted with. It is easier to have an outside perspective on oneself concerning a photograph. It is easy to forget that, unlike the mirror, it is not reality that is made available through a photograph but an image. The family camera, the video camera, and nowadays the smartphone have had far-reaching consequences for our ability to remember. Nowadays, we take it for granted that we know what we and our parents looked like as children and young people. This knowledge was not available before the invention of the camera, except for the few who could afford to have themselves and their children painted.

A newer phenomenon is selfies. The third-person experience of yourself you get from the picture or movie you just took is mixed with how you experience yourself from a first-person perspective. The more selfies you take, the more your self-percep-



tion is influenced by the indirect experience you get through these images. Your external self-image no longer needs to be mediated by other people. You are sitting

next to yourself as you looked a few seconds ago.

Until a few decades ago, developing images took a long time. The photograph therefore served

mainly as a memory and it was tenderly saved—framed or in albums. Now, digital and mobile cameras allow us to see ourselves more or less directly in photos or

videos. The mobile phone camera also acts as a pocket mirror.

Today's image production is not only fast, it's cheap too. We can afford to take a large number of pictures of ourselves and immediately discard those that we don't think do us justice. Then we can easily manipulate and copy images using a computer. They can then be immediately posted on social media. Images become a consumable commodity and are often deleted immediately after viewing. Your self-image becomes a constantly fluttering billboard. The function of photos as memory aids has been greatly diminished. On Snapchat, they are not even meant to create memories, just momentary connections with other people; the photos you send disappear as soon as the recipient has seen them.

The current interest in the personal space is a consequence of the development and availability of these new image media. Inner qualities such as a person's character, intelligence, and morals have taken a back seat to appearance and other external characteristics.

For some people, the first-person experience is not enough, and they feel they only exist as individuals when viewed from the outside. Narcissus has always had followers, but modern media opens up new opportunities for exposure. Social media such

as Facebook, where people 'like' other people's pictures, offers a more generalized approach that fulfills a similar function while contributing to a kind of group community. People compensate for the lack of real-life contacts by eagerly liking others' social media posts. As a gift, they offer themselves as audience.

Facebook and Instagram are perfect technologies for narcissists. A typical phenomenon is all the personality tests offered on Facebook. For example, you can find out which animal or famous person you are most like. Such tests are, of course, pure nonsense.

Sociologists have extensively studied changes in the relationship between the public and the private. They note that narcissism is not just self-admiration but a preoccupation with the self that prevents the individual from healthy relationships with the outside world. The narcissist constantly asks the question: What does this mean to me? There are no fellow humans, only audiences. He or she is chronically bored, flitting from one thing to another without commitment and without dependency, demanding the admiration of others but avoiding intimacy.

*The article was originally published by Psychology Today*



## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

**No Political**

the district-specific concerns, he urged the administration to expedite developmental activities, stating, "Accelerate the pace of work as much as possible, ensuring it is executed effectively at the ground level. Efforts must focus on completing the work satisfactorily."

He also stressed the importance of timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) for funds to be allocated by the central government. He said, "When we approach the central government repeatedly—whether to discuss with a minister or secure funds for Jammu and Kashmir—the common complaint is that UCs are not submitted on time. Prompt submission of UCs will ensure continuity of financial support and effective resource utilization."

Speaking on governance, CM Omar Abdullah noted the impact of the return of MLAs after 2018.

"With the return of MLAs, public expectations and pressures have significantly increased. This requires a coordinated effort to address the people's demands effectively."

The Chief Minister took note of key issues raised during the meeting such as progress in respect of industrial estates, installation of smart meters. He directed immediate review and resolution of issues flagged by MLAs and concerns raised by MLAs to be verified.

Calling drug addiction a growing menace over the past decade, Chief Minister Abdullah emphasized coordinated efforts to curb its impact.

He remarked, "Despite securing international borders, the problem persists due to inflow from other areas. Addressing this issue at its source is critical for our state."

The Chief Minister assured action, stating that the Dy CM has already directed the DC and officers to address the issue promptly.

He also addressed critical infrastructure concerns, including delays in the Katra-Amritsar-Delhi Expressway project.

He urged officials to resolve land acquisition and other bottlenecks to keep the project on track. Touching on staffing issues, he expressed concern over vacancies in hospitals and schools due to the practice of staff attachments.

He directed officers to provide details of such cases so that corrective measures can be taken to fill posts in rural areas.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of addressing public grievances raised by DDC members, MLAs, and civil society during the public outreach programme.

Other issues raised included drinking water supply, sanitation, regularization of daily wagers, upgradation of schools, establishment of colleges in remote areas, industrial policy, and shortage of staff in hospitals and schools.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, presented a detailed profile of the district, outlining targets and achievements across various departments, including Jal Shakti (PHE), Public Works (R&B), Power Development, Education, Health, Agriculture, and Social Welfare.

The Chief Minister also e-inaugurated three key projects and laid the e-foundation stone for another transformative initiative. These

projects, designed to enhance public welfare and boost the region's development, were virtually dedicated to the people.

Following the review meeting, the Chief Minister conducted a redressal camp, where local residents, industrial representatives, and delegations from far-flung areas submitted grievances and demands.

The Chief Minister assured the people that their genuine concerns would be resolved promptly. While concluding, chief minister Omar Abdullah praised the overall performance of the district despite challenges, expressing confidence in continued cooperation and progress.

He encouraged MLAs and stakeholders to submit priority projects in writing for inclusion in upcoming budget proposals, ensuring better planning and execution in the next fiscal year.

The meeting was attended by District Development Council chairperson Samba, Members of Legislative Assembly SS Slathia (Samba), Chander Prakash Ganga (Vijaypur), and Devinder Kumar Manyal (Ramgarh). Besides, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, administrative secretaries, departmental heads, and other senior officers.

**NEP Laying**

provide solutions by ensuring social equality and equal access to opportunity for all," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated individuals who excelled in diverse fields. He also inaugurated the Shastri Pavillion at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Degree College and released a publication of Satya Saroj Foundation.

Neha Sharma, President, Lal Bahadur Shastri Degree College Managing Committee; Varsha Singh, Vice President of the college's Managing Committee; members of Satya-Saroj Foundation, prominent citizens, faculty members and students of the college were present.

**Light Snowfall**

cloudy weather is expected with the possibility of light snow over higher reaches towards late evening or night of 21st to 22nd early morning & dry weather thereafter.

From December 23 to December 26, he said that the weather would remain generally dry.

Meanwhile, in its advisory, the MeT has said that in view of fresh snowfall, the sub-freezing temperature & icy conditions over roads of important passes and higher reaches, the tourists, travellers and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisory. (KNO)

**Bill To Be**

consultations with lawmakers and the public, it should be sent to a joint committee.

The speaker will seek the names of members for the proposed panel from the parties on the same day.

If the parties do not inform the speaker about the members they wish to send on the panel, according to rules, they may lose membership.

The speaker will announce the committee's

composition by the evening on the day the Bill is introduced, the functionary said.

Initially, the tenure of the proposed committee will be for 90 days but it may be extended later.

The Union Cabinet has approved two bills to hold the parliamentary and assembly polls concurrently.

Kovind had said during the consultation process on "one nation, one election" that 32 parties supported the idea while 15 did not.

Simultaneous polls were held in the country between 1951 and 1967.

The concept of simultaneous elections has featured in many reports and studies since 1983, essentially implying a return to the previous practice of conducting polls concurrently.

**Ruhullah Urges**

Drawing attention to the broader impact on the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, Mehdi stated that this situation has left countless candidates disillusioned and uncertain about their futures.

He stressed that granting a one-time relaxation in the upper age limit would not only be a fair resolution but also a vital step in restoring faith in the recruitment system.

"I request the government of India and the Home minister to intervene in the matter".

He called on the central government to consider the unique challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir's youth and take immediate measures to address this issue.

**Practising Advocate**

petitioner's counsel had accepted the correctness of the stand taken by the BCI.

The BCI rule prohibits advocates from pursuing any other full-time profession, including journalism.

The decision comes in the context of a case filed by one Mohd Kamran, who reportedly identified as both a lawyer and a freelance journalist.

Kamran, subsequently filed an affidavit of undertaking, saying he no longer worked as a journalist and only practised law.

In an affidavit filed on December 13, the BCI clarified while full-time journalism was categorically impermissible for advocates, even part-time journalistic activities were generally not allowed unless strictly connected to the legal profession.

The BCI submitted that part-time journalism could only encompass scholarly articles, opinion pieces, or editorial contributions that maintained a "meaningful nexus" with the legal profession.

"Even (when it comes to) part-time journalism ... the said professional activity will also be an embargo on the practice of law as an advocate," it said.

Any journalistic engagement by an advocate, the BCI said, must not conflict with their primary professional obligations, compromise the dignity and independence of the legal profession, or result in a dual-profession arrangement.

While Rule 51 of the BCI Rules provides some leeway for advocates to engage in journalism,

the BCI said such activities must be limited to contributions directly related to legal practice and understanding.

Having addressed the legal issue, the bench would proceed to hear the petition on February 3, 2025.

The plea challenges an Allahabad High Court order that quashed the criminal defamation proceedings against former parliamentarian Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The defamation case arose from letters written by Singh in September 2022 to the UP chief minister and chief secretary, alleging that Kamran was a "conspirator and thief" in various criminal cases.

The letters were also circulated on social media and in newspapers, prompting Kamran to allege defamation and seek restoration of the proceedings against Singh.

Notably, Singh is facing a separate trial over sexual harassment allegations made by six Indian wrestlers.

**HC Asks Govt**

bar of having any construction/building within the 200 meters from the Lake came into existence, the court noted.

The second category, the court said, relates to those constructions that may have come up within the 200 meters of the Lake after it was prohibited and are "outrightly illegal constructions as they could not have come up after the ban on construction in that area".

However, the court said, the problem refers to those buildings which are in existence within the 200 meters boundary from the Dal Lake, which came into existence legitimately before the ban on constructions/raising of buildings within the 200 meters of the Dal Lake.

"Those may be residential houses used by people who on account of the orders passed previously are unable to repair damages/ wear and tear that houses experience with the passage of time on account of the orders passed by this Court," the court said, adding, "Those constructions which were legitimately built and are being used, may require repair/reconstruction as per original plan unless the houses are acquired by the State under procedure established by law for the purpose of clearing accommodation in close proximity of the Dal Lake."

Many of these houses whose existence at the site may be legitimate may now have been converted into Lodges, Guest Houses or offering accommodation to the tourists as paying guest which besides changing the nature of its occupancy, would also bring within it, the excess load of waste disposal that is generated by the tourists residing in these accommodations, the court said.

"As on date, it is not known as to how many of these premises are used as Guest Houses or Houses for tourists and the nature of the pressure caused by the waste generated by the tourists residing in these houses and what is the manner for effective waste disposal/management of this excess waste arising from a commercial use of these residential premises," the court said, adding, "Thus, for a long term solution, a policy decision needs to be arrived at by

the Union Territory Government, as to how to deal with this issue of these buildings/houses within the 200 meters from the Dal Lake which were legitimately constructed before the ban came into effect by ensuring that the livelihood of the people is also sustained and ensuring at the same time that there is no deleterious environmental effect on the Dal Lake or in the areas in proximity to the Dal Lake."

Therefore, the Division Bench requested the UT Government to constitute a Committee in right earnest to form a policy which would address the concerns reflected by the Court and ensure the sustainability of Dal Lake without disturbing the livelihood and lives of those who have been residing in houses and buildings which were legitimately constructed in the area.

"We hope that the Committee will be constituted and a policy be framed before the next date of hearing of this case," the court said and ordered listing of the case on 7 February 2025.

**Install CCTVS**

participation and cooperation of school authorities to ensure that vehicles used for transporting students are fit and adhere to safety standards," the spokesperson said.

School authorities were directed to ensure that all vehicles are equipped with functional speed governors, limiting the speed to 40 kmph, as per the guidelines.

"They were informed that vehicles found violating safety norms, particularly in cases of overloading or overspeeding, would be seized on the spot," the spokesperson said.

The authorities also emphasised the need to prevent underage students from driving two-wheelers and four-wheelers in and around school premises.

"School authorities have been directed to hold counselling sessions with the parents to warn them about the consequences of allowing underage driving," the spokesperson said.

The transport commissioner noted that while most schools have their own fleet of vehicles, some private vehicles engaged by parents are also used.

"It is the responsibility of the school authorities to ensure that these private vehicles comply with the mandatory safety guidelines, including emergency exit doors, fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, GPS trackers, CCTV cameras, seat belts, and fire detection alarm systems," the spokesperson said.

**J&K Has 8**

as industries discharging effluents into watercourses and either handling hazardous substances or generating a Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) load of 100 kg per day or more," he said.

The minister added, "Nationwide, there are 3,519 GPs and 311 polluted river stretches across 279 rivers, based on monitoring conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2019 and 2021. The CPCB continues to work with State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees to monitor and address these issues."



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

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## Govt Forms Committee To Resolve Land Issue For GMC Handwara Relocation



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted a high-level committee to address the issue of land allocation for the relocation of the Government Medical College Handwara and its co-located Nursing College.

This decision was formalized through Government Order No. 2090-JK(GAD) of 2024, issued by the General Administration Department, with the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir appointed as the committee chairperson.

The committee includes senior officials from various departments, such as the Deputy Commissioner of Kupwara, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Public Works Department, the Principal of GMC Handwara, and representatives from the Agriculture Department, Irrigation and Flood Control, SKUAST Kashmir, and other key sectors. Together, they are tasked with resolving critical issues surrounding the identification and approval of land for the project.

The committee's responsibilities include evaluating the feasibility of new sites proposed by the Deputy Commissioner of Kupwara for the construction of GMC Handwara and its Nursing College. This involves assessing safety and environmental factors such as soil quality, terrain gradient, and flood risks, as well as ensuring the availability of utilities like water supply, road connectivity, and electricity.

The land identified must also meet the National Medical Commission's minimum requirement of 200 kanals, with additional provisions for future expansion.

Moreover, the Committee has been directed to ensure the availability of encumbrance-free land and facilitate the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and other necessary clearances from relevant departments, including Forest, Agriculture, and SKUAST Kashmir. It has the authority to co-opt additional members as needed to accomplish its objectives effectively.

## RS Pathania Opposes Formation Of Sub-Committee On Reservation

Agencies

**JAMMU:** BJP legislator R.S. Pathania has voiced strong opposition to the government's decision to form a sub-committee on the reservation issue, defending the current reservation policy implemented by the BJP.

Pathania lauded the BJP for its efforts in bringing the New Reservation Policy into effect, describing it as fair and beneficial.

He dismissed criticism from opposition parties, including the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, accusing them of politicizing the reservation issue without

providing clarity on the proposed sub-committee's role and criteria.

"There is nothing wrong with the New Reservation Policy. The National Conference has failed to explain how the Cabinet Sub-Committee on reservation will function or what its specific criteria will be," he said.

Pathania said that the present policy is robust and does not require any amendments. He criticized the NC and PDP for creating confusion and stirring unnecessary debate over a policy that, in his view, addresses the needs of marginalized communities effectively. [KNT]

## Rathsun Villagers Protest Over Lack Of Potable Water

Agencies

**BUDGAM:** Locals of Rathsun village in Beerwah, located in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, staged a protest against the Public Health Engineering Department over the failure to ensure a consistent supply of drinking water.

The protest, primarily led by men, sat on the road and demanded immediate intervention from authorities to address the vital issue.

One of the protesters told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that they have been deprived of safe drinking water, especially during crucial times.



"The burden falls disproportionately on women, who have to trek long distances to fetch water for their daily needs."

The locals called on the administration to prioritize the issue, as the lack of clean drinking water poses significant challenges to their daily lives and well-being. [KNT]

## Govt Approves Subsidized Helicopter Service For Jammu, Poonch

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The central government has sanctioned a new subsidized helicopter service to connect Jammu, Poonch, and Mendhar, along with an additional route linking Jammu directly to Mendhar.

This initiative follows a proposal from Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Aviation Department, aimed at improving connectivity between Jammu, the winter capital, and the remote region of Mendhar.

The new service is designed to enhance transportation options for residents in isolated and difficult-to-reach areas like Poonch and Mendhar, particularly during the challenging winter months when accessibility is severely limited.

Aijaz Asad said that the ser-



vice would provide faster and more efficient travel for the region's residents, improve access to emergency medical care, and contribute to the development of local infrastructure.

The service is expected to boost tourism in Jammu and Kashmir by promoting border tourism in the Mendhar sector. Aijaz Asad added that the initiative not only addresses transportation challenges but also showcases the region's scenic landscapes, opening up new avenues for tourism. [KNT]

## FROM GULMARG TO PAHALGAM

# 4 Kashmir Destinations To Witness New Year Celebrations



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The picturesque destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and all set to witness the grand celebration of the New Year as the tourism department has geared up to make all the arrangements including the decoration of these places.

The New Year celebrations will be organized at four destinations including Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Srinagar.

Director Tourism, Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob Farooq said that four destinations have been identified for the grand celebration of the New Year event, adding that the local as well as the national level artists will perform in the events.

Besides, he said the people will also witness the laser shows on the occasion.

Furthermore, the department is planning to lighten up and decorate the famous destination on the eve of Christmas, saying that all the major destinations across the Valley will be decorated with lights

and other things from December 25 to January 02 to give a festive look on the occasion.

The Director also said that on the eve of Christmas, a cake making competition will be held at Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Srinagar on December 23 while another celebratory programme is set to be held at Gulmarg Club on December 24.

The ski-resort Gulmarg and other places usually witness huge rush of tourists on the Christmas and New Year as the people from different parts of the country flock to the picturesque places to celebrate the occasion.

According to the reports, Gulmarg will be completely booked for Christmas and the New Year celebrations from December 20, 2024 to January 5, 2025 while the travel operators have been receiving the queries ahead of the events.

In 2023, Gulmarg recorded over 10,000 tourists on Christmas eve, with a significant influx of foreign visitors while on the eve of New Year, the

place witnessed an increase in the number of visitors.

In 2024 also, the twin events witnessed a massive footfall of the events as all the hotels remained jam-packed and occupied by the visitors.

This year also, the hotel owners from Kashmir's famous tourist destinations and tour and travel agents said the bookings for the New Year celebration in the valley have been already sold out at Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

At the famous destination - Pahalgam, a hotel owner said they have witnessed a good response for New Year bookings. He also said Christmas reservations have been limited. Similar views were expressed by many other hoteliers in Pahalgam.

At Sonamarg, the travel operators said that they are observing nearly 70 to 80% occupancy for the holiday period while in Doodhpatri, the hotel owners are expecting an increase in the footfall during Christmas and New Year celebrations—(KNO)

## Three DDC Seats Vacant As Members Elected As MLAs

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Three District Development Council (DDC) seats in Jammu and Kashmir remain vacant after their members were elected as Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

The three DDC members who were elected as MLAs include Waheed Ur Rehman Para, who was elected as the DDC member from Pulwama-1 but was not allowed to take oath as a DDC member; Irfan Hafiz Lone, who was elected as the DDC member from Sangrama; and Mehraj Malik, who was elected as the DDC member from Kahara.

Waheed Ur Rehman Para won the assembly elections from Pulwama, Lone won from the Wagoora-Kreeri constituency, and Mehraj Malik won from the Doda assembly segment.

It has been around two months since the assembly

election results were announced, but the authorities have yet to declare by-polls for these three seats.

The DDC elections were introduced as part of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, which was amended by the Government of India to establish a three-tier governance system in the Union Territory (UT).

The first-ever DDC elections in J&K were held in November-December 2020 in eight phases. These elections were historic as they marked the first significant electoral exercise in the UT after the reorganization of J&K into two separate UTs—J&K and Ladakh—in August 2019.

The DDCs replaced the District Development Boards, empowering elected representatives to formulate and execute development plans for their respective districts. The councils consist of 14

members per district, directly elected by the public, and are responsible for overseeing the execution of developmental projects and schemes.

A by-election for two DDC seats was held in 2023 after it was revealed that two previously elected candidates were not Indian citizens. The polls for two District Development Council (DDC) seats were declared "null and void" after it emerged that two women from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), married to locals from the valley, had contested the elections.

The State Election Commission (SEC), in the exercise of the powers conferred under Section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, had declared the polling for the DDC constituencies of Drugmulla and Hajin (A) as void, cancelling the candidature of Soomia Sadaf and Shazia Aslam—(KNO)

## Frozen Waterfall At Drung In Tangmarg Draws Tourists Attention

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Drung waterfall, also known as Drang fall, located approximately 41.2 km away from Srinagar city has become a must-see destination for tourists this winter.

Notably a man-made waterfall, Drung Waterfall freezes completely during the winter season, creating a beautiful icy landscape that fascinates the visitors. The Frozen Drung Waterfall has started attracting visitors from all over the valley along with those who arrive in Kashmir to witness its beauty and enjoy.

Sajad Ahmad, a local from Tangmarg, said the Drung Waterfall in its frozen state offers a magical sight, especially during this time of the year. "Many tourists have already been making their way here to witness its natural beauty, and the footfall in the area will increase like it does every year."

Jasim Uddin, a visitor from



Delhi, who has come to see Drung Waterfall, said the frozen waterfall looks like something out of a fairy tale. "It is a perfect winter escape," he said, adding that the tourists have praised the spot for its unique winter charm.

Another visitor, Faisal Ahmed from Gujrat, said this place is magical. "The frozen cascade looks surreal against the snowy backdrop. It is a must-visit destination for anyone traveling to Kashmir in winter."

In the meanwhile, the local residents have also shared their thoughts to explore this natural wonder, saying, "The waterfall offers one of the most beautiful views of the winter season. It is a perfect spot for photography and experiencing nature's wonders," said Sahil, a local from Srinagar.

It is worth mentioning that last year, the Drung Waterfall also recorded a good number of visitors, and it is going to increase this year—(KNO)

## VIOLATION OF TRAFFIC NORMS

# 3.5 Lakh Challans Issued This Year, Says SSP Rural

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravinder Pal Singh on Monday warned that those who continue to violate traffic rules will not be spared, as the authorities intensify efforts to curb road accidents and fatalities.

The SSP acknowledged that compliance with traffic regulations has improved to some extent but emphasized that much more needs to be done. "We need to work with greater intensity to curtail accidents and fatalities. The graph must come down at any cost, and this is only possible with public cooperation," he said.

He noted that while public support has been encouraging during traffic drives, it is crucial for drivers—both two-wheeler and four-wheeler operators—to cooperate and understand that the enforcement measures are for their safety. "Reducing the fatality graph requires drivers to bear with us and follow the rules sincerely," he added.

The SSP, during a traffic enforcement drive, revealed that approximately 3.5 lakh chal-



lans have been issued this year for various traffic violations. He congratulated the public for showing improvement in adhering to Motor Vehicle (MV) rules but stressed that there is still significant room for progress.

"We need to instill discipline and a sense of responsibility. Lane driving is still not followed properly, and wrong-side driving is a major contributor to road fatalities," the SSP Singh said.

With winter conditions setting in, he urged drivers to exercise caution, maintain speed limits, and avoid overloading. "Skidding due to snowfall increases the chances of accidents. Over-speeding and negligence in adverse weather conditions must be avoided," he added—(KNO)

## 'Nearly 500 Applicants Received Daily At Srinagar Passport Office'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Regional Passport Office (RPO) in Srinagar is witnessing a daily footfall of nearly 500 applicants, which reflects the increasing efficiency of the passport application process in Kashmir and Ladakh.

Regional Passport Officer (RPO) Davinder Kumar said there have been improvements in the system that have reduced the waiting period, adding that appointments are now scheduled for the day after an application is submitted.

RPO Davinder Kumar said, "We are handling around 500 appointments daily, and most applicants complete their formalities on the same day."

He said that just a few years ago, the appointment cycle at the passport office was about three months. "Now, once an applicant applies, we give them a next-day appointment at the office," the officer said.

Elaborating on the streamlined process, RPO Kumar said, "Once the formalities are completed, we process the application on the same day and forward it to the police, CID, and other departments for verification. The issuance of the passport then depends on these verifications."

He added that in cases where there are no issues with verification or documentation, passports are issued within 15 days.

To address public grievances, the RPO said, "I have instructed staff and security to allow people with issues or grievances to meet me directly."

He said applicants facing document-related problems or delays are guided on how to resolve them efficiently.

"The improvements in processing time and the focus on resolving grievances are aimed at ensuring a seamless and applicant-friendly experience at the Srinagar Passport Office," Kumar added—(KNO)

## Gund Residents Demand Restoration Of JKRTC Bus Service

Agencies

**GANDERBAL:** The residents of Gund, a scenic town in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district here have demanded the government to restore the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) bus service that once connected Gund to Srinagar.

The bus service, which operated a few years ago, was a vital link for the community, especially for traders and government employees. Its sudden removal has created serious transportation issues for the locals.

"The bus was a lifeline for many of us, particularly for those who needed to travel to Srinagar for business or work," said a member of the Traders Union Gund. "Without it, we are forced to rely on expensive

alternatives, which has become a financial burden to us."

Students, too, are feeling the impact of the bus service's discontinuation. "The bus helped me reach my college in Srinagar on time, especially during exams," said Umer, a student from Gund. "Now, I struggle with finding affordable and reliable transport."

Another student, said "I have to miss important classes due to the lack of proper transport. Restoring the JKRTC bus would make a huge difference for students like me."

Locals urged the authorities to reinstate the service, which they believe is crucial for their daily lives. "This service was not just convenient, but essential. It must be restored for the benefit of everyone in Gund," they added—(KNO)

## Dy CM Inspects Thandi Khui Bus Terminal

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary inspected the ongoing work on the bus terminal at Thandi Khui in Samba district.

Being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 18.53 crore by the Public Works department, the terminal has a capacity of accommodating 100 buses. It would cater to the inter district, intra district buses coming from other states as well as providing a centre place to the commuters travelling to different areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

While interacting with the officials, the Deputy Chief Minister directed for speedy completion of the said project while strictly adhering to the



set quality parameters. He said the ambitious project is of vital importance for connectivity of Samba and other districts of Jammu division.

"Officers should ensure early completion of the bus terminal and lacuna, if any, should be redressed within the shortest possible time, so that public gets benefited from this initiative," he maintained.



## Batters Botch Up Again; India 51/4 On Rain-Marred Day 3

Press Trust of India

**BRISBANE:** The Indian batters' inability to grind it out against a relentless Australian pace attack in testing conditions left the team precariously placed at 51 for four at the end of a rain-marred day three of the third Test here on Monday.

On a stop-start day, India bowled out Australia for 445 in their first innings, the hosts adding 40 runs to their overnight total, as the peerless Jasprit Bumrah continued to do the heavy lifting to finish with excellent figures of 6/76.

Alex Carey chipped in with an entertaining 70 off 88 balls after contrasting hundreds by Steve Smith and Travis Head on the second day laid the foundation for a total which looked more than enough just 14 overs into the Indian first innings.

With the exception of the gutsy KL Rahul (33 batting), who was willing to hang in there, none of the Indian top-



order batters showed the stomach to fight.

Playing the red Kookaburra has become tougher since they changed their ball in 2020 by adding extra lacquer on a reinforced seam, making it firmer and ensuring more movement

off the pitch.

Under the circumstances, the Indians needed to be patient and play out the first 25-30 overs when bowlers of the calibre of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood were in operation.

But the visiting top-order

batters did not do what was required of them. The likes of Virat Kohli once again fell to deliveries in the channel just outside the off-stump.

There is no doubt that the conditions were challenging but the Indian batters could have

taken a leaf out of Smith's book as he initially negotiated testing spells of fast bowling from Akash Deep and Bumrah on way to a drought-breaking hundred.

After Australia racked in nearly 450 runs, left-arm pacer Starc struck twice and Josh Hazlewood once as the two teams took an early lunch with the visitors reeling at 22 for three.

Pat Cummins got the big wicket of Rishabh Pant in the second session to make matters worse for the Indians.

Returning to the middle after the lunch break, Rahul and Pant faced some hostile fast bowling from the duo of Starc and Hazlewood before heavy showers interrupted the proceedings, one of the many on the day.

Starc removed Yashvi Jaiswal in the second ball of the India innings and then dismissed Shubman Gill before Hazlewood accounted for Kohli as the visitors once again stared down the barrel after their failures in Adelaide.

### Short TAKES

#### New Zealand Sets England 658 To Win The 3rd Test

**K**ane Williamson made 156 as New Zealand amassed a lead of 657 runs before both England openers were dismissed to leave the hosts in a commanding position at the end of the third day of the third cricket test on Monday.

To compound an already dismal day for the tourists, England captain Ben Stokes limped from the field with a recurrence of a hamstring injury.

Williamson's 33rd test century was his seventh at Seddon Park and his fifth in consecutive tests on a home ground on which he averages more than 100.

During his six-hour innings, Williamson overtook South Africa's Graeme Smith to move up to 17th place on the list of leading test run-scorers six behind another South African, Hashim Amla.

New Zealand finally was dismissed for 453 after leading by 204 on the first innings and in five overs before stumps England slumped to 18-2.

The highest winning fourth innings total in test history is 418.

#### Guardiola 'Not Good Enough' After Latest Man City Loss

**P**ep Guardiola declared himself "not good enough" after Manchester City's season sunk to a new low after a 2-1 defeat to Manchester United on Sunday.

The four-time defending Premier League champion has lost eight of its last 11 games in all competitions - winning just once in that run.

City is fifth in the standings and nine points behind leader Liverpool, having played a game more.

"I'm the boss, I'm the manager and I'm not good enough. It's as simple as that," Guardiola said after the latest loss. "I'm not doing well. That is the truth."

Guardiola has led City to unprecedented success, winning an unprecedented four Premier League titles in a row and six in the last seven seasons. He has won 15 major trophies at the club, including the Champions League.

But he is experiencing the worst run of form in his coaching career, which has seen him win 33 major trophies at Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City.

Guardiola signed a two-year contract extension last month, but that has not sparked an upturn in his team's form.

City led 1-0 going into the 88th minute against United, but then conceded late goals to Bruno Fernandes and Amad Diallo - prompting boos from fans after the final whistle.

"I knew that it would be a tough season from the beginning. I said (that) many times, even when we were winning, but I didn't expect it was so hard like it was right now," Guardiola said.



## J&K Thrashed 4-0 By Services In Santosh Trophy

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K senior men's football team suffered its second straight loss of the 78th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy 2024-25 final round on Monday, after being routed 4-0 by defending champions Services at Deccan Arena in Hyderabad, Telangana. The team lost 3-1 to West Bengal on Saturday.

Coach Mehrajuddin Waddoo made several changes to the starting

lineup for today's early morning match, but they proved futile against a strong Services side.

J&K went behind early on as Services opened the floodgates in the 11th minute. They made it 2-0 in the 26th, prompting the J&K coach to make two changes in the 40th minute. The team entered the second half with two more changes as the team tried to find a way back into the game.

However, Services scored two quick fire

goals in under a minute to extinguish all J&K hopes. The goals came in the 53rd and 54th minute.

The two defeats have left J&K at the bottom of the standings in Final Round Group A.

J&K will now play Manipur on December 18, with kick off at 9:00 AM.

**J&K PLAYING XI VS. SERVICES:**

21 Nirdosh, 2 Rishi, 3 Arun, 12 Farhan, 23 Dimple, 5 Shahmeer, 17 Ishan, 6 Aakif, 10 Hayat, 11 Adnan, 14 Huzafah

## J&K Roll Ball Team Clinches Gold At National C'ship

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Roll Ball team clinched the gold medal at the Under-17 North Zone Roll Ball Championship held at Parade Ground Stadium, Dehradun, from December 13 to 15.

Included in the gold-winning team were Qurat Yaseen, Aleeza Makhdoomi and Qubra Parvaiz, who are trainees of PMD Roll Ball Center at KNS Stadium, Khanyar.

"These extraordinary young



girls have not only made Jammu and Kashmir proud but also earned the honor of representing us at the national level," the J&K Sports Council said in a statement.

"Their success is a testament to hard work, resili-

ence, and the transformative power of sports. It's also a reflection of the visionary work J&K Sports Council, the dedication of our phenomenal coaches, and the unwavering support of the Roll Ball Association of J&K," it added.

## YSS Budgam Excels At 68th National School Games

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam achieved remarkable success in the 68th National School Games, with students excelling in various disciplines and earning medals across multiple categories.

Under the leadership of Director General Youth Services and Sports Rajinder Singh Tara, and the proactive efforts of Joint Director Kashmir, Additional charge DYSSO Budgam, Mohammad Rashid Kohli, students were well-prepared and encouraged to showcase their talents on the national stage.

Their support ensured opportunities for students in disciplines like weightlifting, Wushu and Taekwondo, leading to outstanding results.

**MEDAL WINNERS:**

Salika Farooq - Silver Medal in U-17 Wushu



Nasirul Islam - Bronze Medal in U-17 Taekwondo  
Imran Raja - Bronze Medal in U-19 Wushu  
Syed Ahtisham Andrabi - Gold Medal in 67kg Weightlifting  
Muntazir Hussain - Bronze Medal in U-19 Wushu

## Open Volleyball Tournament Begins At BHSS Ganderbal

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K, in collaboration with the 115 Battalion CRPF and Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, kick started an Open Volleyball Tournament for boys on Monday at Boys Higher Secondary School here. Eight teams, representing various higher secondary schools from across the district, are competing in the two-day tourney.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by the Commanding Officer of the 115 Battalion CRPF, DYSSO Ganderbal Sheikh Shafiqat Iqbal, and Deputy CEO Ganderbal Rumaisa



Sangeen.

The opening day witnessed four intense matches, kicking off with BHSS Ganderbal taking on Qamaria Higher Secondary School Ganderbal. BHSS Ganderbal displayed remarkable skills and secured a straight-set victory (2-0) in the opening match. Other thrilling

matches saw BHSS Bawtina, BHSS Manigam and BHSS Kurhama emerge victorious, securing their places in the semi-finals alongside the host school.

The tournament will continue on Tuesday with two semi-final matches, culminating in an exciting final to crown the champions.

## It's A Team In Transition, Won't Point Fingers At Each Other: Bumrah Explains India's Oz Struggles

Press Trust of India

**BRISBANE:** Jasprit Bumrah on Monday defended the struggling Indian team in Australia and played down talk of additional pressure on him, saying it's a side in transition and given his experience, it's his "job" to shoulder extra responsibility.

Having taken a seemingly erroneous call of bowling first in the third Test at the Gabba here, India conceded a huge first-innings total of 445 despite Bumrah returning 6/76.

In response, the visitors were 51/4 on a rain-hit third day with questions being raised about batters' technique and the quality of bowling, save for Bumrah.

"We don't, as a team, point fingers at each other and we don't want to get into that mindset where we are pointing fingers at each other that 'you should do this, you should do that,'" Bumrah told media after stumps when asked for his assessment of India's batting.

"We, as a team, are going through a transition, new players are coming here and it's not the easiest place to play cricket. Over here, it's a different atmosphere with this wicket being a different challenge so yeah, we are not looking at that."

Bumrah, who leads the bowling chart in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with 18 wickets so far, defended the Indian attack amid chatter that he is not getting adequate support from fellow bowlers.

"As a bowling unit, as I said, we are in transition so it's my job to help the others. I have played a little more than them so I am trying to help them," said the owner of 191 Test wickets in just 43 Tests.

"Everyone will learn through it, will get better and eventually will find different ways so this is the journey that you'll have to go through," he added.

Bumrah rejected suggestions that India's poor first innings scores were putting more pressure on the bowlers and on him.

"We have 11 players, it's not like that. I don't look at it that I have to do extra (work). As I said, we are a new team, a lot of new players have come into the side. We have to be considerate and give them that cushion that they will learn from experience," he said.

"Nobody is born with all the experiences, nobody is born with all the skills. You keep learning, you keep finding new ways (and) you keep learning



about your own game," he continued. The Indian vice-captain said he has enjoyed the challenge of bowling on different pitches in Australia.

"I always find different challenges very interesting. Because in the Test match that we played in Perth, the

wicket was different. (At) Adelaide (with the) pink ball (was) different, the wicket behaved differently, the ball behaved differently," he said.

"Here it is a little different because the wicket is at a level and the run-up is low. In India we are not used to

that," he explained.

**'DON'T LIKE WHINGING, DON'T TAKE OPINIONS SERIOUSLY'**

Bumrah said his primary target on encountering a challenge is to tackle it instead of looking at others to

come up with the solutions.

"... look at how do I solve it, what can I do in this scenario rather than whinging or complaining or looking at someone else or pointing fingers that I need this from this person," he said.

Bumrah reiterated he wants to remain level-headed in dealing with success and failures and that he cannot carry the "baggage of expectations".

"When I was a youngster, yes, maybe I used to take extra baggage of fans and opinions. But I don't take any opinions seriously," he said.

"I look at myself. I look at answers what I have to do. I give it my absolute best. If I have given it my absolute best, I will accept the results. (But) I cannot carry someone else's energy or baggage that people are expecting me to do the heavy-lifting," he gave a peak into his mindset.

"There will be days when I will not get wickets. Somebody else will do, so I will have to do a holding job," Bumrah added.

"#don't look at it that I have to do extra (work). As I said, we are a new team, a lot of new players have come into the side. We have to be considerate and give them that cushion that they will learn from experience," he said.