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## FRESH SNOWFALL IN KASHMIR HIGHER REACHES

# MeT Predicts Colder Days Ahead

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Tuesday as the cold wave conditions persisted across the valley and the minimum temperature plummeted several degrees below the freezing point, officials said.

They said light snowfall was recorded last night in the tourist resort of Sonamarg and a few other areas in the higher reaches of the valley.

The fall in mercury led to the freezing of water supply lines even as a thin layer of ice covered the surface of several water bodies.

Kashmir is experiencing intense cold conditions, with the maximum temperature in Srinagar on Monday settling over six degrees below normal for this time of the season.

The city recorded a maximum temperature of 2.8 degrees

Celsius on Monday as the day temperature remained below the normal across the valley.

The bone-chilling cold continued throughout Monday night as well as the minimum temperatures also settled below normal.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 6.6 degrees Celsius on Monday night -- down three degrees from the previous night, the meteorological department said.

Pahalgam registered a minimum temperature of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius, down from the previous night's minus 5 degrees Celsius, it said.

The night temperature in Gulmarg settled at a low of minus 7.4 degrees Celsius -- almost three degrees down from the previous night, the department added.

Qazigund logged a minimum temperature of minus 6.2 degrees Celsius, while Konibal, a hamlet in the Pampore area, was the coldest recorded place in the valley at minus 6.4 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar	-6.6°C
Pahalgam	-7.8°C
Gulmarg	-7.4°C
Qazigund	-6.2°C
Pampore	-8.5°C
Kupwara	-6.4°C
Kokernag	-6.4°C

### Advisory Issued To Prevent Pipe Freezing

The Chief Engineer Jai Shakti Department Kashmir Tuesday issued a public advisory to prevent freezing & bursting of water pipes in view of prevailing harsh winter conditions. "By following precautions & safety measures, freezing or bursting/leakage of the pipes can be prevented which will ensure a safe and..."

**A DIP OF TWO TO THREE DEGREES** in the minimum temperatures is predicted till December 26."

### Winter Challenges

## Omar Calls For Readiness Across Essential Sectors

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday directed all departments to gear up for winter adversity and called for efficient functioning of vital installations, immediate redressal of weather-related challenges.

In order to ensure smooth and uninterrupted delivery of essential services and functioning of vital installations across the Kashmir Division, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting here at the Civil Secretariat,

Srinagar.

The meeting reviewed the preparedness of various departments to address challenges posed by harsh winter conditions, particularly in the snow-bound zones of Kashmir Valley and Jammu Division.

The Chief Minister conducted a department-wise review of the winter preparedness measures of all line departments.

He emphasized the need for a robust mechanism to minimize public inconvenience during severe weather conditions. The Chief Minister | More on P10

### Irrelevant Grounds Sufficient To Vitiating Detention Orders: HC

#### Quashes 8 PSA Detention Orders

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against eight detainees and ordered their release with immediate effect provided they are not needed in any other case. "The inclusion of an irrelevant or non-existent ground,

among other relevant grounds, is an infringement of the first of the rights and the inclusion of an obscure or vague ground, among other clear and definite grounds, is an infringement of the second of the rights," a bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul said, while quashing detention order dated 5 September this year against | More on P10

## NC Leaders Trade Barbs As Rift Grows Over Reservations

Pure Drama, Says Sagar Jr; Ruhullah Reacts With 'House Negro, Field Negro' Metaphor

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A political storm erupted within the National Conference as a protest led by MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi over reservation policies sparked a war of words among party leaders. The aftermath of his bold demonstration has left the party deeply divided, with sharp exchanges now taking center stage.

National Conference legislator Salman Sagar, speaking at the party's headquarters in Srinagar, distanced the NC from Ruhullah's actions, emphasizing that the protest was neither organized nor supported by the party.

"It was not a protest of the National Conference. Not a



single leader from NC participated," Sagar stated, accusing Ruhullah of acting independently.

Sagar described Ruhullah's participation as a breach of party discipline and a damaging act, calling the protest "drama and theatrics"

orchestrated by detractors to tarnish the party's image.

He reassured that the NC remains committed to resolving the reservation issue under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's leadership and expressed support for the affected students.

### LG Greet People On Christmas

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ is an occasion to celebrate and imbibe Lord Christ's message of love, compassion and forgiveness.

"I hope that the sacred occasion inspires us to build a future where all people love one another and live together in harmony and further strengthen our bond of brotherhood. Let us rededicate ourselves to imbibe the life and teachings of Jesus Christ for the welfare of humankind and work for the uplift of the needy and underprivileged."

"May this Christmas fill the hearts of people | More on P10



A paper mâché artist carefully paints the figure of Santa Claus. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

## J&K's Power Woes: High Demand, Low Supply, & Aging Grid

<p><b>Rising Demand:</b> Electricity demand up by 4% in 7 years 13% increase in consumption from 2020-2024.</p>	<p><b>DT Damage</b> 50+ distribution transformers damaged daily due to overloading.</p>
<p><b>Generation Shortage:</b> 80% reduction in state pool power generation. Only 200-260 MW available.</p>	<p><b>Power Pilferage</b> Over 1000 cases of power theft in 2024.</p>
<p><b>Outdated Infrastructure</b> Faulty distribution elements, many over 40 years old.</p>	<p><b>Metering Progress</b> 14 lakh smart meters targeted by 2025, 5.78 lakh installed.</p>
<p><b>Hydel Power Expansion</b> Plan to double hydel generation to 6018 MW by 2026.</p>	<p><b>AT&amp;C Losses</b> Reduced from 55% in 2016-17 to 48% in 2023-24, still above national average.</p>
<p><b>Power Purchase Strain</b> High expenditures on power purchases affecting budget.</p>	<p><b>T&amp;D Infrastructure Boost</b> Rs 2000 cr invested to upgrade T&amp;D lines to 166,376.05 km</p>

Agencies

Srinagar: With the finale of fiscal 2024, the Power Development Department in Jammu and Kashmir was abiding by its 'old and obsolete infrastructure' amidst mounting demand for electricity that has increased by more than four per cent in the past seven years.

However, the department has claimed that it would double the hydel power generation by 2026 through four power projects having power generation capacity of 3014 MWs.

Further, it has also said that the power generation capacity is proposed to be augmented by 3284 MWs through the four power projects.

**Power generation shortage**

Till the month of December, the power generation from the state pool had reduced by nearly 80 per cent in Jammu and Kashmir.

KNO had reported that "From across the regions, the total power generation capacity is 1200 Megawatts.

However, as of now, we are only able to generate a total of 200-260 Megawatts of power from the UT pool."

Till November 2024, there was a demand of nearly 2000-2100 Megawatts. However, there was an availability of only 1600-1650 megawatts.

During the curtailment hours, KPDCCL was cutting off nearly 200-250 Megawatts during the peak hours.

In the last two months of 2024, Jammu and Kashmir records a very low generation of power because | More on P10

## 9-member Committee To Finalise Business Rules

7 From Ruling Alliance, 2 From BJP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir assembly speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Tuesday constituted a 9-member committee by him to finalise the draft Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the legislative assembly.

According to an order, speaker Abdul Rahim Rather will be the ex-officio chairman of the committee.

The panel has been set up under Rule 363 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly

by the speaker.

The members include legislators Mubarak Gul (NC), Mohammad Yousof Tarigami (CPI-M), Saifullah Mir (NC), Nizam-ud-din Bhat (Congress), Pawan Kumar Gupta (BJP, Hasnain Masoodi) (NC), Ranbir Singh Pathania (BJP) and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (independent supporting ruling alliance).

In total, the committee has seven members from the ruling alliance and two from BJP. No MLA from Kashmir-based opposition MLAs is part of the panel.

The committee shall finalise the draft Rules | More on P10

### Er Rashid Bail Plea

#### Delhi Court Refuses To Pass Order

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday refused to pass an order on Jammu and Kashmir MP Rashid Engineer's regular bail application in a terror-funding case.

Additional sessions judge (ASJ) Chander Jit Singh dismissed the application filed by the accused seeking to pronounce order on the bail application.

The judge said at the present stage he could only decide the miscellaneous application and not the regular bail plea.

On December 19, the district judge sent the case back to the court hearing the matter.

The ASJ court had requested the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers observing Rashid was now an MP. The district judge sent the | More on P10

### Amitava Chatterjee Is New MD & CEO Of J&K Bank



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Amitava Chatterjee as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

The decision, communicated through an official letter dated December 24, 2024, a copy of which lies with the Kashmir Observer, comes under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

"In terms of Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Reserve Bank of India approves the appointment of Shri Amitava Chatterjee as MD&CEO, The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited, for a period of three years w.e.f December 30, 2024, at a fixed pay of INR 1.40 crore p.a. (inclusive of perquisites). Target variable pay of INR 1.40 crore has | More on P10

### 5 Soldiers Killed As Vehicle Falls Into Poonch Gorge

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Five soldiers were killed and as many others injured when an Army vehicle skidded off the road and rolled down a 300-foot deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday evening, officials said, while ruling out any terror angle.

A defence spokesperson said the cause of the accident is being ascertained but "possibly the driver lost control at the turn of the road". The accident occurred in the Gharoa area when a convoy of six vehicles was on its way to Bano in the district. The officials quoted above said rescue teams have recovered five bodies from the gorge which is 300-350 feet deep. | More on P10





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NOTICE We, Masood Ul Hassan (Passport number W5573469) & Subiya Kaneez (Passport number Z1939917) have changed the name of our Daughter from (Eshal Hassan Malik) to (Eshal Malik)...

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class) Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class) Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class) Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION DOORU NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NIT NO 41 OF R&B/Dooru/2024-25 /E-TENDERING/ EED/T-1/ 3749-54 DATED: 23-12-2024

Public Notice I, Tasleem Arif Mir, S/O Ali Mohammed Mir, R/O Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that I have lost the front number plate of my Bajaj Discover 125 motorcycle...

Aakib Kazi Awarded Doctor Degree Makhdumi Syed Dr. Aakib Kazi BPT (Bachelor of Physiotherapy) got the doctor Degree with First Division in the presence of the Governor of Rajasthan Shri Haribhau Kishanrao Bagde from Apex University Jaipur Rajasthan.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks Kashmir Tele-fax: 0194-2482032 e-mail kashflori@rediffmail.com GIST of e- Tender Notice No. 44 of 2024 Dated:-23/12/2024





# City Glows With Christmas Spirit

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Churches across the Kashmir Valley, including the Holy Family Catholic Church in Srinagar, are abuzz with preparations as the region gets ready to celebrate Christmas on Wednesday.

Church premises across the valley have been adorned with decorative lights, and the festive spirit is palpable. People wearing Christmas caps have been seen in Srinagar and other parts of the valley, actively participating in the arrangements.

A grand celebration is planned, featuring a range of activities to mark the joyous occasion. There is excitement among people, with many seen on the streets of Srinagar city wearing Christ-

mas caps.

Churches across the valley are eagerly anticipating the festival. Joseph, a local, who goes by his first name, at the Holy Family Catholic Church, expressed his excitement, saying, "Christmas is not just about celebrations; it is about spreading love and joy. The atmosphere at the church is heartwarming, and I can't wait for tomorrow's festivities."

Other churches in the valley are also expected to attract large gatherings. Celebrations are set to begin on Tuesday night in many locations, with special prayer services scheduled for early Wednesday morning, followed by cultural programs and community gatherings at various churches across the valley—(KNO)



**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH** on Maulana Azad Road, Srinagar, shines brightly with festive decorations, spreading joy and warmth on the eve of Christmas! KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## CRACKDOWN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IN 2024

# 94 NDPS Cases Filed, Properties Worth Rs 4.5 Crore Seized

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** 94 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were registered, while 1.7 kg brown sugar, 2.83 kg crystal meth, and several psychotropic drugs, and properties worth Rs 4.5 crore were also seized in Srinagar in 2024, police said here.

Addressing a press conference, senior superintendent of Police Srinagar, Imtiaz Hussain, said that the crack-



down on drug menace led to arrest of 156 individuals, 46 major cases being launched, and detention of 26 notorious drug peddlers under NDPSA.

He said that in terms of recoveries, police confiscated 1.7 kg brown sugar, 2.83 kg crystal meth, and several psychotropic drugs commonly misused for addiction purposes. "Additionally, seven vehicles and seven residential houses, valued at Rs 4.5 crore, were seized as properties linked to drug-related crimes," he said.

"This year alone, we submitted 26 dossiers to the Divisional Commissioner, requesting detention orders for individuals involved in drug trafficking. The proactive efforts of the Divisional Commissioner's office have played a crucial role in ensuring that these notorious peddlers face justice," he said.

He stressed the need for a collective approach to combat the crisis. "This is not just a matter for the police or any specific government department. It is a societal problem that affects all of us, especially our younger generation and

children. The more awareness and sensitivity we can create, the better equipped we will be to eradicate this curse from our society," the SSP said.

He drew parallels to the region's decades-long struggle against terrorism, which was mitigated through combined efforts of the security forces, government, and the public. He called for similar determination and collaboration to tackle the drug problem. "We consider it not just a professional duty but also a moral responsibility as members of this society," he added.

SSP Srinagar appealed to the public to report any suspected drug-related activities through the police helpline. "Rest assured, strict action will be taken against anyone spreading this menace among our youth. Many individuals might think they are not on the police radar, but we are monitoring every such person and waiting for the right moment to catch them with evidence and recoveries."

The SSP appealed to the parents of drug-addicts to seek help from drug rehabilitation centers. He noted that police-operated facilities in Srinagar, along with other government and private centers, offer necessary support for recovery. "We view drug addicts as victims and patients in need of treatment. But we treat traffickers and peddlers as criminals who will face the full might of the law," he said.

He said that there has been a significant reduction in cross-border trafficking, "we remain vigilant to trace even small quantities of drugs back to their source and take appropriate legal action."

"Our fight against drug trafficking and peddling will continue with full vigor and determination. We owe it to our youth and society to annihilate this menace. Together, with the support of the public, we can make Srinagar a drug-free city," the SSP said.

# Noor Jahan Bridge Likely To Miss December Deadline



Syed Mohammad Burhan

**SRINAGAR:** The much-awaited Noor Jahan Bridge, also known as the Qamarwari Bridge, is set to miss its December 2024 deadline, leaving the public disappointed once again.

The bridge has faced years of delays and repeated assurances from officials, none of which have been fulfilled so far.

The Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, had earlier announced on October 25, 2024, that the bridge would be ready for public use by December.

"The Noorbagh-Qamarwari Bridge, as promised, will be completed by December, allowing local traffic to use it. However, if the weather is too cold, there may be a delay in macadamization, but the bridge will still open for vehicles," Bidhuri stated at the time.

Despite his assurance, the current pace of work suggests otherwise, and the December timeline now seems unachievable.

Chief Engineer of the Roads & Buildings Department, Sajad Naqib, has confirmed that the bridge will not be completed by the end of December.

Speaking to *Kashmir Observer*, Naqib said, "The project will now be completed in January 2025 since macadamization is not possible in December due to low temperatures. We will try our best to ensure it is done in January, but weather condi-

tions at that time are typically similar to December. Still, we are committed to making all efforts to meet the new timeline."

The Noor Jahan Bridge, spanning 127 meters over the Jhelum River, connects Noorbagh with Qamarwari and is seen as a critical infrastructure project to ease traffic congestion in Srinagar city.

Once completed, it will reduce the heavy burden on the adjacent Cement Bridge, which has served as the main link between Shahr-e-Khas and other parts of North Kashmir.

However, the Cement Bridge, in its current state, offers commuters a tiring and bumpy ride due to potholes and deterioration over time. The damage to the bridge not only slows vehicular movement but also affects the condition of vehicles using it regularly.

The construction of the Noor Jahan Bridge began in 2011, with the initial deadline set for 2014. Since then, the project has experienced numerous delays, with completion dates being extended repeatedly.

In 2017, the timeline was moved to March, then December 2018, and later March 2022. In 2022, officials claimed the bridge would be ready by the end of the year, but this promise was not fulfilled. Authorities later projected March 2023 as the final completion date, which also came and went without the bridge being opened. Now, as December 2024

approaches, the project remains incomplete, much to the frustration of the public.

This prolonged delay has led to growing anger among commuters and locals alike, who feel neglected by the authorities. Many commuters have called for greater accountability and transparency in the management of the project. The administration's inability to meet successive deadlines has drawn criticism, with locals questioning the seriousness of those responsible for overseeing the work.

"*Kashmir Observer*" has been following this story for over 13 years, repeatedly highlighting the negligent attitude of officials toward the completion of the Noor Jahan Bridge. Over this time, several senior officials from the Roads & Buildings Department, who were tasked with the bridge's construction, have retired, leaving behind an incomplete project and an enduring legacy of missed opportunities.

As the Noor Jahan Bridge once again misses its deadline, the focus now shifts to how the administration will respond to the growing public outcry.

The question, however, remains whether authorities will finally take the necessary steps to accelerate construction or if the project will continue to languish, further delaying relief for commuters and residents in Srinagar city.

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**PRAYERS**

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

FAJR	6:05
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	3:49
Magrib	5:31
ISHA	6:55

## This Day In History

- 1- The first Christmas according to calendar-maker and Eastern Roman monk Dionysius Exiguus
- 337- Earliest possible date that Christmas was celebrated on Dec 25th
- 352- 1st definite date Christmas was celebrated on Dec 25th
- 496- King Clovis I is baptized in the Roman Catholic in Reims cathedral - first Germanic king to do so, according to Henry of Tours (year disputed)
- 597- England adopts Julian calendar
- 604- Battle at Etampes (Stampae): Burgundy beat Neustriars
- 800- Pope Leo III crowns Charles the Great (Charlemagne), Roman Emperor
- 875- Charles the Bald crowned emperor of Rome
- 967- John XIII crowned Otto II the Red German compassionate emperor
- 969- Johannes I Tzimiscos crowned Emperor of Byzantium
- 999- Heribertus becomes bishop of Cologne
- 1000- Monarch Istvan crowned king of Hungary
- 1013- English earls declare Danish king Sweyn Forkbeard the first Viking king of England, dispossing Ethelred the Unready
- 1046- Pope Clement VI crowns Henry III as Holy Roman Emperor
- 1066- William the Conqueror is crowned King of England at Westminster Abbey, completing the Norman conquest of England
- 1492- Christopher Columbus' flagship the Santa Maria runs aground and sinks on the north coast of Hispaniola. The crew are left to found a colony as Columbus returns to Spain
- 1522- Ottoman troops occupy the island of Rhodes after a six-month siege
- 1553- Battle of Tucapel: Mapuche rebels under Lautaro defeats the Spanish conquistadors and executes the governor of Chile Pedro de Valdivia
- 1599- The city of Natal, Brazil, is founded.
- 1656- Dutch astronomer and mathematician Christiaan Huygens creates the first pendulum clock
- 1741- Astronomer Anders Celsius introduces Centigrade temperature scale
- 1745- Prussia and Austria sign Treaty of Dresden giving much of Silesia to the Prussians
- 1758- Return of Halley's comet 1st sighted by Johann Georg Palitzsch
- 1809- Physician Ephraim McDowell performs the first abdominal surgery in the U.S, an ovariectomy to remove a 22 lb ovarian tumor
- 1837- Battle of Okeechobee - US forces defeat Seminole Indians
- 1926- Crown Prince Hirohito of Japan assumes the throne upon his father, Emperor Yoshihito's, death
- 1932- 7.6 magnitude earthquake ravages Qansu, China, kills 275
- 1941- Japan announces surrender of British-Canadian garrison at Hong Kong
- 1941- Japanese aircraft carriers Akagi/Kagu back in Kure, Japan
- 1946- Constitution accepted in Taiwan
- 1947- Constitution of the Republic of China comes into effect
- 1947- Taiwan passes Human Rights laws (Day of Earth Law)
- 1962- USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1965- The Yemeni Nasserite Unionist People's Organisation is founded in Taiz
- 1965 US President Lyndon B. Johnson orders a halt to bombing operations in North Vietnam, hoping to spur peace talks
- 1968- 42 Dalits are burned alive in Kilavenmani village, Tamil Nadu, India, a retaliation for a campaign for higher wages by Dalit labourers
- 1968- NASA Apollo 8 crew broadcast while orbiting the moon and read passages from the Bible to celebrate Christmas
- 1973- 1st pictures of a comet from space (Comet Kohoutek), taken by NASA astronauts Jerry Carr and William Pogue during a spacewalk from Skylab 4
- 1973- Arab oil ministers cancel January 5 percent production cut; Saudi Arabian oil minister promises 10 percent OPEC production rise

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PAHALGAM**

**NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC**

**DECLARATION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING FREE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PAHALGAM**  
Date: 21th of December, 2024

The Municipal Committee Pahalgam is pleased to announce that it is in the process of its jurisdiction as Manual Scavenging free in accordance with the provision of " Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013 and other related guidelines. We invite objections, if any, from the general public regarding this declaration Any objections must be submitted in writing to the office of the Chief Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pahalgam within 15 days from the date of this notice. Objections should include:

1. Full name of the complainant.
2. Complete Address.
3. Contact Details.
4. Details of the issue or objection raised.

After the stipulated period, if no valid objections are received, the Municipal Committee Pahalgam will formally declare the area under its jurisdiction as Manual Scavenging Free. Your cooperation in making Pahalgam a clean and dignified town is highly appreciated.

**For any query please contact Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Sanitary Inspector MC Pahalgam Mobile No:7006159270.**

No.: MC/PGM/01/SC/24/2180 – 82  
Dated:21-12-2023

Chief Executive Officer  
Municipal Committee Pahalgam

DIPK-NB-2946-24  
DT: 24/12/2024

Email:eomcdevsar@gmail.com www.jkhudd.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

**DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR**

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE DEVSAR**

Sub:- Public Notice regarding Reregistration of Manual Scavengers / Declaration of Town Devsar as Manual Scavenging free and Invitation of objections thereof.

**PUBLIC-NOTICE**

In pursuance of the order dated:- 20-10-2023 issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (CJ No:324/2020 titled Dr. Balram Singh v/s Union of India & others and the guidelines for survey of Manual Scavengers issued by the Government of India vide communication 1st February, 2024, Municipal Committee Devsar is carrying out a survey of Manual Scavengers In the town, who are defined as under:- "Those engaged in or who were engaged in the following activities in 2013 or thereafter:

- ▶ Cleaning of dry latrines,
- ▶ Cleaning of open drains in which human excreta is flushed from insanitary latrines,
- ▶ Manual cleaning of single pits attached with toilets."

In accordance with this, objections if any, regarding this are hereby invited from the general public or claimants of Town Devsar. Such objections must be submitted in writing to the office Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Devsar, within 15 days, from the date of publication of this notice. The objections/ representation if any, may be submitted in person or sent via email to eomcdevsar@gmail.com. After the stipulated period, the Town Devsar will be officially declared/ notified as Manual Scavenging free.

No:-MC/DVR/Sanitation/2024/1419-24  
Dated:-24-12-2024

Executive Officer  
Municipal Committee  
Devsar

DIPK-NB-2959-24  
DT: 24/12/2024



## Filmmaker Shyam Benegal Cremated With Full State Honours

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Veteran filmmaker Shyam Benegal, the pioneer of the parallel cinema movement in Indian cinema in the 1970s and 1980s, was cremated on Tuesday with full state honours and a three-gun salute.



Benegal, known for films such as "Ankur", "Mandi", "Nishant", and "Junoon", died on Monday at a hospital here due to chronic kidney disease.

The last rites of the filmmaker, who celebrated his 90th birthday on December 14, were held around 3 pm at Dadar's Shivaji Park crematorium.

Benegal's cinema contemporaries, colleagues and younger generations of actors and artists accompanied wife Nira and daughter Pia in paying their last respects to the icon, whose movies captured the many realities of India.

Naseeruddin Shah, Rajit Kapoor, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, and Ila Arun, who starred in many of Benegal's films, were present to bid

adieu to the director.

Also present were actor Ratna Pathak Shah, her son Vivaan Shah, writer-poet Gulzar, director Hansal Mehta, lyricist-writer Javed Akhtar, actors Divya Dutta, Boman Irani, Kunal Kapoor and Anang Desai.

Shivendra Singh Durgapur, whose Film Heritage Foundation recently restored Benegal's 1976 "Manthan" for a screening at the Cannes Film Festival, was also present.

Gulzar said what Benegal brought to cinema was a revolution that will never come again.

"He hasn't departed, we have departed from him and seen him off. He brought a revolution, he has gone with that revolution of change in cinema. Nobody else will be able to bring that wave, revolution once again. We will remember him for a long time and we will talk about him for a long time to come," Gulzar told PTI.

Actor Shreyas Talpade, who played the lead role in Benegal's satire "Welcome to Sajjanpur", said the film was one of his most memorable shooting experiences because of Benegal.

"I was a changed person after I returned from the shoot of the film. I think we will miss his talks the most. He mesmerised us whenever he used to talk. It's a huge loss," Talpade said.

## UP Court Summons AIMIM Chief Owaisi Over Pro-Palestine Slogan In Parliament

Pres Trust Of India

New DELHI: A local court has directed AIMIM supreme Asaduddin Owaisi to appear before it over a plea that claimed he had violated the Constitution by raising a slogan hailing Palestine in Parliament.

Lawyer Virendra Gupta filed a petition against Owaisi over the All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader voicing support for Palestine during his oath-taking



ceremony in Parliament.

Gupta said in his plea that the five-time MP had violated constitutional and legal beliefs.

He told reporters on Tuesday that a petition was filed in the MP/MLA court on July 12 but it was rejected.

Gupta then filed a revision

petition in the court of the district judge.

District Judge Sudhir allowed the petition and issued a notice to Owaisi on Saturday, asking him to appear before the court on January 7.

Gupta said he was hurt by Owaisi's slogan.

His slogan was against the Constitution, he added.

Owaisi took oath as Hyderabad MP on June 25.

After his oath-taking ceremony, he had hailed the con-

flict-hit West Asian country from the podium. The chairman later ordered the remarks to be expunged.

Owaisi had justified his slogan after he came out of the House and told reporters there was nothing wrong in him saying "Jai Bheem, Jai Meem, Jai Telangana, Jai Palestine".



## 'Will Behead Houthis, Just Like Haniyeh' Israel confirms Hamas leader's killing in Iran

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz admitted on Monday for the first time publicly to Israel's killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran in July, further risking tensions between Tehran and its arch-enemy Israel in a region shaken by Israel's war in Gaza and the conflict in Lebanon.

"These days, when the Houthi terrorist organization is firing missiles at Israel, I want to convey a clear message to them at the beginning of my remarks: We have defeated Hamas, we have defeated Hezbollah, we have blinded Iran's defence systems and damaged the production systems, we have toppled the Assad regime in Syria, we have dealt a severe blow to the axis of evil, and we will also deal a severe blow to the

**Damage Their strategic infrastructure, and we will behead their leaders – just as we did to Haniyeh, Sinwar and Nasrallah in Tehran, Gaza and Lebanon – we will do it in Hodeidah and Sana'a**

Houthi terrorist organization in Yemen, which remains the last to stand," Katz said.

Israel will "damage their strategic infrastructure, and we will behead their leaders – just as we did to Haniyeh, Sinwar and Nasrallah in Tehran, Gaza and Lebanon – we will do it in Hodeidah and Sana'a," Katz said during an evening honoring defence

ministry personnel.

The Iran-backed group in Yemen has been attacking commercial shipping in the Red Sea for more than a year to try to enforce a naval blockade on Israel, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Israel's year-long war in Gaza.

In late July, the political leader of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas was killed in Tehran in an assassination blamed on Israel by Iranian authorities. There was no direct claim of responsibility by Israel for the killing of Haniyeh at the time.

Haniyeh, normally based in Qatar, had been the face of Hamas' international diplomacy as the war set off by the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7 has raged in Gaza. He had been taking part in internationally brokered indirect talks on reaching a ceasefire in the Palestinian enclave.

## We Set Iranian Project In Region Back By 40 years: Al-Shara

Agencies

Damascus: Syria's new defacto leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa has said that by capturing seat of power in Damascus rebels have "set the Iranian project in the region back by 40 years."

Al-Sharaa also said that "the Syrian revolution ended with the regime's fall, and we will not allow it to spread elsewhere."

The head of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which led a rebel coalition that ousted Bashar al-Assad, now uses his real name: Ahmed al-Sharaa. His nom de guerre, Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, has been shed, like his rebel fatigues, as he attempts to present a more moderate face to the world.

Speaking from the Presidential Palace in Damascus on Thursday, al-Sharaa dressed in a Western outfit, told London based pro-Saudi newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat that he admires Saudi vision and aspire for similar progress in Syria.

Asked why Syria has yet to send a direct message to the Gulf and major Arab nations,



Ahmed Al Sharaa who was known by his nom de guerre, Abu Mohammed al-Jolani now is the West recognised defacto head of Syria

Al-Sharaa responded by saying that his country has much to say to its Arab neighbors.

"Syria had become a platform for Iran to control key Arab capitals, spread wars, and destabilize the Gulf."

"By removing Iranian militias and closing Syria to Iranian influence, we've served the region's interests—achieving what diplomacy and external pressure could not, with minimal losses."

During the interview, he also said that "the Syrian revolution ended with the regime's fall, and we will not allow it to spread elsewhere."

He emphasized that Gulf strategic security has since improved. "Today, the Iranian proj-

ect in the region has been pushed back 40 years, making the Gulf more secure and stable."

When asked if he would give reassurances on Syria not becoming a refuge for certain figures, Al-Sharaa dismissed concerns about hosting figures who cause concern for some Arab nations, saying Syria will not become a haven for controversial individuals.

He said Syria "will not be used to attack or destabilize any Arab or Gulf country."

Al-Sharaa praised progress made by Saudi Arabia and neighboring Gulf countries.

"We admire the development in Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia's bold plans and vision, and we aspire to achieve similar progress for Syria."

He added: "There are many opportunities for cooperation, especially in economic and developmental areas, where we can align our goals."

Al-Sharaa acknowledged differing opinions but emphasized he does not want to impose his personal views on Syrians.

## Bangladesh Launches \$5 Billion Graft Probe Against Sheikh Hasina

Press Trust Of India

Dhaka: An anti-graft panel in Bangladesh has launched an investigation against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her family in connection with the allegations of embezzling USD 5 billion in the Rooppur nuclear power plant, according to a media report.

Indian companies are participating in constructing the Rooppur nuclear power plant which is being built by Rosatom, Russia's state-run corporation, in Bangladesh.

The first Bangladeshi nuclear power plant, the Russian-designed Rooppur, is being built 160 km west of the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka.

Along with Hasina, her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and Tulip Siddiq, her niece and the UK's Treasury minister, were also questioned, BDNews reported on Sunday.

There are accusations of embezzling USD 5 billion in the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, the report added.

The development came two days after the High Court issued a rule asking why the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) inaction over an alleged transfer of USD 5 billion from the Rooppur Nuclear



Power Plant project to a Malaysian bank by Hasina, Joy, and Tulip should not be declared illegal, the report added.

According to ACC documents, the allegations of corruption in the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project were brought to light by Bobby Hajjaj, chairman of the National Democratic Movement (NDM).

Hasina, 77, has been living in India since August 5 when she fled the country following a massive student-led protest that toppled her 16-year regime.

Her sister Rehana accompanied her. Joy resides in the US, while her niece Tulip is a member of the British parliament.

Bangladesh-based International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former Cabinet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide".

## Germany Mourns Market Crash Victims Amid Fears Of Deepening Societal Divide

Press Trust Of India

Berlin: Mourners laid flowers near the scene of the deadly Christmas market attack on Monday as investigators

ment residency. They say he does not fit the usual profile of perpetrators of extremist attacks. The man described himself as an ex-Muslim who was highly critical of Islam and in



puzzled over the motive of the suspect and fears swirled that the rampage could deepen divisions in German society.

The Johanniskirche, a church a short walk from the scene of the attack, has become a central place of mourning since the suspect drove a car into the busy market on Friday evening, killing five people and injuring 200. A carpet of flowers now covers the broad sidewalk in front of the church.

Authorities have identified the suspect as a Saudi doctor who arrived in Germany in 2006 and had received perma-

many posts on social media expressed support for the far-right. A picture has emerged of someone who had come to authorities' attention in the past for threatening behaviour and been the subject of tipoffs, but was not known to have committed any violence.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said Sunday that "the views and statements that the perpetrator expressed are being investigated, as are the tipoffs and proceedings with various authorities and the justice system." She said "the right conclusions" will then have to be drawn.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Jaipur inferno: How did LPG tanker driver survive fire that killed 15

The site of the accident after a truck loaded with a chemical collided with some other vehicles and caught fire on the Jaipur-Ajmer Highway in Jaipur on December 20, 2024. PTI

The driver of an LPG tanker that was involved in an explosion here last week has appeared before the police and will be questioned by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the crash climbed to 15, with two more persons succumbing to their injuries, hospital authorities said.

The driver, Jaiveer (40), a resident of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, managed to get out of the tanker in time after



sensing the impact of the collision, which broke the tanker's outlet nozzles.

According to police, Jaiveer called Delhi-based tanker owner Anil Panwar after the incident and then switched off his phone.

"We cannot blame the tanker driver immediately

as the container truck driver had hit his vehicle. He saw that the tanker's nozzles had broken and realised that there could be an explosion as other drivers were turning on the ignition of their vehicles. So, he fled to save his life," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Amit Kumar.

## Navi Mumbai man accused of murdering wife arrested after 33 years

The Navi Mumbai police have arrested a 70-year-old man absconding (escaping) since the last 33 years after allegedly killing his wife, an official said on Tuesday.

The accused, Babu Gudgiram Kale, was apprehended on Sunday near Mulund suburb in neighbouring Mumbai, where he had been working as a labourer and selling flowers for livelihood, he said.

The case dates back to January 28, 1991, when Kale, following frequent domestic disputes with his wife, allegedly doused her with kerosene and set her on fire at his home in Panvel area of Navi Mumbai, Panvel Town police station's senior inspector Nitin Thackeray said.

The woman later succumbed to severe burn injuries while undergoing treatment at a hospital, he said. An FIR was subsequently registered against

Kale under Indian Penal Code section 302 (murder) and a local court issued an arrest warrant against him, the official said.

Kale, however, evaded capture and remained in hiding for more than three decades.

The police pursued several leads, employing both intelligence and technical inputs to track the fugitive.

Initial tips indicated his presence in Mulund area of Mumbai. But the trail later led the police to Parbhani in Maharashtra's Marathwada region and eventually back to Mumbai based on Kale's mobile phone data and surveillance, the official said.

The accused was caught off guard when the police apprehended him on Sunday, he said.

Following his arrest, Kale was produced before a local magistrate who remanded in police custody till January 3, 2025, the police said.

## Out On Bail, Gujarat Man Rapes 70-Year-Old Survivor Again

Bharuch: A 35-year-old man out on bail allegedly raped a 70-year-old woman whom he had sexually assaulted in the past in Bharuch district of Gujarat, police said on Tuesday.

The accused, Shailesh Rathod, committed the crime on December 15 and December 22 in the old woman's hut at a farm, said Deputy Superintendent of Police PL Chaudhary.

The accused also threatened the victim with dire consequences if she disclosed the matter, he said.

An FIR was registered at Amod police station after the woman approached the police, following which teams of the crime branch, Special Operations Group, and police were formed to catch the accused.

Shailesh Rathod was earlier arrested for allegedly raping the same victim around 18 months ago and jailed. He committed the latest crime while out on bail, the police officer said.



## Govt Mulls Constructing 200-Bed Maternity Hospital At Anantnag

Agencies

**ANANTNAG:** The Jammu and Kashmir government is mulling the construction of a 200-bedded Maternal and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) at Janglatmandi, Anantnag.

A top health official said that a proposal for the construction of a 200-bedded maternity and childcare hospital on the premises of the GMC Anantnag-associated Janglatmandi Hospital has been submitted and is likely to get approval soon.

He said the Maternity and Child Care Hospital in Sher Bagh has been functioning from a very dilapidated building that was declared unsafe by the fire and emergency department over a decade ago.

The official said the government has made several attempts to relocate the hospital, but these efforts have not materialised due to various reasons.

"In 2015, the facility was moved to Janglatmandi, but within a day, it was relocated back due to political intervention," he said.

The official added, "Seven years ago, plans were made to move the hospital to the Rehmat-e-Alam Trust building in the Sarnal area of Anantnag. However, the move has yet to materialise. Although Rs 13 crore was spent on constructing two additional floors for the building, a safety assessment by IIT Jammu revealed that it failed to meet post-2005 earthquake safety standards."

The institute recommended retrofitting and reinforcing the beams of the older floors at an estimated cost of Rs 8 crore. However, this proposal was shelved, leaving the hospital to continue operations in the unsafe Sher Bagh building.

The official said that new infrastructure for the MCCH is

essential as it will provide tertiary-level comprehensive maternal and child care services in South Kashmir.

He said the people opposing the relocation of MCCH Sher Bagh must understand that to remain there, it needs to be shifted temporarily to allow the construction of new infrastructure. "In the current circumstances, if any untoward incident happens due to the dilapidated and unsafe condition of the building, who will take responsibility?" he asked.

Currently, the hospital manages over 50,000 patients in its OPD and around 10,000 indoor patients every month.

Staff at the MCCH said both patients and medical personnel face challenges but noted that shifting the hospital is beyond their control. "Every day, thousands of patients from far-off places in South Kashmir and even the Jammu division come here. Despite the challenges, we are managing," one staff member said.

Notably, last month, Secretary of Health Syed Abid Rashid Shah directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to prepare and submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) within five days for the construction of a 200-bedded Maternal and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) at Anantnag.

The Chief Engineer of the Public Works (R&B) Department South Kashmir, Ishaq Mohammad Beigh, said that they have prepared the report and submitted it to GMC Anantnag.

Principal GMC Anantnag Dr. Rukhsana Najeeb said that the R&B Department's report has been submitted to higher-ups for approval. "We are hopeful that this will get approval soon, and the hospital will come up in Anantnag at the earliest," she added—(KNO)

## BIS Organizes 'Manak Manthan' On PMAY-G On National Consumer Day 2024



Observer News Service

**PATHANKOT:** Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu and Kashmir Branch Office (JKBO), successfully organized the 'Manak Manthan' program today at Zone by The Park Hotel, Pathankot, to commemorate National Consumer Day 2024. The program focused on the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Grameen (PMAY-G) and its alignment with BIS standards to ensure quality and safety in housing for beneficiaries. The event was graced by Sh. Yudhveer Singh, District Development Panchayat Officer (DDPO), Pathankot, as the Guest of Honor. In his inaugural address, Sh. Yudhveer Singh emphasized the importance of adhering to BIS standards in housing construction under PMAY-G to ensure durability, safety, and consumer satisfaction. The program began with a warm welcome and an overview of its objectives by Sh. Tilak Raj, Director and Head, BIS-JKBO. Sh. Niraj Kumar Mishra, Deputy Director, BIS-JKBO, presented an overview of BIS activities, highlighting its role in promoting consumer

awareness and demonstrating the features of the BIS Care App, which helps consumers verify the authenticity of BIS-certified products.

A detailed presentation on the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Grameen (PMAY-G) was delivered by Raj Kumar, Assistant Director, BIS-JKBO. He provided insights into the scheme's quality assurance aspects and emphasized the role of Indian Standards in constructing durable, safe, and sustainable houses under PMAY-G.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 150 attendees, including Sarpanches, secretaries, officials, and beneficiaries of PMAY-G. Block Development and Panchayat Officers (BDPOs) from four blocks of Pathankot district—Dhar Kala, Bamial, Sunjanpur, and Gharota—actively participated in the discussions.

The program underscored the importance of incorporating BIS standards in PMAY-G housing projects and empowered the attendees with knowledge to ensure the use of quality materials and practices in construction.

## YEAR ENDER 2024

# Kashmir Records Footfall Of Nearly 3 Million Tourists

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir is all set to achieve a significant tourism milestone, with Director Tourism, Raja Yaqoob Farooq stating that the tourist footfall is touching 3 million till Dec 20, amidst the growing foreign tourist arrival.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event at Gulmarg, the Director said that the region is expected to host 3 million visitors by the end of 2024, a 10% increase compared to last year's 2.7 million.

He revealed that foreign visitors to Kashmir have already reached 43,000 this year, compared to 37,000 in the same period last year. "Last year, we had around 37,000 foreign tourists in Kashmir. This year, we have already recorded 43,000 foreign arrivals as of December 20, including 1,000 in just the past four days," he said.

He attributed this growth



to a combination of factors, including improved law and order over the past 4-5 years, enhanced infrastructure and strategic publicity efforts particularly following the G20 events.

"Our focus is on promoting high-end and high-value tourism while ensuring there is no ecological imbalance. All relevant departments will be sensitized and involved in safeguarding the region's environmental integrity," he said

while replying to a query. Pertinently, the tourism sector is witnessing a boom in the Valley with a record number of tourists visiting the picturesque places.

In the last two years, the valley has welcomed tourists in record numbers. Overall the two years have witnessed tourist arrivals of 53.8 lakhs – 27.1 lakh in 2023 (including 4.5 lakh Amarnath pilgrims) and 26.7 lakh in 2022—(KNO)

## Farmers Worried, Expect Less Production Of Rabi Crops Due To Dry Spell

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The farmers in Kashmir valley are worried as the prolonged dry spell in Kashmir has been impacting the germination of Rabi crops that will impact production.

Farmers from different areas of Kashmir said that this year there was almost no rain or snow in the last six months in plains and it will definitely impact the production of Rabi crops this year.

Gulzar Ahmad, a farmer from South Kashmir's Anantnag district said that less moisture in the soil has delayed the germination of the seed and whatever has been sown and germinated is getting brown due to less moisture and frost.

He said that this is the season when the crop needs water but the crop can't be irrigated by it as it can lead to frost that will damage the crop. The crops that are grown in this season are saf-

ron, oats, oilseeds, peas, garlic, onions and other things.

Farmers said that this less moisture will stunt the growth of the already standing crops like garlic and it will heavily impact the size of such crops and production will be less.

J&K is witnessing an increase in the deficit rainfall with each passing week as the prolonged dry spell has continued for the last two months at multiple places.

The deficit precipitation has gone further up to 78 per cent across Jammu and Kashmir from October 01, 2024 to December 19, 2024. Against the normal precipitation of 97.1mm, J&K has recorded a rainfall of 21 mm during the period.

The highest deficit has been recorded in Shopian with 96 per cent followed by Poonch with 95 per cent while Kulgam and Budgam have recorded a deficit rainfall of 94 per cent and 90 per cent respectively. Akhtar Hussain Malik, a noted

Botanist at Kashmir University told KNO that the water table is low due to less precipitation this year that has led to less moisture in the soil in which Rabi crops have been sown.

The less moisture in the soil will stunt the growth of crops and the number of leaves in the plant will be less, size will be short and yield will be less.

He said that with precipitation in Autumn, the water table used to remain rich, thereby keeping the soil full of moisture, which was helping in proper growth of crops.

"Water in the soil is warm as compared to the water if we irrigate it but currently there is neither water in the upper layer and we can't irrigate currently, so it will definitely impact the production," he said.

He said that this dry spell is very harmful as it will stunt the growth of these plants with less flower production and photosynthesis and will weaken roots as well—(KNO)

## Govt Constitutes District Committees To Verify PDS Beneficiaries

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The government of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday issued an order sanctioning the formation of District Level Committees to oversee the verification of beneficiaries enrolled under the Public Distribution System (PDS) database.

The committees, as per an order, a copy of which lies with *Kashmir Observer*, will be responsible for verifying the eligibility of beneficiaries, identifying and including any left-out eligible individuals, and completing the e-KYC process for pending beneficiaries.

The Government Order No. 2129-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated December 24 available with news agency Kashmir News Observer-KNO—the committees will be chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, with the Assistant Commissioner (Revenue),

Assistant Commissioner (Development), District Social Welfare Officer, and Assistant Director (FCS & CA) as members. The Assistant Director (FCS & CA) will serve as the Member Secretary, and the Chairperson has been authorized to co-opt additional members as deemed necessary.

The committees have been directed to ensure that all beneficiaries in the database comply with the applicable rules, weeding out any ineligible individuals. They are also tasked with identifying left-out eligible beneficiaries and ensuring their inclusion in appropriate PDS categories. Additionally, the committees will oversee the completion of e-KYC for all eligible beneficiaries under the PDS.

As per the government order, the committees are required to submit their reports to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs within one month.



**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA**  
Email: rbddivisionawantipora@gmail.com  
NO: T-1/EEA/7989-93 DATED: 23/12/2024

**CANCELLATION NOTICE**

Subject: Reconstruction of collapsed culvert on Reshi Ismail road at Lethpora.

Reference: 1. This office e-NIT No. 21/EEA/RNB/Of 2024-25/3061-71 Dated: 31/07/2024

It is for the information of all concerned that due to technical reasons the work mentioned above in subject advertised vide this office e-NIT No. 21/EEA/RNB/Of 2024-25/3061-71 Dated: 31/07/2024 is hereby cancelled and shall be invited afresh.

DIPK-9938-24 Executive Engineer  
DT: 24/12/2024 R&B Division Awantipora

**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.  
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

**RE-Tender Notice INVITING E-TENDERS**  
IUST/EST/TEND/Shops/Kiosks/24/1062. (Dated: - 23-12-2024)

For the tender issued Vide No. IUST/EST/TEND/Canteens/Shops/Kiosks/24/1047 Dated 14-12-2024, Re-tenders are invited Vide No. 1008B to 1013B. For and on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K UT, E-Tenders (in Two cover system) are invited for running the following facilities in the University Campus / Constituent Colleges:

S.No.	Name of the Facility	Location
01	Kiosk	IUST Campus III, Awantipora
02	Kiosk	Alamdar Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology, Charar-e-Sharief, Budgam.
03	Documentation Cum Stationery Shop	Multiuse Facility Centre (First Floor) IUST Main Campus
04	Provisional Store	
05	Fresh Fruit Shop	
06	Salon	

The detailed E-Tender Notices can also be downloaded from the website at <https://iktenders.gov.in> or [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in).

Start Date: 23-12-2024 Closing Date: 02-01-2025 up to 6:00 PM  
Opening Date: 03-01-2025 at 10:00 AM

DIPK-NB-2953-24 Deputy Registrar, Estates  
DT: 24/12/2024

## Reservation Policy Row

# Merit Biggest 'Casualty, Take Action Beyond Courts, Says Mehbooba

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief, Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday expressed deep concern over the ongoing reservation row, stating that the merit has become the biggest 'casualty' in the region.

Speaking over the issue, the PDP chief, highlighted the importance of hard work and ability, lamenting that these virtues no longer hold value in the current system and that merit has become the biggest 'casualty' at this point of time.

"What do we tell our children now? That their hard work and capability have no place in this system?" she said.

Taking dig at the National Conference, Mufti pointed out that none of its MPs had raised the issue in Parliament over the past year, despite the mandate they received from the youth. "They promised to address rationalization of reservations

without compromising Open Merit, but their silence is deafening," she said.

She also criticized the government for relying on the judiciary to resolve the matter. "If this government with a strong majority and 50 MLAs cannot act, who will? Waiting for court decisions is a poor excuse when there are administrative measures that can be implemented," Mufti added, citing her own tenure when she introduced SRO 49 to ensure a 75% quota for open merit in postgraduate courses.

Mufti urged Omar Abdullah and the National Conference to take immediate action to safeguard the rights of Open Merit candidates while ensuring reserved categories receive fair representation. "A balanced approach is needed to prevent further alienation of our youth," she said.

Mufti said that the issue must not be overlooked and that the issue was not just a policy debate but about the future of an entire generation—(KNO)

## Demise Of Poet Hakim Bashir Asim Condoled

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The literary community of Jammu and Kashmir has mourned the passing of Hakim Bashir Asim, a noted



poet and nouha writer and son of Hakim Muhammad Yousuf. Residing in Hakim Mohalla, Baghwanpora Lalbazar, Asim's work resonated with themes of devotion and spirituality, earning respect across local and national platforms.

Asim's admirers said that his poetry was a cornerstone of religious gatherings, particularly during Muharram and programs commemorating the 3rd Shaban ul Muazzam at Imam Bargah Abul Fazil Abbas (a.s.), Lalbazar.

"His ability to convey profound spiritual messages through eloquent verses made

his work invaluable to Urdu literature and religious poetry," said Hakim Suhail, a socio-political activist.

"His sudden demise has left a significant void in the literary and religious circles. Many considered his writings a source of inspiration, blending faith and artistic expression in a manner that touched countless lives," he added.

"The loss of Hakim Bashir Asim Kashmiri will be felt deeply, but his legacy of literary and spiritual contributions remains a lasting testament to his life's work."

Meanwhile, his congregational fataha will be held at Imam Bargah Abul Fazil Abbas (a.s.), Baghwanpora, Lal Bazar today. It will commence with a sermon by Hujjatul Islam wal Muslimeen Masroor Abbas Ansari.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**GOVT. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (WOMEN)**  
**BEMINA SRINAGAR**  
website : www.itibemina.org email: iti.bcminawomen@gmail.com  
Correspondence Address : Near Directorate of Skill Development and State Board of School Education, Bemina Bypass Srinagar Kashmir J&K Pincode: 190018

**ADMISSION NOTICE**

Applications are invited from the Permanent Residents of UT-Jammu & Kashmir for seeking Admission in Govt ITI Bemina for the Academic Session- 2024-25 in below mentioned trade being run under SCVT Scheme.

S.No	Trade	Duration (Six Month)	Scheme	Qualification
01	Data Entry Operator	06 months	SCVT	10th

Candidates having minimum age of 14 years, as on Jan- 2024, with no upper age bar can apply. The application form is attached as Annexure "A" with this advertisement notice. The desirous candidates shall submit the application form in the office of the ITI Bemina during office hour's w.e.f 23-12-2024 to 23-01-2025.

The candidates have to submit the attested photocopies of below mentioned documents along with the application form:-

- Marks Certificate of Qualifying Examination.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex. Serviceman/Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any.
- Aadhar Card.
- (\*\* Domicile certificate should be produced at the time of admission in the ITI).
- Discharge Certificate from school/college/university last attended
- Passport size Photograph

Mode of selection

- Selection will be made purely on the basis of academic merit obtained by the applicants in their qualifying examination.
- On successful completion or training in trades running under SCVT Scheme, certificate will be awarded by State Council for Vocational Training.

No: ITI/Bem/Trgs/2024/1760-63  
Dated: 23-12-2024

Assistant Director  
I/C Women ITI Bemina

**"ANNEXURE-A"**  
**ADMISSION APPLICATION FORM**

Trade..... Contact No.....  
Name of the candidate (Block Letters).....  
Father's Name.....  
Mother's Name.....  
Date of Birth.....  
Address.....  
Pincode.....  
Aadhar No.....  
Email-ID.....  
Bank A/C No..... IFSC Code & Branch.....

**Mandatory:-**

- 10th Marks certificate
- Domicile Certificate
- Discharge Certificate from school/college/university last attended.
- D.O.B. certificate.
- Photocopy of Aadhar Card:
- Passport Size Photograph
- Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex-Serviceman/Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any.

**UNDERTAKING**

I do hereby undertake that all the particulars given above are correct. If any kind of discrepancy is found, I shall be personally responsible.

I also undertake that I am not working in any Government or Private Sector Enterprise & I am not perusing any education in any Government or Private Institution.

DIPK-9940-24  
DT: 24/12/2024

SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPH



## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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## New Reservation Policy J&K

# Would the Gupkar Protest Solve the Reservation Riddle?

Ummar Jamal

The recent protest led by Srinagar Member of Parliament Syed Ruhullah Mehdi for the rationalization of reservation policies in Jammu and Kashmir was nothing short of unprecedented. In an age where power-driven politics often overshadows value-driven politics, Ruhullah Mehdi's move to stand in solidarity with the protesting youth, even at the cost of defying his party line, is a bold departure from the norm.

This protest broke new ground in several ways. It was extraordinary to see a sitting MP from the ruling National Conference, Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, rise above party politics and actively join the demonstrators. In a political culture where allegiance to the party often trumps personal conviction, this was a breath of fresh air. His decision to stand with the students is emblematic of a new kind of leadership—one that values principles over power.

Second, the protest saw an unprecedented show of unity among political leaders. Representatives from various parties, including opposition leaders like Waheed Parra, Sheikh Khurshid, Iltija Mufti, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the students, lending their voices to the cause. This crossing of party lines to address a pressing public issue is a rarity at the time often mired in divisive politics.

Third, the protest marked the return of peaceful demonstrations in Kashmir, a sight that had become scarce in recent years.

### What did the protest achieve?

The protest achieved more than just mobilizing people. It brought the issue of reservation to the forefront of political discourse. The demonstrators demanded a rollback of the new reservation policy to its previous status quo, forcing the government to address their grievances.

At the same time, the protest also acted as a wake-up call for the government that they can't leave this issue unaddressed for long. The same Chief Minister, who earlier stated that their government would not operate at the pleasure of agendas set on social media, was compelled to tweet on the same platform to quell the tsunami of anger after Syed Ruhullah Mehdi announced on Twitter that he would protest against his own Chief Minister over the rationalization of reservation.

Another remarkable aspect of this protest was its demonstration of intra-party democracy. Mehdi's dissatisfaction with his government's inaction on the reservation issue led him to take a stand, even while remaining within the party. This rare display of accountability within party ranks is something the public should aspire to see more of. It is a reminder that po-



Photo by Aabid Bhat for Kashmir Observer

“One of the most critical aspects of this protest is the need to maintain unity. While the demonstrators raised legitimate concerns about the reservation policy, it is essential to ensure that these protests do not create rifts between communities—whether reserved and unreserved, or between regions like Kashmir and Pir Panjal

litical leaders are answerable not just to their parties but also to the people they represent.

### The Chief Minister's Assurance: A Mixed Bag

In response to the protest, a five-member delegation met with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and secured an assurance that a sub-committee would review the reservation policy over the next six months. However, this promise is far from a definitive success.

For one, the assurance lacks immediate action. If the Chief Minister was genuinely committed to addressing the issue, he could have halted all ongoing recruitments under the contentious policy until the review was completed. Moreover, six months is a long time, and the delay raises concerns about whether the review will yield any meaningful results.

The has been persistent contradiction about the reservation issue among the National conference leaders. While CM assured that cabinet sub-committee would review the new reservation policy, his minister Javid Rana went on to say that nobody can touch ST-1 and ST-2. Few days ago Education Minister Sakina Yattoo also abstained from commenting on the reservation issue for fear of matter being sub-judice. These contradictions reflect about the confusion with which government is fraught with about

reservation issue. These contradictions need to be addressed

There is also the looming possibility of judicial intervention. If the courts deliver a verdict on the matter during this six-month period, it could complicate the situation further. The protesting students, therefore, view the Chief Minister's assurance as merely a starting point in what is likely to be a prolonged struggle.

The path to rationalizing reservation policies is fraught with obstacles. While government appears toothless in its ability to conduct a comprehensive review, the judiciary's role in this matter is limited. Courts can validate or invalidate policies, but they cannot step into the shoes of the legislature to devise new reservation frameworks.

And finally, there is little hope for intervention from the central government or the Lieutenant Governor, given their role in increasing the reservation quota earlier this year. Expecting them to reverse their own decision seems unlikely.

### Avoiding Divisions

One of the most critical aspects of this protest is the need to maintain unity. While the demonstrators raised legitimate concerns about the reservation policy, it is essential to ensure that these protests do not create rifts between communities—whether reserved

and unreserved, or between regions like Kashmir and Pir Panjal.

The right-thinking members of society must work to counter divisive narratives, particularly on social media, where some individuals exploit sensitive issues for personal gain. Unity is paramount, and any rationalization of reservation policies achieved at the cost of societal harmony would be a pyrrhic victory.

### The Road Ahead

While the Gupkar protest was significant, it is only the beginning. The verbal assurance of the Chief Minister is insufficient to resolve the issue. The protesters, too, have a long journey ahead. To achieve the desired results, indeed this was the first protest the students did, but I do not think this is not going to be the last. That being said, the government must act decisively and transparently, either by admitting its inability to address the problem because of the fact they are working in a Union Territory or by taking concrete steps toward reform.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The Author is a columnist and the National President of J&K Students Association. He tweets at ummar\_jamal and can be reached at ummarjamal968@gmail.com

“The verbal assurance of the Chief Minister is insufficient to resolve the issue. The protesters, too, have a long journey ahead. To achieve the desired results, indeed this was the first protest the students did, but I do not think this is not going to be the last

## KO VIEW

### Let Gaza Truce Bid Succeed

In a development that has raised some hope for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestine, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told parliament on Monday that “some progress” had been made in negotiations with Hamas to secure the release of hostages held in Gaza. The war is now over 14 months old and has already consumed around 45,000 lives, most of them women and children. Israel has also leveled most of Gaza, making it uninhabitable. In Lebanon, relentless Israeli strikes killed around 3000 people before the ceasefire was achieved after a much painstaking effort.

Netanyahu's comments came two days after Palestinian groups also talked of progress towards a truce and a hostage release deal. However, we have heard such statements before and it could very well be one more false start. The reason that the negotiations have been hopelessly stuck is because of Israel's insistence that the ceasefire will be temporary and will come into effect only after Hamas releases all hostages. This means once Israel gets hostages back, it is free to resume war after the truce period is over and this time unrestrained by any concern for hostages. While one doesn't know the details of the fresh ceasefire proposal, it should be the one that ensures a sustainable end to the hostilities if not the lasting peace.

In recent days, indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States have taken place in Doha, rekindling hope of an agreement that has otherwise proven elusive. Fourteen months into the current war, the human cost in Gaza has reached unbearable levels. The devastation wrought by airstrikes, ground offensives, and airstrikes has reduced homes, schools, and hospitals to rubble, leaving thousands dead and displacing countless others. Children bear the brunt of this carnage, their lives scarred by fear, loss, and instability. The images emerging from Gaza—of families mourning their loved ones and neighborhoods leveled by violence—are heart-wrenching.

Beyond some occasional politically correct noises, the international community has watched the situation from the sidelines. The core issues—the establishment of a lasting ceasefire, the future governance of Gaza, and the broader contours of Israeli-Palestinian relations—remain unresolved. Any resolution must go beyond temporary ceasefires and prisoner exchanges. The path to peace lies in addressing the root causes of the conflict: the statelessness of Palestinians, the blockade of Gaza, and the absence of a viable framework for coexistence. Both sides must make painful compromises, and international actors must intensify their efforts to mediate a fair and lasting settlement.



### Did you know ?

## Understanding the Power of Compounding: A Path to Financial Freedom

Irshad Mushtaq

Do you ever feel like you're drowning in a sea of never-ending interest payments? You're definitely not alone. Many of us struggle to grasp the concept of exponential growth and compounding, especially when it comes to high-interest loans. These can quickly become overwhelming burdens, stripping us of time and resources. It's essential to rethink our approach and avoid liabilities from depreciating assets.

Imagine a shift—a transition from a consumption-driven mindset to one focused on wealth creation. This is where a systematic investment plan (SIP) in mutual funds comes in. It's a simple and effective way to build wealth, requiring just a bit of setup and a commitment to a disciplined system. Embracing a “rich mindset” involves focusing on creating value, rather than constantly consuming it.

However, many of us fall into the trap of unnecessary spending and loans, acquiring liabilities instead of assets that appreciate over time. We need to turn away from consumption and toward saving and investing. Building a solid financial foundation early can bring rewards in the future.

It's heartbreaking to see people sell ancestral assets to fulfill short-term liabilities, especially in remote areas or among those with limited financial education. Instead of parting with these valuable resources, why not consider ways to generate income from them? With the right guidance and smart decisions, assets can produce sustainable income.

Sadly, emotional decisions often lead to irreversible mistakes. Selling valuable assets to meet temporary needs without consulting trusted advisors can create long-term repercussions across generations. It's time to respect what we have, appreciate the wisdom we've been given, and embrace basic financial planning.

Remember, there's no substitute for hard work, but strategically managing wealth can lead to income generation. Even if an asset is remote, it's worth exploring how to maximize its potential, rather than resorting to labor-intensive efforts. With patience, planning, and the right advice, you can set yourself and future generations on a path to financial stability.

Let's turn our focus to asset management, appreciate what we have, and harness every opportunity for growth. With faith, persistence, and proper guidance, we can all unlock the door to financial independence.

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



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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## SKIMS (JVC) Bemina Struggles Without a Full-Time Principal

I would like to highlight the issue of SKIMS Bemina remaining without a head for quite some time now.

The tertiary care hospital and medical college is grappling with significant challenges due to the absence of a full-time principal. The dependence on the Director of SKIMS to act as an incharge principal has exacerbated the situation, leaving the institution in administrative disarray. Students, faculty, and staff face long

waits as issues are routed to SKIMS Soura and then channeled back.

The principal plays a crucial role in ensuring compliance with the National Medical Commission (NMC) and serves as the bridge between the government, faculty, and students. Without a dedicated principal, the college struggles to make timely decisions or implement policies effectively.

The Director of SKIMS, already overburdened with overseeing operations at SKIMS Soura, has been tasked

with the additional responsibility of serving as the principal of SKIMS Medical College. This dual role has led to significant inefficiencies.

The government's delay in appointing a full-time principal has caused mounting frustration among faculty, students, and healthcare staff. The institution risks losing its competitive edge and may face compliance issues with regulatory bodies. The lack of stable leadership sends a discouraging message to aspiring stu-

dents and faculty considering SKIMS Medical College.

A full-time principal is not just a position—it is a necessity for the institution's stability and growth. The government must act swiftly to appoint a dedicated principal who can focus exclusively on addressing the challenges facing SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina and steering it toward excellence.

Dr Imtiyaz  
drimtiyaz.skims@gmail.com



# Flipping the Script on Failure Turning Setbacks into Success

Aamir Bashir

Imagine standing on the edge of a diving board, looking down at the water below. Your heart races, your palms sweat, and every part of you screams, "What if I fail? What if I belly flop in front of everyone?" Now, imagine a world where you embrace that fear, dive in, and realize that the splash wasn't a failure—it was a lesson. Every dive, whether graceful or messy, brings you one step closer to mastering the art of swimming.

This is the essence of how we should approach failure. Fear of failure is something everyone experiences—it's a natural part of life. But it's also something we can learn to manage and even welcome. What if, instead of avoiding failure, we learned to lean into it and view it as a stepping stone to success? This is the essence of how we should approach failure. Fear of failure is something everyone experiences—it's a natural part of life. But it's also something we can learn to manage and even welcome. What if, instead of avoiding failure, we learned to lean into it and view it as a stepping stone to success?

I still remember the first time I was made to feel that failure was something bad. It was in school, and I had just bombed a test I studied hard for. I could feel the weight of disappointment settle in my chest as I walked to the teacher's desk. The look of concern on my teacher's face only deepened the sense of shame. It wasn't just the low grade—it was the way it made me feel about myself. It was as though that single test result was a reflection of my worth, as if failure was a stain I couldn't wash away. I felt as if I had failed not just the test, but my own potential.

It took years to unlearn that deeply ingrained belief. The idea that failure was something to be feared, something to hide from, was so deeply rooted in my mindset. But what if I told you that failure, in its purest form, is not the enemy? What if I told you that it is, in fact, one of the most powerful tools for personal growth?

## Why Do We Fear Failure?

The fear of failure is something everyone experiences at some point. It stems from the belief that mistakes define us, that failure reflects our inadequacies. Society often reinforces this belief by promoting perfection—whether in school, work, or social settings. We learn to avoid failure at all costs, but this fear of making mistakes can hold us back from fully living. We become paralyzed by the thought of failing short.

But here's the truth: failure is not a reflection of who you are. It's simply a part of the process, an inevitable part of the journey toward growth and suc-

cess. Winston Churchill rightly said that "Success is not final, failure is not fatal, and it is the courage to continue that counts."

## Reframing Failure: From Setback to Opportunity

The first step to overcoming the fear of failure is reframing it. Instead of seeing failure as something to be avoided at all costs, we must learn to view it as an essential part of success. Failure isn't an obstacle—it's an opportunity.

Here's how you can begin to shift your mindset:

### Perfection is overrated—Progress is the Goal

I used to think that anything less than perfect was a failure. The pressure to be flawless can be overwhelming. But perfection is not only impossible—it's counterproductive. The constant pursuit of perfection often keeps us stuck, afraid to make mistakes. The truth is, we don't need to be perfect; we just need to make progress. Every small step forward, even with missteps along the way, gets us closer to where we want to be. For example, think of Thomas Edison. His famous quote, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work," illustrates the idea that failure isn't about being wrong—it's about learning. Each failure brought him closer to discovering what would work. Failure is a lesson, not a defeat.

### Mistakes Are Not Defeats—They Are Lessons

One of the most transformative shifts I made was learning to view mistakes as lessons rather than defeats. Each mistake provides feedback, helping us adjust our approach and make better decisions. It's this mindset that turns failures into opportunities for growth. Every time you fail, ask yourself: What can I learn from this? Imagine you're trying to learn a new language. At first, you might struggle with pronunciation or grammar. It can feel like failure, but with each mistake, you learn something new. You refine your approach and get closer to fluency. Mistakes are simply milestones along the journey.

When I think of failure and success, I'm reminded of the story of J.K. Rowling, the famous author of the Harry Potter series. Before she became one of the world's most celebrated authors, Rowling faced rejection after rejection. In fact, her manuscript for Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was rejected by 12 different publishers. One even told her to get a "day job" because she would never make it as a writer.

Imagine that—a book that would eventually become a global phenomenon was dismissed as unworthy. Most people would have quit, thrown the manuscript away, and believed that failure was a

sign to stop. But Rowling didn't give up. She believed in her story, in her characters, and in her craft. She learned from each rejection and, eventually, found a publisher who believed in her too. Today, Rowling's success is a testament to the idea that failure isn't the end of the road—it's often the beginning of something greater. Her story is a powerful reminder that every "no" brings you closer to a "yes." What would have happened if she had listened to the critics and stopped writing? She would have never discovered her true potential.

### Don't Let Failure Define You

Failure doesn't diminish you—it refines you

### Embrace growth mindset

Indeed there is wisdom in even seemingly negative experiences, it reminds me of Khalil Gibran's quote I have learnt kindness from unkind, tolerance from angry which reflects that negative experiences are our teachers and can teach us valuable lessons.

The Role of Self-Compassion in Overcoming Failure  
Another critical piece in overcoming failure is practicing self-compassion. It's easy to beat yourself up when things go wrong, but self-criticism only keeps you stuck in a cycle of fear and shame. Instead, treat yourself with the same kindness and understanding you would offer to a friend. Failure doesn't make you unworthy—it makes you human.

### Conclusion: Failure is Your Friend

The fear of failure will always be there—it's natural. But it doesn't have to control you. The key is learning how to embrace failure as a necessary part of growth. Every time you fail, you gain valuable insights that propel you forward. When you stop fearing failure and start seeing it as a stepping stone, you unlock new levels of potential. So the next time you face a setback, remember: failure is not the end—it's a beginning. Just like the diving board, it might be scary at first, but with each dive, you get closer to mastering the art of swimming through life's challenges. Embrace your mistakes, learn from them, and allow them to guide you toward the success you deserve. Do not fear mistakes. You will know failure. Continue to reach out." — Benjamin Franklin

Remember, failure is not the opposite of success, it's a part of it. Embrace it, learn from it, and let it guide you toward your next big win.

The author is a Counseling psychologist at Truworthwellness limited and can be reached at Aamirbhashir791@gmail.com



## On Christmas

# 7 Ways to Experience the Often-Elusive Joy of Christmas

Elizabeth Grace Saunders

ear...

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or some other holiday, this can be a really challenging season. Not only are you expected to manage multiple extra projects (house decorating, present giving, and family visiting), but also you're supposed to feel happier than ever (as the expectation is it's the most wonderful time of the year). Talk about difficult!

This can lead to a lot of guilt when you don't feel that you're living up to the ideals you have in your head or when you do live up to those standards but feel miserable while doing so and then feel even worse because you're supposed to feel jolly.

As a time coach, I've been thinking a lot about this topic and also testing different strategies to optimize both external organization while maintaining internal peace. Here are my seven best strategies to experience the often-elusive joy of Christmas.

**1. Focus on the Good:** Whatever you focus on expands so if you're looking for something to be upset about, you'll find it. If once you find it, you keep repeating it over and over in your head, the smallest thing like someone cutting you off on the way to work can ruin your whole day. You can't prevent every inconvenience in your life, but you can choose your response to them. Choose to let go of what's bothering you and practice gratitude for all that is in your life. It's one of the best medicines according to The Neuroscience of Why Gratitude Makes Us Healthier:

"In one study on gratitude, conducted by Robert A. Emmons, Ph.D., at the University of California at Davis and his colleague Mike McCullough at the University of Miami, randomly assigned participants were given one of three tasks. Each week, participants kept a short journal. One group briefly described five things they were grateful for that had occurred in the past week, another five recorded daily hassles from the previous week that displeased them, and the neutral group was asked to list five events or circumstances that affected them, but they were not told whether to focus on the positive or on the negative. Ten weeks later, participants in the gratitude



group felt better about their lives as a whole and were a full 25 percent happier than the hassled group. They reported fewer health complaints, and exercised an average of 1.5 hours more."

For those idealists and perfectionists, I'm going to really challenge you to focus on what IS not what is not. For example, get your mind off the fact that one family member couldn't make it home for the holidays and choose to celebrate everyone who is there. You and all your company will really appreciate it.

**2. Lower Your Expectations:** As I cover extensively in my book in Chapter five on realistic expectations, our feelings about our situation have more to do with what we expected than what actually happened. One of the biggest ways to increase your joy is to decrease what you require of yourself. To illustrate this point, let's run through a couple of different potential expectations.

**Recipe for Stress:** Everything must go perfectly, especially my performance. My home must be perfectly decorated. My meals must be perfectly prepared, preferably from scratch.

I must have a card or present for everyone I encounter for the month of December. My entire family must be happy all the time. If everything is not under control, everyone is not happy, and I make even the slightest error or omission, Christmas is a total and utter failure.

**Recipe for Joy:** I will do the best I can within my ability and capacity of time, money, and energy to make the holidays special for those closest to me. I may or may not be able to do everything I would prefer to do. Other people may or may not approve of my choices or appreciate my efforts. I might burn the rolls or forget to wrap the present for Aunt Sarah or arrive later than I said I would to an event. That's OK. I'm human. The point of the holiday is not to prove how I can rival Martha Stewart. The point is to express and receive love from those who care for me and whom I care for too.

If you need a little extra help with this concept of "letting go," this article on Satisficing could be of assistance. Here's what the researcher who wrote this article has to say: "Going into a task worried that your contri-

bution may not be enough will actually make you more likely to fail. Or perhaps it may prepare you to succeed, but often at the cost of being utterly stressed, and not enjoying the process itself. What's the point of that?"

**3. Forgive Often:** Along with being more forgiving and understanding toward yourself, you have a much greater chance of having a peaceful Christmas season if you're also empathetic toward others. Especially if you're hosting the holiday celebrations, this is a high but worthy challenge. This means forgiving your sister if she points out that she thinks your new dress is less than flattering, or your cousin if he arrives an hour late when you repeatedly had reminded everyone that it was important to you to start on time. It means forgiving your mom when she re-folds the napkins in a different way after you already had them how you wanted them and your kids when their screams overshadow the calming music you had carefully chosen.

When you notice yourself about to snap back, take a deep breath and ask yourself, "Is this really worth it or should I just let it go?"

Most of the time, the right answer is to let it go. Yes, it might feel temporarily good to take a jab back at someone, but ultimately that won't build your relationships and create good memories. Make it a point to focus on charity within your own home, meaning that you give of forgiveness, self-control, and kindness in abundance and choose to value relationships over rules.

**4. Transform Worry Into Wonder:** I personally put this principle into action last weekend, when in the midst of the Christmas shopping, present wrapping, and card writing, my bedroom ended up looking like Santa's workshop gone wild. Without elves to help, it's hard to keep everything in order and tissue paper was everywhere. At first I enjoyed the process, but when I started yawning and realized that even though my bedtime loomed imminently, my work was far from done. Initially, anxiety seized me.

**5. Borrow From Your Past:** Indulging in nostalgia can have a powerful, strong effect on you. By the power of association, you can re-live the memories from years gone by. Consider making cookies from your childhood, watching an old movie, listening to cherished music, or reading a children's book. Personally, I treat myself to a good cry every year when reading The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree: An Appalachian Story. Referring to something that stirs your heart can help break the tyranny of the urgent and help you remember what the season is all about.

**6. Go to Church:** If you're from a Christian faith background and used to go to church on Christmas but haven't for a while, consider going back. The holidays will most likely feel empty for you without it since the spiritual experience and significance is part of your heritage. If you aren't from a Christian-faith background consider visiting your place of worship or simply taking extra time to meditate, think, or pray. Hope and peace aren't items that can be tied with a bow and placed under your tree, they're spiritual and emotional experiences that you need to make space for in your heart.

So there you have it... seven ways you can experience true joy this Christmas season.

The article was originally published by HuffPost



**Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan**  
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

**Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth**

**Public Notice**

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Jannat Ul Assad D/o Assad Ullah Ganaie R/o Palpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 05-08-2007 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

**Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan**  
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

**Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth**

**Public Notice**

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file Uzair Ul Islam Dar S/o Firoze Ahmad Dar R/O Triwolsal Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 09-05-2018 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

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan**  
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Application of Aadil Ismail Teli S/o Mohd Ismail Teli R/o Sherbugh Sultan pora Khoie Tehsil Pattan for obtaining OBC certificate for the cast of Teli

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining OBC certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Sherbugh Sultan pora Khoie Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 797880/-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Mohd Ismail Teli	S/o Mohd Teli	58	Aged
2	Misrah Begum	W/o Mohd Ismail	56	H/W
3	Ishfaq Ahmad	S/o --	31	Pvt Job
4	Arif Ahmad	--	28	--
5	Asmat Ismail	d.o --	26	Student
6	Aadil Ismail	--	24	--
7	Insha Bano	D/o--	21	--

In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko  
Naib Tehsildar

**Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan**  
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

**Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth**

**Public Notice**

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file Uzair Ul Islam Dar S/o Firoze Ahmad Dar R/O Triwolsal Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 09-05-2018 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

**Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan**  
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

**Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth**

**Public Notice**

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file Fatima Jaan D/O Bilal Ahmad Teli R/O Hanjiwera Bala Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 23-08-2020 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

**OFFICE OF THE ADDL. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AWANTIPORA**

E. Mail Id: adcwantiporn@gmail.com Phone/Fax: 01933 247047

**Draft Award**

1. CASE NO:- ADC/AWP/LA/WSS-Khandaypora/02  
2. NAME OF THE VILLAGE Khandaypora, TEHSIL AWANTIPORA  
3. NATURE OF ACQUISITION : - PERMANENT  
4. PURPOSE OF ACQUISITION WITH QUANTUM OF LAND: -01 Kanal REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE WELL AND SERVICE RESERVOIR FOR WSS KHANDAYPORA AWANTIPORA.

**INTRODUCTION:**  
The proceedings are as per the provisions of Section 23 of "The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013" for determination of compensation in respect of land measuring 01 Kanal under survey numbers 162 min recorded as Proprietary land required for the construction of Tube Well and Service Reservoir for WSS Khandaypora in village Khandaypora, Tehsil Awantipora, the acquisition proceeding were initiated on the basis of request made by the requiring body viz. Chief Engineer, PHE Department Srinagar, Kashmir.

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam**  
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Application of Mansoor Shaban S/o Mohd Shaban Teli R/o Chandereer Tehsil Pattan for obtaining OBC certificate

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining OBC certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Chandereer Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 569172/-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Naseema Begum	W/o Mohd Shaban Teli	40	H/W
2	Mudasir Shaban	S/o --	30	Labour
3	Mansoor Shaban	--	29	Govt Employee
4	Aasiya Jan	W/o Mansoor Ahmad	28	H/W
5	Manaal Mansoor	D/O --	02	Minor
6	Aejaz Shaban	S/o Mohd Shaban	28	Pvt Job

In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko  
Naib Tehsildar

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam**  
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Application of Rayees Ahmad Yattoo S/o Mohammad Abdul-lah Yattoo R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan for obtaining RBA certificate

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 114000/-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Zaina Begum	W/o Mohd Abdullah Yattoo	56	H/W
2	Andleeb Bano	D/O --	30	Labour
3	Aabid Ahmad	S/o --	26	Labour
4	Rayees Ahmad	S/o --	24	Student

In this connection If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.

fko  
Naib Tehsildar

**NOTIFICATION OF SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND REPORT OF SIA:**  
The process for conduct of Social Impact Assessment report under the provisions of Section 4 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 was initiated as per this office No: ADC/AWP/LA/20-21/148-57 Dated: 23.10.2020, in concurrence with the District Collector office order under endorsement No. DCP/LA/2020/610-30 Dated 25/8/2020 whereby following member already nominated were assigned the task for conduct of the field survey for the proposed project.

- Tehsildar Concerned.
- Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Pulwama
- Assistant Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Pulwama
- Assistant Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Pulwama
- Rang Officer Forests Awantipora
- Agriculture Extension Officer Tahab.
- Rep of Indenting Department.

The report so prepared by the committee members for the instant land acquisition case was submitted to the Appropriate Government/District Collector vide this office No.ADC/AWP/LA/20-21/368-70 Dated: 10/02/2021 for accord of approval/authorization for issuance of Notification Section 11 of the said act

**Evaluation of social impact assessment report**  
On the basis of the recommendations and the observations submitted by the committee constituted, it was established that the land for which the indent stands placed is required for legitimate and bona fide public purpose which necessitates the acquisition of land identified. Direction to the Collector for proceeding ahead under the provisions of Section 11 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 was communicated by the District Collector vide his office No. DCP/LA/2021/1618-19 Dated 23/02/2021 & DCP/LA/2024/716 dated. 30.03.2024.

**PUBLICATION OF NOTIFICATION AND ISSUE OF NOTICES:**  
The preliminary notification under Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 was issued vide this office notification No. 05 of 2021 Dated 08/06/2021 under endorsement No.ADC/AWP/LA/21-22/98-104 Dated 08/06/2021 for calling upon the objections, if any, from the interested persons/landowners. The same was got published in the official gazette on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in Volume 135 and wide publicity was also made. In response to the said notification, during the stipulated period of time no objection was received by this Collectorate and accordingly the case was submitted under Section 15 of the Act vide this office No. ADC/AWP/LA/24-25/100-104 Dated 20/06/2024 with recommendation to the District Collector Pulwama for a decision and issuance of declaration under Section 19 of the Act.

The case was examined by the "appropriate Government" District Collector who after thoughtful consideration is satisfied that the land under acquisition is in the interest of the public purpose. The "appropriate Government" District Collector has issued declaration under Section 19 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 vide Notification No.01of-Rev/LA of 2024 Dated 01/10/2024 under endorsement No. DCP/LA/2024/892-96 Dated 01/10/2024, that the land measuring 01 Kanal is required for construction of Tube Well and Service Reservoir for WSS Khandaypora at village Khandaypora, Tehsil Awantipora.

Public notice under section 21(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 was issued to the interested persons/land owners to state the particulars of the land so needed, and to state the nature of their respective interests in the land and the amount and particulars of their claims to compensation for such interests, their claims to rehabilitation and resettlement along with their objections, if any, to the measurement made and to appear personally or by agent or advocate within a period of 30 days. During the prescribed period of time no such objection was received by this Collectorate.

**METHODOLOGY USED FOR DETERMINATION OF COMPENSATION:**  
On the basis of alignment given by the PHE (Jal Shakti) department revenue extracts, including khasra Palmaish were submitted by the Tehsildar Awantipora. The type of land for khasra number 162min (01Kanal) is recorded as Bngi Khushki. The land rates per kanal as applicable to the type of land stands notified by the Chairman District Valuation Committee vide his office Notification number 80/DCP-SQ of 2023 Dated 23/12/2023 under endorsement number DCP-SQ/22-23/4065-78 dated 23.12.2022. The value of the land as per the market value guidelines for the corresponding year is as under.

(Amount in Lac Per Kanal)

Village	Khanda ypora	Residential	Commercial	Irrigated Agricultura l	Irrigated Horticultural	Un Irrigated Agricultural	Un Irrigated Horticultural
		5.30	5.51	4.79	5.20	4.28	4.49

There is no residential/commercial structure on the proposed site.

**POSSESSION OF LAND**  
The possession of the land was handed over by the land owner to the Executive Engineer PHE, Jal Shakti Division Pulwama prior to initiating the land acquisition proceedings. Therefore the department had already started the developmental activities.

**OWNERSHIP:**  
Names of the person whose land is under acquisition, was ascertained from the revenue records and the same has been included in Award statement.

**MUTATION OF OCCUPANCY IN RESPECT OF THE SAID LAND BEING ACQUIRED:**  
Consequent upon taking over possession of the said land and the payment of the compensation to the concerned interested person, the Tehsildar Concerned shall ensure that the revenue records and all the relevant documents relating to the ownership/occupancy of the said land are accordingly updated and show the transfer of the said land solely in the name of Government through Jal Shakt (PHE) Department.

**APPORTIONMENT:**  
Compensation amount will be paid accordingly to the latest entries in the Revenue Record and as per enquiry conducted under Section 23. In case of any dispute, which I cannot settle within reasonable time, the amount of compensation will be remitted to the court under Section 64 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 for the determination of ownership rights.

**ENCUMBRANCES:**  
The land under acquisition is free from all encumbrances and has been mentioned in the Award statement.

**DETERMINATION OF SOLATIUM**  
As per the provisions of Section 30(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, 100% of the market value is awarded as Solatium has been determined in the award statement.

**COMPENSATION OF LAND:**  
After considering the parameters provided in Section 26 across 29 of the Act, the compensation of the land stands determined. The total amount of award works out to be Rs. 17,96,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lac Ninety Six Thousand Only).

**SUMMARY OF THE AWARD:**  
The Award is summarized as under:

A Total Quantum of land Acquired from the interested Person.	01 Kanal
B Market value of the land @Rs. 4,49,000/ per kanal. (Stamp Duty Rate)	4,49,000
C Factor by which the market value is to be multiplied in the case of rural areas	2(Two)
D Total value of land after multiplying by factor 2(Two)	8,98,000/-
E Value of assets attached to the land in the form of trees	Nil
F Total cost (D+E)	8,98,000/-
G Solatium equivalent to 100% of the market value of land plus value of assets	17,96,000/-
H Total cost of the project	17,96,000/-

The details of Compensation of the land acquisition as per the apportionment statement enclosed herewith as Annexure "A".

**PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO THE INTERESTED PERSON:**  
The interested person is informed that the payment of compensation shall be made through Bank accounts only for which the land owner who is deemed lawfully entitled shall receive the Compensation amount on submission of the below mentioned documents in my office.

- Original Revenue extracts of the claimant.
- Non Encumbrance Certificate from Tehsildar.
- Copy of Aadhar Card
- 16 Digit bank account number with IFSC code.

Announced on 20/12/2024./  
No: ADC/Awp/LA/2024/  
DIPK-9921/24 Date: 24/12/2024

Nazir Ahmad Mir  
Collector Land Acquisition  
Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora



**आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited**  
Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited.  
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)  
(A Government of India Undertaking)  
CIN - U15100MH1950GOI008187 Website : www.irel.co.in  
ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company



आज़ादी का  
अमृत महोत्सव

**Ref: ADVT.NO. 24-25/12 TENDER NOTICE Date: 25.12.2024**

**IREL, OSCOM invites request for proposal for the following items / job descriptions.**

Bid No.	Job / Item Description
GEM/2024/B/5665064	Extension of MRSS existing facility by Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of One 12.5 MVA transformer and associated installation at Main Receiving substation (MRSS) of IREL, OSCOM

Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in> or <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Any corrigendum / Extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.

Sd/-  
GM & HEAD, MMD, OSCOM

cbc- 48146/12/0013/2425

**OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN KUNZER**

Corrigendum to Advertisement notice no. 12 CDPO-Kunz of 2023 Dated:-17-12-2024 for the Post of Anganwardi Worker (Sangini) published on 17-12-2024.

Whereas the Child Development Project Officer Kunzer, vide Advertisement Notification No. 12 CDPO-KUNZ of 2023 dated:-17-12-2024 advertised 05 posts of Sanginis (AWWs) in which 01 post was for the AWC Lalpora Band-Mohalla-A.

Now, therefore through the medium of this notice all candidates who have applied for the said post vide Advertisement Notice No. 12 CDPO-KUNZ of 2023 dated:-17-12-2024, are hereby informed that the Post of Sangini(AWW) for the AWC Lalpora Band Mohalla-A stands withdrawn till further notice.

Child Development Project Officer  
Poshan Kunzer

No.:-CDPO/Poshan/Adv/2023/1039-1040  
DIPK-10014/24  
Dated:-24-12-2024

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BANDIPORA.**  
DATE EXTENSION CORRIGENDUM

**Subject:** 1. Balance work for installed/erection of Mini Gauge at Trout Rearing Unit Guzerbal Bandipora.  
2. Construction of Elementary Girls Toilet at Govt Middle School Hapatnar, Zone Quil Muqam District Bandipora

**Ref:- e-NIT No.76 of 2024-25 Dated:-16-12-2024.**

Due to Non Response, the bid submission end date of above subjected works advertised vide this office e-NIT No. referred above is hereby extended upto 27-12-2024 at 4:00 PM and the same will be opened on 28-12-2024 at 10:00 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (Tender Receiving Authority).

All other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain unchanged.

No.:-EE/R&B/Bandi/5819-26  
Dated:-23-12-2024.

Sd/= Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Bandipora.

DIPK-9970/24  
dated: 24-12-2024



## Indian IT Hiring: 2025 Promises Rebound; AI/Data Science Roles To Dominate Job Market

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI** - Indian IT hiring landscape is at a pivotal juncture as it transitions from a year of decline towards a more hopeful future.



The focus on specialised skills, particularly in AI and data science, combined with geographical shifts towards Tier 2 cities, indicates a transformation within the sector.

While the IT hiring landscape in India in 2024 was marked by delayed onboarding and a decline in overall hiring activity, the outlook for 2025 appears promising with expectations of recovery and growth fuelled by improvements in economic conditions and technological advancements.

In 2024, the Indian IT sector experienced approximately a 7 per cent decline in hiring compared to the previous year, largely due to broader macro-economic challenges and global uncertainties.

Sunil Chemmankotil, Country Manager of Adecco India,

noted that while Global Capability Centres (GCCs) played a crucial role in boosting hiring -- accounting for 52.6 per cent of job openings for tech professionals -- they could not fully offset the significant downturn in the IT services sector.

Despite this overall contraction, certain areas showed resilience and growth.

The demand for roles in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) surged by 39 per cent, reflecting a shift towards more specialised skill sets as organisations prioritised these technologies, according to Adecco research.

There was notable growth in IT hiring within Tier 2 cities, which saw an impressive 48 per cent increase during the third quarter of 2024, indicating a trend of geographic diversification of job opportunities beyond traditional tech hubs.

Hiring for professionals with mid- to senior-level experience increased by 35 per cent, suggesting that companies favour experienced candidates amid market fluctuations.

The hiring landscape for fresh graduates remained subdued, with growth rates ranging from 2-15 per cent across various tech sectors, data from TeamLease Edtech showed.

## Jobs, Farm Productivity, Funds For Infra Boost Figure At PM-Economists Meet



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI** - Job creation, improving farm productivity, and mobilising public funds for infrastructure development were some of the issues that figured during the interaction between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and economists ahead of the 2025-26 Union Budget.

The Prime Minister on Tuesday met eminent economists and sectoral experts at NITI Aayog to hear their views and suggestions for the upcoming Budget.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Budget for 2025-26 in the Lok Sabha on February 1, 2025.

According to an official statement, the Prime Minister emphasised that Viksit Bharat can be achieved through a fundamental change in mindset, which is focused towards making India developed by 2047.

The participants shared their views on several issues, including navigating

challenges posed by global economic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, strategies to enhance employment particularly among the youth, and create sustainable job opportunities across sectors.

Suggestions were also made on aligning education and training programmes with the evolving needs of the job market, enhancing agricultural productivity and creating sustainable rural employment opportunities, attracting private investment and mobilising public funds for infrastructure projects to boost economic growth.

Suggestions were also made for promoting financial inclusion and boosting exports and attracting foreign investment, as per the statement.

Renowned economists and analysts present at the interaction included Surjit S Bhalla, Ashok Gulati, Sudipto Mundle, Dharmakirti Joshi, Janmejaya Sinha, Madan Sabnavis, Amita Batra, Ridham Desai, Chetan Ghate, Bharat Ramaswami, Soumya Kanti

Ghosh, Siddhartha Sanyal, La-veesh Bhandari, Rajani Sinha, Keshab Das, Pritam Banerjee, Rahul Bajoria, Nikhil Gupta, and Shashwat Alok, the statement added.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of worries around deceleration of economic growth.

The Indian economy grew 6.7 per cent in the June quarter and 5.4 per cent in the July-September period.

Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India's economic growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for the current financial year from its earlier estimate of 7 per cent due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand.

The multilateral development bank has also lowered India's growth forecast for the 2025-26 financial year.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India also significantly lowered the growth projection for the current fiscal year to 6.6 per cent from 7.2 per cent earlier.

## Economy Recovering From Slowdown Witnessed In Q2, Says RBI Bulletin

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI** - The Indian economy is recovering from the slowdown in momentum witnessed in the September quarter, driven by strong festive activity and a sustained upswing in rural demand, according to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bulletin released on Tuesday.

An article on the 'State of the Economy' in the December bulletin noted that the global economy continues to exhibit resilience with steady growth and moderating inflation.

"High frequency indicators (HFIs) for the third quarter of 2024-25 indicate that the Indian economy is recovering from the slowdown in momentum witnessed in Q2, driven by strong festive activity and a sustained upswing in rural demand," it said.

The article further said the growth trajectory is poised to lift in the second half of 2024-25, driven mainly by resilient domestic private consumption demand.

"Supported by record level foodgrains production, rural demand, in particular, is gaining momentum. Sustained government spending on infrastructure is expected to further stimulate economic activity and investment," the authors said.

Global headwinds, however, pose risks to the evolving outlook for growth and inflation,



said the article authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

India's GDP growth slowed to a seven-quarter low of 5.4 per cent during the July-September period of the current fiscal year.

The article said that from the expenditure side, the major factor contributing to the decline in the growth rate of the economy is fixed capital formation and from the production side, the main concern is manufacturing.

"Undermining both is inflation. The erosion of purchasing power due to repeated inflation shocks and persisting price pressures is starkly reflected in weakening sales growth of listed non-financial nongovernment corporations," it said.

Their outlook on demand conditions also remains subdued as no let-up in the incidence of price shocks seems to be in sight; they will increasingly be inclined to pass on input costs to selling prices.

## Sensex, Nifty Settle Almost Flat In Highly Volatile Trade; Metal, Power Stocks Drag



Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI** - Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended on a flat note in a volatile trade on Tuesday, as investors preferred to stay on the sidelines awaiting further triggers amid persistent foreign fund outflows.

After gyrating between highs and lows, the 30-share index declined 67.30 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 78,472.87. During the day, it dropped 142.38 points or 0.18 per cent to 78,397.79.

The NSE Nifty dipped 25.80 points or 0.11 per cent to 23,727.65.

As many as 2,019 stocks declined, while 1,977 advanced and 96 remained unchanged on the BSE.

"The domestic market concluded flat ahead of the holiday, with metal and power

stocks dragging performance while FMCG and auto sectors gained from recent corrections.

"The near-term market trajectory hinges on the outcome of Q3 results and the Union budget, but caution prevails due to a strong dollar, high bond yields, and concerns over rate cuts. The rupee hitting an all-time low further evoked the caution," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

From the 30 blue-chip stocks, Power Grid, State Bank of India, Titan, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports and Infosys were among the laggards.

In contrast, Tata Motors, ITC, Nestle, Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC and Zomato were among the gainers. The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.37 per cent, and the BSE midcap index rose 0.09 per cent.

## Aviation Regulator DGCA Imposes Rs 10 Lakh Fine On Akasa Air

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI** - Aviation regulator DGCA has slapped a Rs 10 lakh penalty on Akasa Air for failing to provide compensation on time to some passengers who were denied boarding at the Bangalore airport in September, according to a source.

In recent months, the more than two-and-a-half-year-old airline has come under the scanner of the regulator for certain alleged violations. Earlier this month, some pilots had also flagged concerns about training at the carrier, which has termed the allegations as baseless.

The latest action by the DGCA pertains to the denial of boarding of seven passengers

who had booked a flight from Bangalore to Pune on September 6. The aircraft, which was to operate the flight, was grounded on account of foreign object damage and the



replacement aircraft had nine non-operational seats as a result of which seven passengers were denied boarding, the source told PTI on Tuesday.

Later, the passengers were moved to an Indigo flight with a scheduled departure time of 2240 hours which was more than one hour of the scheduled departure time of the actual Akasa flight.

The source said that no compensation was paid to the passengers which was non-compliance with DGCA norms.

In an order dated December 23, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said Akasa

Air initiated the process of providing compensation to the passengers concerned only after the regulator issued a show cause notice, as per the source.

The watchdog had given a Deficiency Reporting Form (DRF) to Akasa Air and the airline was asked to submit its response, including the root cause for the deficiency and the corrective action taken.

The source noted that in response, the airline justified the denial of boarding of the seven passengers due to un-serviceable seats and that an alternate flight was arranged without any compensation.

## GST Enforcement Team Imposes Rs.23.4 Lakh Penalty On Tax Violations

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR** - In a breakthrough, the Enforcement (Central) wing of the State Taxes Department, Kashmir, imposed a penalty of Rs 23,41,406 on major commodities, including cement, scrap, TMT bars, timber and plywood, in the financial year 2024-2025 upto December.

In view of the recent directions received from higher authorities to keep a strict vigil on major goods being transported across the state, special enforcement efforts were led by Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement (Central) Kashmir Was-eem Raja under the overall supervision of Commissioner State Taxes P K Bhat.

As many as three field teams and a flying squad were constituted to carry out enforcement activities across Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts. These teams comprised State Taxes Officers, besides inspectors, sub-inspectors and guards of the wing. To achieve maximum detections and deterrence, the teams also conducted surprise checks and inspections during late hours and on Sundays as well.

At Srinagar airport, a special enforcement team headed by STO is ensuring a vigil on mobile phones and other cargo items.

It is worth mentioning that a penalty of Rs 9 lakh was levied on tax violations pertaining to cement up to De-

ember this year. Tax-evading scrap shipments drew a penalty amounting to Rs. 2,47,494 till December this year, against Rs 94,590 levied in the financial year 2023-2024, marking a staggering rise of 162% from last year.

Fines worth Rs. 9,84,654 imposed on timber and plywood defaulters up to December saw a 95% increase from previous year's penalty of Rs



5,03,762. Moreover, recording a 60% increase, seizures related to TMT bars churned out a penalty amounting to Rs. 1,99,800 till December, against last year's Rs. 1,24,958.

In an analysis of violations under scrap and cement, a substantial surge in penalties was witnessed in the months of September, October and November 2024. This financial year, a penalty of Rs. 1,06,100 was realized from scrap cases in the said months, registering an astounding rise of 268% against Rs. 28,800 charged in FY 2023-24. The enforcement teams imposed a penalty of Rs 5,01,580 on

cement from September to November this year.

To achieve more accuracy and efficiency in enforcement activities, a Data Analytics Cell was constituted by DC Enforcement (Central). The Cell is tasked with collecting valuable inputs through the online MIS/E-way bill portal, tracking watchlist transporters, maintaining databases and sharing the same with the field teams concerned on a daily basis.

"The idea behind the creation of the Data Cell is to obtain vital inputs regarding enroute vehicles through smart work. The online MIS portal provides a plethora of valuable information such as live vigilance, watchlist transporter details, among others, and the same is put to good use in the field," said DC Enforcement (Central).

Lauding the efforts of the field teams, Raja said, "The higher authorities had recently issued directions to keep a close watch on certain commodities and our teams have done very well so far. It is our aim to enhance our activities and achieve more deterrence and tangible results by the end of this financial year."

Till December, the enforcement wing levied a total penalty of Rs 1.52 crore on tax violations in the financial year 2024-2025. Over two lakh e-way bills were verified during round-the-clock enforcement activities from April to November 2024, marking a 45% increase from the last year in the same period.

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES

### DISTRICT GANDERBAL

#### NOTICE

Applications are invited from interested persons of District Ganderbal for establishment of Live Fish Vending Center in private sector under centrally sponsored scheme "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna" (PMMSY) during the year 2024-25. The details of approved Nos of unit is as under:

S. No	Particular	Unit cost (In lacs)	No of Units	Pattern of funding	
01.	Live Fish Vending Center	20.00	01	Govt. share 40% of unit cost (8.00 lac)	Beneficiaries share 60 % of unit cost (12.00 lac)

The application be submitted in the office of the undersigned by or before 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2025. The terms and conditions laid down as under shall be strictly followed while submitting the application.

Technical details of the scheme:

- One shop with two water tanks of 6x5 feet 30 sqft each, there will be arrangement of water supply, electricity for supply of oxygen, provision of DG set, store block, the fish cutting implements weighing machine, tubs, utensils etc and other items required for fish vending center.
- The building /shop will be of RCC & design/model proposed by the applicant will be placed before the committee for approval.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- After selection of the beneficiary, all relevant documents of shop/building to be produced with necessary clearance / permissions etc.
- The Applicant will submit detailed project report (DPR) with full justification and techno economical details, specific timelines for implementation of the Project.
- The short listing of the site with respect to feasibility shall be carried out by the District level committee keeping in view the required parameters of the area for establishment of intending unit.
- The final selection of the beneficiary will be made by the District level steering committee headed by the District Development Commissioner.

Further details can be had from the office of the Assistant Director Fisheries District Ganderbal during office hours or visit [pmsy.dof.gov.in](http://pmsy.dof.gov.in)

NO.: ADF/Gbl/2024/2028-34  
Dated:- 24-12-2024

DIPK-10011-24  
DT: 24/12/2024

Sd/-  
Assistant Director Fisheries,  
District Ganderbal.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

MeT Predicts

8.5 degrees Celsius, it said. Kupwara, in north Kashmir, and Kokernag, in south Kashmir, registered a low of minus 6.4 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological department has predicted a dip of two to three degrees in the minimum temperatures over the next few days till December 26.

There is a possibility of light snowfall over the higher reaches towards the later afternoon of December 27 till the forenoon the next day, the Met Office said.

While the weather would stay mainly dry on December 29 and 30, light snowfall is possible in the isolated higher reaches on New Year's Eve, and light snowfall could take place at isolated scattered places in Kashmir from January 1-3.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' - considered the harshest period of winter - which started on December 21.

During the 40 days of Chillai-Kalan, the chances of snowfall are most frequent and maximum and the temperature drops considerably.

It ends on January 30 next year, but the cold wave continues even after that in the valley. The 40 days are followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Advisory Issued

A healthy water supply during the winter months," the Chief Engineer maintained.

Consumers have been advised to insulate exposed pipes by wrapping pipes in unheated areas like the garage, basement, or crawlspace with insulation to prevent freezing. He also advised people to disconnect and drain hoses from outdoor faucets to prevent freezing and bursting.

Further, the advisory asked the public to seal any leaks or cracks in pipes and faucets to prevent cold air from entering and causing pipes to freeze.

Likewise, the CE asked people to keep cabinet doors under sinks open to allow warm air to circulate and help prevent pipes from freezing & let cold water drip keeping in mind the flow is minimum from the faucet/tap served by exposed pipes as running water is less likely to freeze.

Similarly, the CE issued a checklist to monitor water pressure and signs of freezing.

The advisory asked people to check the flow of water in the pipe connected to the house and mentions that a significant decrease in water pressure or flow may indicate a frozen pipe.

Moreover, the advisory instructed people to check for signs of freezing, such as frost, ice, or water stains on walls and ceilings.

In view of these emergency signs, the department has asked consumers to shut-off valves and have a plan in place in case of a burst pipe besides asking people to keep your home warm.

Meanwhile, the consumers have been advised to make use of water judiciously and in case of leaking or frozen pipes causing shortage of water supply or demand for tanker services, the consumers are advised to call on the PHE Department Toll-Free Control Room/HelpLines No. 18001807027, 0194-2452047.

NC Leaders Trade

the position of political rivals like the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He also took a dig at political opportunism, stating that the protest gave a platform to individuals who have no real stake in the issue. "People with no mandate, those who have been rejected by the public with barely 200 votes, were speaking on behalf of thousands or even millions. This kind of behavior undermines genuine efforts," Salman said.

"Who are you sitting with? With our enemies, who look for opportunities to turn our good work into a disadvantage," he said.

Salman expressed concern about the damage such actions could inflict on the party's credibility and unity. "The National Conference is a very large party, and small incidents or dirty politics won't affect us. But actions like these create unnecessary internal strife. We have faith that under Omar Abdullah's leadership, the aspirations of the open merit category will be addressed through the reservation policy," he said.

Salman also questioned the role of those who organised and participated in the protest. "If genuine stakeholders had been engaged, it would have been meaningful. But this was clearly about internal issues and political point-scoring," he said.

'House Negro, Field Negro' The controversy deepened with Aga Ruhullah's post on X formerly Twitter), where he shared Malcolm X's quote contrasting the "House Negro" and the "Field Negro," seemingly portraying himself as the latter. The post read, in part, "Back during slavery... you still have house

Negroes and field Negroes. I'm a field Negro," which many interpreted as a rebuke to his critics.

Omar Abdullah's post on X, after meeting a delegation of representatives on Monday, also hinted at his disapproval of Aga Ruhullah's involvement in the demonstration.

"Today I met the representatives of the Open Merit Students Association. The beauty of democracy is the right to be heard & dialogue in a spirit of mutual cooperation. I have made certain requests of them & given them a number of assurances," he wrote, adding that this channel of communication will remain open without any 'intermediaries' or 'hangers-on'.

The tweet, while making a commitment to resolving the students' concerns, appeared to be a subtle critique of Ruhullah's role in organizing the protest, signaling possible friction within the party.

Omar Abdullah also tweeted lines from Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If,' apparently emphasizing composure and resilience in the face of blame and criticism, signalling an apparent attempt to downplay the tensions.

However, Ruhullah's Malcolm X reference took a more confrontational tone. By aligning himself with the "field Negro," Malcolm X's metaphor for those resisting oppression, Ruhullah drew a clear line between himself and what he implied were "house Negroes"—a term historically associated with those complicit in maintaining oppressive systems.

Political observers have noted the potency of Ruhullah's rhetoric in challenging both internal and external critics. "He is positioning himself as a voice of the oppressed, refusing to back down despite mounting pressure," one analyst said.

While the post drew attention, its timing raised questions, with some viewing it as a bold stance against the establishment and others criticizing it as divisive rhetoric. The incident highlighted internal divisions within the NC, with Sagar openly denouncing Ruhullah and expressing disappointment over the setback to the party's image.

Political analysts say as the debate continues, the focus shifts to how the National Conference and its leadership address both the internal dissent and the broader challenges surrounding reservation reforms.

Congress leader and MLA Dooru, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, added to the criticism, terming Ruhullah's demonstration a "camera show." Speaking at a press conference, Mir criticized Ruhullah for staging a protest instead of directly engaging with the Chief Minister.

"He could have walked into the Chief Minister's office, which was minutes away, and discussed the issue seriously. Instead, he opted for a spectacle," Mir said, accusing the MP of seeking media attention rather than meaningful dialogue.

Amitava Chatterjee

been taken note of," reads the letter. "In case Shri Chatterjee is not able to take charge as MD&CEO on December 30, 2024, the bank is advised to immediately propose a suitable interim arrangement (to be made effective post the close of business hours on December 29, 2024) for RBI's approval, along with a copy of the Board's resolution," the letter further said.

Chatterji will succeed Baldev Prakash, who is retiring on December 27, 2024. Prakash is expected to assume the role of Managing Director at SBI next year.

Pertinently, the J & K Government had constituted a high-level search committee for making recommendations for the appointment of MD & CEO of J&K Bank. Headed by the Additional Chief Secretary of the Jal Shakti Department, the committee was mandated to propose four names for further selection of two names by the competent authority to be recommended to the RBI for the position of MD and CEO of J&K Bank. The Principal Secretary of the Finance Department and the Commissioner Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD) were members of the search panel.

About Amitava Chatterjee Chatterjee joined State Bank of India (SBI) as a Probationary Officer in 1990 and has held various senior leadership roles throughout his career. He is currently serving as Deputy Managing Director (CCG) at SBI after a one-year stint as MD & CEO of SBI Capital Markets, the bank's investment banking subsidiary. Prior to this, Chatterjee headed the New Delhi circle of SBI, covering NCT, Uttarakhand, Western UP, and parts of Haryana, managing a business volume of Rs. 5 trillion with nearly 1700 branches and 17,000 employees.

He has also led operations across Rajasthan and was previously the head of the Bangalore Regional Office of the Mid-Corporate Group, dealing with high-value clientele including PSUs, NBFCs, and DISCOMs.

With over 33 years of experience in various operations of SBI, Chatterjee has held positions such as Regional Manager, Deputy General Manager (Business & Operations), and General Manager. His expertise extends to Business Development, Risk & Compliance Management, HR Functions, and participation in industry and government forums.

Chatterjee holds a BSc degree from Ranchi College and an MBA from ICFAI Hyderabad. Outside of his professional achievements, he is an avid sports enthusiast with a particular interest in tennis, football, and cricket.

5 Soldiers Killed

The injured soldiers have been shifted to the field hospital in Poonch, he said, adding one of them is in critical condition.

"One 2.5 Ton vehicle, part of a convoy of six vehicles, while moving on the operational track near Poonch, went off the road into a nallah. Operational track is on the home side of the LOC fence," the defence spokesperson said in a statement.

He said five soldiers died in the incident and as many are injured.

The Army, meanwhile, ruled out terrorism angle to the incident. "A terrorist Initiated Incident positively ruled out after confirming from ground sources. Own post approximately 130 m from the incident site and backup vehicle was barely 40 meters away," he said.

The Northern Command said Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar and all ranks of Dhruva Command extend their deepest condolences on the tragic loss of five brave soldiers.

"Dhruva Command stands firm with the bereaved families in this hour of grief", the command said on X.

All ranks of White Knight Corps extend their deepest condolences "Rescue operations are ongoing, and the injured personnel are receiving medical care," the White Knight Corps said on X

Omar Calls For

also engaged with Deputy Commissioners to assess district-level preparedness and urged them to prioritize timely and effective responses to weather-related challenges.

Chief Minister Abdullah stressed the importance of keeping men and machinery in a state of readiness to ensure the routine functioning of essential installations.

He directed departments to prioritize uninterrupted trade, transport, and essential supplies while addressing disruptions caused by snow, waterlogging, or power outages.

On snow clearance, he was briefed that a sufficient number of hi-tech snow clearance machines have been deployed by the R&B Department, SMC, MED, BRO, and NHAI, with additional machines on standby to handle heavy snowfall.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah instructed the concerned authorities to focus on clearing key routes, including inter-district highways and roads leading to hospitals, power grids, water supply systems, and fire and emergency services.

The meeting was informed that adequate stocks of ration, petrol, diesel, and LPG are available to meet the needs of residents for several months. Additional provisions have been made to ensure timely distribution across districts.

The Chief Minister directed for establishment of joint control rooms in all districts to handle winter-related complaints promptly.

He stressed the importance of a swift response system to minimize public inconvenience and ensure seamless delivery of essential services. Reviewing the health sector's readiness, the Chief Minister directed the Health Department to ensure adequate stocks of medicines, oxygen cylinders, and emergency supplies across all hospitals.

He also emphasized maintaining functional central heating systems in healthcare facilities and ensuring the deployment of medical personnel in snowbound areas.

Instructions were given for providing transport service to expecting mothers in remote and far-flung areas.

Highlighting the criticality of uninterrupted power supply during winter, the Chief Minister instructed KPDCL engineers to prioritize the restoration of electricity, particularly for essential installations.

He called for timely replacement of damaged transformers and urged for protection of field staff with proper safety gear to prevent accidents during repair work.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah underscored the importance of maintaining road connectivity and efficient traffic management.

He directed agencies to deploy sufficient manpower and equipment for snow clearance on national highways, main roads, and internal

routes, ensuring minimal disruption to public movement.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah concluded the meeting by urging all departments to work in coordination and take proactive measures to mitigate the impact of harsh winter conditions. He reiterated his commitment to minimizing public inconvenience and ensuring the effective delivery of essential services throughout the region.

He directed the PHE Department to deploy sufficient water tankers in affected areas to prevent water scarcity during the extreme weather conditions.

Additionally, he instructed the Forest Department to ensure an adequate supply of firewood in snow-bound areas is available.

The Chief Minister also underscored the significance of coordination among line departments and directed for round the clock operationalisation of District Control Rooms to maintain and update records of vulnerable populations, particularly pregnant women in snow-blocked areas.

He emphasized that such cases should be promptly relocated to maternity centers well ahead of their delivery dates.

For regions with possibility of road block, the Chief Minister instructed authorities to ensure helicopter services are put in place for such areas which remain cut off.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reiterated that all preparedness plans should be practical and actionable, ensuring their effectiveness when put to the test.

He called for seamless inter-departmental coordination and directed Deputy Commissioners to maintain regular communication with field officers to address emerging challenges swiftly.

Omar reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the welfare and safety of the people.

He assured people that the administration is fully prepared to tackle the challenges of the harsh winter and deliver essential services effectively. Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Al Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra via video conferencing. Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir attended the meeting in person.

Irrelevant Grounds

Zahoor Bangroo of Fateh Kadal Srinagar.

"In either case there is an invasion of the constitutional rights of the detenu entitling him to approach the Court for relief. The reason why the inclusion of even a simple irrelevant or obscure ground, among several relevant and clear grounds, is an invasion of the detenu's constitutional right is that the Court is precluded from adjudicating upon the sufficiency of the grounds, and it cannot substitute its objective decision for the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority," the court said, adding, "Even if one of the grounds or reasons, which led to the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority, is non-existent or misconceived or irrelevant, the order of detention would be invalid. Where the order of detention is founded on distinct and separate grounds, if any one of the grounds is vague or irrelevant the entire order must fall."

The satisfaction of detaining authority being subjective, the court said, it is impossible to predicate whether the order would have been passed in the absence of vague or irrelevant data.

"A ground is said to be irrelevant when it has no connection with the satisfaction of the authority making the order of detention," the court said, adding, "Irrelevant grounds, being taken into consideration for making the order of detention, are sufficient to vitiate it." One irrelevant ground, the court said, is sufficient to vitiate the order as it is not possible to assess, in what manner and to what extent, that irrelevant ground operated on the mind of the appropriate authority, and contributed to his satisfaction that it was necessary to detain the detainee in order to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of the public order or security of the State.

The bench also quashed PSA detention orders against Dawood Fayaz Zargar of Nowhatta Srinagar, Naveed Mudasar Wani of Ugergund Pulwama, Gowhar Ayoub Fafoo of Awantipora, Gowhar Mohi ud Din Dar of Drubgam Pulwama, Mohammad Azim Qurishi of Baderhama Shopian, Waqar Bashir Bhat of Kreeri Baramulla and Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar of Redwani Payeen Kulgam.

Zargar had been booked under PSA on 12 April 2023, Naveed on 12 January 2023, Fafoo on 16 January 2023, Gowhar Mohi ud Din Dar on 19 April 2023, Mohd Azim Qurishi on 7 February 2023, Waqar on 12 April 2024, and Imtiyaz on 22 June

2023.

J&K's Power Woes

of less rainfall. In these months, the PDD was able to generate only 40-50 megawatts of power from the power grids of Kashmir. However, from one of the power grids in Chenab Valley, the department was usually generating nearly 150 megawatts of power in the evening and late hours.

Use of outdated, obsolete infrastructure

In an official document, authorities had said, "The replacement of existing old and out-dated elements of the distribution network has never been given due consideration and many of which are therefore continuing in the system for more than 40 years after repeated repairs."

Not only old and obsolete, Jammu and Kashmir was able to harness only 3504.90 MW of power while the region has a potential of 20,000 Megawatt (MW) hydel power generation.

The Planning Department and Monitoring Department in 'JK Vision Document 2047' has stated, "Opportunities J&K is bestowed with huge hydel generation potential, however, out of the total identified potential of 20,000 Megawatt (MW), only 3504.90 MW has been harnessed so far leaving as much as 16500 MW of the identified potential is yet to be tapped.

Power Gaps lead to unscheduled power, distress cuts

Till the second week of December, there was a huge gap of nearly 200 MWs to overcome the unscheduled power and distress cuts in Kashmir.

The 'official' of PDD had said that the local DISCOM in Kashmir valley was not getting the same amount of power in which the consumers could not face distress cuts and unscheduled power cuts.

"Till the second week of December, the local DISCOM, KPDCCL had a requirement of at least 1700 Megawatts to provide distress-free power to the consumers as per the load curtailment schedule so that there are no unscheduled power cuts. But the distribution company was getting less than 1500 MW of power," the official said.

DT damage in winters

Till the first week of December, on an average at least 50 Distribution Transformers (DTs) of different load capacities were getting damaged every day in Kashmir Valley.

A top official had said, "On average, at least 50 DTs were getting damaged every day. The main reason for the damage to DTs is overloading and using crude heating gadgets."

He had said, "Most of the DTs were getting damaged in rural areas wherein most of the consumers are unmetered."

In the meantime, KPDCCL had said that in the month of November, at least 1043 DTs were damaged and 1035 were restored simultaneously.

Power pilferages In 2024, KPDCCL recorded more than a thousand power theft cases through illegal hooking on bare conductor lines.

An official said, "In the year 2024, the DISCOM had taken an upbeat approach and we have done nearly 50,000 inspections and disconnections."

The official further said that the team of KPDCCL has saved hundreds and thousands of units of energy during the number of inspection drives.

Metering the consumers

The official documents reveal that there are 23.45 lakh electric connections and consumers of different categories in JK who are being catered to electric power supply.

"At least 14 lakh smart meters are targeted to be installed, 7.27 lakh smart meters are targeted to be installed by March 2025 out of which 5.78 Lakhs stand installed," reads the document.

It also said that the government will complete the loss reduction infrastructure projects by March 2025.

Power consumption surge by 13 Pc The electricity consumption in Jammu and Kashmir has increased by more than thirteen per cent in the past four years.

The official documents reveal "Over the span from 2020-21 to 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir saw a steady increase in electricity consumption per capita, rising from 1,322 Kilowatt-Hour (KWHr) to 1,507KWHr."

"This trend reflects a growing demand for power amidst a population increase from 13.41 million to 13.70 million, with units purchased and consumed escalating from 17,721.76 million to 20,644.47 million units over the period," it reads.

Unscheduled outages, distress cuts People of many areas in Kashmir continue to face unscheduled outages in both 'metered and non-metered' locales.

The electricity consumers of different areas say that the KPDCCL was unable to cater the least expected services to them or were 'making concocted promises' which the

DISCOM couldn't deliver with the officials of PDD saying that the Power demand was gradually increasing because of the intense cold weather conditions.

"If there are any areas that are facing unscheduled power outages and distress cuts, we will work on streamlining the issue," the official had said.

Power purchase 'hollows JK's exchequer'

In Jammu and Kashmir, the expenditure trend over the years reveals that a huge part of total expenditure is on the purchase of power with the official documents stating that analysis of expenditure trends over the years reveals that the UT of JK faces hard budget constraints on account of the sizable committed nature of its expenditure.

"They include interest payments, salaries and pensions. Cumulatively, they constituted nearly 73 per cent of its total expenditure in FY 2023-24. A significant part of the total expenditure of the UT is on purchase of power," it reads.

The documents further said that although power purchase expenditure cannot be classified as committed expenditure. "Yet in the case of the UT it has assumed the nature of committed expenditure because of the historical practice of huge under-recoveries from the sale of the power sector."

"In recent years, there has been some increase in the power receipts with improvement in metering. However, despite this, the gap between the cost of power purchase bill and receipts is substantial," it reads.

AT&C losses

The official documents reveal that the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses have reduced from 55 per cent in 2016-17 to 48 per cent in 2023-24.

Last year, the AT&C loss of the Power Development Department was one of the highest in India—causing a gap between power purchase costs.

In the previous fiscal, the AT&C losses were of the order of 50 per cent against the national average of 19.73 per cent.

Developments, roadmap

The official documents reveal that it was doubling the hydel power generation by 2026 by heading four power projects having power generation capacity of 3014 MWs.

Further, power generation capacity is also proposed to be augmented by 3284 MWs through four power projects. It also said that the per capita electricity purchased and consumption recorded an average growth rate of 4.10 per cent per annum with 1171KWHr to 1507 KWHr in the last 7 years.

The documents further reveal that the government has made substantial investments of approximately Rs 2,000 Crores in enhancing its transmission and distribution (T&D) infrastructure to 31,743.5 MVA in 2024.

Similarly, the length of T&D lines has been extended to 166,376.05 Km. This infrastructure development was aimed at bolstering the region's power transmission capabilities—(KNO)

9-member Committee

of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly prior to the commencement of the ensuing Budget session.

Delhi Court

matter back to the ASJ by the consent of all accused persons and the prosecuting agency, the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The district judge passed the order after being informed the matter related to the jurisdiction of the court is currently pending before the Delhi High Court.

The ASJ would continue to hear the case till the high court passes a final order on the issue of jurisdiction.

Rashid counsel and the NIA had jointly sought the matter to remain in the court hearing it.

Apart from the NIA case, the special judge had recommended transferring a connected money laundering case and Rashid's regular bail plea to the court meant for lawmakers.

Rashid was elected from the Baramulla constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror-funding case.

Cases of the NIA and the ED also involve Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba chief and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin and others.

The ED filed a money laundering case against the accused persons on the basis of the NIA's FIR, which accused them of "conspiring to wage war against the government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir Valley.

LG Greets People

all over the Union Territory with warmth, love and goodwill towards fellow beings," he added.



# Champions Trophy Schedule: India, Pakistan To Clash On Feb 23

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India will play all their matches of the Champions Trophy in Dubai with the marquee clash against arch-rivals Pakistan scheduled on February 23, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Tuesday.

PTI had reported last week that India will play all their matches in Dubai including the semifinal and final if they qualify.

As has been the case with ICC events, India and Pakistan have been clubbed in the same group which also has New Zealand and Bangladesh.

Group B comprises South Africa, Australia, Afghanistan and England.

The tournament opener will be played in Karachi on February 19 when hosts Pakistan face New Zealand and the final is scheduled for March 9. The premier 50-over event, last played in 2017, will have 15 matches with at least 10 games scheduled in Pakistan.

Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Ka-



rachi will be the three hosting venues in Pakistan with the second semifinal to be staged at the refurbished Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

India will open their campaign against Bangladesh on February 20 before taking on Pakistan three days later. Their final league

fixture will be against New Zealand on March 2.

Group B action begins on February 21 when Afghanistan square up against South Africa in Karachi.

A big weekend then kicks off with rivals England and Australia clashing in Lahore on Febru-

ary 22.

The eight sides in the Champions Trophy are the teams that finished in the top eight in the points table at ODI World Cup in India last year.

The ICC has kept reserve days for both the semifinals and the final.

The schedule was announced after a deadlock over the hosting of the tournament ended with the ICC keeping India's games at a neutral venue as desired while having a similar arrangement for Pakistan for ICC events in India till 2027.

The hybrid arrangement will also apply to the 2025 women's ODI World Cup in India and the T20 World Cup in 2026 in India and Sri Lanka before being extended to the 2028 Women's T20 World Cup which Pakistan will host.

The two countries' last bilateral engagement was back in 2012. Travelling to Pakistan also requires Indian government's clearance, which has remained firm on the status quo.

While the BCCI's stance was always clear, the matter got stretched because of the PCB's refusal to allow a "one-sided" arrangement of neutral venues.

PCB, which had sent its team to India for the ODI World Cup last year, had categorically opposed the hybrid model but eventually agreed to it on reciprocal grounds.

## NIT Srinagar Shines In All India Inter-NIT Students Cricket

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a thrilling final match of the All-India Inter-NIT Students Cricket Tournament, NIT Kurukshetra edged past NIT Srinagar by a narrow margin of nine runs at the NIT Silchar cricket ground in Assam.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, NIT Kurukshetra posted a target of 102 runs in their allotted 15 overs.

Ravi Panwar led the charge

added 17 runs.

The prestigious tournament, hosted by NIT Silchar, witnessed participation from 31 NITs across India, making it a mega national event.

Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia congratulated the team for their hard work and commitment.

Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman said that it is a proud moment for the Institute.

Meanwhile NIT Srinagar expressed gratitude to Divisional

In the Quarter-final, NIT

Srinagar defeated NIT Hamirpur by 6 wickets. NIT Hamirpur batted first, scoring 97-6 in 12 overs. Toheed picked up 3 wickets, and Syed Ibrahim Kamili grabbed 2 wickets.

In the chase, Sheikh Tanveer's blistering 58 runs off 28 balls and Adnan Fayaz's 18 off 14 balls sealed the victory.

In the league match against NIT Silchar, NIT Srinagar won by 64 runs. Batting first NIT Srinagar scored 129-4 in 10



with 42 runs off 42 balls, supported by Naman Godara's 17 runs. NIT Srinagar's bowling unit showcased their skills, with Meer Yousuf taking 2 crucial wickets.

Ahsan Ul Haq, Syed Ibrahim Kamili (captain), Yawer Hameed, and Toheed Ahmad each contributed with a wicket to restrict Kurukshetra to 102-7.

In response, NIT Srinagar fought valiantly but fell short, managing 93-9 in 15 overs. Mohammad Huzair (wicket-keeper) top-scored with 36 runs off 20 balls, while captain Syed Ibrahim Kamili

Railway Manager (DRM) New Delhi Mr Sukhwinder Singh for confirming tickets for students from Delhi to Silchar at the eleventh hour.

Earlier NIT Srinagar defeated NIT Jaipur in the semi-final by 45 runs. Batting first, NIT Srinagar scored 112 runs in 12 overs. Sheikh Tanveer smashed 38 runs off 21 balls, while Ahsan Ul Haq contributed 30 runs off just 7 balls.

In reply, NIT Jaipur could only manage 67 runs for 7 wickets. Yawer Hameed took 3 wickets, while Syed Ibrahim Kamili, Meer Yousuf, and Toheed claimed one wicket each.

overs, with Junaid Un Nabi smashing 59 runs off 28 balls and Adnan Fayaz adding 42 runs off 19 balls.

In response, NIT Silchar managed 65-6 in 10 overs. Anupratap Singh Bhadoria took 3 wickets, while Ahsan Ul Haq and Syed Ibrahim Kamili took 1 wicket each.

NIT Srinagar also defeated NIT Calicut by 11 runs. Batting first, NIT Srinagar scored 97 runs in 10 overs. Sheikh Tanveer scored 31 runs off 19 balls, and Adnan Fayaz contributed 24 runs off 12 balls. In reply, NIT Calicut scored 86-3 in 10 overs.

## Konstas Set To Make Test Debut At MCG, Cloud Over Head



Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Teen batter Sam Konstas is set to make a dream debut at the MCG during the Boxing Day Test against India even as an injury cloud looms over prolific run-getter Travis Head, who suffered a quadriceps muscle strain during the third game at the Gabba.

Konstas, 19, will become the 468th Australian men's Test cricketer to don the Baggy Green during the fourth Border-Gavaskar game on December 26 after selector Tony Dodemaide informed him about his inclusion during training at the MCG here on Tuesday morning.

Konstas will become the youngest Test debutant for Australia since 18-year-old Pat Cummins broke into the squad in 2011.

"We wanted clarity for our batting unit before the team meeting," Australia coach Andrew McDonald said ahead of the fourth Test with the series locked at 1-1.

Dodemaide informing Konstas about his inclusion was a departure from protocol as traditionally, it's the Australian skipper who confirms the playing XI on match eve or on the morning of the match.

"It's (breaking the news) something we don't usually do because haven't had too many moving parts, but we thought we'd get that out of the way so

everyone knows that he's in the team," said McDonald.

"He (Konstas) has been very similar to what I've seen on the outside within (the team) -- composed, relaxed, knows his game. And what he's shown is an array of shots, the ability to put pressure back on to opponents and gets his opportunity," he added.

Konstas replaces Nathan McSweeney in the side after the opener was dropped because of a string of poor scores in the three Tests so far.

However, McDonald said, Head, one of the in-form batters having scored two centuries so far in the series, had "a small strain to the quad" picked up during the last day of the third Test at the Gabba.

The 'player of the match' in the last two Tests faced only throw-downs from assistant coach Brad Hodge rather than his fast-bowling teammates at the nets on Tuesday.

"I thought he looked good with the bat in his hands so obviously the skills are in good order. It will just be what risk is associated with that," said McDonald.

"But no concerns from my end, he's been able to do his running so I think he'll be functional come game time."

The coach did not speculate on who could fill the spot in the middle-order if Head fails to prove his fitness. The uncapped pair of Josh Inglis and Beau Webster are the stand-bys in the squad.

## Short TAKES

### Kohli Needs To Resist Flashing Outside Off-Stump, Says Hayden

Australian batting great Matthew Hayden has urged Virat Kohli to draw inspiration from Sachin Tendulkar's disciplined knock in Sydney and curb his tendency to flash outside the off-stump to regain form in the remaining two Tests of the Border Gavaskar Trophy.

Kohli, who has had an inconsistent series so far with scores of 5, 100 not out, 7, 11, and 3 in his last five innings, has amassed just 126 runs at an average of 31.50.

"There could have been magnificent wins, there could have been losses, there could have been spinning conditions, I mean, you can list off a hundred different areas where Virat Kohli, over his magnificent career, would have batted."

"But in Melbourne, he's going to have a good batting track. What he does need to do is find a way to continue staying at the crease. Flashing outside the off-stump is something that he's going to have to resist," Hayden told Star Sports.

"And I suggest - he gets in line with the ball a bit more and looks to play down the ground a little bit more..."

### More Blood, Sweat, Tears: Stokes Out For Months With Torn Hamstring

England Test captain Ben Stokes will be sidelined for at least three months after further tests revealed he has torn his left hamstring, the England and Wales Cricket Board said on Monday.

All-rounder Stokes, who missed four Tests after tearing the same hamstring in The Hundred domestic competition in August, sustained the injury in the third Test of England's 2-1 series win over New Zealand last week.

"Something else to overcome...go on then!", Stokes wrote on his X account.

"I've got so much more left in this tank and so much more blood sweat and tears to go through for my team and this shirt. There's a reason I have a Phoenix permanently inked on my body."

The 33-year-old all-rounder bowled 24 overs in New Zealand's first innings and was two balls into his 13th over of the second when he suffered the injury -- a much heavier workload than in the first two Tests.

England do not play again in the longest format until a one-off Test against Zimbabwe in May before a five-match home series against India in July and August.

### Man United Boss Amorim Not Feeling Christmas Cheer



Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim said on Tuesday that while dealing with the Premier League club's problems is frustrating, he is confident in his ability to resolve them.

United visit Wolverhampton Wanderers on Boxing Day, looking to bounce back from two straight defeats. Amorim took charge last month with the team sitting 14th. In his six league games in charge, United have had two wins, three losses and one draw.

The Old Trafford side will spend Christmas Day in 13th place, their lowest position on Dec. 25 since 1986, when they were 15th during Alex Ferguson's second month in charge.

"This is maybe one of the lowest moments in our club. We have to face it and be strong," Amorim told reporters.

"I just want to win. I don't care about Christmas. I'm just focused on we need to win the next match. That's the only thing I care about."

"We are privileged (in England) we can play on Boxing Day to give some happiness to the fans and we want so bad to win it."

## Modern-Day Greats Figure Out Their Own Path: Rohit Backs Kohli

Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** With a smile, India captain Rohit Sharma on Tuesday played down concerns around Virat Kohli's struggles outside the off-stump in Australia and backed his longtime teammate to the hilt, saying "modern-day greats figure out their own path."

Kohli's five innings in this series Down Under read 5, 100 not out, 7, 11 and 3 for a total of 126 runs at an average of 31.50, not something the team or the batting maestro himself had hoped for before embarking on the challenging tour.

But Rohit, who is also battling poor form, is not losing his sleep over the lack of runs and is confident of a turnaround. When a question about Kohli's struggles was posed to him with some sugar-coating, the skipper added a dash of his own humour in his response.

Do you say something or leave a modern-day great alone, the scribe asked.

"You only said he is a modern-day great. Modern-day greats figure out their own path," said a smiling Rohit as others broke into a peal of laughter.

Kohli was one of the earliest to enter the nets at MCG and Rohit was last among the recognised batters to get a knocking. The India skipper played just two shots in the last 20 minutes and left everything else, as he tried to curb his natural instinct to push forward.

The desperation to control his conditioned reflex of moving hands towards the fourth stump delivery was evident.

"Harshit, is jagah se jaa rahi hai (the ball is landing here)?" he pointed out at an imaginary fourth stump line while trying to know from the young pacer about the line which looked just around six inches outside off-stump. This line has been Kohli's Achilles Heel in the ongoing tour.

When Prasad Krishna came



on, he was told to bowl on the "channel" as he wanted to leave balls. Prasad dug one short and he just about defended. Then, the lanky Karnataka man hit the channel, and the batter withdrew his willow in

the nick of time.

The 500-odd people present inside would let out a collective sigh. They made noise and once Kohli was also seen telling them to keep quiet and let him concentrate.

When Rohit batted, he was heard telling throwdown specialist Raghavendra, "Tappa sahi pakadna padega (get the length right)." He also got beaten by a throw that reared from length.

"Rohit bhai, pull maaro naa (play the pull shot)," yelled one of the demanding young fans from outside. Rohit just left the next delivery.

With the chatter about his form gaining decibels and rumours about an imminent retirement post Sydney gaining traction, Rohit's answers about himself were short.

When someone has one double digit score in five innings, he wants to be left alone but then commitments needed to be honoured. Asked about his batting position, he was borderline irritated.

"Let's not worry about that. I think who bats where, we should be discussing that within ourselves and I shouldn't be answering this question in every press conference," the skipper said, trying to hold his composure.

At the onset, he informed that his knee which was hurt while batting on an old practice track, was "fine".

Then next question was a

"flighted query" on where he stood with regards to his batting form.

"After last Test (in Brisbane) we had two sessions. What could have possibly changed in two days?" he countered with a wry smile.

As usual, he didn't give away anything about whether playing two spinners while factoring in the Melbourne heat was feasible or not.

The inimitable Rohit was back lacing everything with a bit of humour when asked what led to the selection of Tanush Kotian over Kuldeep Yadav.

"Well Kuldeep didn't have visa," he smiled before informing that the wrist spinner is still not hundred percent fit.

"Axar couldn't travel as he has had a baby. I am not saying Tanush is bad but he is here more as a cover," he said.

The five-match series is levelled at 1-1 with all to play for in the remaining two matches in Melbourne and Sydney.





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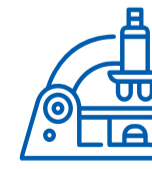
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