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Not Empowered As CM Of UT: Omar Abdullah Says Court Should Be Last Resort For Statehood

Farzana Nisar

Srinagar: Omar Abdullah Thursday said that he does not view himself as an empowered Chief Minister, and that no Chief Minister of a Union Territory holds the same level of authority as that of a state. "That is a fact. There is no point in living in denial. If I were an empowered CM, why would I ask for restoration of statehood?"

The chief minister took questions on various issues confronting his two-month-old government, including the functioning of an elected government that has to share powers with the Centre's appointee -- the lieutenant governor.

Omar acknowledged the difference of being a chief minister of a Union territory and a state, saying "it has been a little over two months since we came to power. It took us time to understand how the UT

- » Biggest challenge is to get statehood back
- » First let's save jobs, land, then talk reservations
- » J&K to focus on reducing power distribution losses
- » Dual Power centres not advantageous for governance
- » Committed to fulfilling election promises
- » Kashmir issue has not been resolved



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

government works. We have been associated with the government earlier, but there is a vast difference between that form and the present form".

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday expressed hope that Jammu and Kashmir's Union Territory status is a temporary

phase and that the central government fulfils its promise of restoring its statehood.

"For us, the biggest challenge is to get our statehood back. We the people are now expecting that the promises made to us will be fulfilled. The biggest promise is the restoration of statehood.

"The Supreme Court in its judgement had also stated that the statehood should be restored as soon as possible. One year has passed since and we think one year should be enough," Omar said in a freewheeling interaction with mediapersons at the Sher-i-Kashmir International

- » Legacy of Sheikh Abdullah does not begin and end on Dec 5
- » Militant's son is not a militant
- » Govt framing a policy to address the situation of hoteliers in Gulmarg
- » We cannot increase our land, but development cannot stop
- » No proposal on satellite colony yet
- » JK faces AT&C losses of over 50%

Convention Centre (SKICC) here. He took questions on various issues confronting his two-month-old government, including the functioning of an elected government that has to share powers with the Centre's appointee -- the Lieutenant Governor. **| More on P10**

Are Omar & Ruhullah No Longer Speaking?

Farzana Nisar

Srinagar: Amid growing speculation about tensions within the National Conference, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah addressed a question from Kashmir Observer about his relationship with Aga Ruhullah, the Member of Parliament from Srinagar. Responding to a query about why Ruhullah chose to protest outside the Chief Minister's residence and not Raj Bhawan, Omar remarked, "Why Ruhullah chose my residence for his protest is something only he can answer."



KO: Why did Ruhullah choose to protest outside your residence and not Raj Bhawan?

Omar: This is something only he can answer.

asked about the curious post-protest exchange between the two leaders, both of whom turned to X (formerly Twitter) to communicate through poetry and literature. **| More on P10**

'No Pressure From PM Or HM On Us'

Omar Abdullah dismissed rumours suggesting pressure from the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to alter the National Conference's ideology and join the alliance. "There is no pressure from the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi), Home Minister (Amit Shah) or the Raj Bhawan on us to change our ideology," he said. The chief minister added that he has received assurances from the prime **| More on P10**

'Let Ruhullah Lead A Protest In Parliament'

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed hope that Member of Parliament Syed Aga Ruhullah will advocate for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood during the upcoming Parliament session. Referring to a recent protest by the MP over reservation issues, Omar remarked, "It is good that MP Aga Ruhullah protested. Let him lead a similar protest outside Parliament for the **| More on P10**

No Political Message In My Wardrobe: Omar

Nazir Ganaie

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah addressed key issues in a press conference on Thursday, emphasizing that his government had begun implementing some of its election promises, while others requiring systemic changes would take more time. **| More on P10**

Art 370 Sowed Seeds Of Separatism In J&K: Shah

Says Kashmir Inseparable Part Of India's Soul

Agencies

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah emphasized the historical and cultural integration of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh with India, referencing 8,000-year-old ancient texts.

He made these remarks during the launch of the book "Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh: Through the Ages," published by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

Speaking at the event in New Delhi, Shah emphasized that Kashmir was not just a territorial part of India but an integral part of its civilizational essence.

Shah referred to historical granths (ancient scriptures) that validate Kashmir's connection to India for millennia, emphasizing that the region is inseparable from India's cultural identity.



He reiterated that Article 370 was a temporary provision and its abrogation in 2019 was essential.

Post-abrogation, he claimed, separatism and terrorism have significantly declined, and the ecosystem sustaining such activities has been dismantled.

Shah highlighted unprecedented infrastructure progress in Kashmir, including new rail for the connectivity and the construction of India's **| More on P10**

Statehood Protest

Will Try To Bring 100 MPs On Board: Ruhullah Responds

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Hours after Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah remarked that National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah should organize protests in front of Parliament for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Ruhulla said that not only statehood but even restoration of Article 370 is his demand.

Aga Ruhullah Mehdi took to social media platform 'X' to reaffirm his stance on the abrogation of Article 370 and the subsequent political developments in Jammu & Kashmir.

Political analysts say that his social media post underscores a critique of statehood demands as a substitute for the restoration of special status and autonomy.



"After 2019, my political stance has been crystal clear," Ruhullah wrote, referring to his consistent advocacy for the restoration of Article 370.

Highlighting his public declarations at various gatherings in Budgam and across Kashmir, he reiterated, "Our fight must be for the restoration of 370 and the dignity it

embodies for the people of Jammu & Kashmir".

Ruhullah revealed an inclination to support protests in Delhi for the reinstatement of statehood but framed it within a broader context.

"I am ready to participate in such a protest and invite those prioritizing statehood to organize it. I will also try to organize support from at least more than 100 Hon'ble MPs."

He suggested January as the opportune time for such action, citing its symbolic relevance as the month when India adopted its Constitution, which had once guaranteed J&K's special status.

However, Ruhullah's statement did not stop at advocating for statehood protests. He delivered a critique of the abrogation of Article 370, **| More on P10**

'Misuse' Of Police Verification Process Sajad Lone Files PIL In HC

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: People's Conference chief Sajad Lone on Thursday filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court against the "misuse" of police verification process.

The PIL, submitted through advocate Syed Sajad Geelani, seeks to address the "growing misuse" of police verification as a tool of "collective punishment, targeting individuals based on the actions or affiliations of their family members", the party said in a statement.

The party said Lone's move comes in response to his earlier commitment to protect the rights of citizens, emphasizing that the police verification process should not penalise individuals for factors outside their control, particularly the conduct of their relatives.

"The current system has been used to deny citizens their basic rights, such as employment, access to passports and other essential opportunities. It is imperative that the verification process remains transparent, fair and aligned with legal standards," Lone, the MLA from Handwara, said.

The PC president said the petition calls for strict enforcement of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Validation of Character and Antecedents) Instructions, 1997, along with amendments introduced through Government Order of 2021 and Circular of 2024, which mandate clear timelines for police verifications.

"These guidelines, which focus solely on an individual's criminal record, are often overlooked, causing unnecessary difficulties. We are committed to ensuring **| More on P10**

Yellow Alert!

Heavy Snow, Rains Likely From Jan 4 - 6: MeT

Agencies

Srinagar: The local Meteorological department here has issued a 'yellow alert' for January 5 and January 6, saying that heavy rain and snowfall is expected at the isolated places during the period.

The MeT department has issued an alert, stating that there is a possibility of heavy rain and snowfall at the isolated places. "The disruption of traffic on higher reaches snow avalanches,



landslides and shooting stones are expected on January 5 and

6," the MeT has said. In a detailed **| More on P10**

J&K Fire Services

Recruitment Under Scrutiny

ACB Probe Reveals Rigged Marks, Favoritism

Observer News Service

Srinagar: What could spark an outrage over recruitment process in Jammu & Kashmir, an investigation by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has revealed that 109 candidates secured lower marks than the cutoff marks in the job test for the Fire & Emergency Services in 2020, but were selected by showing them to have secured higher marks in the final selection list than the marks actually secured by them.

The ACB also found that five real brothers from Budgam district, along with relatives of officials from the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES)

Department and candidates from the same localities, figured in the selection list.

In an official handout, the ACB said that a manual review of the OMR sheets vis-a-vis answer keys revealed discrepancies in the selection process.

"Out of 690 selected candidates, 109 were found to have secured lower marks than the cutoff marks, but were selected by showing them to have secured higher marks in the final selection list than the marks actually secured by them. For instance, candidates actually securing 11, 17, 24 marks were shown to have secured 90 marks each in the final selection list," it said. **| More on P10**

HC Closes PIL Over Non-recruitment To Gazetted Posts In Ladakh

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has closed a Public Interest Litigation concerning the alleged non-recruitment to the posts of Gazetted Cadre in the Union Territory of Ladakh over the past five years.

A division bench of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice M.A. Chowdhary passed the orders after advocate Kachroo Manzoor Ali Khan, representing PIL petitioner, submitted that during a high-powered committee, chaired by the Union Minister and attended by eight representatives each from the Leh

and Kargil regions, who are members of the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic alliance, the Government assured that recruitment to the Gazetted Cadre posts in the Union Territory of Ladakh would commence promptly.

"In light of the above, it is clear that the authorities are actively addressing the grievances raised by the petitioners in this PIL. Consequently, this Court finds it appropriate to dispose of this PIL at this stage, as the authorities have acknowledged and are taking steps to resolve the grievances of the petitioners," the court said, adding, "However, the petitioners are **| More on P10**

Mughal Road Closed For 5th Day

The Mughal Road in Jammu and Kashmir has been closed for vehicular traffic for the fifth consecutive day on Thursday due to heavy snowfall in the higher reaches including Peer Ki Gali, officials said.

The alternative route connecting Jammu's Poonch and south Kashmir's Shopian district was shut on December 29 following heavy snowfall. The link road is closed for vehicular traffic and there has been fresh **| More on P10**



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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office Of The Child Development Project Officer, Qazigund

Advertisement Notice: No. 09 of 2025 Dated: 02.01.2025

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project QAZIGUND.

Reference: 1. Government order No 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30.11.2022 Reference 2. Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023 Reference 3. MD Poshan Communication NO:- MD/Poshan/Recruitment/2023-24/38902-912 Dated:- 06.12.2024

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023 for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project QAZIGUND as per the details given below:

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Project, Name of Post, No. of Post. Rows include Poshan Qazigund with Sanginis and Sahayikas posts.

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Sanginis (Anganwadi Worker) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Centres. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

- a) Date of commencement for submission of application 03.01.2025 b) Last date for submission of applications is 17.01.2025 c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection d) Annexure C- Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A' Format of Application

- 1. Name of POSHAN Project 2. Name of Anganwadi Centre 3. Post applied for 4. Name of the Candidate 5. Father's Name 6. Husband's Name 7. Residence 8. Ward No. 9. Address for correspondence 10. Contact No. 11. Date of Birth 12. Age as on 01.01.2025 13. Academic Qualification:

Table with columns: Sr.No., Examination passed, Board/University, Year of Passing, Marks Obtained, Total Marks, Percentage.

- 14. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO) 15. Document Attached: Signature of the candidate Date:

ANNEXURE 'B' Detail of Vacant Posts of Sanginis (Anganwadi Worker) along with name and location of Anganwadi Centres.

Table with columns: S.No., Name of the Anganwadi Center, Panch/Municipality Ward No, Name of the Post, No of Posts.

Detail of Vacant Posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) along with name and location of Anganwadi Centres.

Table with columns: S.No., Name of the Anganwadi Center, Panch/Municipality Ward No, Name of the Post, No of Posts.

Eligibility:- A. For Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers): 1. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K. 2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 calculated as on 01.01.2025 shall be eligible. 3. The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre (AWC) is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate. In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being un-married issued by the concerned Tehsildar. Where ever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.

4) Minimum qualification for Sanginis (Anganwadi Worker) shall be 10+2 and maximum graduation. In case no 10+2 pass candidate is available in the ward, 10+2 pass candidate from the adjoining ward shall be considered which would require prior approval of Mission Director, Mission POSHAN. 5) In case suitable candidate is not available for adjoining ward, candidate from the nearest ward within the Panchayat can be considered subject to the approval of the MD, Mission POSHAN. 6) Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and not other criteria to be considered. 7) In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred. 8) Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered. B. Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers): 1. The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre (AWC) is located. 2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 calculated as on 01.01.2025 years shall be eligible. 3. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K. 4. Minimum qualification for Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) shall be matriculation. 5. In case no matriculate candidate is available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered. 6. The committee shall select the eligible candidate as per communication received from Mission Director Poshan J&K 's communication NO:- SMD/Recruitment/2022-23/21349-72 Dated:- 14.07.2023 as under

a). Selection of Sahayikas be also done purely as per merit for rare and exceptional cases selection committee can proceed as per criteria in HR Policy followed by clarification issued by the Administrative Department Social Welfare under NO:- SWD-ICDS/43/2022 Dated:- 14.08.2023 reads as under:- b). "First and foremost criteria of eligibility amongst married women in case of Sahayikas (A.W.Helpers) is the marks obtained in class 10th. However in rarest of rare case where selection committee finds a Widow headed household with no income source or a completely destitute lady with Zero source of income. In such cases preference may be given if other things are equal. The condition regarding unmarried candidates being selected only if no married candidate is available be also adhered to." C. In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points. Document Verification 1) The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.

a) Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification. b) Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate. c) Domicile Certificate. d) Unmarried Certificate (where required) 2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent colour photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be: i) Aadhaar Card. ii) Voter ID card. 3) The candidates who are supposed to furnish various certificates issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final. ANNEXURE C All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts: 1. All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law. 2. Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Sanginis (Anganwadi workers) and Class X for Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent. 3. The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

No.-:CDPO/POSHAN/QZD/2024-25/47-54 DPK-10341/24 Date:- 02.01.2025 Child Development Project Officer Poshan QAZIGUND

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Table with columns: Catalogue No., Auction Start, Name of work. Rows include EAFZR-PACKING24, EAFZR-SLR24-92, EAFZR-SLR24-93.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in No. 179-C/E-auction/FZR/24 Date: 01.01.2025 06/2025

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Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:-phegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 8th.

Subject: Construction of 02 No. Service Reservoirs in rural village Ajas including up-gradation of distribution system in left out and outgrowth households of Village Ajas (Production Well). Reference: This office e-NIT No.31-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Cors./7193-7202, dated: 06-11-2024. Bearing Tender ID No. 2024_PHE_263609_1.

Due to "Poor Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 01-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below:-

Table with columns: S.No., Item, Fresh Date. Rows include Period of submission of bids, Date of opening of tenders.

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/= Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar DPK-10334/24 dated: 02-01-2025

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION, PULWAMA

email : xenphepulwama@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS e-NIT S. No. 11/PHEP/Fresh of 2024-25

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures/ Consortiums between bidder/firm and financier registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama to be received by the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle, Shopian/Pulwama HQ: Shopian

The bidding process shall be completed online on https://jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Table with columns: Sr No, Particulars of the work, Estimated Cost (Lacs), Tender fee (in Rs), Earnest money Deposit, Bid Validity, Time of Completion of work (days), Ref. to AAA, Ref. to Reappraisal Authorization, Tender Call. Row 1: Design, construction/successful testing & commissioning of PST for 0.14 MGD RSPF including sludge disposal system and Clear Water Sump, Providing, laying and fitting of mains, sub mains and distribution system, Construction of pump house Stage - I including Motor base with canopy, Approach road, Sluice chamber, Chain link fencing, Breast wall/Retaining wall, DG shed, Development of premises by way of levelling/dressing and construction of concrete path, construction of Chowkidar Quarter and Pump House cum Operator Quarter for WSS Barzullah Colony Dogripora (under UT CAPEX).

Position of funds: Approved Under UT CAPEX The tender inviting authority: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama.

Table 1.2: Critical Dates with columns: i) Publish Date, ii) Document Download/Sale Start Date, iii) Bid Submission Start Date, iv) Bid Submission End Date, v) Date and Time of Bid Opening.

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in. 2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal https://jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal. 3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle, Shopian/Pulwama HQ: Shopian. 4. Bids must be accompanied by bid security/EMD and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4&5 of the table 1.1; and shall be payable at Shopian. 5. Bid Security for an amount as specified in Column 5 of the Table 1.1 of the advertised cost of the work, in the shape of FDR/CDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle, Shopian/Pulwama HQ: Shopian will have to be uploaded on the tender portal i.e. https://jktenders.gov.in. a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Pulwama. The bidder shall deposit tender fee as per table 1.3. 6. After opening of financial cover, the successful bidder (L1) shall have to submit the hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents in the office of tender opening authority. 7. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive. 8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website https://jktenders.gov.in 9. Queries by email if any should be made at xenphepulwama@gmail.com.

Table 1.3: Tender Fee Details with columns: S.No, Tentative Cost of Tender, Tender Fee. Rows include For tenders upto Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, For tenders more than Rs. 5.00 Lakhs and upto 10.00 Lakhs, For tenders more than Rs. 10.00 Lakhs and upto 50.00 Lakhs, For tenders more than Rs. 50.00 Lakhs and upto 1.00 Cr., For tenders more than Rs. 1.00 Cr. and upto 2.50 Cr., For tenders more than Rs. 2.50 Cr. and upto 5.00 Cr., For tenders more than Rs. 5.00 Cr. and upto 10.00 Cr., For tenders more than Rs. 10.00 Cr. and upto 20.00 Cr., Above Rs. 10.00 Cr.

NO: PHEP/3605-15 DPK-10321/24 Dated:-02-01-2025 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Pulwama

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 924215 Class 10th Year & Session 2012 Registration: N11320600051 Name : Aaqib Rashid Father's Name: Abdul Rashid Dar Mother's Name : Razia Date of Birth:- 20-03-1998 Residence:- Chewa Safopora



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 12ARKAM-7029826 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/B/KD/ Dated -01-2025 Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD. FKO_r

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 Zaid Bin Aijaz S/o Aijaz Ahmad Najar R/o Gushbugh Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 29-05-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

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 Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Application of Arifa Habib , Sadiya Habib Ds/o Habibulla eli R/o Chandraseer Tehsil Pattan regarding OBC Certificate Infavour of self

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant's file is currently under process in the office of under-signed regarding obtaining OBC certificate. In this matter report was sought from Patwari Halqa which reveals the applicant is resident of village Chandraseer with his father and the applicant belongs to Teli caste furthermore the annual family income of the applicant from all resources is Rs 144000 . The family details of the applicants are as.

Table with columns: S. No, Name, Age, Occupation. Rows include Habibullah Teli, Zahida Begum, Asifa Habib D/o, Arifa Habib D/o, Sadiya Habib.

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. Naib Tehsildar fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Application of Aijaz Ahmad Teli S/o Gh Hassan Teli R/o Chandraseer Tehsil Pattan regarding OBC Certificate Infavour of self

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant's file is currently under process in the office of under-signed regarding obtaining OBC certificate. In this matter report was sought from Patwari Halqa which reveals the applicant is resident of village Chandraseer with his father and the applicant belongs to Teli caste furthermore the annual family income of the applicant from all resources is Rs 12000 . The family details of the applicants are as.

Table with columns: S. No, Name, Occupation, Age. Rows include Gh Hassan Teli S/o Ab Khaliq, Bakhti Begum W/o Gh Hassan, Gh Nabi Teli S/o, Shahmeema Bano W/o Gh Nabi, Aijaz Ahmad Teli S/o Gh Hassan, Tanveer Ahmad Teli S/o Gh Nabi, Inyat Ah Teli S/o.

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. Naib Tehsildar 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 Rutba Javid D/o Javid Ahmad Khan R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 13-02-2017 occurred at SDH Pattan

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



Police Attach Property Of Drug Peddler Worth Lakhs

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: In yet another significant effort to curb the drug menace and dismantle illegal narcotic networks, Police in Srinagar on Thursday said to have attached the property of a notorious drug peddler valuing at worth lakhs of rupees in Noorbagh area of Srinagar under the provisions of NDPS Act.

Sakeena Itoo Conducts Surprise Inspection Of LD Hospital



Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today conducted a surprise inspection of LD Hospital to review healthcare facilities being extended to the patients there.

KU's Annual Youth Festival 'Sonzal-2024' Concludes

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: The annual youth festival Sonzal-2024, organized by the Division of Youth Affairs, Department of Students Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir (KU), concluded on Thursday with an award distribution ceremony held at the Ibn Khaldun auditorium of the main campus.

All Arrangements Put In Place To Face Winter Vagaries



Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: Amidst inclement weather forecast, all arrangements have been put in place in Srinagar District to face winter vagaries and ensure routine essential services and supplies.

Srinagar Police Arrest Two Drug Peddlers

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: In its ongoing efforts to eliminate the drug menace from society, Srinagar Police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

Dr. Farooq, Omar Condole Demise Of Abdul Hameed Ganaie

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah today expressed profound grief over the demise of noted socio-political figure Abdul Hameed Ganaie of Nawa Kadal.

HELP icon
TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200
AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311
RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORA: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Close)
Srinagar-Leh- (Close)

PRAYERS
FAJR 6:07
ZUHR 12:35
ASR 3:56
Magrib 5:37
ISHA 7:03
HIJRI CALENDAR
2 Rajab
1446

This Day In History
1945 - Allies land on west coast of Burma, conquer Akyab.
1947 - 1st opening session of Congress to be televised.
1948 - Bradman completes dual Test tons (132 & 127*) v India MCG.
1956 - A fire damages the top part of the Eiffel Tower.
1958 - Edmund Hillary reaches South Pole overland.
1958 - The West Indies Federation is formed.
1959 - Alaska admitted as 49th US state.
1961 - US breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba.
1970 - Marxist government takes over in Congo.
1974 - Arias Navarro succeeds Carrero Blanco as premier of Spain.
1974 - Burma accepts its constitution.
1977 - Apple Computer, Inc incorporates.
1977 - Former Home Secretary Roy Jenkins announces his intention to be Britain's first President of the European Commission.
1980 - Babrak Karmal defends the Soviet-backed coup in first public appearance since taking power as President of Afghanistan.
1984 - Syria frees captured US pilot after appeal from Jesse Jackson.
1985 - Israel government confirms resettlement of 10,000 Ethiopian Jews.
1988 - Israel orders 9 Palestinian "instigators" deported from W Beirut.
1988 - Margaret Thatcher becomes longest-serving British PM this century.
1990 - Panama's leader Gen Manuel Noriega surrenders to US authorities.
1991 - Israel reopens consulate in USSR after 23 years.
1993 - In Moscow, the Start II arms reduction treaty is signed by George H. W. Bush (USA) and Boris Yeltsin (Russia).
1994 - 100s killed in Venezuela in prison revolt.
1994 - Tupolev-154M crashes at Irkutsk, Siberia: 122 killed.
1994 - 35-foot-tall Chief Wahoo, trademark of Indians on top of Stadium since 1962, is taken down, to be moved to Jacob's Field.
1994 - Restoration of South African citizenship, announced on 15 December 1993 by the South African parliament led by President F. W. de Klerk, becomes effective four months before the first South Africa non-racial polls of 27 April, 1994.
1996 - The first flip phone, the Motorola StarTAC, goes on sale.
1999 - Israel detains, and later expels, 14 members of Concerned Christians.
2002 - The Palestinian freighter Karine A is seized by Israeli forces in the Red Sea.
2004 - After hosting the show for over 30 years, Casey Kasem gives up the hosting duties of "American Top 40" to Ryan Seacrest.
200 - Flight 604, a Boeing 737 owned by Flash Airlines, an Egyptian airline, plunges into the Red Sea, killing all 148 people on board.
2009 - Israeli ground forces invade Gaza.
2009 - The Bitcoin network is created as the first block of the digital currency is mined by a person or group of people using the name Satoshi Nakamoto.
2013 - 27 Shiite pilgrims are killed and 60 are injured by a suicide bombing in Musayyib, Iraq.
2015 - Over 2,000 people are killed in north-east Nigeria after Boko Haram militants raze the town of Baga.
2018 - First bionic hand with a sense of touch, for use outside a lab unveiled in Rome.
2018 - Lawyers of US President Donald Trump try to stop the publication of book on Trump's administration "Fire and Fury" by Michael Wolff.
2018 - Previously unknown ancient Beringians group of people unearthed in Alaska, earliest known Native Americans at 11,500 years old.
2018 - Security expert reveal two security flaws, Meltdown and Spectre which affect most microprocessors.
2019 - Archaeologists in Mexico announce discovery of pre-Aztec temple to god Xipe Tótec in Puebla state (dated 900-1150 AD).
2019 - Chinese Chang'e-4 spacecraft becomes the first ever to touch down on the far side of the Moon.
2020 - US drone strike kills top Iranian security and intelligence commander, Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani outside Baghdad airport in Iraq.
2022 - Apple becomes the first US company to be worth \$3 trillion in value, after tripling its price in under four years [1].
2023 - Cristiano Ronaldo joins Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr for the "biggest salary ever in football", leaving Manchester United after criticizing it publicly.

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & style "M/s Sabir Journeys Situated at Reshipora Patten."
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, I Mr. Syed Tasaduq Hussain. S/o. Syed Mohammad R/o Wahabpora Badgam Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s Sabir Journeys situated at Reshipora patten Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card. Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000). Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar. Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director: Tourism Registration (e-mail Id:- ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the date of publication. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained. PD

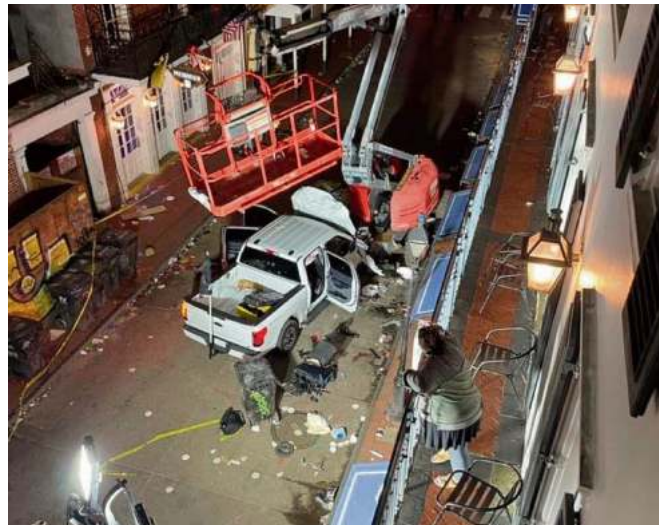
GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU&KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.
GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR
BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR.
E-mail: phegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285
EXTENSION NOTICE 3RD
Subject: Installation of Bore well in Thayan block Kalaroseo.
Reference: 01. This office Re-Tender Corrigendum Notice Issued Vide Endorsement No. PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./8695-8705, dated: 10-12-2024.
02. This office e-NIT No.30-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./7063-74, dated: 04-11-2024, Bearing Tender ID. No. 2024_PHE_263359_24, for the S. No. 11 of e-NIT.
Due to "No Response" for the above mentioned Subject work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No under reference No. 02 & Re-Tender Corrigendum under Reference No. 01. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 01-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below:
S.No. Item Fresh Date
1. Period of submission of bids 20-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2. Date of opening of tenders 21-01-2025 11:00 AM
NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.
No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./9968-79
Dated: 01-01-2025
DIPK-10333-24
DT: 02/01/2025
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

NEWS

10 Die, 35 Injured In 'Terror Attack' As Truck Rams Into New Orleans Crowd

Agencies
 French Quarter: A driver crashed his pickup truck into a crowd celebrating New Year's Day in New Orleans' French Quarter and opened fire, killing 10 persons and injuring over 35, on Wednesday. The suspect, identified as Shamsud-Din Jabbar (42), a US citizen from Texas, died in a shootout with the police.

The incident occurred at 3.15 am at the intersection of Canal and Bourbon Streets, which is a historic tourist destination in the city's French Quarter, known for attracting large crowds with its music and bars. The city hosts the Sugar Bowl, a classic American college football game, each New Year's Day.
 The police said more than 300 officers were on duty at the time of the incident. Kirkpatrick said



The FBI said Islamic State group flag was recovered in vehicle used by the attacker and the incident was a potential act of terrorism. "This man was trying to run over as many people as he could," Police Chief Anne Kirkpatrick said, adding that he was "hell-bent on creating the carnage and the damage that he did".

the driver, who swerved around barricades, fired at the police and struck two police officers from the vehicle after it crashed. The officers were in stable condition, she said. New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell called the incident a "terrorist attack."

Israeli Airstrikes Kill At Least 16 In Southern Gaza

Agencies
 Gaza City: At least 16 Palestinians were killed in two separate Israeli airstrikes in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday, according to medics.
 One strike targeted the

Hamas security forces in southern Gaza, according to the Hamas-run Gaza interior ministry. The ministry condemned the attack, accusing Israel of seeking to deepen the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
 The Israeli military described the strike in Al-Mawasi as intelligence-based, targeting



Hamas-run interior ministry headquarters in Khan Younis, killing six people. Another airstrike hit a tent encampment in Al-Mawasi, a designated humanitarian zone for displaced civilians, killing at least 10 people, including women and children, and injuring 15 others.
 Among the dead in the Al-Mawasi strike were Mahmoud Salah, Gaza's police chief, and his aide Hussam Shahwan, the head of

Shahwan but did not acknowledge Salah's death.
 The Gaza health ministry reports over 45,500 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, with most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents displaced and large portions of the territory in ruins. The conflict, now in its 15th month, began after Hamas' cross-border attack on October 7, 2023, which killed 1,200 people and resulted in 251 hostages being taken to Gaza.



NGOs In Afghanistan Face Closure For Employing Women

Agencies
 KABUL: National and foreign nongovernmental organizations in Afghanistan are facing closure for employing women following new rules enforcing a 2-year-old decree that restricted the work of female NGO staff.
 In an official letter addressed to the organizations, the Taliban-run Ministry of Economy said on Dec. 29 that failure to implement the measures would mean that "all activities of the offending organization will be suspended and the work license they received from this ministry will be revoked."
 The order enforces a decree from December 2022 that barred national and international NGOs in Afghanistan from employing women. This is part of a series of curbs that, in the three years since the Taliban took power, have restricted women's access to education, the workplace, and public spaces.
 "This letter is a follow-up of the original letter from 2022 ... Some NGOs have reached an understanding with the officials at the local level to allow female employees to attend to their work in these organizations and at the community level, while others were stopped," an official at a women-led international NGO told Arab News.
 "A complete ban on female employees will adversely affect the operations of NGOs and will further marginalize the women of Afghanistan ... Donors will not fund men-only organizations.

"I live with stress and tension every moment of every day. We are literally living like prisoners. There's a new restriction every other day. It is as if there is no other work that the government does"

In addition, it's difficult to work with women in the community without female staff.
 Two years after the Taliban government ordered NGOs to suspend the employment of Afghan women, it is not only the organizations' work and the women themselves that have been affected, but also entire families.
 When Wahida Zahir, a 26-year-old social worker in Kabul, had to leave her job at an NGO, her closest family members lost their main support.
 "I was the only one in my family who had a job and with the ban on female work two years ago, my family lost the main source of income. My brothers

are still studying and my father is ill," she said.
 "I live with stress and tension every moment of every day. We are literally living like prisoners. There's a new restriction every other day. It is as if there is no other work that the government does."
 The UN has warned that removing women from NGO work "will directly impact the ability of the population to receive humanitarian aid," with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights calling on the Taliban to revoke the decree.
 "The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan remains dire, with more than half the population living in poverty," it said. "NGOs play a vital role in providing critical life-saving assistance — to Afghan women, men, girls and boys."
 In the wake of the humanitarian crisis that Afghanistan has been facing for years, it needs more women engaged in social work, not less, say activists.
 "The country needs more female aid workers, educators and health professionals to reach to the most vulnerable groups of the population, including women and children," said Fazila Muruwat, an activist in the eastern Nangarhar province.
 "Afghanistan is a traditional society. Communities in Afghanistan are more accepting of humanitarian and other forms of support when aid workers include women. Otherwise, it will be all men's show and women will remain vulnerable in all aspects of their life."

Ukraine Halts Russian Gas Supply To Europe

Agencies
 Kyiv: Ukraine on Wednesday halted Russian gas supplies to European customers through its pipeline network after a pre-war transit deal expired at the end of last year.
 Herman Halushchenko, Ukraine's Energy Minister, said Kyiv had stopped the transit in the interest of national security. "Russia is losing markets and will incur financial losses. Europe has already decided to phase out Russian gas, and this aligns with what Ukraine has done



today," he said. Earlier, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed that Kyiv would not allow Moscow to use the transits to earn "additional billions... on the lives of our citizens." But he had briefly held open the possibility of the gas flows continuing if payments to Russia were withheld.

Pak Begins Its Two-Year Stint as UNSC Member

Press Trust Of India
 Islamabad: Pakistan began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Wednesday, with Ambassador Munir Akram saying that the Pakistani delegation will play an "active and constructive" role in addressing key challenges facing the...
 Pakistan began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Wednesday, with Ambassador Munir Akram saying that the Pakistani delegation will play an "active and constructive" role in addressing key challenges facing the world.
 "Our presence will be felt in the Security Council," Ambassador Akram, Pakistan's top diplomat at the UN, told state-run APP (Associated Press of Pakistan) news agency.
 Pakistan will sit in the Security Council for the 2025-26 term as a non-permanent member - the eighth time that the country has had a seat on the 15-member body's horseshoe table.
 Advertisement
 In June, Pakistan was elected to the council with a massive majority as a non-permanent member, polling 182 votes in the 193-member General Assembly - far more than the required 124

votes representing a two-thirds majority.
 "We enter the council at a time of great geopolitical turbulence, intense competition between the two largest powers, raging wars in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere and a sharply escalating and multi-dimensional arms race," Akram said.
 "As a responsible State - the fifth largest by population - Pakistan will play an active and constructive role, in accordance with the UN Charter, to halt wars, promote the pacific settlement of disputes and contain the negative impacts of great power rivalries, the arms race, new weapons and domains of conflict as well as the spreading scourge of terrorism," he said.
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ishaq Dar said that Pakistan begins its term as a non-permanent member of the UNSC with a rich legacy of experience and commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter.
 He was addressing a reception hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Office said in a statement.
 The event was attended by the heads of resident missions of the UN Security Council Member States in Islamabad and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy 40 Years On, Toxic Waste Shifted From Union Carbide Factory For Disposal



Press Trust Of India
 Forty years after the Bhopal gas tragedy, 377 tons of hazardous waste has been shifted from the defunct Union Carbide factory for its disposal at a unit in Dhar district, officials said on Thursday.
 The toxic waste was transported around 9 pm on Wednesday in 12 sealed container trucks via a 'green corridor' from Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal to Pithampur industrial area in Dhar district, located 250 km away.
 Amid tight security, the vehicles reached around 4.30 am on Thursday at a factory in Pithampur where the waste will be disposed of, Dhar Superintendent of Police Manoj Singh told PTI over phone.
 The trucks were currently parked on the factory campus in Pithampur, he added.
 "A green corridor was created for the nearly seven-hour journey of the vehicles to the Pithampur industrial area in Dhar district," Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Department Director

Swatantra Kumar Singh said on Wednesday.
 Nearly 100 persons worked in 30-minute shifts since Sunday to pack and load the waste in trucks, he said.
 "They underwent health check-ups and were given rest every 30 minutes," Singh added.
 The highly toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide factory on the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, killing at least 5,479 persons and leaving thousands with serious and long-lasting health issues.
 The Madhya Pradesh High Court on December 3 rebuked authorities for not clearing the Union Carbide site in Bhopal despite directions from even the Supreme Court.
 The High Court set a four-week deadline to shift the waste, observing that even 40 years after the gas tragedy, authorities were in a "state of inertia".
 The High Court Bench had warned the government of contempt proceedings if its directive was not followed.

NEWS MAKERS

Here Is Why Arif Mohammad Khan Lost His Temper After Taking Oath As Bihar Governor

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan on Thursday frowned upon questions being raised, in a section of the media, over his meeting with RJD president Lalu Prasad, hours before his swearing in.
 Khan expressed anguish while interacting with journalists here, after he was administered the oath of office by Patna High Court Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran.
 He was asked about his visit, Wednesday evening, to the residence of Prasad, shortly after the RJD president's son Tejashwi Yadav, who, incidentally, was also present at the swearing in ceremony, had called on him at the Raj Bhavan.
 "You tell me one thing. If



"You tell me one thing. If you visit a place and you have old acquaintances, would you not like to meet them? Likewise, would I not like to spend some time with those whom I have known since 1975, once I am in their city? I wonder what is questionable in this matter"

you visit a place and you have old acquaintances, would you not like to meet them? Likewise, would I not like to spend some time with those whom I have known since 1975, once I am in their city? I wonder what is questionable in this matter," Khan said.
 Urging the media "not to view all things through the prism of politics", Khan said he looked forward to a great tenure in Bihar, where he has come as a "sevak" (servant).
 Digital arrest' scam: Gujarat cops arrest Russian national acting as gang's 'gatekeeper'
 "Bihar is unparalleled in terms of its glorious history. It also has tremendous potential, if we think in terms of the future," he said.

PM Modi To Send Ceremonial Chadar To Ajmer Dargah on Jan 4

Union Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju will present a ceremonial 'chadar' (clock) sent by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Dargah Sharif of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer on January 4.
 The tradition is observed annually during the Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, where the prime minister's chadar is offered at the Dargah Sharif. The Union minister for minority affairs customarily represents the prime minister during this significant occasion.
 Since assuming office as prime minister, Modi has offered a 'chadar' to Ajmer Sharif Dargah ten times. This will be the 11th time he has participated in this tradition.
 Last year, during the 812th Urs, the 'Chadar' was presented to the shrine by then Union minister Smri-



ti Irani and Jamal Siddiqui, along with a delegation representing the Muslim community, on behalf of the prime minister.
 Meanwhile, BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has emphasised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to promote peace, unity, harmony, and brotherhood in the country by sending a 'chadar' to Ajmer Sharif.
 PM Modi has consistently sent a chadar to the Ajmer Sharif Dargah since 2014.

Winter Carnival Kicks Off At Pahalgam Club



Agencies

PAHALGAM: The much-anticipated Winter Carnival at Pahalgam, organised by the Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir, commenced at the Pahalgam Club on Thursday at 4 pm. The event aims to bolster winter tourism at this renowned destination.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah, CM's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and several other prominent officials and dignitaries.

Officials expressed optimism about the region's tourism

prospects. "While Pahalgam saw a good flow of tourists in 2024, it was slightly below the levels recorded in 2023. However, overall business remained strong, and stakeholders achieved satisfactory returns," an official stated.

The primary objective of the carnival is to ensure Pahalgam remains vibrant and bustling throughout the year, particularly during the winter months, when tourism activity typically slows.

The event showcases Kashmiri cuisine and handicrafts to highlight the unique cultural offerings of the region. "The carnival is an excellent platform for visitors to explore Kashmir's distinctive culture, cuisine, and

craftsmanship," the official added.

The recent snowfall has further led to optimism among stakeholders, with officials anticipating a significant increase in tourist footfall. "Currently, 50-70% of hotels with proper heating arrangements are occupied. We are ready with passion and enthusiasm to welcome both returning and first-time tourists," the official said.

Tourism stakeholders in Pahalgam said they are committed to providing an exceptional experience for visitors. "We urge tourists to visit Pahalgam to enjoy its breathtaking natural beauty, warm hospitality and delightful local cuisine," the official added—(KNO)

Events Like Pahalgam Winter Carnival Keep Kashmir Vibrant: CM Omar

Agencies

PAHALGAM: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that events like Pahalgam winter carnival keep Kashmir vibrant round the year. Speaking to reporters here in South Kashmir, Omar, said that such kinds of festivals are a must to keep Kashmir vibrant as a tourist destination. He said that the beginning has been made from Pahalgam and the suit will follow in Gulmarg, Sonamarg and other places.

He added that efforts are being made for tourism enhancement along with infrastructure development and cultural initiatives across all tourist destinations of Jammu and Kashmir.

When asked about the MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi's statement that restoring Article 370 is more important than restoration of statehood, Omar said that he is working for the welfare of the people and he hasn't seen his statement yet.

While replying to allegations of BJP that NC government has failed to keep their promises, the Chief Minister said that BJP has failed in recent elections and they must accept their failure before framing a report card from our government—(KNO)

Fire Claims Lives Of Two Siblings In Tangmarg

Agencies

BARAMULLA: Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district is in mourning after a devastating fire engulfed a residential tin shed, which claimed the lives of two minor siblings. The tragedy sparked outrage over alleged negligence by authorities in addressing the family's repeated pleas for housing assistance.

Officials said that the fire incident occurred at Ferozpora village in Tangmarg on Thursday, engulfing the residential tin shed. Despite rescue efforts from the neighbours and fire and emergency service personnel, the lives of minor siblings could not be saved.

The victims were identified as Mina Ashraf, a 4-year-old girl and a 3-month-old Muntazir Ashraf — the children of Mohammad Ashraf Dar.

As per the locals, the family had been living in the tin shed due to financial constraints and alleged negligence in securing housing assistance under the government's Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), a scheme for underprivileged families.

"This is a tragedy that should never have happened," said Abdul Qayoom Wani, chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Civil Society Forum (JKCSF). He criticised the administration for ignoring the family's repeated applications for proper housing

and called for a time-bound investigation into the matter.

The tragic loss sparked widespread grief and outrage across the valley.

Meanwhile, Tehsildar Tangmarg, Eyaad Qadri expressed grief over the loss of lives in the incident. He termed the incident as "heart wrenching and unfortunate". "We are investigating the incident and the cause of the fire is being ascertained," he said.

Tehsildar assured that the family will be provided the necessary assistance. "They will be rehabilitated in a nearby building," he said, extending sympathies and condolences to the bereaved family—(KNO)

Teach NC A Lesson For Not Fulfilling Poll Promises: Sunil Sharma

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sunil Sharma on Thursday reminded J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to fulfil his poll promises.

In a statement Sharma said "More than two months have passed but not even a single poll promise as contained in the election manifesto of NC has been implemented."

"Omar Abdullah should take pity on the people and start doing something constructive in the UT," he said, adding, "The NC misled the innocent people of Jammu and Kashmir during the 2024 assembly election campaigning on false promises projecting itself as a master with magic stick who would bring down moon and establish jannat here," Sharma said.

"After winning election and forming government, both the NC and the Chief Minister have utterly failed to realize the aspirations of the people of J&K and take effective steps to provide

any kind of relief," he added.

The BJP leader said, "The Chief Minister and others are enjoying ministerial posts. They are satisfied and happy that they achieved their dream of assuming power and are not accountable to anyone."

The Leader of Opposition further said that simply holding media interaction and making no announcement relating to the poll promises itself speaks that the Chief Minister is not in mood to start any work aimed at public welfare and development, which is very unfortunate. "The people have seen the real face of NC and are feeling cheated as there is no signal about something good going to take place in near future," he said, adding, "The voters had voted NC with very high hopes but all dashed to ground which is visible from the working of the government."

Sunil Sharma appealed to the people not to get misled again in the future assembly by-election and Panchayat, ULB polls and teach NC lesson for ditching them.

Govt To Deliver Free Textbooks By Jan-End: Edu Minister

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister, Sakina Thursday said that the students enrolled in government-run schools will receive free textbooks by January-end.

Besides, Itoo further clarified that there will be no syllabi curtailment for the students appearing in upcoming board exams.

The minister during a media interaction said, "All textbooks will be made available by January end. It took some time to make free textbooks available for the students."

On asking about the curtailment of syllabi in upcoming board exams, Itoo said, "There will be no relaxation in syllabi for the board exams because the session has been changed only upto 9th standard."

"The date-sheets have been already issued and we have taken students on board also, they have informed us that they are already preparing for the exams," she said.

About the selling of textbooks by private schools within the institute, the education minister said that the government has

constituted a district and zonal level committee. "They have been asked to monitor the violation so that appropriate action is taken against those private schools."

On the occasion she further said that the School Education Department will allow or disallow private coaching during the winter vacations in accordance with the norms set by the government.

On the occasion Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary said, "The government will look into the issue of dysfunctional technical colleges of Jammu and Kashmir. We will streamline the issue soon."

The delay in delivering the textbooks has left thousands of students at the receiving end as the School Education Department has failed to distribute the course books on time. In the last week of December-2024, the CEOs of Kashmir region in a meeting with DSEK informed that they have submitted actual requirements of books as per the enrollment for the session 2024-25 to JKBOSE. "However, the receipt of such books is awaited."—(KNO)

SDA Conducts Winter Preparedness Drill In Sonamarg

Agencies

SONAMARG: In a proactive initiative to bolster winter preparedness, a crucial exercise was conducted in Sonamarg under the leadership of CEO of Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA), Ghulam Mohammad Bhat.

The exercise, which took place amid the scenic winter landscape, brought together the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team, medical officers from Ganderbal and

representatives from various key departments.

The collaborative effort included participation from the SDA Tourism, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Forest Department, Wildlife Department, Health Department and Public Health Engineering (PHE).

Local stakeholders, including hoteliers and snow bikers, were engaged to ensure a cohesive approach to tackling potential winter-related challenges that may arise in the region.

The exercise aimed to enhance coordination and establish a swift and unified response mechanism to emergencies to ensure the safety and well-being of both residents and tourists who flock to Sonamarg during the winter season.

Bhat expressed gratitude for the collaboration among various agencies and stakeholders, saying such exercises are vital for creating an effective response strategy that prioritises public safety—(KNO)

(e-mail: jksainikschool@yahoo.com)

J&K Sainik School Manasbal
(www.jksainikschool.in)
Advertisement Notification No.1 of 2025
Dated: 01.01.2025

Sub: Requirement of Non-Teaching Staff for the Session 2025.
Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following posts against consolidated pay as mentioned against each post.

Sl. No.	Position	Essential qualification	Age as on 01.01.2025	Consolidated pay	No. of posts
01	Quartermaster	Essential: (i) B.A./B.Com. (ii) At least five years' experience as UDC stores or as Quartermaster. (OR) Ex-servicemen with at least 10 years experience in handling and Accounting of stores. Desirable: (i) Should have undergone a Quartermaster's course. (ii) Adequate knowledge of inventory management. (iii) Practical knowledge of computer with ability to work in word & excel.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.28000 /- PM	01
02	Mess Manager	Essential: (i) Bachelors degree with diploma/ degree in Hotel Management. (ii) At least five years experience of running a catering organization independently in the civil, in the Defense services or in any other similar organization. (iii) Ability to maintain mess account. DESIRABLE: (i) Diploma/Certificate in catering from a recognized institution. (ii) JCO or equivalent from catering trade or with more than five years catering experience. (iii) Ability to handle ration stores. (iv) Practical knowledge of computer with ability to work in word & excel.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.28000 /- PM	01
03	Catering Assistant	Essential: (i) Degree in any stream. (ii) Qualification or experience of catering. Desirable: (i) Ability to maintain Mess accounts. (ii) Experience of handling ration stores. (iii) Adequate knowledge of inventory management. (iv) Practical knowledge of computer with ability to work in word & excel.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.22000 /- PM	01
04	Librarian	Essential: (i) Graduate with Degree/ Diploma in Library, Science from a recognized institution. (ii) Ability to converse fluently in English. Desirable: (i) Proficiency in operating Library related software.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.20000 /- PM	01
05	Bandmaster (Part time)	Essential: (i) Potential Band Master/ Band Major/Drum Major course at the AEC training college and centre Pachmarhi. (ii) Equivalent Naval/Air Forces courses.	Retired candidates can also apply.	Rs.16000 /- PM	01
06	Music Teacher (Part time)	Essential: Higher Secondary with a degree or diploma in music from any of the recognized institutions. Desirable: (i) Experienced candidates will be given preference. (ii) Ability to converse fluently in English.	Retired candidates can also apply.	Rs.15000 /- PM	01
07	Store Keeper	Essential: Graduate in any stream. Desirable: Experience in handling, accounting and maintenance of stores. (i) Adequate knowledge of inventory management. (ii) Practical knowledge of computer with ability to work in word & excel.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.20000 /- PM	01
08	Accountant	Essential: (i) B.Com. (ii) Should have worked as an accountant for at least 10 years in a Government or private organization and must be fully conversant with maintenance of accounts in double entry system. (iii) Ability to correspond into English. Desirable: (i) Practical knowledge of computer with word, excel & tally etc.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.25000 /- PM	01
09	Accounts Assistant	Essential: Graduate or above from any recognized university with a minimum of 50% marks in: (i) Commerce (ii) Business administration (iii) Science (iv) Computer application/IT (v) Any other discipline with Mathematics/ Statistics/ Economics as one of the subjects. Desirable: Practical knowledge of computer with word, excel & tally etc.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.20000 /- PM	02
10	Matron/Hostel superintendent	Essential: (i) Degree with three years working experience in any residential School. Should be able to converse fluently in English. Desirable: (i) Higher qualification. (ii) Attainments in sports/art/music. (iii) For Junior/Holding houses, ladies without encumbrances and with experience of handling children will be preferred. (iv) Practical knowledge of computer with word, excel & tally etc.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.20000 /- PM	01
11	IT Consultant	Essential: Bachelor of Engineering in computer Science/information Technology from AICTE approved institute/university. Or M.Sc. Computer/IT Or MCA/DOEACC 'B' level.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.20000 /- PM	01
12	Sr. Assistant	Essential: (i) For Departmental candidates- Junior Assistant with 5 years experience in the school. (ii) For direct recruitment. Graduate with at least 2 years office experience in a Government or commercial organization. Knowledge of shorthand and typewriting will be considered as additional qualification. Desirable: Practical knowledge of computer with word, excel & tally etc.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.22000 /- PM	01
13	Jr. Assistant	Essential: (i) Graduation. (ii) Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute. (iii) Knowledge of shorthand and typing will be considered an additional qualification. Desirable: Practical knowledge of computer with word, excel & tally etc.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.20000 /- PM	01
14	General employees (Multi-Tasking Staff)	Essential: Should have passed minimum Matriculation examination and maximum 10+2 examination from a recognized board. Desirable: i) Candidates having relevant experience as Driver, Electrician, Plumber, Mason, Painter, Security Guard & Gardener. ii) Candidates who have worked in a similar institution/organization with satisfactory performance will be given preference.	Between 18 to 50 years	Rs.12000 /- PM	10

- Interested candidates may apply online on the School website (jksainikschool.in).
- Candidate must mention their marks percentage in each exam starting from class 10th standard to highest acquired qualification.
- Selected candidates should be ready to accept responsibilities in a residential school. Quartermaster, Mess Manager, Catering Assistant, Hostel Superintendent, Librarian & General employees shall have to stay at the School campus round the clock. Free meals in the boys mess and rent free accommodation shall be provided to Mess Manager, Catering Assistant & Hostel Superintendent.
- All information regarding schedule of recruitment process will be posted on school website. Candidates are required to visit school website regularly for latest update. Details about interview/ examination (Date, time and venue) will be published on school website only.
- Candidates are required to submit their working email ID & contact No which shall be used for communication. School will not be responsible for failure of communication due to incorrect email ID, Mobile Number.
- Selection will be made based on performance in written test / practical skill test (where ever applicable) and interview.
- Shortlisted candidates are required to bring following documents at the time of written test / interview:
(a) All testimonials in original and self-attested hard copy along with the duly filled application form.
(b) One recent pass port size photograph to be affixed at the space provided in the application form.
(c) Candidates applying for any post are required to pay non-refundable application fee of Rs. 300/- online using UPI, Debit Card, Net Banking.
- Documents of selected candidates are subject to verification by issuing authorities/ board/ university. In case any candidate is found to have produced fake / forged documents, his / her appointment will be cancelled without any further notice. Legal action will also be initiated against the person(s) found using fake/ forged/ tampered documents.
- The school administration reserves the right to increase/decrease/cancel the vacancy due to administrative reasons/non-availability of suitable candidates.
- The last date for submission of online applications is 21.01.2025 up to 5.00 PM.
- Initial appointment period for selected candidates shall be for a period of six months which, in case of continued satisfactory performance shall be extended to further six months/ till commencement of winter vacations in case of posts listed from S.No. 02 to 06 of this notification with a clear break of two days in between the two terms.
- Candidates are advised to submit only one online application form for a specific post. In case multiple applications are submitted for the same post, only one application complete in all respects will be considered. However, no refund of fees will be provided for the other applications.
- There is no requirement to send a hard copy of the online application to J&K Sainik School Manasbal. Candidates are advised to retain a printout of the final submitted online application, including payment details, as proof of submission. This may be required for future reference.

Note: All appointment being made on the basis of this Notification are purely on temporary basis and the selected candidate(s) shall have no claim whatsoever for regularization based on this appointment.

(Lt Col GH Hassan Nath)
Principal,
J&K Sainik School,
Manasbal.

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Healthcare Crisis in Anantnag

Addressing the Dire State of Medical Facilities



Basit Rasool Thokero

KO VIEW

Warmest Year

The year 2024 has been declared the warmest on record, capping a decade of unprecedented global heat. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) attributes this alarming trend to human activities that continue to fuel greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions, reaching record highs, are locking in even more heat for the future, creating a cycle that the planet can ill afford. The fallout of this climate crisis is unfolding in devastating ways, leaving no corner of the globe untouched, including tourist places such as Kashmir. Although, winter in Kashmir has by and large been normal, 2024 was an erratic weather. In July last, the Valley experienced the highest recorded temperatures, with Srinagar city recording a high of 36.2 degrees Celsius. The Valley also recorded a 34% deficit in rainfall from June to July, and in October the region witnessed a 74% shortfall. Overall also, the Valley has received less precipitation beginning with last winter itself. Data reveals that in the past 28 years alone, nine winters in the Valley have passed more or less snowless - three of them in the last decade - a frequency that has created a deep sense of alarm.

Although climate change is a global phenomenon, Kashmir has become its microcosm. It is mirrored in the fragile ecosystem of the region. From erratic weather patterns to heatwaves, Kashmir has been experiencing the same changes as on the global level. The changes are not mere aberrations but harbingers of a dire future if immediate actions are not taken. For example, one of the victims of climate change has been the Valley's apple and saffron production, which have suffered irreparable damage due to soaring temperatures, causing significant economic repercussions.

On a bigger scale and which has consequences beyond the boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir, the rising temperatures have led to a rapid retreat of glaciers. Over the past six decades, Jammu and Kashmir has seen a staggering 25 percent reduction in glacier size, a trend exacerbated by the looming threat of climate change. If left unchecked, 48 percent of these vital sources of water could vanish by the end of the century.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his New Year message has taken a due note of this catastrophic turn in the global climate, and called for global measures to reverse the trend. "We must exit this road to ruin-and we have no time to lose," Guterres said in his message and called on countries to "put the world on a safer path by dramatically slashing emissions, and supporting the transition to a renewable future." World needs to heed the message for its own survival.



Did You Know?

Understanding the Emotional Landscape of Investment

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing in the stock market can evoke a whirlwind of emotions, from excitement to anxiety. Without a solid grasp of key concepts like leverage, portfolio diversification, and risk management, investors often find themselves navigating a treacherous terrain that can lead to significant losses.

The Reality of Risk

When you invest, particularly in a market as volatile as stocks, understanding risk is paramount. If you're directly engaging in trading, you must recognize the potential pitfalls. A basic understanding of financial concepts like risk and money management techniques isn't just beneficial; it's essential. For example, if you have invested 15 lakhs, yet placed all of it into a single stock in the telecommunications sector, you're venturing into treacherous waters.

The Dangers of Margin

Trading Margin trading, which involves borrowing money to invest, can amplify both gains and losses. If you invest 14 lakhs, but 9 lakh is borrowed, your financial stability becomes precarious. If the stock value drops by 20%, you're starting down a loss of 2.8 lakhs, which is more than half your initial investment. As your network dwindles to just 5 lakhs, the emotional toll can be overwhelming, causing fear, frustration, and regret.

The Power of Diversification

To navigate this emotional storm, diversification becomes your lifeboat. No single stock should dominate your portfolio to the extent of exceeding 10% of your total holdings. For instance, if your portfolio is valued at 14 lakhs, investing more than 1.4 lakhs in a single stock could lead to perilous consequences. While the urge to put faith in a "winning" stock may tempt you to allocate more funds, it's crucial to remember the emotional and financial risks involved.

Understanding the Value of Contracts

In FNO One of the most misunderstood aspects of investing is the contract's total value, rather than just the margin involved. When you engage in margin trading, your potential losses reflect the total contract value, not merely the margin you initially put up. Thus, it's vital to comprehend that your emotional reaction to a loss can stem from a misunderstanding of how margin trading works. The profit and loss is on contract value not margin, so for small investments holding futures and options is dangerous.

Conclusion: Empowering Yourself Emotionally and Financially

In the world of investing, the balance of feelings and financial acumen is delicate. While the market can offer substantial rewards, it can also bring immense stress if managed improperly. Understanding and implementing risk management strategies, maintaining a diversified portfolio, and recognizing your emotional responses to losses can help you navigate this complex landscape. Before diving into the stock market, arm yourself with knowledge. Reflect on your risk tolerance and how much of your financial future you're willing to stake. By doing so, you'll not only protect your investments but also ensure that your emotional journey through investing remains a positive one.

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

“Such incidents not only reflect poorly on the management of these facilities but also pose significant health risks to patients who are already vulnerable due to illness. It was also reported recently that GMC Anantnag lags behind due to delayed development and expansion

Medical facilities are fundamental to public health, serving as the backbone of healthcare systems worldwide. They provide essential services that cater to the diverse needs of society, including hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes.

In District Anantnag, however, the reality is starkly different. Despite being home to a population exceeding 10 lakh, the medical infrastructure is severely lacking, with most hospitals in disarray and unable to meet basic healthcare standards. Anantnag, a vast district in Jammu and Kashmir, comprises numerous healthcare facilities intended to serve its diverse population. The district is equipped with several hospitals, including the Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, Maternity Hospital Sher Bagh, and various sub-district hospitals (SDHs). However, a significant portion of these institutions are poorly maintained and inadequately equipped. Notable hospitals such as GMC Anantnag and Maternity Hospital Sher Bagh suffer from neglect, with little-to-no government initiative aimed at upgrading their services or infrastructure.

The lack of investment in medical facilities has resulted in outdated equipment and insufficient resources for both patients and healthcare providers. This situation is particularly concerning given the increasing demand for quality healthcare services in the region.

Recently, the issue of rat infestation was reported at GMC Anantnag when a widely circulated picture showed rodents on hospital beds. Multiple newspapers verified and reported on the incident as well.

In yet another report, it was revealed that Maternity and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) in Anantnag, which caters to patients from four south Kashmir districts as well as Ramban and the Chenab Valley, has been functioning from an unsafe building since 2014 — it was declared unsafe by the Fire and Services department a decade ago.

Accessibility Issues

Accessibility to quality healthcare is paramount, especially in a region with such a large population. Many residents prefer seeking treatment within the district rather than traveling to facilities outside Anantnag due to financial constraints and logistical challenges. Unfortunately, the existing hospitals fail to meet basic healthcare standards. Patients often find themselves forced to seek private care due to the lack of reliable services in government hospitals. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that many doctors prioritize their private practices over their duties in public hospitals, leading to a shortage of medical staff during critical hours. More-

over, the absence of adequate emergency services further complicates matters. Many patients requiring urgent care are left waiting for extended periods or are referred elsewhere when they should be treated immediately. This delay can have dire consequences for patient outcomes.

Inadequate Facilities and Hygiene Concerns

The government hospitals in Anantnag are devoid of basic amenities essential for patient care. Reports indicate that these facilities lack proper sanitation and hygiene standards. For instance, there are no separate washrooms for male and female patients, which raises serious concerns about privacy and dignity.

Furthermore, inadequate drainage systems contribute to unsanitary conditions, with unpleasant odors permeating the environment. Recently, images circulating on social media depicted rats on patient beds, highlighting the dire state of cleanliness in these hospitals. Such incidents not only reflect poorly on the management of these facilities but also pose significant health risks to patients who are already vulnerable due to illness.

It was also reported recently that GMC Anantnag lags behind due to delayed development and expansion.

Staffing Shortages and Professionalism

A significant issue plaguing medical facilities in Anantnag is the lack of professional medical practitioners. Many government hospitals struggle with staffing shortages, resulting in long wait times for patients seeking care. This shortage often leads to a high number of patients being referred to more advanced facilities like GMC Srinagar or SKIMS for specialized care.

The distance—approximately 60 kilometers—between Anantnag and these hospitals poses a grave risk for patients requiring urgent treatment; delays can be fatal. Moreover, many doctors in government hospitals exhibit a lack of punctuality and commitment to their roles. Their preference for private clinics over public service undermines the quality of care available to patients who rely on government facilities. Reports suggest that doctors often prioritize their private practices due to financial incentives, leaving public hospitals understaffed during critical hours.

The Need for Government Intervention

Given the critical state of healthcare in Anantnag, it is imperative for the newly elected government, particularly the Health Minister, Ms. Sakina Ittoo, to take

immediate action. A comprehensive assessment of the medical facilities at the ground level is essential for understanding the challenges faced by citizens. The government must prioritize public welfare by addressing the deficiencies within these hospitals. In their manifesto, the National Conference (NC) government pledged to improve healthcare services; now is the time to fulfill that promise. Upgrading infrastructure, ensuring proper sanitation, and enhancing staffing levels are crucial steps toward restoring public trust in medical services. Additionally, it is vital for local authorities to engage with community members to understand their needs better. Public forums and feedback mechanisms can help identify specific issues within healthcare delivery and foster a sense of accountability among healthcare providers.

Conclusion

The current state of medical facilities in Anantnag is alarming and demands urgent attention from both local authorities and government officials. With a growing population that deserves access to quality healthcare, it is essential that immediate measures are taken to rectify existing shortcomings. By prioritizing public health and welfare through targeted investments and community engagement initiatives, the government can work towards creating a healthcare system that serves all citizens effectively and compassionately. In conclusion, addressing these issues will not only improve health outcomes but also foster a sense of security among residents who rely on these essential services. The people of Anantnag deserve better; it is time for action.

NOTE BY EDITOR: The healthcare crisis in District Anantnag has been widely reported and has been in the news for a while now. In official statements to various news organisations, the authorities have admitted to issues of hygiene, expressed concerns about delayed expansion and lack of good infrastructure. Concerning the most recent incident of rat infestation, the hospital authorities instituted a committee for investigating issues of sanitation and hygiene. The GMC Anantnag authorities have said, "We request the public to have faith in our commitment to providing quality healthcare services in a safe and clean environment. We appreciate the cooperation and understanding of our patients, attendants, and the general public in this matter."

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The writer is a student of BALLB, 5th semester, at the University of Kashmir and can be reached at Basitrasool765@gmail.com

2025: Kashmir's Time To 'Rock' The Boat

Can We Paint a New Picture Without Erasing the Old?

Mahoor Haya Shah

As we step into 2025, the world outside seems to rush forward with its relentless pace of change. Yet, here you stand, timeless in your beauty, holding onto memories of a past filled with stories of resilience, of untold joys, and of struggles that have shaped the land and its people. But as we look toward the future, it's not just about keeping up with the world—it's about creating a space where the essence of your identity remains strong, yet the possibility of something unexpected and beautiful stirs within you.

I write to you, Kashmir, not just as a place but as an idea, a reflection of how we can be both grounded in tradition and ready to take on challenges that lie in the unspoken corners of your valleys.

The Forgotten Potential of Small Communities

In 2025, what if the real power of Kashmir wasn't found in the shiny new industries, the tourism ads, or even the grand political rhetoric? What if it lies in the small, forgotten villages, tucked between your snow-dusted peaks and winding rivers? The ones that have resisted the winds of mass globalization?

Imagine if these small communities, which have long held the secret to self-sustenance, became the vanguard of a new form of local empowerment. Not just through the commercialization of their arts and crafts, but through teaching the world the value of slow living, of sustainability that isn't branded with a price tag. These villages could be the cradles of an entirely new movement—one that says enough to the chaotic rush of modern life and welcomes a return to a simpler, deeper connection with the land.

Redefining Identity through the Arts, Not Only as Commerce but as an Act of Preservation

Your beauty, Kashmir, is in the way you craft, the way you sing, the way you speak. But in a world influencer culture, have we lost sight of what it means to truly honor the arts, not just as commodities to be sold, but as a

I DREAM OF 2025 AS THE YEAR WHEN KASHMIR'S IDENTITY is once again redefined—not through the global demand for your shawls or carpets, but through an artistic revival that doesn't cater to market trends



form of cultural defiance?

I dream of 2025 as the year when Kashmir's identity is once again redefined—not through the global demand for your shawls or carpets, but through an artistic revival that doesn't cater to market trends. A revival where your art is not packaged for consumption, but shared as a testimony to history, where artisans are revered not for what they sell, but for the stories they carry within each piece.

Perhaps it's time for Kashmir to shift from creating for the world, to creating for the soul. To let your art and your traditions breathe without the shackles of commercialization. To let young artists grow, not because they must earn a living from their craft, but because they carry the fire of your history in their hands.

Still Waters Run Deep

What if the future of Kashmir wasn't about the bustling cities or the rapid expansion of

industries, but rather about carving out spaces of profound silence? Could you, Kashmir, become the sanctuary for the world's weary? Not just as a tourist destination, but as a retreat for the mind—where people come not to take but to heal, reflect, and reset?

We are too accustomed to noise—the noise of city life, of perpetual connectivity, of endless updates and notifications. What if Kashmir, in 2025, became a place where the human mind could find refuge from the constant buzz of modernity? A space where silence is not the absence of sound, but the presence of something far more valuable: clarity.

The power of Kashmir has always been its ability to quiet the mind. Your mountains, your lakes, your snow-laden trees—they all speak in the language of stillness. Could we perhaps build a future around that stillness?

Rooted in the Past, Reaching for the Stars

Kashmir, you've carried the weight of history on your back for long enough. It's been a hard ride, hasn't it? Every twist and turn, every moment, stained with the past. But what if 2025 could be the year we drop that damn weight? What if you could put the old stories aside and stop letting them tell you who you're supposed to be? The future's got a whole lot of room for you to write your own story.

In this new year, I see Kashmir letting the past be what it is—a part of you, sure, but not the whole thing. It's time to shake off the ghosts of what's been and start building something real, something for now, for tomorrow. The people here are tough, they're gritty, and they're ready to take the reins. No more looking over your shoulder at what was lost, but moving forward, fists clenched, eyes wide, towards a future where the only thing that matters is what you choose to make of it.

WHAT IF IT LIES IN THE SMALL, FORGOTTEN VILLAGES, tucked between your snow-dusted peaks and winding rivers? The ones that have resisted the winds of mass globalization?

Kashmir's Overlooked Wilderness: A Treasure Trove of Promise

We talk a lot about the Dal Lake and the saffron fields, but what about the ecosystems that are quietly waiting to be revived? The small streams, the dry fields, the forgotten wetlands that once supported a thriving web of life? These ecosystems, long ignored, hold the key to a future where Kashmir doesn't just survive but thrives in harmony with its environment.

Perhaps 2025 can be the year when we turn our gaze not just to the well-known landscapes but to the quiet corners of Kashmir that have long been overlooked. These areas, with the right attention, could become vital ecosystems that not only restore biodiversity but also offer new opportunities for sustainable development. In a world where sustainability is often marketed as a trend, Kashmir could instead lead by example, showing the world how true ecological restoration is done.

Kashmir, the Dreamer of the Future

So, my dear Kashmir, what does 2025 look like for you? It is not a year of easy solutions or smooth paths, but it can be the beginning of something deeply transformative. A return to the quiet power of the small, the sacred, and the authentic. A future not dominated by the noise of progress, but one that finds its strength in silence, stillness, and simplicity.

The challenge ahead is not just in moving forward—it's in knowing how to preserve what truly matters. As you embrace the future, don't forget to carry with you the wisdom of the past, not as a burden, but as a gift. Because it is this balance that will create a Kashmir that not only survives, but thrives.

With hope,
Daughter of Valley/ A Dreamer for Kashmir

The author is a writer and Editor from Srinagar, Kashmir

Mindful Fridays

Resilience Through Setbacks

Navigating Life's Twists and Turns in Today's World

Wasim Kakroo

In a society fixated on constant progress and immediate achievement, it's common to experience disillusionment when our lives diverge from our envisioned paths. Yet, it's vital to acknowledge that personal development unfolds through various phases, including periods of pause, introspection, and embracing reality. Even during instances of perceived stagnation or failure to meet self-imposed benchmarks, it's crucial to grasp that genuine growth transcends relentless advancement. True evolution encompasses acknowledging the journey's nuances, finding value in stillness, and gleaning insights from setbacks. Rather than fixating solely on outcomes, it's about embracing the entirety of the process, extracting wisdom from each encounter, and cultivating resilience in the face of adversity. By recognizing that growth is a holistic voyage, comprising both progress and setbacks, individuals can foster a deeper understanding of themselves and navigate life's complexities with greater wisdom and compassion. Let us delve deeper into the idea of traversing a journey of resilience while facing setbacks and the associated opportunity for growth.

1. Embracing Imperfection:

It's natural to feel unsettled when our lives don't align with our expectations. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that detours and imperfections are integral parts of our journey. These unexpected paths often present us with invaluable opportunities for growth and self-discovery. By releasing our attachment to rigid expectations and embracing the uncertainties of life, we open ourselves up to new possibilities and experiences. Embracing the twists and turns of our journey allows us to cultivate resilience and adaptability, enabling us to navigate challenges with grace and emerge stronger and more fulfilled.



filled. Ultimately, it's through embracing the imperfections and detours that we find the true beauty and richness of our personal growth journey.

2. Learning from Setbacks:

Navigating through life often entails encountering situations where we feel we haven't reached the milestones we set for ourselves. This can evoke feelings of unease or disappointment. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that life rarely follows a linear trajectory. Embracing the imperfections and unexpected detours along our journey is key to personal growth.

The paths we envision for ourselves may not always align with the reality we face. Yet, these unexpected deviations often lead to valuable learning experiences and personal development. By releasing the grip on rigid expectations and welcoming

the uncertainties, we open ourselves up to unforeseen opportunities and insights.

Rather than resisting change or clinging to predetermined outcomes, embracing the twists and turns of life allows us to adapt and evolve. It fosters resilience and cultivates a mindset of flexibility and acceptance. Through this process, we discover new strengths, passions, and perspectives that may have remained undiscovered on a preconceived path.

3. The Power of Rest and Reflection:

In our modern, fast-paced society, rest is often overlooked, yet it's essential for sustainable growth and well-being. Just as plants require dormancy to thrive, humans need moments of stillness to replenish their minds, bodies, and souls. Rest offers a vital opportunity for reflection, enabling us to gain perspective and

make informed decisions about our future. Without adequate rest, we become susceptible to burnout and diminished productivity, hindering our ability to achieve our goals. Prioritizing rest allows us to recharge our energy reserves, fostering creativity and maintaining overall well-being. It is during these moments of rest that our brains consolidate information, leading to enhanced problem-solving abilities and improved cognitive function. Additionally, rest promotes physical recovery, supporting muscle repair and immune function. By recognizing the importance of rest and incorporating it into our lives, we can cultivate resilience, creativity, and holistic growth, ultimately leading to a more fulfilling and balanced existence.

4. Cultivating Gratitude:

In the relentless pursuit of our goals, it's common to become fixated on what we lack rather than appreciating what we already have. Cultivating gratitude offers a transformative perspective shift, allowing us to acknowledge the abundance that surrounds us. When we take the time to recognize the blessings present in our lives, we nurture a positive mindset that fuels our growth journey. Gratitude acts as a powerful catalyst, enabling us to find contentment and fulfillment in the present moment, while still striving for our aspirations. By establishing an attitude of gratitude, we cultivate resilience and optimism, which propels us forward with a sense of purpose and perspective. Ultimately, embracing gratitude allows us to navigate life's challenges with grace, fostering a deeper appreciation for both the journey and the destination.

5. Embracing the Process:

True growth transcends mere destination-focused achievement; it encompasses the entirety of our journey. It involves

IT'S VITAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT UNFOLDS THROUGH VARIOUS phases, including periods of pause, introspection, and embracing reality. Even during instances of perceived stagnation or failure to meet self-imposed benchmarks, it's crucial to grasp that genuine growth transcends relentless advancement.

deriving satisfaction and happiness from the ongoing process of personal development. Every step we take, regardless of its direction, plays a role in shaping our character and guiding our evolution. Through embracing this journey with patience and resilience, we create an environment conducive to genuine, unforced growth. This approach allows us to cultivate authenticity and integrity, as we navigate the complexities of life's pathways. Ultimately, true growth is not solely about reaching predetermined goals but about finding fulfillment in the continuous unfolding of our individual narratives. It's about acknowledging the significance of each moment, regardless of its outcome, and recognizing that every experience contributes to our ongoing journey of self-discovery and transformation.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

AI Is Game Changer For Students With Disabilities. Schools Still Learning To Harness It

Associated Press

For Makenzie Gilkison, spelling is such a struggle that a word like rhinoceros might come out as "rineanswsaurs" or sarcastic as "srkastik."

The 14-year-old from suburban Indianapolis can sound out words, but her dyslexia makes the process so draining that she often struggles with comprehension. "I just assumed I was stupid," she recalled of her early grade school years.

But assistive technology powered by artificial intelligence has helped her keep up with classmates. Last year, Makenzie was named to the National Junior Honor Society. She credits a customized AI-powered chatbot, a word prediction program and other tools that can read for her.

"I would have just probably given up if I didn't have them," she said.

Artificial intelligence holds the promise of helping countless other students with a range of visual, speech, language and hearing impairments to execute tasks that come easily to others. Schools everywhere have been wrestling with how and where to incorporate AI, but many are fast-tracking applications for students with disabilities.

Getting the latest technology into the hands of students with disabilities is



a priority for the US Education Department, which has told schools they must consider whether students need tools like text-to-speech and alternative communication devices. New rules from the Department of Justice also will require schools and other government entities to make apps and online content accessible to those with disabilities.

There is concern about how to ensure students using it — including those with disabilities — are still learning.

Students can use artificial intelligence to summarize jumbled thoughts into an outline, summarize complicated

passages, or even translate Shakespeare into common English. And computer-generated voices that can read passages for visually impaired and dyslexic students are becoming less robotic and more natural.

"I'm seeing that a lot of students are kind of exploring on their own, almost feeling like they've found a cheat code in a video game," said Alexis Reid, an educational therapist in the Boston area who works with students with learning disabilities. But in her view, it is far from cheating: "We're meeting students where they are."

Ben Snyder, a 14-year-old freshman

from Larchmont, New York, who was recently diagnosed with a learning disability, has been increasingly using AI to help with homework.

"Sometimes in math, my teachers will explain a problem to me, but it just makes absolutely no sense," he said. "So if I plug that problem into AI, it'll give me multiple different ways of explaining how to do that."

He likes a program called Question AI. Earlier in the day, he asked the program to help him write an outline for a book report — a task he completed in 15 minutes that otherwise would have taken him an hour and a half because of his struggles with writing and organization. But he does think using AI to write the whole report crosses a line.

"That's just cheating," Ben said.

Schools have been trying to balance the technology's benefits against the risk that it will do too much. If a special education plan sets reading growth as a goal, the student needs to improve that skill. AI can't do it for them, said Mary Lawson, general counsel at the Council of the Great City Schools.

But the technology can help level the playing field for students with disabilities, said Paul Sanft, director of a Minnesota-based center where families can try out different assistive technology tools and borrow devices.

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 Usmaan Towseef Yattoo S/O Towseef Ahmad Yattoo R/O Yadipora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 31-05-2022 occurred at SDH Pattan

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
fko
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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 Faizan Ahmad Ahnager S/o Shabir Ahmad Ahanger R/O Hanjivera Bala Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 24-11-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

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
fko
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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 Faizan Ahmad Ahnager S/o Shabir Ahmad Ahanger R/O Hanjivera Bala Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 24-11-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan

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
fko
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Application of Aafaq Hassan , Anies Hassan, Aadil Hassan Najar , Afreena Hassan S/D/O Gh Hassan Najar R/o Wanigam Payeen for obtaining OBC certificate for cast najar

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant's file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining OBC certificate. In this matter report was sought from Patwari Halqa which reveals the applicant is resident of village Wanigam Payeen with his father and the applicant belongs to Najar caste furthermore the annual family income of the applicant from all resources is Rs 72000. The family details of the applicants are as.

S.No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
1	Gh Hassan Njaar	S/o Ab Gaffar	50	Carpenter
2	Habia Begum	W/o Gh Hassan	48	H/W
3	Aafaq Hassan	S/o Gh Hassan	23	Student
4	Anies Hassan	S/o --	21	--
5	Aadil Hassan	--	19	--
6	Afreena Hassan	D/o --	17	--

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

Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)
(A J&K Government Undertaking)
2nd floor, Sanat Ghar building Bemina Srinagar

NOTICE No: 25-PEK of 2024-25 dated: 01-01-2025

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Cooperation Limited, online tenders are invited from reputed contractors who are registered with CPWD/MES/PWD of appropriate class in India.

Name of work	Adv. Cost. In lacs	Earnest money	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Position of AA
Fencing around UNDP office Nowshera Srinagar with gate	39.07 lacs	0.7814 lacs	"A" & "B" Class civil	2000.00	45 days	Accorded

Terms and Conditions:

- The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01-01-2025 (1200Hrs)
- The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website from 01-01-2025 (1200Hrs) onwards.
- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01-01-2025 1200Hrs) upto 21-01-2025 (1630Hrs) only.
- The uploaded Pre-Qualification bids in the first instance on the website will be opened on 22-01-2025 (1200Hrs). In case of holiday on the date of opening of bid, bids will be opened on the next working day. The financial bids of only those firms shall be opened who qualify in pre-qualification bid, intimation in respect of opening of financial bids shall be notified separately.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Bank Receipt with seal and signature of bank official in favor of Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir in Account No CC-014802100001980 ,JFSC Code JAKAOKARRAN , J&K Bank Branch Karan Nagar Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of bank receipt should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Project Engineer (K) SICOP Srinagar Kashmir. (tender receiving authority) and EMD 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir.
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Project Engineer, SICOP Kashmir) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect liability period (DLP) of the work.
- The advertised cost shown above is inclusive of 9.5% SICOP service charges and other taxes as admissible.
- Complete bidding process will be online (price bid not to be submitted in physical form).

DIPK-NB-3049/24
dated: 02-01-2025

Project Engineer
SICOP Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- phevwd@yahoo.com, Tel./Fax No:- 0194-2411285

Extension Notice 7th.

Subject: Construction of 03 No's of Bore wells Bandi, Thayan Gajjarn near House of Irfan Deedad and other, Nagsari near Madrisa and Masjid Colony Water khaniin District Kupwara. Bearing Tender ID 2024_PHE_260361_12.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 25-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./6383-92, dated: 15-10-2024.

Due to "No Response" for the above subject mentioned works with tender ID's advertised videe-NIT No. under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 01-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	20-01-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	21-01-2025 11:00 AM

NOTE:
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar

DIPK-10360/24
dated: 02-01-2025

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR MEDICAL COUNCIL

Jammu Office: 28 B/C Gandhi Nagar, Jammu-180004 TELE: 0191-2459221
Srinagar Office: Sector-1 Gulberg Colony, Near HP Petrol Pump, Opposite Jamkash Vehicleades, Hyderabad
Tele: 0194-3102108 & 0194-3101562 Email: adminj@jkmccouncil.in, admink@jkmccouncil.in, jkmccouncil@gmail.com Website: www.jkmccouncil.in

NOTICE TO REGISTERED DOCTORS

It is our utmost responsibility as a regulatory body while ensuring that the patients are rightly treated by registered qualified doctors, there is utmost need to stop unethical practices and quackery/ impersonation wherein unqualified persons trap the over-trusting patients, violates their rights and indulge in unauthorized practices and bring bad name to medical professionalism.

It is impressed upon all the doctors registered with J&K Medical Council to follow the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 in letter and spirit.

All the registered doctors whether in government or private sector shall necessarily mentioned their registration number issued by J&K Medical Council as under:

- The doctors working in government hospitals/ health centres shall mandatorily put his/her sign, name, designation and registration number issued by J&K Medical Council along with date & time on all prescriptions in OPDs, Clinical Notes on Patient Case Records/ Sheets, investigation reports, medical certificates and all documents wherever required as a government doctor while dealing in patient care as a responsible registered doctor.
- The doctors working in private sector including nursing homes, hospitals, private clinics (single practitioner clinic/ poly-clinics), infertility centres/clinics, rehabilitation centres, de-addiction centres/ clinics, hospices, domiciliary care providers, mobile clinics, medical camp service providers, voluntary service providers and all clinical consultation places/ establishments where clinical consultation is provided by allopathic medical practitioners in Jammu and Kashmir that they shall display in printed form his/her name, recognized qualifications, honours (if any) which confer professional knowledge or recognizes any exemplary qualification/achievements, speciality (wherever applicable) and registration number issued by J&K Medical Council on all prescriptions, certificates, money receipts given to his/her patients. He/she shall mandatorily put his/her sign, name, designation and registration number issued by J&K Medical Council along with date & time on all prescriptions in OPDs, Clinical Notes on Patient Case Records/ Sheets, investigation reports, medical certificates and all documents wherever required. It is encouraged that the registered doctors shall put the QR Code issued lately on permanent registration certificates, on their prescription pads enabling patients to verify the credentials of the consulting doctor registered with J&K Medical Council.
- Medical practitioners in the Jammu & Kashmir should display the legally attested copies of registered qualifications (including degree/diploma of speciality) and permanent registration certificate issued by the J&K Medical Council at their place of private practice.
- The registration number issued by J&K Medical Council and medical qualifications registered with the J&K Medical Council/ NMC shall be used in prescriptions, seals and letter pads. The practitioners are authorized to practice only those specialties, the qualifications of which they should have qualified and registered with J&K Medical Council.

If he/she does not display the registration number accorded to him/her by the J&K Medical Council in his/her clinic, prescriptions and certificates etc. issued by him/her or violates the provisions of regulation 1.4.2. of Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, this shall constitute professional misconduct rendering him/her liable for disciplinary action.

PRESIDENT
J&K Medical Council

NO:JKMCS/25/Reg./4602-20
DIPK-10385/24
Dated: 02-01-2025

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, GOVT. GNM SCHOOL, AKHNOOR
e-mail: principalgnmschoolakhnoor@gmail.com/ _Website: https://gncakhnoor.wixsite.com/gnm-gnc-akhnoor

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Invitation of offline applications for admission to left over seats of Diploma Courses at Govt. GNM School Akhnoor.

Reference: State Allied Healthcare Council J&K notification No: SAHC- /GEN/79-84 dated: 26-12-2024

In compliance to the above mentioned circular, offline applications are invited from the candidates to fill up the vacant seats of below mentioned 12th based diploma courses, at Govt. GNM School Akhnoor, for admission session 2024-25:

- Lab Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- ISM

Terms and Conditions:

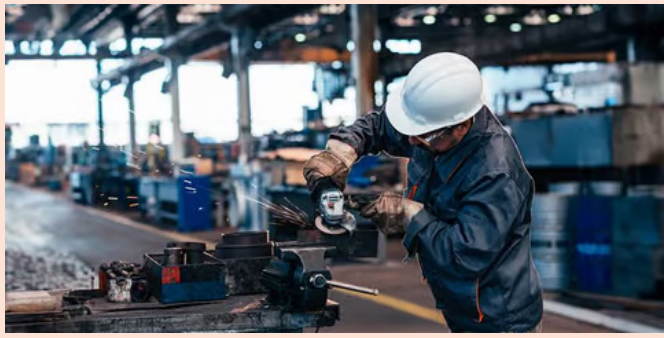
- The eligibility criteria by Health and Medical Education Department and as notified by JKBOPEE on its website for session 2024-25, for above mentioned courses shall be followed.
- For preparation of merit list, marks obtained in 10+2 shall be considered.
- A photograph along with copies of 10th and 12th mark sheets to be submitted by the candidates.
- A copy of Category Certificate, if any, should be attached with application.
- Only domiciles of UT of Jammu & Kashmir are eligible (attach a copy of domicile with application).
- Last date for submission of application in physical form is 09-01-2025 12:00 PM. The admission counters will remain open on working days only.

Note: The candidates are advised to visit the college website for any further updates.
Website: https://gncakhnoor.wixsite.com/gnm-gnc-akhnoor

No: Principal/GNM/AKH/1222-27
DIPK-10376/24
Dated: 02-01-2025

Principal
Govt GNM School Akhnoor

India's Manufacturing Growth Hits 12-Month Low In Dec



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a 12-month low in December, as new business orders and production expanded at softer rates, a monthly survey said on Thursday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index was at 56.4 in December, down from 56.5 in November, indicating a weaker improvement in operating conditions. Despite the decline, the headline figure remained above its long-run average of 54.1 thereby signalling a robust rate of growth.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's manufacturing activity ended a strong 2024 with a soft note amidst more signs of a slowing trend, albeit moderate, in the industrial sector. The rate of expansion in new orders was the slowest in the year,

suggesting weaker growth in future production," Ines Lam, Economist at HSBC, said.

The manufacturing sector growth was hampered by competition and price pressures.

Lam said there was some uplift in the growth of new export orders, which rose at the fastest pace since July.

"Although new export sales rose at a slower rate than total new business, the pace of growth for the former strengthened as firms were able to secure international orders from across the globe," the survey said.

According to the survey, the "substantial" rate of growth resulted in further expansions in buying levels and employment.

Ongoing improvements in new work intakes prompted manufacturing companies in India to purchase additional inputs for use in production processes and on the job front, around one in ten companies recruited extra staff, while fewer than 2 per cent of firms shed jobs.

Investors Richer By ₹8.52 Lakh Crore In Two Days Of Market Rally

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- Investors' wealth surged Rs 8.52 lakh crore in two days of market rally, with the benchmark Sensex climbing nearly 2 per cent on Thursday alone.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,436.30 points or 1.83 per cent -- its best single-day gain in more than a month -- to settle at 79,943.71 on Thursday. During the day, it soared 1,525.46 points, or 1.94 per cent, to 80,032.87.

On Wednesday, the benchmark gauge had climbed 368.40 points, or 0.47 per cent, to settle at 78,507.41.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged Rs 8,52,239.27 crore to Rs 4,50,47,345.71 crore (USD 5.25 trillion) in two days.

Markets surge: Sensex jumps 1,436 points to settle at 79,943; Nifty surges 445 points to 24,188. "While markets failed to deliver a Christmas rally over the past few weeks, the New Year has provided strong optimism in the first two days with Sensex touching the psychological 80,000-mark on the back of broad-based



short-covering.

"Gains in banking, IT, auto and metal triggered a major rally despite concerns in the currency market which saw the rupee scaling fresh lows amid rising crude oil prices and subdued growth," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

From the 30 Sensex blue-chip firms, Bajaj Finserv jumped nearly 8 per cent while Bajaj Finance soared 6.50 per cent. Maruti, Titan, Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Tech, Zomato, UltraTech Cement and Kotak Mahindra Bank

were the other major gainers. Sun Pharma emerged as the only laggard.

The BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.89 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.68 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended in positive territory. Auto surged the most by 3.66 per cent, followed by BSE-focused IT (2.34 per cent), IT (2.31 per cent), consumer discretionary (2.24 per cent), teck (2.19 per cent), consumer durables (2.02 per cent) and commodities (1.41 per cent).

As many as 2,395 stocks advanced while 1,574 declined and 117 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Employment Increases 36% To 64.33 Cr In Last Ten Years: Union Labour Minister

Press Trust of India



NEW DELHI: Union labour minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday said employment in the country has increased by 36 per cent to 64.33 crore in 2023-24 from 47.15 crore in 2014-15, which shows improvement in job creation during NDA period.

Talking to media persons, the minister also stated that employment under UPA grew by just about 7 per cent between 2004 to 2014.

He noted that under the UPA government between 2004 to 2014 just 2.9 crore additional jobs were created whereas under the Modi government between 2014-24, 17.19 crore jobs were added.

In the last one year (2023-24) alone, the Modi government has created around 4.6 crore jobs in the country, the minister stated.

The data assumes significance in the backdrop of pressure on the government for job creation in the country.

About the agriculture sector, the minister stated that employment declined by 16 per cent between 2004 to 2014 under UPA tenure whereas it has grown by 19 per cent between

2014 -2023 under Modi tenure.

Similarly, employment in the manufacturing sector grew by just 6 per cent between 2004 to 2014 under UPA tenure while it increased by 15 per cent between 2014-2023 under Modi tenure.

He further informed that employment in the services sector grew by 25 per cent between 2004 to 2014 under UPA tenure while it increased by 36 per cent between 2014 -2023 under Modi tenure.

He also stated that the unemployment Rate (UR) dropped from 6 per cent in 2017-18 to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24 while the employment rate (WPR) grew from 46.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 58.2 per cent in 2023-24.

Similarly, he informed that the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) grew from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 60.1 per cent in 2023-24.

India's Non-Life Insurance Industry May Register Double-Digit Growth In 2025

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Despite flat general insurance penetration in the country, the non-life insurers are expecting to register double-digit growth in 2025 with a conducive regulatory environment and launch of innovative products catering to specific customer needs, stakeholders said on Thursday.

The industry is also expected to meet this expectation if it receives a favourable outcome on GST relief and a revisit of motor third-party rates, a top private insurer said.

"While health insurance will continue to drive growth in the coming years, there will likely be significant expansion in non-motor and non-health segments, such as pet insurance, liability, professional indemnity, and housing insurance," Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd managing director & CEO Anup Rau said.

The industry estimates a 14 per cent annual growth rate and is expected to witness significant developments as the sector "emerges as a true partner in progress, integrating digital fabric, delivering hyper-personalised solutions, and harnessing the power of data to mitigate



emerging risks", he said.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Anuj Tyagi emphasised the need to make insurance affordable and accessible.

"We anticipate increased innovation in product development, underwriting, and customer servicing, which will play a crucial role in deepening the reach of insurance to citizens not only from urban cities but also from tier 2 and 3 locations.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance MD & CEO Tapan Singhel said the insurance industry is set to undergo transformative shifts, emphasising personalised and proactive offerings driven by digital innovation.

"Cyber insurance is expected to gain prominence alongside the adoption of parametric insurance for disaster management and surety bonds as alternatives to traditional bank guarantees in infrastructure projects," he said

Gold Climbs ₹330 To ₹79,720 Per 10 Gm; Silver Rises ₹130

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices climbed Rs 330 to Rs 79,720 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday due to persistent buying by jewellers and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal ended at Rs 79,390 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

Silver also rose Rs 130 to Rs 90,630 per 10 grams on Thursday. The white metal finished at Rs 90,500 per 10 grams in the previous trading session.

The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped Rs 330 to Rs 79,170 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs 78,840 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

Traders said a rally in the precious metal rates in the international markets, which aided in bullion prices. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for February delivery rose Rs 205, or 0.27 per cent, to Rs 77,098 per 10 grams.

"Gold's positive rally extended beyond Rs 77,300 in the domestic market, supported by Comex gold sustaining above USD 2,640.



"This upward momentum was further fuelled by rupee weakness. The combination of international strength and currency dynamics has reinforced bullish sentiment for gold," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

Silver futures climbed Rs 859, or 0.98 per cent, to Rs 88,437 per kg on the commodities bourse.

Comex gold futures rose USD 8.50 per ounce or 0.32 per cent to USD 2,649.50 per ounce in the overseas markets.

"Spot gold began trading positively on the first day of 2025, continuing the bullish trend from the previous year after the New Year's holiday," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodity

at HDFC Securities, said.

Market participants now focus on major macroeconomic data from the US, including jobless claims and manufacturing PMI to be released later on Thursday and Friday, which can provide further volatility in the bullion market, Gandhi added.

Silver Comex futures rallied 1.62 per cent in the Asian market hours at USD 29.72 per ounce.

Commenting on the outlook for 2025, Renisha Chainani, Head of Research at Augmont - Gold for all, said, "With the continued geopolitical, political and macro uncertainty, gold and silver are expected to retain their appeal as a hedge against inflation".

Dir Agri Inaugurates First Harvest Of Shiitake Mushrooms

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Director Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen inaugurated the first harvest of the Shiitake mushrooms (Lentinula edodes), here on Thursday at the Shiitake lab of the Spawn Production Office, Krishi Bhawan.

Shiitake mushrooms, known for their rare medicinal properties including anticancer, immune-boosting, and anti-allergic effects, require a specialized cultivation environment. These mushrooms can only grow on sawdust blocks made from hardwood, with a cultivation cycle ranging from 120 to 180 days and a biological efficiency of 20-30% on a wet weight basis.

In his address, Director S. Arvinder Singh Reen emphasized the immense potential of Shiitake mushroom cultivation as a high-value crop for Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that this initiative will not only foster employment generation but also open new avenues for startups, particularly among the region's unemployed youth. Additionally, the project supports the diversification of existing mushroom cultivation activities within the UT.

The key raw material for



Shiitake cultivation is sawdust, and Jammu and Kashmir is uniquely positioned to benefit from this, with its abundant supply of sawdust and Wooden Chips generated by the Jammu and Kashmir cricket bat industry. Furthermore, the ideal temperature range of 20-28°C (68-82°F) for Shiitake growth is well-suited to the region's climate, making it an ideal location for large-scale production.

The Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu has successfully initiated the commercial cultivation of Shiitake mushrooms for the first time in the region. The Spawn Production Laboratory at Talab Tillo Jammu has successfully achieved spawn production and spawn run, following the protocols established by the Directorate of Mushroom Research,

Chamba Ghat, Solan (H.P.). Additionally, 1,000 ready-to-fruit blocks have been procured from District Project Manager-JICA, ODA Palampur, and are being supplied to progressive mushroom growers and DCTCs across the Jammu Province to encourage commercial cultivation of Shiitake mushrooms. Fruit initiation in these blocks has also been successfully achieved across the Jammu division.

The programme was attended by Deputy Director Central Dr. Ashwani Sharma, Agriculture Chemist Dr. Aman Jyoti Sharma, Spawn Production Officer Verinder Dogra, Mushroom Development Officer Raghuraj Pal Kochhar, SMS-RL Dharmesh Vaid, SMS-SDL Kewal Krishan Sharma, along with the staff from the Spawn Production and Mushroom Development Offices.

STD Urges Taxpayers To Practice Invoice-Based Trade, Report Actual Sales

Observer News Service

JAMMU- State Taxes Department (STD) Thursday conducted inspections and enforcement drives across various district of Jammu division to curb the menace of recycling of B2C bills, Input Tax Credit mismatches and other GST violations.

The inspections were carried under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P K Bhat and under the supervision of Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra.

Based on inputs generated by various AI tools like Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics (BIFA), E-way Bills Portal, the department constituted special teams headed by STOs. The teams visited various business premises to investigate violations under GST Law.

Based on the inputs, teams specifically inspected dealers who were found engaged in the recycling of B2C invoices into B2B invoices, thereby passing on ITC to other dealers and contractors. The ITC was being used to settle GST output tax instead of being paid in cash.

The STD urged the dealers to follow the fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax evasion activities or fraudulent practices involving fake ITC.

Furthermore, the department appealed all taxpayers to practice invoice-based business and report their actual sales and pay the necessary amount of GST in their monthly/quarterly returns to avoid enforcement actions and penalties.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. ANMT SCHOOL SHOPIAN

email id. Principal-anmtspn@jk.gov.in/anmschool678@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION

Sub: - Advertisement for the admission to left over seats of Diploma in Paramedical Courses at Govt. Anmt School Shopian.

Ref: 1. No: S.O 333 of 2024 Dated: 13-06-2024

Ref: 2. No: SAHC-/GEN/79-84 Dated:26.12.2024

In Compliance to the above mentioned notification issued by the, Chairperson State Allied HealthCare Council J&K offline application are invited from the eligible/desired candidate for admission to left-over in the following Courses at Govt. Anmt School Shopian for the session 2024-25. The institution shall follow the eligibility criteria as notified by the J&K BOPEE.

S.No	Name of the Course
1	Lab. Assistant
2	Medical/Pharma Assistant
3	ISM

How to apply

1. A copy these documents is to be submit in the Govt. Anmt School Shopian in physical form (offline) by or before 06-01-2025 for applying courses.

- 12th Class Marks Sheet with Diploma,
- Category Certificate (if any),
- Date of Birth Certificate,
- Domicile Certificate (UT of Jammu and Kashmir only)

Terms and Conditions

1. The Provisional Merit list of Lab. Assistant and Medical / Pharma Assistant and ISM Course will be prepared category wise based on aggregate marks obtained in 12th marks sheet.
2. Candidate can apply only for one Course.
3. The last date of submission of offline form is by or before 06-01-2025 till 03PM.
4. If upon verification, any candidate found ineligible, his/her admission shall be cancelled ab-initio.
5. Shortlisted Candidates are called for admission telephonically.

No. Pr/ANM/Spn/434-37
Dated: -31-12-2024

DIPK-10353-24
DT: 02/01/2024

-sd-
Principal ANMT School
Shopian

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Not Empowered

"It has been a little over two months since we came to power. It took us time to understand how the UT government works. We have been associated with the government earlier, but there is a vast difference between that form and the present form," Omar said.

The Centre in August 5, 2019, revoked Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and reorganised the state into two UTs. While J-K has a legislative assembly with limited powers, Ladakh is without a legislature.

In December 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the Centre's decisions to revoke special status and create the two UTs but told the Union government to restore the statehood of J&K as soon as possible.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have on numerous occasions, including in Parliament, said that the statehood of J&K would be restored at an appropriate time.

Abdullah, speaking to the reporters, said the start of the new government has been "decent" and that they "did not find much difficulty" in it.

"We are bound by our election promises. We have started the process of implementing some of the promises and for other promises, we need change in the system. I hope J&K being a UT is a temporary phase," Omar said.

He said it is important to understand that his party's manifesto was for a five-year term, not five weeks or five months.

"Some issues were important to us and we fulfilled those, including the resolution on statehood and the resolution on the special status," he said.

Asserting that the Centre should be given "first chance" to fulfil its promise of restoring the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, he said that approaching courts on the issue would mean a "fight" and that it should be the "last option".

During his first media meet here since assuming office in October, Omar also dismissed suggestions that his National Conference was under pressure to join the BJP-led NDA and expressed optimism that the promises made by the Centre to restore statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be fulfilled at the earliest.

When asked why the J&K government did not approach the court for restoration of statehood and went to the Centre with the resolution on it, he said going to the courts would mean getting into a confrontation.

"Simply going to courts will be a fight. A fight should never be the first option, it should be the last option.

"If the SC had not spoken about the restoration of statehood, if the prime minister and home minister had not spoken about it, then we could have gone to courts. They have made promises and we have to give them a chance first," he added.

Omar said the Supreme Court in its judgement in December last year had also stated that the statehood should be restored as soon as possible. "One year has passed since and we think one year should be enough," he said.

He also maintained that the region's current status as a Union Territory should be viewed as a temporary arrangement and restoration of statehood was the "biggest challenge" for his government.

Countering the BJP's narrative that the "Kashmir issue" had been resolved with the abrogation of Article 370 five years ago, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday pointed out that a part of erstwhile state continues to be occupied by Pakistan.

"Let us assume for a minute that this side of Kashmir issue has been resolved, but let us not forget that there is another part of Jammu and Kashmir across the line of control (Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir).

"When the BJP says that the Kashmir issue has been finally resolved, should we assume that the part across the border has also been resolved? But in reality it has not been," he said.

He was responding when asked if he believed that the Kashmir issue was resolved with the abrogation of Article 370 as has been maintained by the BJP.

"So, the Kashmir issue remains whether this side of LoC or that side, we can debate about it but the issue has not been resolved. We want it to get resolved," he said.

National Conference leaders have in the past been arguing about a Parliament resolution of February 22, 1994 in which the entire House had noted with "deep concern Pakistan's role in imparting training to the terrorists in camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir".

The resolution had called upon Pakistan to vacate the areas of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir which they have occupied through aggression.

Are Omar & Ruhullah

He further added, "I don't share a relationship with Ruhullah where we exchange good morning and good night messages. When there's a need to talk, we communicate, just as I do with my other counterparts."

Addressing speculation about internal dynamics within the National Conference (NC), Omar said, "The media often plays up narratives suggesting that only Farooq Abdullah's words matter and that there's aristocracy in the party. But times have changed. There was a time when even the thought of a protest was considered anti-national. The fact that Ruhullah's protest reached my gate shows we are not afraid of the people and that we will not shy away from engaging with them."

During the interaction, Omar Abdullah's body language visibly shifted everytime Ruhullah's name was brought up. When Kashmir Observer tried to ask another question following this exchange, it was not given a chance, as the atmosphere had noticeably shifted in the room. The fact that he seemed unaware of the reasoning behind Ruhullah's protest at his residence raises even more questions. Are they not talking

directly? Was Omar not willing to dwell on the subject? Was there underlying frustration with Ruhullah's actions? Could this be a sign of deeper political differences, or is it merely a personal disagreement that has spilled over into the public eye?

'No Pressure From

minister and home minister that the National Conference government would remain stable and that they would receive the same cooperation extended earlier to the lieutenant governor earlier.

"They have stated they will respect the mandate of the people. Those spreading rumours that I will now join NDA and that I have changed my ideology, I cannot help that. I am here to work and I will work," he said at the media interaction held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre.

"Dual Power Centres Not An Advantage" Omar Abdullah said the hybrid model of governance in the Union territory is not to anyone's advantage and the systems work better when there is a single centre of command.

"Obviously, dual centres of power are not to anyone's advantage. If dual centres were effective tools of governance, you would see it everywhere," Omar told reporters at a media interaction here when asked about the hybrid model of governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

The chief minister said while there have been "differences of opinion on some issues", there was no confrontation with the Raj Bhavan.

"Systems work better when there is a single centre of command. For the UT, the dual centres of command are inbuilt. There have been differences of opinion on some issues, but not on the scale at which it is being speculated. Such reports are just a figment of imagination," he added.

Omar said the business rules for the government would be framed after proper consultations and then sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The chief minister said that he was not the one to tell people not to go to the Raj Bhavan.

"I would say people should go wherever they can get their issues resolved -- be it in the Raj Bhavan or with the local MLA or the officers," he added.

As far as reservation is concerned, I told the delegates that the cabinet sub-committee has been framed, the chief minister said.

The party expected that Ruhullah, the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, would hold a similar protest for the restoration of statehood in Parliament as well, he added.

Omar, however, said while we can fight the reserved and open category fight, "but first we have to save our jobs".

"What will we do when people from other places come here for jobs?" he asked.

Responding to a question about the Raj Bhavan not restoring public holiday on NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's birthday on December 5, and July 13 as Martyr's Day, the chief minister said it cannot erase the legacy of those who have made sacrifices.

"The legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah does not begin and end on December 5. Same goes with the martyrs of July 13. When a farmer tills his land, he thinks of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. When a student receives free or subsidised education, it is legacy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. The hall where we are sitting right now was his legacy as well," Omar said.

"The holidays became a big story. Ideally, we would want to have them as they are emotionally attached with people," he added.

Asked about difficulties faced by the candidates on account of police verification for appointments in the government jobs, Omar said although it is outside his domain as of now, he has discussed the matter with the CID chief.

"I have been saying this that a militant's son is not a militant. Consciously, we did away with this blacklisting (in his first term as CM). We can only counsel about it right now. But I believe there is some relief. More will be done for them when we are a state," he said.

Omar also said that his government was framing a policy to address the situation of hoteliers in Gulmarg whose land leases have expired after they had opted for now-disbanded Roshini scheme.

Responding to a question on the row over land acquisition for a campus of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, the chief minister said there

is a need to find a balance between development and protecting our productive agricultural land.

"We cannot increase our land, development cannot stop. We will try to ensure that development projects are on non-productive lands as much as possible. I met a delegation from Pulwama and I said to them that if you don't want NIT in Pulwama, we will take it to some other location," Omar said.

"Not everyone is against development. There are other areas where we can locate this NIT. We will have to find a balance between development and protecting our productive agricultural land," he added.

On the opposition's allegation about a satellite colony being built, the chief minister said there is no such proposal on his table as he looks after the department.

"The people who are making the most noise were the ones who talked about greater Jammu and Srinagar," he said.

The chief minister said if the townships would be built, they will just for decongesting the Srinagar city.

"When we talk generally to the residents in Srinagar, they talk about decongestion. There is the problem of housing, 3-4 families are living in a single house, they say if they get an opportunity they would move to the suburbs," Omar said.

"If the townships will be built, those will not be to settle the outsiders, but for the people of Srinagar, to decongest the city. But there is no such proposal or plan before the government yet," he added.

He said his government will focus on reducing power distribution losses and expediting metering in the union territory to ensure more electricity supply for the people.

"Metering is an ongoing process, it is a part of the government of India scheme. We are committed to implementing it and we will. Obviously, the more metering that happens, the less pilferage there will be," Omar told reporters at a media interaction here.

He said both the J&K administration and the Union Power Ministry are committed to advancing these reforms and ensuring their successful implementation, "which we will do".

Further, the chief minister said J&K is spending Rs 9,500 crore a year to buy power from the Centre.

On the power cuts in Kashmir, Omar said the government is providing more electricity supply to the people than the previous year.

"...we are supplying 1,700-1800 MW electricity, but the unrestricted load is more than that," he said.

He said the sooner the power projects in J&K are completed, the sooner more electricity can be provided to the people.

"Even if their generation in winters is low, we can bank the power generated during summers. We will try to bank more electricity in the summers every year so that we utilise it in the winters," he said.

The chief minister said J&K's AT&C losses are more than 50 per cent and efforts are on to bring it down.

"Other states have brought it down to 15-17 per cent. Our endeavour is to bring it down at least below 20 per cent so that we can supply more electricity to the people," he added.

Asked about his poll promise of providing 200 free units of electricity, Omar said the scheme will be rolled out in March or April.

"What we have promised in our manifesto. That will only happen when there is (complete) metering. We measure units only when there is metering," he said.

At the time of government formation, the Congress had taken everyone by surprise by deciding to stay out and support the NC from outside. Reduced to six seats, the party is in no position anyway to dictate terms to the NC.

Asked about the Congress continuing to remain outside the government, Omar said: "The National Conference is part of the INDIA bloc, the Congress is supporting our government, and at the moment it is outside support. They have said that they will remain out until statehood is restored. I haven't heard of any change after that." (inputs from PTI)

'Let Ruhullah Lead

restoration of statehood."

On National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi joining protests over reservation near his residence in Gupkar, Omar asserted that NC is a democratic party where every

member has the right to express their views.

"While we have been accused of being a family party, we are a democracy, and everyone is entitled to their opinion," Abdullah stated, highlighting the positive changes that have emerged in recent times.

He noted that protests, once deemed illegal, have transformed into a means for citizens to voice their concerns directly to him.

"...People protested and reached my door. We had a meeting afterwards," he added, referring to the protest near his residence in Gupkar which was joined by Ruhullah.

No Political Message

When asked by this Kashmir Observer correspondent about the government's stance on reinstating dismissed and disengaged employees, Abdullah responded, "Let's first get to a position where we can consider them. For that, we need to restore statehood." His comments reflect the ongoing political struggle in the region following the abrogation of Article 370.

The CM also addressed public speculation about his political image, particularly the shift in his clothing style. In a candid remark, he dismissed the idea that his wardrobe choices were politically motivated. "I don't open my cupboard and decide what to wear based on the message it will send. I went to Delhi wearing a suit, and people criticized me for that too. The truth is, Karakuli doesn't suit me, and Sozni and Pashmina are part of my heritage. I wear them because they keep my head warm and my hair-line too has receded," he explained.

Abdullah's remarks come amidst heightened security operations in the region since the abrogation of Article 370. Security forces have intensified crackdowns on militants, separatists, and their supporters, leading to the detention of hundreds of young people. The Jammu and Kashmir administration argues that these actions are vital for dismantling the militancy ecosystem, which includes measures to target those who promote and support it.

Pertinently the recent official reports reveal that more than 86 government employees, including doctors, teachers, and police personnel, have been dismissed for alleged ties to militant activities or anti-national sentiments. A further list of individuals suspected of similar connections is under review, with dismissal orders expected once evidence is compiled.

Omar Abdullah had earlier also expressed concerns, calling the terminations unjust and calling for the employees to be given a chance to prove their innocence. "This is creating fear among employees and impairing the work culture in government departments," he said, adding that the issue would be revisited once there is a change in leadership. Amid these political tensions, the abrogation of Article 370 continues to be a point of contention, shaping the region's security landscape and employment policies.

Art 370 Sowed

longest tunnel. He praised these developments as symbols of a new, prosperous era for the region.

The Home Minister commended the ICHR for its meticulous research, which he said debunks separatist narratives and underscores Kashmir's cultural, historical, and spiritual ties to India.

Shah concluded by asserting that the abrogation of Article 370 has not only brought peace and development but also reinvigorated a historical truth: Kashmir is an inseparable part of India's soul and integrity. (KINS)

Will Try To Bring

calling it "a calculated act of humiliation" and "a deep wound deliberately inflicted upon Kashmiris".

Ruhullah also linked the downgrading of Jammu & Kashmir to a Union Territory as an extension of this indignity, designed to "break the spirit and subjugate Kashmiris will."

"The abrogation was a political statement, a declaration that our sacrifices mean nothing, and that our future is theirs to dictate," he wrote stating his moral obligation to prioritize the fight for the J&K's honor, identity, and autonomy over what he described as "the hollow promise of mere statehood."

Ruhullah also vowed to persist in raising his voice. "Shouldn't our voices first rise for our honor, our identity, and the autonomy we have long been denied? I think they should, and I will keep raising mine louder each time."

Ending on a poetic note, he declared, "The Tree Remembers," symbolizing resilience and the enduring spirit of Kashmir.

The statement which he wrote after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's first 'public interaction' has sparked discussion among political observers and the general Kashmiri populace with many saying that Mehdi's position as a vocal advocate for J&K's special status has been reaffirmed.

Sajad Lone Files

their proper enforcement so no citizen is unfairly punished for the actions of others," he said.

"When police verifications are based on irrelevant factors, such as the actions of a person's relatives, it not only violates their rights but subjects them to undue hardships which remains ethically and constitutionally unjustified," he said.

Citing the Supreme Court's "Bulldozer Judgment," which strongly opposed collective punishment, the PC president said his petition stresses that police verifications should focus solely on the individual in question.

Heavy Snow, Rains

forecast, the weatherman has stated that on January 3, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy with the possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches.

From January 4-6, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that moderate to strong WD is expected and under its influence, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain in plains of Jammu and snow at most places of J&K with peak activity during 4th (Night) to 5th (late Night) and 6th morning & improvement from the afternoon.

He added that generally cloudy and dry weather is expected on January 7-10, adding that from January 11-12th, generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of light snow at isolated places.

In its advisory, the MeT has said that in view of fresh snowfall, sub-freezing temperature & icy conditions over roads in plains and higher reaches, the tourists, travelers and transporters are advised to plan accordingly & follow administration and traffic advisory.

"There is a possibility of heavy snow at isolated higher reaches during 4th night to 5th late night," it reads.

Furthermore, the night temperature has continued to settle below the freezing point in Kashmir. Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.4 degree Celsius while Kupwara recorded a minimum temperature of 1.4 degree Celsius.

However, Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a low of minus 8.6 degree Celsius while Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.0 degree Celsius. Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, has recorded a low of minus 5.2 degree Celsius while Kokernag in South Kashmir recorded minus 5.8 degree Celsius. (KNO)

Mughal Road

snowfall in the area as well, they said. There is heavy snow accumulation from Dubjan to Peer Ki Gali, a distance of 45 kilometres, they said.

The men and machines are working to clear the road link of snow and make it trafficable, they added.

J&K Fire Services

The ACB said it found that five real brothers from district Budgam were selected and multiple such instances, besides, selection of some relatives of officials of Fire & Emergency Services Department, and the instances of the selected candidates belonging to the same localities have surfaced during the course of enquiry.

According to the ACB, during the course of the probe, the question papers were found beyond the comprehension of candidates who have studied upto 8th standard which is the required minimum qualification. (KNO)

HC Closes PIL

granted liberty to seek revival of this PIL if their grievances remain unresolved."

The PIL was filed by Gazetted Aspirants Residents of Ladakh , stating that there has been no recruitment to gazetted posts over the past five years and the same has led to significant distress and uncertainty among the educated youth of Ladakh.

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BGT Finale: Rohit To Be Dropped? Bumrah Set For Leadership

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Battered by extra bounce and seam movement along with scathing criticism of his leadership, India skipper Rohit Sharma's career as a Test cricketer seems headed for a dispiriting climax amid swirling speculation that he is set to be dropped from the fifth and final Test against Australia starting here on Friday.

Rohit, just like Melbourne, was last among recognised batters to enter the nets but this was after head coach Gautam Gambhir refused to confirm whether the out-of-form skipper will be at the toss on Friday morning.

"We will take a call on the playing XI after looking at the pitch," Gambhir gave a cryptic reply to a straight query on whether Rohit will play.

If it happens, Rohit will become the first Indian captain to be dropped on account of poor form and he would have none



to blame except for the abysmal return of 31 runs from five innings.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has been the team's top performer with an astonishing 30 wickets in four outings at a sub-20 average, will take over the leadership role

in that scenario. It was under Bumrah's captaincy that India won its only Test on the tour so far -- the lung-opener in Perth.

Where Would That Leave Rohit?

Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Anil Kumble walked into Test

retirements mid-series as their bodies could no longer take the rigours of the longest format.

However, in Rohit's case, he will be dropped on the basis of form after Gambhir made it clear that performance is the only thing that would keep a player in the dressing room

helled by him.

If he doesn't come out for toss on Friday, it would be safe to conclude that Rohit, the Test batter, played his last knock at the MCG earlier this week where he looked completely out of place on a good track.

While Gambhir didn't spell out the playing eleven, there were enough indications that India might bring back Shubman Gill at number three.

"Indian cricket's transition is in safe hands as long as there are honest people in the dressing room. Only criteria to be in that dressing room is performance," Gambhir said at the pre-match press conference.

Trailing 1-2, a win for Australia will seal their place in the final at the Lord's against South Africa.

India, on other hand, not only require a win but also need Sri Lanka to not lose any of their two Tests at home against Pat Cummins' men.

Match starts at 5 am IST.

Kashmir United Shines In Christmas Gold Cup Tournament



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir United FC on Thursday registered a 4-1 win over Sainik Colony FC in the 18th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2024-25 at Mini Stadium Parade Ground in Jammu.

The tournament is being organised by All J&K Sports and Cultural Welfare Association with collaboration of J&K Sports Council and J&K Football Association.

Two matches were played

on Thursday, with the first game between Churchill Bros. FC and Akhnour Tiger resulting in a 1-0 victory for Churchill Bros.

In the second game, Kashmir United FC took on Sainik Colony. Kashmir United scored the first goal scored through Baras in 5th minute, before adding another via Aazim in 15th. The third goal was scored by Ajay in the 36th minute.

In the second half, Rahul Singh pulled one back for Sainik Colony in the 55th

minute. However, Junaid scored Kashmir United's fourth goal in the 63rd minute to put the game out of reach for their opponents.

The chief guest on the occasion was O.P. Chib, DSP, J&K Police, along with several other dignitaries.

On Friday, two matches will be played at the same venue. In the first game, Jammu Sports FC will clash with Kashmir United FC at 12:00 PM. In the second, J&K Bank Academy will lock horns with Param FC at 2:00 PM.

Won't Be Surprised If Rohit Retires From Tests: Shastri



Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri will not be surprised if under-fire captain Rohit Sharma announces his Test retirement in near future, saying talented and in-form youngsters like Shubman Gill are knocking hard on the doors of the side.

Rohit has managed a highest score of 10 in the five innings he has played in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after missing the series-opener due to the birth of his second child.

Speculation over Rohit's place in the playing eleven for the Sydney Test grew on Thursday when head coach Gautam Gambhir turned up for the pre-match media interaction and did not confirm the captain's place in the team.

Shastri, who was the head coach last time India toured Down Under and is currently here as a commentator, wants the 37-year-old to go out with a bang if he does decide on his Test future.

"He'll take a call on his career but I won't be shocked at all (if Sharma retires) because he's not getting younger," said Shastri on ICC Review.

"There are other young players in the wings, there's Shubman Gill, a player of his quality averaging over 40 in the year 2024 and not playing. It tricks your brain as to what is he doing sitting on the bench and warming it. So I won't be surprised but it's his call."

Rohit has looked far from the class batter that he is and Shastri wants the opener to play with absolute freedom.

"If I was anywhere near Rohit Sharma, I'll tell him, 'Just go and smash it. Just go out there and have a blast'. Just as it is when you're trying to play the way you are at the moment, it's not looking great. Go out there and take the attack to the opposition and then let's see what happens."

"At the end of the day, if India had qualified for the World Test Championship (Final) or if they still qualify for the World Test Championship Final, then it's another thing altogether."

"Otherwise, I think it might just be the opportune time - but (if Sharma plays) he should go out with a blaze of glory," Shastri said.

He also feels Rohit has struggled with his feet movement thus far in the series.

"From the outside when I see it, he's a little late on the ball. His feet aren't moving as well as they normally do. Even at his prime, his footwork was minimal, but there was more. He was more towards the ball. At the moment, he's caught on the crease."

"I want him to just get out there, smash it, try and win this Test match. You might have lost a Test. You have not lost the series as yet. Try and win this Test match to keep that Border-Gavaskar Trophy," Shastri added.

Short TAKES

Gambhir, Rohit Ignore Each Other On Match Eve

It was around half past one when Gautam Gambhir walked towards the centre strip at the Sydney Cricket Ground with Jasprit Bumrah in tow.

A few minutes later, Rohit Sharma also joined the duo in the middle but there was hardly any communication between the head coach and the designated captain. All present at the SCG witnessed a complete communication breakdown between skipper and the head coach.

There were already enough indications but the developments on Thursday made one thing as clear as daylight. Rohit Sharma is no longer in coach Gautam Gambhir's scheme of things after scoring just one second innings half-century in the eight Tests that he has played this season.

After a game of foot volley in which Rohit and Rishabh Pant were on one side and Virat Kohli on the other, suddenly the penny dropped with a different looking slip cordon.

After nearly 35 minutes, Rohit quietly walked into the net arena and without his kit.

While Gambhir stood at the farthest net, talking to Bumrah, Rohit was at the other end conversing with video analyst Hari Prasad. They stood in their respective places and there was not even minimal interaction between the two.

After the top-order had almost finished their session, Rohit entered the nets.

Marsh Dropped, Starc Declared Fit For BGT Finale

All-rounder Beau Webster will replace an out-of-form Mitchell Marsh in Australia's squad for the fifth and final Test against India, home skipper Pat Cummins said here on Thursday.

The 33-year-old Marsh scored only 73 runs in seven innings across four Tests and Cummins cited this as the reason for his axing. He has bowled merely 33 overs in the series so far, claiming just three wickets.

The 31-year-old Webster, who played against India A in November, has scored 5247 runs and taken 148 wickets in first-class cricket. Webster has been in good form in the Sheffield Shield as well and averaged over 55 last season.

Cummins also put to rest the speculation surrounding Mitchell Starc's fitness, saying the left-arm pacer will play the game. "He went for scans yesterday. But he got the all clear to play this match. He is good to go," Cummins said.

The 34-year-old's fitness was the main concern for the hosts after he battled through sore ribs in the Boxing Day Test but still managed to bowl effectively with help from the team's physios.

A victory or a draw in the fifth Test here is crucial for the hosts as it will help them regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time since 2014-15.

Bhaker, Gukesh Among Four To Get Khel Ratna Award

The quartet of shooter Manu Bhaker, chess world champion D Gukesh, men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and para-athlete Praveen Kumar were on Thursday named recipients of this year's Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award -- the country's highest sporting honour.

The 22-year-old Bhaker became independent India's first athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics with her bronze-winning show in the 10m air pistol individual and 10m air pistol mixed team events in August.

In the same Games, Harmanpreet led the Indian hockey team to its second consecutive bronze medal.

The 18-year-old Gukesh, on the other hand, became the youngest ever World champion while also helping the Indian team win a historic gold in the Chess Olympiad last year.

The fourth recipient will be para high-jumper Praveen, who was crowned the T64 champion in the Paris Paralympics.

The T64 classification is for athletes who have one or both legs missing below the knee and rely on a prosthetic leg for running.

"The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organised function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 17th January, 2025 (Friday) at 1100 hours," the sports ministry said in a press release.

J&K To Have Its Own IPL Team: Sports Minister Satish Sharma

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, announced on Thursday the ambitious goal of establishing J&K's own IPL team within the next two years.

Speaking to reporters, Sharma highlighted the valley's potential and enthusiasm for sports.

"There is immense scope and potential among the youth here. Sports is also a



way to create employment opportunities for them," he said.

The minister expressed optimism about hosting IPL matches in the valley and commended the

unmatched hospitality of Kashmiris, particularly during the recent snowfall that stranded many tourists.

"The hospitality of Kashmiris is unparalleled. The ray of hope comes from here. I don't think we can find secular people like those in Kashmir anywhere else," Sharma said.

On sports governance, Sharma assured that the concerns of the 53 recognized sports associations in J&K would be thoroughly addressed after discussions with stakeholders. (KNS)

Liverpool v Man United, A Rivalry For The Ages, Looks Like A Mismatch Now

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Liverpool vs. Manchester United used to be English soccer's fiercest rivalry. Sunday's showdown at Anfield pits two teams going in opposite directions.

Liverpool, top of the Premier League and the Champions League, has its sights on equaling United's record 20 Premier League titles and more. Liverpool has lost to United just once in seven years in the Premier League, and most recently won 3-0 at Old Trafford in September.

United is closer to the relegation zone than the top in another calamitous campaign which has seen the departure of a manager, a sporting director and the exile of one of its leading players.

The gap between Liverpool and United is widening to the point where one is in contention for a quadruple of trophies and the other is talking about top flight survival.

How have English soccer's two most successful teams ended up on such differing paths?

MANAGERIAL MISTAKES

United has been in alarming decline since winning a record 20th title in Alex Ferguson's final season as manager in 2013. It hasn't come close to winning another since his retirement. Ruben Amorim is the sixth permanent manager hired in the last 11-plus years.

David Moyes, Louis van Gaal, Jose Mourinho, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Erik ten Hag all failed to deliver consistent success and the upheaval from so much managerial change has repeatedly set back United as the club has lurched from one direction to another.

Amorim has quickly realized the size of the job after six defeats in his last eight games. This week he admitted he could be in a relegation fight. "It is a possibility," he said. "We have to be clear with our fans."

SUCCESSION PLANNING

While United has made a mess of trying to replace a managerial great, Liverpool has made it look easy.

Arne Slot took on the unenviable task of filling the void



left by Jürgen Klopp at the end of last season and has driven the team to new levels.

Klopp won a full set of trophies at Anfield and was denied much more success in the Premier League than just the 2020 title only by Pep Guardiola's Manchester City.

Slot has Liverpool leading the Premier League by six points with a game in hand, the Champions League by three points, and through to

the semifinals of the English League Cup.

Perhaps he has been fortunate to take over when City has gone into freefall but Liverpool's 14 wins from 18 games in the league would be title-challenging form in any season.

TRANSFERS

Billions have been spent at United yet there have been more costly errors than transfer successes.

Superstar signings such as Angel di Maria, Alexis Sanchez, Paul Pogba, Casemiro and Jadon Sancho have proved to be big disappointments. From the last transfer window, signees such as Joshua Zirkzee, Matthijs de Ligt have struggled.

Amorim is likely to have to sell in January if he wants to bring more players in and Marcus Rashford, recently dropped from the team, could be his best chance of raising funds.

Conversely, Liverpool has been one of the savviest operators in the transfer market over the past decade. When it has spent big, it has generally spent well, with the likes of Virgil van Dijk and Alisson proving pillars of its trophy haul. Mohamed Salah and Andy Robertson were relative bargains.

SAVVY OWNERSHIP

Under Fenway Sports Group (FSG), the American conglomerate that also owns the Boston Red Sox, Liverpool became a major force in England and Europe again and ended a 30-year title drought in the Premier League.

The hiring of Klopp was pivotal to that but so was Michael Edwards, the sporting director who was integral to so many transfer successes. He left in 2022 but is back as FSG chief executive of football and helped to guide the transition to Slot.

United's American owner, the Glazer family, has faced regular fan protests since its leveraged buyout of the club in 2005.

The minority investment by British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe last year sparked optimism. He assumed control of the club's soccer operations but that hasn't gone to plan so far.

Ten Hag was fired months after signing a contract extension and sporting director Dan Ashworth departed after less than six months. The signings in Ratcliffe's first summer transfer window also look questionable with United 14th in the standings and just seven points above the relegation zone.

THE FUTURE

Liverpool is enjoying an outstanding campaign with big issues to be resolved.

Salah, Van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold are out of contract after this season. Salah and Van Dijk are in their 30s and in dispute is the length of contract Liverpool is prepared to offer them. Alexander-Arnold, meanwhile, is reportedly a target for Real Madrid.

Amorim's immediate concern is how to turn around United's form. Long term, his squad looks ill-suited to his

Ambulance crosses speed-breaker and 'dead' man jolts to life

Agenceis

For 65-year-old Pandurang Ulpe, a speed-breaker proved to be a life-saver after an ambulance carrying his "body" from the hospital crossed it and his family noticed his fingers moving.

On December 16, Ulpe, a resident of Kasaba-Bawada in western Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, suffered a heart attack and was rushed to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

An ambulance then began the journey with his "body" from the hospital to his home, where neighbours and relatives had gathered upon hearing the news of his demise, and were preparing for his last rites.

"When we were bringing his "body" home from the hospital, the ambulance passed over a speed-breaker and we noticed that there was a movement in

his fingers," his wife said.

He was then taken back to another hospital, where he remained for a fortnight, and underwent an angioplasty during the period, a family member said.

Ulpe walked home from the hospital on Monday, a fortnight after the ambulance passed over the speed-breaker, taking him back to life instead of the crematorium.

Narrating the sequence of the events of December 16, Ulpe, a warkari (devotee of Lord Vitthal) said, "I had come home from a walk and was sitting after sipping tea. I felt dizzy and breathless. I went to the bathroom and vomited. I don't remember what happened afterwards, including who took me to the hospital."

There has been no comment so far from the hospital which had declared him dead.



“WHEN WE WERE BRINGING HIS "BODY" HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL, the ambulance passed over a speed-breaker and we noticed that there was a movement in his fingers.”

IIT-Guwahati develops injectable hydrogel for breast cancer therapy

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Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati have developed an advanced injectable hydrogel for localised cancer treatment with significantly less side effects typically associated with conventional cancer treatments, according to officials.

The research conducted in collaboration with Bose Institute, Kolkata, has been published in "Materials Horizons", a journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Debapratim Das, Professor at IIT-Guwahati's Department of Chemistry, said cancer continues to affect millions of patients worldwide but current treatments such as chemotherapy and surgical interventions often have severe limitations.

"Surgical removal of tumours is sometimes not feasible, particularly for internal organs, while chemotherapy's systemic delivery often results in harmful side effects by affecting both cancerous and healthy cells. We have addressed these challenges by designing a hydrogel that delivers drugs precisely to the tumour site, ensuring localised action," Das said.

Hydrogels are water-based, three-dimensional polymer networks capable of absorbing and retaining fluids. Their unique structure mimics living tissues, making them suitable for biomedical applications. This newly developed hydrogel acts as a stable reservoir for anti-cancer drugs and releases them in a controlled manner, responding to specific conditions in the tumour micro-environment.

The hydrogel, composed of ultra-short peptides – biocompatible and biodegradable building blocks of proteins – is designed to remain insoluble



in biological fluids, ensuring it stays localised at the injection site. It responds to elevated glutathione (GSH) levels, a molecule abundant in tumour cells.

Upon encountering high GSH levels, the hydrogel triggers a controlled drug release directly into the tumour, minimising its interaction with healthy tissues and reducing systemic side effects.

"This work exemplifies how scientific innovation can directly address the pressing needs of cancer treatment. The hydrogel's unique properties allow it to work in harmony with the biological environment, offering precision where it is needed most. We are excited by its potential to transform our thoughts about localised drug delivery." "In preclinical trials on a murine model of breast cancer, the hydrogel showcased remarkable efficacy.

A single injection of the hydrogel, loaded with the chemotherapy drug Doxorubicin, resulted in a 75 per cent re-

duction in tumour size within 18 days. Crucially, the hydrogel remained localised at the tumour site, steadily releasing the drug over time without causing detectable side effects on other organs," he said.

Das explained that innovative delivery system enhances the drug's effectiveness while reducing the required dosage, thus minimising toxicity.

"Laboratory studies further demonstrated that the hydrogel improves drug uptake by cancer cells, induces cell cycle arrest, and promotes programmed cell death, thereby attacking tumours on multiple fronts.

"Further studies are going on to find out the maximum amount of reduction in the size of the tumour by a single dose. Moreover, we are also looking into other types of tumours. Once all the studies are complete, will apply to take the material for clinical trial and are looking for an appropriate partner to do the same," Das said.

Indian man crosses over into Pak to marry FB friend, lands in jail

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A 30-year-old Indian man crossed over illegally into Pakistan to meet a Facebook friend he wanted to marry, but instead found himself behind bars. And the woman told the local police she did not want to tie the knot with him.

Badal Babu from Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh was arrested last week in Mandi Bahaudin district of Pakistan's Punjab, some 240 km from Lahore, for illegal border crossing.

Babu attempted to cross the border illegally to meet the Facebook friend who he wanted to marry.

Police have recorded the statement of Babu's Facebook friend Sana Rani, 21, who said she wasn't interested in marrying him.

"In her statement to police, Sana Rani said that Babu and she had been friends on Facebook for the last two-and-a-half years. But she is not interested in marrying him," a Punjab police officer, Nasir Shah, told PTI on Thursday.

He said Babu illegally crossed the border and reached Sana Rani's Maung village in Mandi Bahaudin, where he was arrested by law enforcers.

When asked whether Babu met Rani, the police officer said he couldn't confirm this.

It is also not independently confirmed whether Rani gave a statement to the police refusing to marry Babu under pressure.

However, a source told PTI that officials of an intelligence agency quizzed Rani and her family over her relationship with Babu.

Upon his arrest, Babu narrated his "love story" to the police. Babu was detained under Pakistan's Foreign Act sections 13 and 14 as he was travelling without any legal documents.

Later, he was presented before a court, which placed him in judicial custody for 14 days. The next hearing is on January 10.

This is not the first time someone from India has crossed into Pakistan to meet a love interest developed through social media.

Previously, an Indian woman named Anju travelled to Pakistan to meet her lover. She converted to Islam and married a Pakistani man, Nasrullah.

Last year, Seema Haider, a woman from Pakistan, befriended an Indian man through the PUBG game. She crossed into India via Nepal with her four children and later married him.

Similarly, last year, 19-year-old Pakistani girl Iqra Jiwani struck up a friendship with 25-year-old Indian national Mulayam Yadav through an online game. Iqra and Mulayam later married in Nepal.



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