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O Vintage Mall, 2nd floor Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

This cutting-edge technology effectively reduces dark spots, melasma, and sun damage, revealing a radiant complexion with minimal downtime

The Cost Of Closing Doors

Declining Enrolment & Its Toll On Kashmir's Future!

Asma Majid

Srinagar: When Hamza successfully scribbled the letter A on his toy slate, the one who clapped the most in the family was Farwa. It had taken her weeks to teach her five-year old baby brother to get the alphabet right. Little Hamza would always draw an X with

extra lines instead of a proper A. But his affectionate sister would then rub the upper two lines producing a dwarf A which would usher in chortles of laughter from Hamza and

J&K Has 3rd

Highest Dropout

Rate In North India

dampen Farwa's spirits. "Would you let the baby be? You are always after him with that toy slate. Let him play around with other toys," Farwa's mother Shaheen would

■ ith a dropout rate of more than 13 percent at secondary school level,

Jammu and Kashmir is grappling with worst 'abandonment' student

rate in north India The recent official figures further

CLASSROOMS WITH BROKEN WINDOWS AND TEACHERS WHO BARELY show up, they lose faith in government institutions!

often chide her for snugging the child in her lap, trying to teach him the alphabet. Hamza initially loved play-

ing with the toy slate when it was freshly gifted to him by his Molvi chachu, scribbling random stuff, but once Farwa disciplined him to read and write on it, his interest in it took a back seat. Hamza now found solace in playing with his other toys, especially the plastic doctor set, that he had earned after much pleading from his father Javed, when he had accompanied him to attend the Friday Prayers in Hazratbal shrine, located in Srinagar city. He had even lost half the part of the plastic scissors while operating on a doll and | More on P6

Hope After 50 Days Of Fear In Rajouri

Patients Show Signs of Recovery



Agencies

Jammu: After nearly 50 days of uncertainty and fear, positive news is emerging from the Badhaal area of Rajouri district as patients admitted to various hospitals are showing signs of recovery.

According to offi tients from the affected village are under medical care in different hospitals, and all are reported to be recovering. Meanwhile, other residents of the village remain under strict observation as authorities continue efforts to address the mysterious health crisis.

Principal of GMC Rajouri, Dr Amarjeet Singh Bhatia said that 11 patients from Badhaal are currently admitted to the hospital, 10 of whom belong to three already-affected families. Among these, two patients are in the ICU, while the remaining nine are under close observation. "The good news is that all of them are recov-

ering," Dr Bhatia said. This is a fight against an invisible enemy, and we are implementing various measures to manage the situation. People should not panic," he

added. Dr Bhatia said recent adjustments to the patients' medications have shown positive results, and all patients are now stable. He urged the residents of Rajouri to visit the people of Badhaal, who remain under surveillance, and to boost their morale.

"These residents have been living in forests and are used to moving freely day and night. The restrictions on their movement could affect their mental well-being. It is our duty to support them emotionally," he said. "Be assured, this is not a virus or influenza-you can interact

with them safely."

Principal of GMC Jammu, Dr Ashutosh Gupta said three siblings admitted to the hospital are showing improvement, including one patient who had been on a ventilator but has now been extubated and is stable.

Dr Gupta confirmed that a patient sent | More on P6

Policy Interventions Transformed Jammu & Kashmir Into Startup Hub: LG

Inaugurates 'BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Run-up Event' At IIM Jammu

Observer News Service

Jammu: The industrial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an unprecedented improvement in the past few years, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said and attributed the growth to the government's efforts and policy interventions that have transformed the Union Territory into a vibrant startup hub. He urged the youth to

dream big, dedicate themselves, and contribute to the development of the region to propel its growth trajectory to new heights.

"In the past few years, J&K's industrial ecosystem has witnessed an unprecedented surge, fostering a culture of



innovation, research, development, and scientific advancements. I want to see our youth among the top-notch entrepreneurs of the country, contributing to its growth," Sinha said after inaugurating the 'BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Run-Up

Event' at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) here.

The day-long event provides a dynamic platform for innovators, aspiring entrepreneurs, and youth leaders to showcase innovative business ideas and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Sinha highlighted

an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Union Territory. He said, "Our sincere efforts and policy interventions have made J&K a vibrant startup hub."

government's efforts to develop

He added that various transformative initiatives by the government, through the Department of Industries and Commerce, have redefined the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, empowering

the youth of the Union Territory.
"We continue to focus on policies to promote incubation centres and provide better resources and support to establish new startups. I want our youth to dream big, dedicate themselves, and develop a dynamic J&K, propelling its growth trajectory to new heights," he said.

The Indian | More on P6

Day Temp To Rise Over Next 5 Days: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The meteorological department forecast mainly dry weather for the remainder of 'Chillai-Kalan' in I&K.

It said the weather is likely to remain cloudy but dry until January 29. A fresh spell of light rain or snow at isolated places during the night of January 29 or the morning of January 30 is possible, after which the weather will stay partly to generally cloudy on January 31, the department said.

Overall, no significant weather changes are expected until the end of January, the MeT Office said.

It also mentioned a gradual and significant rise in daytime temperatures over the next five days, while a fall of 1-3 degrees in the minimum temperature is likely.

The minimum temperature dropped in Kashmir on Friday as cold conditions tightened their grip on the valley, with the Meteorological Department predicting mostly dry weather until the end of the month, officials said.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 3.3 degrees Celsius on Thursday night, down from the previous night's minus 2 degrees Celsius, according to the meteorological department.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 7 degrees Celsius, down from minus 5.6 degrees Celsius the night before.

The tourist resort of Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of minus 8.5 degrees Celsius, a degree | More on P6

Republic Day 2025

Full Dress Rehearsal Held Across Kashmir



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of 76th Republic Day, full dress rehearsal functions were held on Friday across all the

rity arrangements, including drones and spotters, are in place to ensure a smooth conduct of the Republic-Day functions in Kashmir, the valley's top cop, V K Birdi, said here on Friday.

Spotters In Place

ulti-tier secu-

Drones &

"Proper and secure arrangements have been made for those who want to participate in the function,' the inspector general of police (IGP) told reporters after a full dress rehearsal at the Bakshi Stadium, the venue of the main Republic-Day function in the Kashmir valley on | More on P6

Special Vande Bharat Express Arrives In J&K

Observer News Service

Jammu: Specially designed to operate seamlessly in Jammu and Kashmir's challenging winter conditions, the Vande Bharat Express train arrived in Jammu with a large number of people aspiring to experience a

dream travel to Kashmir. The Jammu railway station on Friday echoed with a unique announcement which said "Yatrigan kripya dhyan dein, Vande Bharat train sankhya 244027 Kashmir jane ke liye platform number ek

par khadi hai". Locals and several passengers waiting for other trains at the station became ecstatic, shouting slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai". Many among them rushed to platform number one soon after the arrival of the special Vande Bharat train which

"We are elated over the arrival of the special train to Kashmir. It is our dream to travel on this train. Now Kashmir is fully connected by train to Kanniyakumari -- the other end of India." said Pune resident Adik

will run from Katra to Kashmir.

Kadam. Along with his family,

MMU Delegation Meets JPC Head In Delhi

and all patients are now stable.'

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PATIENTS'

medications have shown positive results,

Amendment Bill Threat To Waqf Autonomy: Mirwaiz

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Expressing "serious and deep concern" over the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, Jammu and Kashmir Mutahida Malis-E-Uleme (MMU) patron Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has said the proposed changes represent a significant threat to the autonomy and functioning of the Waqf.

In a written submission to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the proposed



Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, the MMU said the collector has been given absolute power to change the nature of the Waqf properties into "government

properties" by | More on P6

Building Bye Laws

districts of Kashmir, giving a

glimpse of the grand spectacle

The rehearsal is a precur-

sor to the actual Republic Day

parade scheduled | More on P6

to unfold on Friday.

Govt Extends Deadline For Submitting Feedback

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has extended the deadline for submitting feedback on the proposed amendments to the Unified Building Byelaws (UBBL) - 2021.

The Housing & Urban evelopment Department Development (H&UDD) has extended the date for submitting suggestions and comments on the proposed amendments to the J&K Unified Building Byelaws (UBBL) - 2021 to February 17, 2025.

Earlier, the Department had set January 18, 2025, as the deadline for submission of feedback on these amendments, which evoked widespread criticism from business and environmental groups. These groups accused the government of pushing through the changes in a "hush-hush" manner.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) and the Environmental Policy Group (EPG) had pushed for extending the deadline for feedback on changes in the building byelaws.

The proposed amendments remove all restrictions on the height and area governing the construction of residential and commercial spaces in Jammu & Kashmir. The changes include doing away with the existing curbs over Floor Area Ratio | More on P6

Popular Harwan 'Hakeem's' Clinic Sealed

Tashir Khan

Srinagar: A medical team supervised by the Tehsildar Hazratbal, Naib Tehsildar Harwan, and Block Medical Officer (BMO) Hazratbal sealed the clinic of Ghulam Qadir Reshi, also known as Qadir Resh or Hakeem, in Syedpora Bala, Harwan, on Thursday. The team also collected samples of "medicines" for further investigation.

A senior official confirmed that the samples will be sent for laboratory analysis to determine their composition and whether

they meet medical standards. Authorities are continuing their investigation, with further details about the findings and potential implications expected soon.

Earlier, the Head of the Department of Paediatrics at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar had urged the Principal of GMC to take strong measures against the practice of quackery. "With profound reverence and humble submission, I request your esteemed self to protect public health and safety. We | More on P6

Targeting Any Faith Or **Group: CMO**

he Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Srinagar, Dr. Tahir Sajad, has clarified regarding the recent sealing of a clinic in Dara Harwan, emphasizing that the action was part of a routine exercise | More on P6

Good He **Became Part** Of Democratic process: BJP

ven as Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the religious head of Muslims in Kashmir, opposed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill before a parliamentary committee, several BJP members took heart from his decision to be BJP members took heart from his decision to be part of the constitutional process as the Hurriyat leader has been associated with separatist politics | More on P6 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

'Slow Growth Of Cortex Could Play Role In **Developing Eating Disorders As Adult'**

Press Trust Of India

■ low maturing of the brain's cortex -- that helps with self-control and decisionmaking -- during teenage could be a reason for developing eating disorders as a young adult, according to a new research.

Disordered eating behaviours can be 'restrictive' -- involving dieting and purging in which one deliberately limits food intake to control body weight and shape -- or 'emotional' in response to negative emotions or urges such as binge-eating.

For the study, published in the journal Nature Mental Health, the researchers led by those at King's College London analysed MRI brain scans of almost 1,000 teenagers from England, Ireland, France and Germany, taken at ages 14 and 23 years. Genetic data and responses to questionnaires assessing the participants' wellbeing and eating behaviours were also analysed.

'Brain maturation' in which the cortex or the outer layer of brain decreases in volume and thickness during teenage, was found to be delayed and less pronounced in unhealthy eaters. The cortex is known to help perform higherlevel functions such as decisionmaking and regulating emotions. "Age-related decreases in volumes and thickness in several brain regions, particularly in the cerebellum and prefrontal cortex, were less pronounced in restrictive eaters and emotional/ uncontrolled eaters, compared with healthy eaters, suggesting protracted (delayed) brain maturation," the authors wrote.

They said that a delayed maturing of the cortex contributed towards the link between having mental health problems at age 14 and developing unhealthy eating behaviours at age 23, and this connection was unrelated to body mass index.

In particular, they found that a re-



duced maturation of the cerebellum -- a brain region that controls appetite -- helped explain the link between one's genetic risk for high body mass index and restrictive eating behaviours at age 23. The researchers grouped the participants under three types of eating behaviours -- healthy eaters (42 per cent), restrictive eaters (33 per cent) and emotional or uncontrolled eaters (25 per cent). Young people with unhealthy eating behaviours at age 23 were found to have had higher levels of internalising and externalising problems at age 14, compared to healthy eaters. Internalising problems could involve anxiety or depression, whereas externalising ones could involve hyperactivity, inattention or conduct issues. Internalising problems significantly increased with age between 14 to 23 among the unhealthy eaters, the researchers

They added that although externalising problems decreased with age across the groups, overall levels were higher among those having emotional or uncontrolled eating behaviours.

Restrictive eaters were found to have dieted more throughout adolescence compared to healthy eaters.

On the other hand, some of the emotional eaters showed an increase in dieting between ages 14 and 16, while others showed an increase in binge eating between ages 14 to 19, compared to healthy eaters, the team found.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Applicatio of Firdous Ahmad Najar S/o Ghulam Qadir Najar R/o Wanigam Bala regarding Obtaining OBC Certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Wanigam Bala tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 132000 /-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation	
01	Gh Oadir Naiar	Ismail Naiar	7Ö	Labour	
	Sara Begum	W/o Gh Qadir Najar	60	H/W	
03	Bashir Ahmad	S/o Gh Oadir	30	-	
04	Firdous Ahmad Naiar		26	Pvt Teacher	
03 04 05	Nahida Bano	W/o Firdous Ahmad	26	H/W	
06	Fatima Binte Firdous	D/o Firdous Ahmad	05	Student	

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

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S WWW. Pearlandpeaks.com

Public Notice

Whereas I, Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Wagay S/o Ali Mohd Wagay R/o Zawoora Shopian intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S WWW. Pearlandpeaks.com under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan cardr \ Experience Certificate(Minimum 5years). Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to

Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

/ Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) befre my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id; ddtregl23@ gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from SABA MANZOOR to SABHA

MANZOOR.In future I will be known as SABHA MANZOOR. If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport

office, Srinagar within a period of 7 days. After that days no ob-

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that

I have changed the name of my daughter from

Khadija to Khadija Audil as per the updated

Aadhar Card and other documents as it is

required to get rectified for the school records

If anybody having any objection about the

change of the name of my daughter, he/ she can

contact the concern office within a period of

seven days after which no objection will be

Audil Hussain

jection will be accepted.

aqj

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Applicatio of Nazima Ali And Simran Ali Ds/o Ali Mohd Chopan R/o Chanderseer regarding Obtaining OBC Certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Chanderseer tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 84000/-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Ali Mohd Chopan	Jamal Chopan	45	Labour
01 02	Famida Begum	W/o Ali Mohd	43	H/W
		Chopan		
03 04 05	Nazima Ali	Ali Mohd Chopan	23	Student
04	Simran Ali	-DO-	19	
05	Danish Ali	-DO-	14	
06	Rabiya Ali	-do-	12	

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 Naib Tehsildar

Name of Work

Position of Funds:- Capex Budget

S. No. Particulars

documents

(online)

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Applicatio of Ubaid Ullah Kumar, Junaid Ahmad Kumar And Nuzhat Hassan Wards of Gh Hassan Kumar R/o Wanigam Bala regarding Obtaining OBC Certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the applicant file is currently under process in the office of undersigned regarding obtaining RBA certificate. According to the field staffs report the applicants are permanent resident of village Wanigam Bala tehsil Pattan District Baramulla and have been residing here from more than 15 years and has not migrated from the said village the annual family income of the applicant from all sources is Rs 96000/-. Family details of the applicant are give below.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation	
01	Fareeda Begum	Wd/o Gh Hassan	51	H/W	
		Kumar			
02 03	Junaid Ahmad	S/o Gh Hassan	29	Labour	
03	Nuzhat Hasssn	D/o	25	student	
04	Ubaid ullah Kumar	S/o	20	Student	

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

Time of

02 years

(10:00AM)

(04:00PM)

(10:00AM)

(04:00PM) (11:30AM)

Class of

Completion(Days) Contractor

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DATED 23-01-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Abdul Waheed Bhat S/O Reyaz Ul Rehman R/O Tarzoo Sopore Tehsil Khoie District Baramulla is applying for Pesticides License Under the name and style R R Pesticides & Fertilizers. If anybody have any objection regarding this, shall report at PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within One week

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam.

Sub.. Application of Fazilah Ashraf, Anzar Ashraf s/D/o Mohd Ashraf Teli R/o Chanderseer Tehsil Pattan for obtaining OBC certificate in favour of self

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above applicant's OBC certificates are under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicant's are residing in village Chanderseer with his father and belongs to Teli caste.the monthly income of applicant family is 8000, family

members are as under 1 Mohd Ashraf Teli s/o Ab Ahad teli 45y Labour 2 Saleema Begum w/o Mohd Ashraf Teli 40y H/work.

3 Fazila Ashraf D/o Mohd Ashraf Teli 19 y Student

4 Anzar Ashraf s/o Mohd Ashraf Teli 17y Student 5 Mahra Ashraf D/o Mohd Ashraf Teli 12y student In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 03 days af-

ter that no objection shall be entertained. fko Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Sub. Application of Shabnam Samad D/o Ab Samad Chopan favour of self.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above applicant OBC certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that the applicant is residing in village Chanderseer with her father and belongs to Chopan caste, monthly income of applicant family is 7000,

1 Sara Begum w/o Late Ab Samad Chopan 49y H/work

2 Towheeda Samad D/o Ab Samad Chopan 25y H/work 3 Shabnam Samad D/o Ab Samad Chopan 22y student

4 Adil Samad D/o Ab Samad Chopan 18y labour.

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 03 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

F/o Khadija Audil, student of Class First, GD Goenka, Srinagar. R/o Sheikh Bagh, Qamarwari, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" Contractor card . if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the S.E R&B Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Irshad Ahmad Ganai

S/o Ali Mohammad Ganai R/o Chunti Patheri Tangmarg

entertained.

fko

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD)[Tender Inviting Authority](NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No.and Name of Division to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(As per format)((The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BGpledged to Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Anantnag(Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD{CDR/FDR/BG} should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall be for a period of 45 days beyond bid validity of 120 days)

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG.Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION PAHALGAM

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of theLt. Governor, Union Territory of J&Ke-tenders are invited on percentage basis basis in TWO COVER System from

Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs) Cost of T/Doc. Earnest Money

(in Rs)

23-01-2025 24-01-2025

24-01-2025

17-02-2025 18-02-2025

In the office of Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Anantnag

approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the

The NITConsisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions

of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates

eNIT NO 1060F R&B/Pahalgam/2024-25

CONSTRUCTION OF TOUR-IST RECEPTION CENTRE AT without GST= 213.40 GST 5500

Position of TS:- Accorded Vide No: CE(R&B)/SK/TS/60 of 2024-25 Dated 09-01-2025

Position of AA:- Accorded Vide No: 07-DTK/PLN of 2023 Dated 23-02-2023

Project Authority:- DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM KAHSMIR

Date of Issue of Tender Notice Period of Downloading of bidder

Bid Submission End Date Date and time of opening of bid

Bid submission Start Date

amount= 38.41

Dated

Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour

of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 07 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contract torfor a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance

security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR and same shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work 6. CDR/FDR/BG once utilized as BID security(EMD)/performance Security for any work shall not be accepted or utilized for any other work as Bid security(EMD) or performance. mance Security). Utilization of the same shall render the bidder as non responsive

The rates quoted in the BOQ are exclusive of GST. GST @18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment

7. The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Anantnag. The tenders shall be opened only after proper authorization/administrative approval received from concerned authorities. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.

The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:
Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent. Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract. If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

11.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary docume All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25. 11.5. 36.

dated: 24-01-2025 DIPK-11180/24

Dated:

Executive Enginee PWD(R&B) Division Pahalgam

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Subject: - Retirement of one Partner in the Registration Certificate of Travel Agency running under the name & style "Travel Mate Tour & Travels".

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Whereas, Mr. Mohammad Yousuf Pakhtoon S/o Ali Mohammad Pakhtoon and Mr. Salim Shafi Pakhtoon S/o Mohammad Shafi have applied this office for retirement of one partner namely Mr.Salim Shafi Pakhtoon in the registration certificate of their Travel Agency under the name and style "Travel Mate Tour & Travels" under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the unit is registered with this office vide Registration No:-JKTA00000504 dated 01.04.2021 and was renewed upto 31.12.2024.

Whereas, the applicants along with their application have submitted the requisite documents as mentioned below: Dissolution Deed including affidavit duly attested by City Judge Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Srinagar. 2. 3.

Registration certificate.

NOC from bank.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request of the applicants is considered for retirement of one partner, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc. for objection if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of 7 days will be entertained and request of the applicant will be considered as per rules.

> -Sd/-Asstt. Director Tourism. Registration

No: Reg/T/901/DTK/67 DIPK-11200/24 Dated: 24/01/2025

Police Destroy 121 Kgs Of Seized Narcotics In Anti-Drug Campaign

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of the nationwide anti-drug campaign initiated by the Hon'ble Home Minister of India, the Drug Disposal Committee of District Srinagar has destroyed 121 kilograms of seized narcotic substances. These drugs were confiscated in connection with multiple FIRs registered across the district, reads a press release issued by District Police Srinagar shared with Associated News Bureau.

The destruction process was carried out at a designated incineration facility in Lassipora, Pulwama, following necessary orders

from the competent court. Senior officers from various police wings oversaw the operation, which was conducted in the presence of representatives from the Legal Metrology Department and the Pollution Control Board to ensure proper compliance with regulations.

The destroyed narcotics included Heroin, Brown Sugar, Crystal Meth, Fukki, Charas, Codeine Phosphate, and other banned substances, it added.

This initiative reflects the Srinagar Police's unwavering commitment to eradicating drug abuse and contributing to the broader national mission of achieving a drug-free society.

Parents Decry Unfair Nursery Admissions At Private School

Agencies

Srinagar: A prominent educational institution, has come under fire for its alleged bias toward financial status in its nursery class admissions. Frustrated parents have criticized the school for prioritizing wealth over merit, sparking calls for transparency and fairness in the selection process

A mother, whose threeyear-old daughter was denied admission despite her exceptional language skills and fluency in English, voiced her grievances. "My child is talented and well-prepared, yet she was not admitted. It seems the school values money over intelligence," she said, questioning the criteria used for student selection.

Another parent accused certain individuals within the school of making arbitrary decisions that sideline deserving candidates in favor of wealthier applicants. "This institution, established on state land, was meant to promote education, not privilege," one parent lamented, pointing to the public nature of the school's setup.

The parents alleged that the school management is in-

Srinagar: The Office of

the District Magistrate,

directive mandating the

attendance of all govern-

Republic Day celebrations

Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar,

ment employees in the

scheduled to be held at

Srinagar, has issued a

fluenced by affluent families, undermining the institution's mission to provide quality education to all. "Some people in the school are clearly calling the shots, giving preference to influential families while avoiding the less privileged," they claimed.

The lack of transparency has led to widespread disappointment among parents who had high expectations of fairness and equal opportunity. Many have demanded a clear and just admission process that ensures every child, regardless of financial background, gets a fair chance at education.

In a direct appeal, the aggrieved parents urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene and investigate the matter. They emphasized the need for accountability, arguing that public land and resources should benefit all sections of society equally.

The parents said that neither they were called for any interview or any interaction and yet the results were declared. "I want to know what the criteria on which admissions were made," they said and sought intervention from higher authorities. [KNT]

Mandatory Attendance For Govt

Employees At R-Day Celebrations

on January 26, 2025.

Heads of Departments

(HoDs), District Officers,

As per the order, all

and Sectoral Officers within

the jurisdiction of District

Srinagar are required to at-

tend the main function along

ZARGAR FAMILY

BEREAVED

with their subordinate staff



Deputy CM Reviews Shab-E-Meraj (PBUH) **Arrangements At Hazratbal Shrine**

Nida Sadiq

Srinagar: Ahead of Shab-E-Meraj (PBUH) Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary visited the Hazratbal Shrine to oversee preparations for the large number of devotees expected to attend the occasion.

The Dy CM was accompanied by Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to Chief Minister; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Commissioner, SMC, Srinagar; VC LCMA; Chief Engineer PDD; Chief Engineer PHE, Kashmir; Joint Director Information, Kashmir RTO, Kashmir; ADC, Srinagar and senior officers and officials of various departments

During the visit, the Deputy CM highlighted the administration's focus on ensuring seamless arrangements for the devotees. "Like every year, people continue to visit this place, and on the occasion of Shabe-Meraj, an even larger number of people are expected to gather here. Since it is the winter season, we have come to ensure proper arrangements for the attendees, including adequate transportation, healthcare services. food and water supplies, and uninterrupted electricity. I am pleased to note that the Divisional Commissioner, DC Srinagar, and other officials have worked diligently to ensure all arrangements are in place. Any shortcomings will be addressed promptly," he said.

as part of their official duty.

each department has been

instructed to nominate a

senior officer to mark the

and submit the attendance

report to the District Level

attendance of their staff

Nodal Officer.

To ensure compliance,

The Deputy Chief Minister also engaged with the shrine management and local representatives to ensure that the arrangements align with the expectations of the devotees. He sought feedback and suggestions to further enhance the experience of visitors and uphold the sanctity of the religious occasion.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani also reviewed the arrangements and directed officers to

administration for its proactive efforts and dedication towards ensuring a spiritually uplifting experience during this revered occasion. They assured that all necessary

measures have been taken to ensure a smooth and safe experience for the devotees during Shab-E-Meraj.

Special arrangements have also been made to ensure smooth traffic management, sufficient public transport services and availability of



Meraj-un-Nabi (PBUH) holds immense religious significance for the people, and we are committed towards ensuring that all necessary arrangements are in place to facilitate devotees in offering their prayers and participating in the observances peacefully and comfortably

address any gaps immediately. "Proper facilities must be ensured, including uninterrupted electricity and adequate transport for the devotees, especially during this winter season. A control room has been established at the shrine to monitor the arrangements and address issues in real time," he stated.

Both leaders visited the shrine, expressing their personal connection to the occasion. "I also had the opportunity to visit the shrine myself, which is a significant and meaningful experience for me," said the Deputy CM.

The shrine authorities and devotees expressed their gratitude to the medical facilities, the meeting was informed.

The Advisor to Chief Minister asked the officials to remain vigilant and responsive throughout the event to ensure uninterrupted services.

The shrine authorities and devotees expressed their gratitude to the administration for its proactive efforts and dedication towards ensuring a spiritually uplifting experience during this revered occasion.

Later, Surinder Choudhary accompanied by Advisor to Chief Minister paid obseince at the Hazratbal shrine. He prayed for peace and prosperity for mankind and Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 6:06 **ZUHR** 12:42 **ASR** 4:16 Magrib 5:57 **ISHA** 7:21

This Day In History

- 1348 Friuli Earthquake in |European southern Alps measuring approximately 6.9, largely destroys Villach, killing 5,000
 - 1565 Battle at Talikota India: Deccan sultanate destroy Vijayanagar's army and the last Hindu kingdom of Southern India
- 1579 Treaty of Utrecht signed, marks beginning of **Dutch Republic**
- 1721 Tsar Peter the Great ends Russian-orthodox patriarchy
- 1755- Moscow University is established by Elizabeth of Russia and founded by Mikhail Lomonosov on
- 1840 American naval expedition under Charles Wilkes is first to identify Antarctica as a new
- 1964 -Echo 2, US communications satellite launched
- 1971 Himachal Pradesh becomes 18th Indian state 1971 - Military coup in Uganda under Major General Idi Amin
- 1974 Dr Christiaan Barnard transplants 1st heterotopic heart transplant (adding donor heart without removal of old) 1975 - Bangladeshi parliament disposes of premier
- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- 1979 1st documented case of a robot killing a 1980 - Highest speed attained by a warship, 167
- kph, USN hovercraft
- 1983 Infrared telescope satellite launched into polar orbit
- on "CBS Evening News" as Rather attempts to question Bush about his role in Iran-Contra affair. 1990 - Avianca Flight 52, runs out of fuel & crashes
- in Cove Neck NY, 73 die. 1992 - Hubble space telescope optics finds
- NGC3862/3C264.
- 1994 Mine fire at Asansol, India, kills 55 1994 - US space probe Clementine launched from
- Vandenberg Air Force Base, California 2001 - A 50-year-old Douglas DC-3 crashes near
- Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela killing 24.
- 2002 Wikipedia switches to the new version of its
- software ("Phase II") aka Magnus Manske Day. 2005 - A stampede at the Mandher Devi temple in
- Mandhradevi in India kills at least 258. 2006 - Three independent observing campaigns
- announce the discovery of OGLE-2005-BLG-390Lb through gravitational microlensing, the first cool rocky/icy extrasolar planet around a mainsequence star.
- 2010 Ethiopian Airlines Flight 409 crashes into the Mediterranean Sea shortly after take-off from Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport, killing all 90 people on-board.
- 2011- Egyptian Revolution of 2011 begins with a series of street demonstrations, rallies, acts of civil disobedience, labor strikes and violent clashes in Cairo, Alexandria and other major cities
- 2011- UK announces it had a shock economic contraction of 0.5% in Q4 2010, due to severe winter weather and budget cuts implemented by the coalition government
- 2018- Doomsday clock moved by 30 seconds to 2 minutes to midnight by Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, closest since 1950s
- 2019- Longest-ever US government shutdown ends after 35 days when President Donald Trump agrees to three week of negotiations on border security by a House-Senate conference committee 2019- Tailing dam for an iron ore mine in
- Brumadinho, south-eastern Brazil, collapses killing at least 110 with 238 missing
- 2021- Janet Yellen is confirmed as the first female treasury secretary by the US Senate
- 2022- Australian government buys the copyright to the Aboriginal flag designed by artist Harold Thomas for A\$20 million (US\$14m) [1] 2023- America and Germany announce decision to
 - send powerful battle tanks (US 31, Germany 14) to Ukraine to fight Russia invasion 2023- Chris Hipkins is sworn in as Prime Minister of New Zealand, following the resignation of Jacinda Ardern

Government of Jammu & Kashmir 1988 US VP George H. W. Bush & Dan Rather clash OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL

Sd/-

ANDHOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR (Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject SITC of 30 KVA servo stabilizer 3 Phase along with allied works at UPHC Harwan, Srinagar Ref: 1. This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2024-25/137/e-tendering Dated: 22.01.2024.

CANCELLATION

Due to change in BOQ of above referred NIT floated vide e-NIT No. M&HDS/TS /2024-25/137/e-tendering Dated: 22.01.2024.is hereby cancelled and shall be floated afresh shortly.

> Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division, Srinagar.

No: M&HDS/TS/7888-91

DIPK-11207/24 Dated:24.01.2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER B.K.PORA

Email: bdobkpora@gmail.com

Subject:- Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Solid Waste Management in Block B.K.Pora District Budgam.

CORRIGENDUM

Please read "within a period of 10 days* instead of "within a period of 07 days" appearing in the fourth line of para 1st. In the EOI/Dasti quotation for said Solid waste Management of CD Block B.K.PORA floated vide reference no BDO/BKP/1467-72 Dated 14-01-2025, DIPK-10943/24 Dated 16-01-2025.

No:BDO/BKP/1558-64 DIPK-11206/24 Date: 24/01/2025

Sd/-Block Development Officer, **B.K.PORA**

262/25

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www. Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only Name of work (in Rs.) period **Particulars** GEM/2025/ B/5855014 Hiring of Multi Utility Vehicle(MUV) for 50,01,568/material and manpower deployment at remote locations for BDGM, SVDK, JAT and BAHL depot in J&K region for

tice No. GEM/2025/B/5855014 Dated: - 23.01.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Sohail Ahmed Zargar Sameer Ahmed Zargar Contact: 9596568448

With profound grief and sorrow we announce the sad demise of Fahmeeda Bano (W/O Late Abdul Rashid Zargar, resident of Samandhar Bagh, Srinagar (near Ahle Hadees Masjid Sharief) She passed away on the 23rd of January 2025 (Thursday) after Ijtimaye Fateh Khwani shall be held on Sunday, 26th of January 2025- Insha Allah. **Note**: Ladies are kindly requested not to bring any eatables with them. **BEREAVED:** Sajjad Ahmed Zargar

Healthcare Crisis

Jab Munsif Hi Qatil Ho

Bilal Ahmad Khanday

Why do I call

it 'unhealthy
healthcare'? There
are many points that
prove my argument,
but the recent incident
I witnessed—one that
even happened to me
at one of the primary
and major hospitals
in Kashmir—serves
as an eye-opener
for policymakers to
reconsider their policies
and management
practices

o far as the health sector is concerned, it is there to act as a bedrock that supports a society with its infrastructure, equipment, efficient and skilled doctors, paramedical staff, capable and dynamic administration, quality checkups, medications, and more. Healthcare is one of the primary, pioneering, and fundamental systems in a society, which not only cures our physical ailments but also heals our mind and soul. However, as the saying goes, "Jab munsif hi qatil ho," we lose hope for a better future, as we are like a boat that is being sunk by the rower himself.

The "Munsif hi gatil ho" expression holds true for almost every sector, considering the realities at the grassroots level. As far as the health sector is concerned, it should serve as the bedrock of a society, with its infrastructure, equipment, skilled doctors and paramedical staff, vibrant administration, quality checkups, medications, and more. Why do I call it 'unhealthy healthcare'? There are many points that prove my argument, but the recent incident I witnessed—one that even happened to me at one of the primary and major hospitals in Kashmir—serves as an eye-opener for policymakers to reconsider their policies and management practices. These ultimately determine the health and hygiene of the public, both in the short and long run.

A few days ago, I took my better half for a cardiac check-up, as advised by a physician. Upon reaching the hospital, I was astonished by the long, serpentine queues that we had to follow to get a ticket, which then needed to be counter-signed by the concerned official for the date. This process seemed messy and cumbersome for almost all patients and attendants, who had to follow what seemed more like 'dictates' in the hospital rather than clear rules and regulations. After standing in line for about an hour, I finally reached the counter and got the ticket with the date.

After my better half's check-up, the cardiologist advised an ECG for further investigation to probe the expected problem. The next step was to deposit the fee for the ECG, but to my utter surprise and disgust, the concerned window (counter) was closed, even though the clock read 2:30 pm. Somehow, I realized I could deposit the fee at the casualty counter, which fortunately was still working. When I reached the ECG counter, I found some patients still waiting outside for their turn. To kill time, I asked an elderly lady, holding a small baby in her lap, who she was with. She replied that her daughter was inside, having cardiac issues for a long time.

When we entered for our turn, I saw a woman, probably in her late forties, arguing with the staff to provide her with some cotton to clean the gel off her body after the ECG. She



This process seemed messy and cumbersome for almost all patients and attendants, who had to follow what seemed more like 'dictates' in the hospital rather than clear rules and regulations

was given a bed sheet, wet and dirty, that had been left on a chair. She refused to use it and argued that it was unreasonable to expect a patient to clean gel off her body with such an unhygienic item. Finding no alternative, she left, rebuking the officials and the administration for their careless approach, which could further jeopardize patients' health and hygiene.

Finally, I got my better half's ECG done. but to my surprise and dismay, I found that I was even more harsh than the lady who had earlier taught these so-called literates a lesson. I too raised the issue with them. Their illogical response was that they were charging a meager amount for the ECG, which I countered with a valid argument. I asked them how it could be justified when a hospital, which claims to prioritize health and hygiene and promotes these ideals in its brochures and signboards, would compromise the very lives of people who regard doctors and officials as near divine. They explained that the administration had not provided them with the necessary items to carry out their duties efficiently.

I replied, "Isn't it your legal and moral duty to officially bring this matter to the notice of your seniors and administrators, who are being well-compensated for their 'services'?" They finally expressed regret and seemed eager to get me out of the room, but before leaving, I requested them to please bring this issue to the attention of their seniors for the sake of the health and hygiene of the patients.

Since then, the scenes have haunted me, and I finally decided to write about the issue to highlight not only this case but also similar issues that patients endure daily, not only in this hospital but in almost all government hospitals. These hospitals, on one hand, claim to provide high-quality healthcare and hygiene, while on the other hand, they play with the innocent lives of the people.

This is why I wrote, "Jab munsif hi qatil ho"...

The author can be reached for feedback at khandaybilal12@gmail.com

Three Reasons Why AI's Momentum Could Stall in 2025

Dambisa Moyo

he rapid pace of technological advances over the past year, especially in artificial intelligence, has provided many reasons for optimism. But as we head into 2025, there are signs that AI's momentum may be waning.

Since 2023, the dominant narrative has been that the AI revolution will drive productivity and economic growth, paving the way for extraordinary technological breakthroughs. PwC, for example, projects that AI will add nearly \$16 trillion to global GDP by 2030 – a 14% increase. Meanwhile, a study by Erik Brynjolfsson, Danielle Li, and Lindsey R. Raymond estimates that generative AI could boost worker productivity by 14% on average and by 34% for new and low-skilled workers.

Recent announcements by Google and OpenAI seem to support this narrative, offering a glimpse into a future that not long ago was confined to science fiction. Google's Willow quantum chip, for example, reportedly completed a benchmark computation – a task that would take today's fastest supercomputers ten septillion years (ten followed by 24 zeros) – in under five minutes. Likewise, OpenAI's new o3 model represents a major technological breakthrough, bringing AI closer to the point where it can outperform humans in any cognitive task, a milestone known as "artificial general intelligence."

But there are at least three reasons why the AI boom could lose steam in 2025. First, investors are increasingly questioning whether AI-related investments can deliver significant returns, as many companies are struggling to generate enough revenue to offset the skyrocketing costs of developing cutting-edge models. While training OpenAI's GPT-4 cost more than \$100 million, training future models will likely cost more than \$1 billion, raising concerns about the financial sustainability of these efforts.

To be sure, investors are eager to capitalize on the AI boom, with venture capital firms investing a record \$97 billion in US-

decline in investment and spending.

Second, the enormous amounts of energy required to operate and cool massive data centers could impede AI's rapid growth. By 2026, according to the International Energy Agency, AI data centers will consume 1,000 terawatt-hours of electricity annually, exceeding the United Kingdom's total electricity and gas consumption in 2023. The consultancy Gartner projects that by 2027, 40% of existing data centers will be "operationally

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based AI startups in 2024. But it appears that even industry leaders like OpenAI are burning through cash too quickly to generate meaningful returns, leading investors to worry that much of their capital has been misallocated or wasted. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that a \$100 billion investment in AI would require at least \$50 billion in revenue to produce an acceptable return on capital - accounting for taxes, capital expenditures, and operating expenses. But the entire sector's annual revenues, according to my sources, total just \$12 billion, with OpenAI accounting for roughly \$4 billion. In the absence of a "killer app" for which customers are willing to pay substantial sums, a significant portion of VC investments could end up worthless, triggering a

constrained" by limited power availability. Third, large language models appear to be approaching their limits as companies grapple with mounting challenges like data scarcity and recurring errors. LLMs are primarily trained on data scraped from sources such as news articles, published reports, social media posts, and academic papers. But with a finite supply of high-quality information, finding new datasets or creating synthetic alternatives has become increasingly difficult and costly. Consequently, these models are prone to generating incorrect or fabricated answers ("hallucinations"), and AI companies may soon run out of the fresh data needed to refine them.

Computing power is also approaching its physical limits. In 2021, IBM unveiled a

two-nanometer chip – roughly the size of a fingernail – capable of fitting 50 billion transistors and improving performance by 45% compared to its seven-nanometer predecessor. While undeniably impressive, this milestone also raises an important question: Has the industry reached the point of diminishing returns in its quest to make ever-smaller semiconductors?

If these trends persist, the current valuations of publicly traded AI companies may not be sustainable. Notably, private investment is already showing signs of declining. According to the research firm Preqin, VC firms raised \$85 billion in the first three quarters of 2024 – a sharp drop from the \$136 billion raised during the same period in 2023.

The good news is that should today's AI giants start to falter, smaller competitors could seize the opportunity and challenge their dominance. From a market standpoint, such a scenario could foster increased competition and reduce concentration, preventing a repeat of the conditions that allowed the so-called "Magnificent Seven" – Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Tesla – to dominate the US tech industry.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer Dambisa Moyo, an international economist, is the author of four New York Times bestselling books, including Edge of Chaos: Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth – and How to Fix It (Basic Books, 2018). The article is syndicated from Project Syndicate, 2025

The Power of Storytelling

Shaping Societies and Transmitting Ideas through Generations

Mehleen Syed

Storytelling is perhaps the most ancient and compelling method of human communication. From the cave paintings of early humans to the elaborate narratives of today, stories have been woven into the fabric of every culture, serving as vessels of history, belief, and imagination. This article explores the profound impact of storytelling on societies, examining its evolution, influence, and the complexities of interpretation that shape our understanding of the past and present.

The Origins and Evolution of Storytelling

The history of storytelling dates back thousands of years, where early humans used cave paintings and oral traditions to convey their experiences, beliefs, and societal norms. These narratives, whether factual accounts or mythical tales, provided a framework for understanding the world and passing down cultural heritage from one generation to the next. Ancient civilizations like the Greeks used written narratives to chronicle their histories and mythologies, setting the stage for the written word as a powerful tool of cul-



IN ADDITION **TO POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS MOTIVATIONS, STORIES ARE ALSO SHAPED BY** SOCIAL AND CULTURAL **FACTORS.** For example, the role of women in traditional myths and epics has often been marginalized or idealized, reflecting the patriarchal values of the societies in which these stories were created. In recent times, however, there has been a re-evaluation of these narratives, with more attention given to the perspectives of women and marginalized groups

tural transmission.

The oldest known form of storytelling is visual, seen in cave paintings such as those found in Lascaux, France, dating back to around 17,000 years ago. These paintings tell stories of the hunt, survival, and spiritual beliefs of the early humans. Not just a means of artistic expression, these images likely served as a form of communication and education for future generations, guiding them in matters of survival and understanding their environment.

As humans developed language, storytelling became an oral tradition, passed from generation to generation by word of mouth. The earliest written forms of storytelling were inscribed on stone tablets, papyrus, and parchment, further solidifying the role of storytelling in preserving history. Ancient Mesopotamian cultures recorded epic tales like the 'Epic of Gilgamesh', a story of a king's quest for immortality, and the Egyptians chronicled the lives of their pharaohs and gods. In ancient Greece, epic poems like 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey' not only celebrated heroic deeds but also communicated cultural values and moral lessons.

As civilization advanced, storytelling adapted to the changing needs of society. The printing

press, invented in the 15th century, revolutionized the dissemination of stories, enabling them to be shared far beyond the storyteller's immediate reach. This democratization of storytelling had a profound impact on education, politics, and culture, as books became available to the masses and stories took on new forms, such as novels and plays.

Storytelling as a Catalyst for Revolution

One of the most compelling aspects of storytelling is its ability to inspire change and revolutionize societies. The example of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran illustrates how religious narratives and storytelling can mobilize masses and reshape political landscapes. The stories told by religious leaders during that time ignited a fervor among the people, leading to the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty. This demonstrates the profound impact storytelling can have on collective consciousness and societal transformation.

Religious leaders, particularly the Ayatollah Ruhullah Khomeini, used storytelling as a means to unite the masses, framing the revolution not only as a political struggle but as a spiritual and moral quest for justice. These stories resonated with people from all walks of life, giving them a sense of purpose and direction. As the revolution gained momentum, it became clear that storytelling was not just about conveying information, but about creating an emotional bond that could inspire collective

This phenomenon is not unique to Iran. Throughout history, revolutions have often been fueled by powerful narratives that challenge the status quo. The French Revolution, for instance, was driven by the stories of inequality and oppression, while the American Revolution was inspired by the ideals of liberty and justice. In each case, storytelling served as a vehicle for uniting people around a common cause and sparking action that would forever change the course of history.

course of history.

The ability of stories to inspire change is not limited to large-scale political movements. On a personal level, stories can also motivate individuals to confront challenges, overcome obstacles, and achieve personal transformation. The power of storytelling lies in its ability to connect with the human experience, evoking emotions that can lead to a shift in perspective or behavior.

Educational and Personal Impact of Storytelling

Beyond its role in historical and political contexts, storytelling plays a crucial role in education and personal development. Teachers and parents often use storytelling as a pedagogical tool to impart moral values, teach lessons, and stimulate creativity in children. Museums and historical sites, such as those preserving the life of iconic figures like Mirza Ghalib, serve as living storytellers that connect individuals with their cultural heritage and inspire personal reflection.

Storytelling in education goes beyond simply relaying facts and figures; it fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills by encouraging students to engage with the material on a deeper level. When children listen to stories, they are not only learning about the world around them, but they are also developing empathy, understanding different perspectives, and honing their ability to think critically about complex issues.

For instance, in the classroom, storytelling can bring historical events to life, allowing students to immerse themselves in different times and places. By engaging with narratives from various cultures and traditions, students gain a broader perspective of the world and its complexities. This helps to develop a sense of global citizenship and an appreciation for diversity.

On a personal level, storytelling can serve as a source of inspiration and reflection. Many people find solace in the stories of others, whether through literature, films, or personal anecdotes. Stories help individuals make sense of their own lives, offering guidance during times of difficulty or confusion. By reflecting on the experiences of others, individuals are able to

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The ability of stories to inspire change is not limited to large-scale political movements. On a personal level, stories can also motivate individuals to confront challenges, overcome obstacles, and achieve personal transformation. The power of storytelling lies in its ability to connect with the human experience, evoking emotions that can lead to a shift in perspective or behavior

gain new insights into their own circumstances and navigate life's challenges with greater resilience and clarity.

Epics, Myths, and Their Cultural Significance

Central to storytelling are epics and myths, which blend historical events with mythical elements to create larger-thanlife narratives. Epics like the 'Ramayana' and 'Mahabharata' in Hindu mythology or the 'Odyssey' in Greek mythology not only entertain but also serve as moral compasses and cultural touchstones for their respective societies. These stories often feature heroic figures and mythical beings, embodying archetypes that resonate across time and cultures.

Epics, by their very nature, are larger-than-life tales that transcend the mundane concerns of daily life. They tell the stories sion. The themes explored in these epics remain timeless, speaking to universal human experiences and emotions that continue to resonate with people of all backgrounds.

Interpretation, Manipulation, and Bias in Storytelling

However, the interpretation and manipulation of stories can significantly influence their impact and meaning. Historical texts and epics, such as the 'Ramayana', have undergone reinterpretations over time to suit evolving cultural and political agendas. Scholars like Romila Thapar highlight how these reinterpretations reflect societal shifts and power dynamics, shaping narratives to reinforce dominant ideologies or challenge existing norms.

The process of reinterpretation is not always a neutral one. Stories are often shaped and maalso shaped by social and cultural factors. For example, the role of women in traditional myths and epics has often been marginalized or idealized, reflecting the patriarchal values of the societies in which these stories were created. In recent times, however, there has been a re-evaluation of these narratives, with more attention given to the perspectives of women and marginalized groups.

The Role of Belief and Evolution of Narratives

Belief systems, whether rooted in religious faith or cultural tradition, often shape how stories are perceived and transmitted. What one culture considers myth may hold profound truth or symbolism for another, illustrating the subjective nature of storytelling and its ability to adapt to diverse perspectives and interpretations. This fluidity allows stories to evolve with society, reflecting changing values and beliefs across generations.

The evolution of narratives is also influenced by the needs and desires of each generation. As society changes, so too does its understanding of its own history and myths. This is evident in the reinterpretation of characters and stories, such as the shifting portrayal of Maleficent in recent adaptations of 'Sleeping Beauty'. Once viewed as the archetypal villain, Maleficent has been reimagined as a more sympathetic character, challenging traditional notions of good and evil.

This ability to reinterpret and evolve stories is a testament to the enduring power of storytelling. It allows narratives to remain relevant and meaningful, even as societies change and evolve. By reimagining old stories, new generations can find fresh insights and inspiration that speak to their own concerns and values.

Conclusion: Stories as Agents of Change and Continuity

In conclusion, storytelling stands as a timeless art form that bridges the past with the present, offering insights into human experience and shaping the future through its narratives. Whether through ancient myths or modern narratives, storytelling continues to influence



The cave painting of Lasc

of heroes and villains, gods and mortals, exploring fundamental themes of good versus evil, fate and free will, and the nature of the human soul. These narratives are often passed down through generations, serving as both entertainment and moral instruction

The 'Ramayana', for example, is more than just a tale of heroism and adventure; it is a guide to living a virtuous life. The character of Lord Rama embodies the ideal of dharma (righteousness), and his journey serves as a metaphor for the struggles individuals face in their quest to live a good and just life. Similarly, the 'Mahabharata' delves into the complexities of human nature, exploring themes of duty, honor, and the consequences of war.

While these epics have their roots in ancient history, their relevance continues to endure. In modern times, they have been reinterpreted and adapted in countless forms, from literature and theater to film and televi-

nipulated to serve the interests of those in power. In the case of the 'Ramayana', for example, the early versions of the epic did not depict Lord Rama as a deity. It was only in later versions that the idea of Rama being an incarnation of Vishnu was emphasized, likely in response to the rise of new religious movements that sought to promote specific theological views.

These shifts in interpretation are not unique to the 'Ramayana'. Throughout history, the retelling of myths and epics has been influenced by the political, cultural, and religious climate of the time. What is considered truth or myth can often depend on the perspective of the storyteller and the audience. This is what Plato warned about when he discussed the dangers of poetry: that it could shape beliefs and perspectives in ways that were not always grounded in obiective truth.

In addition to political and religious motivations, stories are

societies, provoke thought, and inspire action. By understanding the power of storytelling, we can appreciate its role in shaping our identities, beliefs, and collective consciousness, making it a cornerstone of human culture and communication.

Through its ability to transcend time and space, storytelling remains not only a means of entertainment but also a profound tool for understanding ourselves and our place in the world. Stories have the power to transform individuals and societies, to challenge existing norms, and to inspire change. In this sense, storytelling is not just a reflection of the past, but a dynamic force that shapes the future.

Views expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author can be reached at mehleenriaz@gmail.com

Declining Enrolment

Farwa had warned him that it could've been left out in the stomach of the patient and that he would continue to do such blunders if he did not learn to read and write with her.

Farwa didn't teach Hamza merely out of sisterly affection. Her insistence came from a place of fear, a fear of what the future held for her baby brother in a village where schools were shutting down one by one.

As a twelve year old, she had always dreamt of completing her education with flying colours and becoming a doctor. She had often looked up to Shahida Didi, the ASHA worker from the Anganwadi centre, located in a separate room, just next to their modest abode in the picturesque locale of Gurez, Bandipora, Shahida Didi had told her that she was a doctor, and would always carry a stethoscope with her, sometimes put around her neck, and sometimes stuck in the pocket of her white apron, which had turned grey by lack of washing. Farwa had pictured herself in the same manner, but had pledged not to let her white apron turn grey. Quite ahead of her age, sensitivity towards the importance of education had struck her when she was forced to bid adieu to her school a year ago.

The first to leave was Nazia, Farwa's child-hood buddy and closest companion. Nazia's father, an unskilled labourer, had been unable to make the ends meet with his minimum wages. Overwhelmed by the mounting household expenses and to keep their heads above water, her father decided to pull her out of the school so that she could assist her mother in her tailoring assignments.

Shortly afterwards, Arshad stopped showing up to the class. His parents had migrated close to the city in search of better livelihood opportunities. Whether or not he continued with his pursuit of education there was still a mysterv.

But the shocker came with the news of Zarka's departure. Her father, disillusioned with what he perceived as the school's failure to provide quality education, enrolled his brilliant daughter in a distant private school. While Zarka's family grappled with the management of its steep fees, she often lamented how deeply she missed her friends and the comforting familiarity of her old school.

One after the other, Farwa's classmates disappeared. The buzzy school corridor assumed an air of quietness with every passing week and gradually, the classrooms that would hitherto be filled with laughter and chatter turned silent.

Alack! The emptiness that had crept into the classrooms soon extended to the notice board:

"Due to declining enrollment numbers, we regret to inform you that the school will be closing its operations. In view of this, all the students are requested to bring their parents/guardians to the school office and collect their discharge certificates."

The notice didn't just announce the closure of a building, it marked the end of Farwa's school journey and a permanent disconnect from the place that had once been her second home, where she had dreamt of becoming a doctor! But she wasn't just losing her school; she was losing the fragile thread of hope that she had been firmly holding onto since day one.

Although her father tried to enroll her in another school, the exigent circumstance of a 7 kilometer rugged distance that had to be traversed everyday was quite an obstacle in Farwa's path to education.

And now, sitting at home, Farwa often revisits her old books, worn thin by countless readings, the edges of the pages having turned dark. Yet, she spends hours poring over its contents and pouring all her hopes into Hamza.

But, Farwa's family is not alone. Across Kashmir, hundreds of government-run schools are closing their doors due to declining enrollment numbers, keeping education for communities like hers in abeyance.

Pertinently, over 4400 government schools have shut down in the region lately due to zero or extremely low student enrollment. According to the Union Ministry of Education, there are roughly 1.25 million children across India that are not registered in schools, but other estimates suggest that there might be as many as 30 million. Factors such as poverty, lack of primary schooling institutions, and poor infrastructure have been identified as the major causes.

In Kashmir, the challenges of remote areas like Gurez, where Farwa lives, are exacerbated by poor infrastructure. The Ministry of Education data reports over 40 percent of educational institutions as being devoid of toilets, whereas 30 percent as not having access to reliable drinking water and electricity. For female students, proper sanitation becomes pivotal for maintaining consistent attendance.

"Unfortunately, our government institutions lack the basic amenities and facilities. How can we then expect parents to send their wards to these schools? Education is as much about dignity as it is about learning," explains Dr. Shafiq Ahmad, an academician from Srinagar.

During winter months, the deplorable infrastructure of government schools compels the children to sit on freezing floors with minimal matting and no heating arrangements. Scared of the idea of sitting in a freezing classroom, they opt for missing out on studies rather than bearing the brunt of harsh weather. Besides, the absence of proper playgrounds, libraries and laboratories, essential for the holistic development of children is yet another facet of the infrastructural deficiencies that the government schools exhibit.

"When parents see classrooms with broken windows and teachers who barely show up, they lose faith in government institutions!" Ahmad adds

But not just the infrastructure, a glaring issue that often goes unnoticed in government schools is the dismal pupil-teacher ratio. In rural areas of Kashmir, a single teacher is responsible for teaching students from multiple classes, ranging from Class 1 to Class 5, in the same room.

The Right to Education (RTE) Act (2009), recommends a Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) of 30:1 and 35:1 for the primary and the upper primary levels respectively. The average PTR in J&K is reported at 1:16, which is normally deemed to be within the national norms. However, some districts like Srinagar exhibit a PTR as low as

1:5, indicating an oversupply of teachers visà-vis the students while rural areas depict an inverted trend, leading to imbalanced educational opportunities and thereby impacting the quality of education.

In fact, a recent survey conducted by the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) reveals that more than 40 percent of schools in J&K have a pupil-teacher ratio above the prescribed norm of 30:1.

"I wish to give every child individual attention, because each one of them is different from the others. But with 60 students across different classes in one room, it becomes impossible," laments Shameema Hassan, a teacher from Bandipora district.

However, the challenges go beyond these

A volunteer and social activist belonging to CHINAR International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Srinagar that focuses on education, child development and community empowerment, highlights an important fact.

"A significant percentage of teachers in rural Kashmir have not undergone specialized teacher training programs, such as the B.Ed. or D.Ed. courses, which are critical for understanding pedagogical approaches. The absence of such training not only affects their teaching methods but also their ability to engage with students effectively."

A confirmation of this comes by the revelation of the UDISE+ data that affirms an approximation of 20 percent teachers in Jammu and Kashmir not meeting the qualification standards prescribed under the Right to Education (RTE) Act.

However, beyond qualifications, the pressing shortage and requirement of subject-specific teachers in government-run schools further aggravates the problem. Schools in rural and semi-urban areas across Kashmir often lack teachers for critical subjects like Science, Mathematics, and English. This forces them to rely on general-line teachers who are unable to offer in-depth subject expertise.

Day Temp To

lower than the previous night.

The minimum temperature was minus 2.5 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, minus 5 degrees Celsius at Konibal in Pampore town, minus 4 degrees Celsius in Kupwara, and minus 1.5 degrees Celsius in Kokernag.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the harshest period of winter. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', which began on December 21, the chances of snowfall are the highest, and the mercury drops considerably.

'Chillai-Kalan' ends on January 30, followed by a 20-day 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold).

Patients Show

to PGI Chandigarh is also recovering, and senior doctors there are collaborating with their counterparts in Jammu to monitor the situation.

"We are 100% certain this is not caused by any virus or influenza," he said. "Whether toxins or poison are involved is a matter of investigation and time. National agencies are involved in this case, and reaching a conclusion requires patience."

Dr Gupta called for upgrading diagnostic infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. "Facilities like metagenomics, RT-PCR, next-generation sequencing, and other modern diagnostic tools are essential," he said, adding that these are being established at GMC Jammu to facilitate

better patient care.

The Jammu & Kashmir Police have formed an 11-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the mysterious illness. Investigations at multiple levels are ongoing, with all departments on high alert and working around the clock to handle the situation.

Authorities have also implemented measures to "break the food chain" in the affected village by providing residents with monitored food and water supplies.

While the cause of the mysterious illness remains unknown, the recovery of patients offers hope for the people of Badhaal. Authorities, along with national health agencies, are working tirelessly to identify the root cause and prevent further incidents. (KNO)

J&K Has 3rd

reveal that the dropout rate at secondary level in Ladakh was 19.84 which is highest in states across the northern region of India. The dropout rate at Secondary level in Jammu and Kashmir is 13.42 while the Ladakh territory was staggering at 19.84 percent. The official figures also said that the dropout rate at Primary Level in Jammu and Kashmir was 1.6 percent and 4.3 percent in Ladakh.

It also reveals that the dropout rate at Upper Primary level in Jammu and Kashmir was 3.2 percent and the Ladakh territory was facing a dropout rate of 5.8 percent.

Earlier this month, it was reported that 12 percent learners at senior secondary level quit studies midway.

The official figures had revealed that "The retention rate at Primary level in Jammu and Kashmir was 82.70 and 88.42 at senior secondary level."

The official documents however state that, "About 46,000 Out of School Children (OoSC) have been mainstreamed."

The document has further stated that a nota-

ble shift of thousands of students from private to government schools has been recorded.

"There has been impressive enrolment of

217,890 students in 2022-23, marking a 17.87 percent increase in total enrolment," it reads. It also said that the department introduced vocational education in 804 schools, and expanded to 1,067 schools in 2023-24—thus ben-

efiting 1.25 lakh students. (KNO) **Policy Interventions**

Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, and its knowledge partner Global Counter-Terrorism Council

(GCTC), organised the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Pre-Consultations event.

This event aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among youth, providing a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore opportunities to promote entrepreneurial growth and collaboration across BRICS nations, Aditya Tickoo, Head of GCTC, said.

Over 40 startups from across Jammu and Kashmir showcased their innovations, technologies, and products in diverse sectors such as tourism, food tech, agri-tech, software technology, herbal cosmetics, herbal food supplements, and artificial intelligence.

The event attracted academicians, technocrats, startups, industrialists, and more than 500 students from various universities, colleges, and schools, marking a significant milestone in fostering entrepreneurial spirit, Tickoo added.

"IIM Jammu takes pride in hosting this platform, empowering young entrepreneurs, and making a meaningful contribution to the nation's progress," a spokesperson of IIM Jammu

Full Dress Rehearsal

to be held on January 26.

At Srinagar, a full dress rehearsal function was conducted at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar where Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri unfurled the National Flag, took salute at the March Past and inspected Parade & Band contingents.

Addressing the occasion, the Div Com highlighted developmental and administrative achievements of the region, pedaling J&K on the path of peace, progress and prosperity.

While mentioning the recent inauguration of Sonmarg Tunnel by the Prime Minister, the Div Com said that the Tunnel will ensure round the clock road connectivity to Sonmarg which will boost tourism.

Bidhuri expressed confidence that the proposed railway connection from Kashmir to Kanyakumari would be realized in the near future.

He also recounted the successful hosting of Kashmir Marathon in Srinagar & Legends League Cricket at Bakhshi Stadium as the achievements of Administration to promote peace and creating opportunities for youth.

Bidhuri took pride in successful and peaceful conduct of Lok Sabha & Assembly elections during last year attributing the credit to Police, Security Forces, Civil Administration and voters.

Speaking regarding the delivery of essential services, Div Com stated that the administration has promptly restored essential services including electricity & water supply within the shortest possible time during disruptions caused by snow recently.

While highlighting the challenges, Div Com said that the administration has intensified its campaign to combat drug menace to save youth from becoming victims of drugs.

Different contingents of BSF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, JKAP, IRP, Women Contingent, SDRF, Fire & Emergency, Forest Protection Force, NCC contingents, Pipe band, Brass band and Students from different Schools participated in march past parade

IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Birdi; DIG Central Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic Srinagar, SSP Traffic Rural, SSP Security, Senior officers other security agencies including CRPF, BSF, NDRF besides HODs & staff of Divisional & District Offices were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, colourful theme based cultural programmes were performed by students & artists to add to the fervor of enthusiastic celebrations of Republic Day.

At Ganderbal's Qamaria Stadium, Deputy Commissioner Shyambir took the salute and appreciated preparations. The event included a parade and cultural performances by students.

In Anantnag, ADDC Abdul Aziz Sheikh presided over the rehearsal at Himayun Muzzamil Memorial College, emphasizing district development under government schemes like MGNREGA and Jal Jeevan Mission.

In Bandipora, ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt unfurled the flag at S.K. Stadium, highlighting administrative efforts and public welfare initiatives.

Similar rehearsals were held at DPLs in Kulgam, Baramulla, Pulwama, Shopian, and Kupwara, featuring parades by security contingents, NCC, and students, along with cultural performances showcasing patriotism and heritage.

The rehearsals reflected meticulous preparations and enthusiasm across the region for Republic Day 2025.

Drones & Spotters

January 26.

The IGP said multi-tier security arrangements are in place and surveillance is being maintained to enure a smooth conduct of the function.

"Surveillance in the form of drones or spotters and very deep and intricate security arrangements have been made," he said. Birdi appealed to people to participate in the

January 26 programmes in large numbers. He said surveillance is also being kept on "bad elements," including surrendered

"Police have their own SOP (standard operating procedure). There is a way to keep surveillance on bad elements and we are undertaking these actions as per the law," he said.

To a question on allegations of some big fish involved in the narcotics trade escaping the clutches of the law, Birdi said while these are a subject matter of investigations, habitual offenders cannot escape the law and action will be taken against them.

The full dress rehearsal was also attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bhiduri. "This is a festival of the people and we want more and more people to participate in it. We chose the Bakshi Stadium as the venue so that

people can come in large numbers," Bhiduri

told reporters.

He said the arrangements this year are better than last year.

"I request the people to come in large

numbers. Just have an I-card along with you and there is no need for a special pass etc. Anyone can come to attend the functions," he added

Nearly 200 Buses Deployed

The Road Transport Corporation has announced the deployment of nearly 200 buses across the Kashmir Valley to facilitate smooth transportation for people attending Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

According to an official, a total of 197 vehicles, including Smart City buses, have been allocated for this purpose. These buses will operate across various parts of the valley, ensuring hassle-free commutes for attendees.

"The deployment includes buses and other vehicles that will be in service from the evening of January 25," the official stated.

Additionally, 16 buses from the Department of School Education have been pressed into service to supplement the transport arrangements.

"Our primary focus is to provide comfortable and efficient pick-and-drop services for people attending the Republic Day functions at various venues," the official added.

The extensive transport arrangement aims to encourage public participation in the event while ensuring convenience and safety. (KNT)

Special Vande Bharat

Kadam was returning after a visit to Kashmir to witness snowfall. "Kashmir now feels very close to us due to connectivity by train," he

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to flag off the train from Katra, as the commissioner of Railway Safety has given the green signal for running the train service on the Katra-Baramulla section. The date of flagging off has not been announced.

The Railways has completed the 272 kilometers of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

According to railway officials, the Railway Board on June 8 unveiled for the first time a Vande Bharat Express train specially designed to operate seamlessly in Jammu and Kashmir's challenging winter conditions for the upcoming Katra-Srinagar rail route. The train incorporates special climate-related features.

Compared to the other 136 Vande Bharat Express trains currently running in different parts of the country, this train has several additional features to meet operational challenges and passengers' needs in the extreme weather conditions of J&K.

It includes advanced heating systems that prevent the freezing of water and bio-toilet tanks, provide warm air for the vacuum system and ensure optimal functioning of the air-brake system for smooth operations even in sub-zero temperatures.

The train also features embedded heating elements in the windshield to automatically defrost the driver's front lookout glass, ensuring clear visibility in harsh winter conditions.

In addition to these climate-related features, it includes all other amenities of the existing Vande Bharat trains — fully air-conditioned coaches, automatic plug doors, mobile charging sockets and the likes.

By enhancing the Kashmir valley's connectivity to the national railway network, this train symbolises India's commitment to bridging geographical and economic gaps.

The approval by the commissioner of Railway Safety marks a significant step towards completing the 272-km USBRL project, which aims to connect the Kashmir valley to the broader Indian railway network. Over the past month, Indian Railways has conducted six trial runs on various sections of the track, including crucial milestones such as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, Anji Khad Bridge and the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab River at Kauri.

The Anji Khad Bridge, a critical part of the USBRL project, is an engineering achievement, featuring a single pylon rising 331 metres above the river bed. The pylon, which took several years to complete, now rises 191 metres above its foundation level.

The Anji Khad Bridge, with a total length of 473.25 metres, is one of the two highest railway bridges in the world, alongside the Chenab Bridge at Kauri, which holds the title of the world's highest railway bridge at 359 metres above the river bed, 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Amendment Bill

"simply" passing orders and changing the entries in the revenue record.

The Mirwaiz, who is also the chairman of the separatist grouping Hurriyat Conference, said in the submission that the "arbitrary powers" given to the collector regarding both disputed and undisputed Waqf properties give him immense control over them.

"This action seeks to undermine the very purpose of the Waqf Act, which is to protect and preserve the properties dedicated to religious and charitable purposes by the Muslim community members," the MMU said in its submission.

These amendments are completely against the interests of the Muslim community and also violate the universally accepted fundamental rights of communities, it said.

"Waqf properties are personal properties dedicated by Muslims in the name of God for the benefit of their society and to help the underprivileged. Such religio/social institutions warrant the least interference from the State. But the government proposed amendments represent a significant threat to the autonomy and functioning of this institution," it said.

The written submission was made by a delegation led by the Mirwaiz who is also the religious head of the majority community in Kashmir.

It expressed concern about the reduction of Muslim representation and increase in the number of non-Muslim representation up to 13 in the Central Waqf Council and seven in the state Waqf Boards. Earlier, all members except one were Muslims and were elected, it added.

"Even the provision that the CEO of the Waqf Board shall be a Muslim has been removed. These proposed changes are totally unacceptable as they will severely undermine the independent functioning of the Waqf Board by direct interference from the State nominated non-Muslim Board members," it said.

The removal of the provision of "Waqf by user," which recognised that the long use of the property as a Waqf for religious and charitable purposes will establish its dedication as Waqf, will aggravate communal claims over mosques and madrassas, dargahs, astans and qabristans existing for centuries but not recorded as such in the revenue records.

"...the proposed amendments will give the government the power to remove Waqf properties from the list of protected properties. This will allow the government to seize or sell valuable Waqf properties, leaving the Muslim community with fewer resources to support its religious and charitable activities," it said.

Terming the changes as a violation of the Muslim Personal Law, the submission stated that the changes will exacerbate the sense of insecurity and mistrust among the Muslim community, who already feel threatened, as their religious properties will no longer be safe from government interference.

"Muslim majority region of Jammu and Kashmir feels very strongly about these amendments to the Waqf Act, seeing it as another attempt at undermining our religious freedom and the autonomy of institutions," the submission said and urged the government to engage in meaningful talks with the Muslim community to address these apprehensions and concerns while taking suggestions from

Good He Became

in the Valley.

"The best part was that he put his points strongly and cited his constitutional right to express his objections to different clauses of the Bill," BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal, a member of the joint committee of Parliament scrutinising the proposed law, said.

He claimed that opposition members deliberately created an "episode" so that the delegation of Muslim clerics led by Farooq could not express their views before the committee.

Though Farooq appeared before the BJP MP Jagdambika Pal-led committee in his capacity as patron of Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema, a body of Muslim bodies from the region, he is also the leader of the moderate faction of Hurriyat, a separatist conglomerate, which has gone virtually defunct following the central government's crackdown.

That he stepped out of the Valley to be part of a constitutional process was seen as significant by many political watchers.

"It is good that he became a part of the democratic process," BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Agrawal, also a member of the committee, said. Jaiswal, though, stressed that a term like "separatist" should not be used for anyone appearing before Parliament. Parliamentary com-

mittees are considered a mini Parliament.

In his written submission before the committee, the Mirwaiz criticised the proposed amendments in the Waqf Act as a violation of the Muslim Personal Law that he added was protected under "Article 25 of the Indian Constitution"

Constitution".

Sources said he also invoked Article 26, which provides for the freedom to manage reli-

gious affairs, to argue against the draft law.
Continuous protests by opposition members from the Congress, Trinamool Congress and the DMK, among other parties, delayed the panel's proceedings as they wanted the next sitting for members to discuss the Bill clause-by-clause on January 27 postponed.

They wanted more time to study the matter and submissions by stakeholders from around the country.

Pal, however, said they were deliberately trying to scuttle the meeting despite being given adequate time to present their views. All 10 opposition MPs were later suspended, following which the proceedings began.

Govt Extends

(FAR) or Floor Space Index (FSI). These amendments will remove the FAR for all categories of plots, including residential and commercial complexes, cinemas, mall cum multiplexes, Janjgars, community centres, and banquet halls.(KNO)

Popular Harwan

need to take strong measures against the practice of quackery," the official communique read.

The communique highlighted concerns about unregulated practices leading to fatal outcomes. "Over the past few years, several cases of acute liver failure have been reported in patients previously discharged from this hospital. After leaving the hospital, they sought miracle cures in Dara Harwan, where they received unproven medical treatments and complementary therapies. This led to their admission to the ICU with acute liver failure, and, unfortunately, death," it stated.

"Kindly take all necessary measures against such unqualified individuals to safeguard future generations," the communique added.

Ghulam Qadir Reshi, also known as Qadir Reshi, defended his clinic, which has been sealed, by emphasizing that his practice is a family tradition that has lasted for generations. Notably, in an interview with a local news

and father were in the same business, and I have been in this field for over 45 years."

Reshi further claimed, "We don't give any medication to children. We offer prayers, spiri-

outlet, he had said, "Before me, my grandfather

tual healing, and advise parents to take necessary precautions." **Not Targeting**

undertaken by the Health Department across various blocks.

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that medical clinics comply with established health and safety standards. The CMO further stated that the move was not intended to harm any individual or sentiments of any religious or community figures.

In this regard, the general public and media are urged to refrain from misrepresenting or distorting the facts surrounding the exercise. "The sole focus of the initiative remains on upholding public health standards and not on targeting any faith or societal group," he said.

Snowfall Melting Comes To Rescue Amid Rainfall Deficit



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid an ongoing deficit in rainfall and declining water levels in the river Jhelum and its tributaries, the melting of snow in higher altitudes has provided a much-needed lifeline for the Jal Shakti Department (JSD) to maintain drinking water supplies.

According to data obtained, the water level in the Jhelum River has slightly increased but remains low overall. At Sangam, the Jhelum is currently flowing at -0.91 feet, while at Ram Munshi Bagh, it is at 3.56 feet, and at Asham, it measures 0.78 feet.

The situation has been exacerbated by a rainfall deficit. From January 1 to January 22,

Jammu and Kashmir recorded only 11.4 mm of precipitation, compared to the average of 60.5 mm for the period—a shortfall of 81%.

Despite the deficit rainfall, the melting of snow in the upper reaches, spurred by a rise in temperatures, has eased the crisis.

Chief Engineer of the Jal Shakti Department, Brahma Jyoti Sharma, confirmed that snowmelt has played a crucial role in maintaining the water supply.

"There is no shortage of drinking water as the melting of snow has helped ensure adequate supply to consumers," Sharma said.

He added that while the rainfall deficit persists, the melting of recent snowfall has mitigated its impact—(KNO)

Whole World Knows Who Promotes Terrorism: MEA To Pak

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), on Friday said that Pakistan is responsible for promoting cross-border terrorism and the international community is fully aware of it.

MEA spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal while addressing a news conference in New Delhi said, "The whole world knows who is promoting terrorism. In India, when we face terror-related attacks, the source is clear, and we all understand the genesis of cross-border terrorism."

His remarks came in response to Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement, which accused the Indian Army of politicization after the Army Chief linked terror activities in Iammu and Kashmir to Pakistan.

Jaiswal while dismissing the accusations of politicization levelled by Pakistan as irrelevant, said that the global community is well aware of the countries responsible for fostering such activities.

sible for fostering such activities.

He reiterated India's position that Pakistan has consistently failed to dismantle terror networks operating from its territory. "Everybody knows there are people and countries responsible for cross-border terrorism, and we call upon Pakistan to take strict action to stop it," he added—(KNO)

Poonch Promotes Cleanliness By Launching Swachhtantra Campaign

Observer News Service

POONCH: The District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with the Municipal Council, successfully organized a Mega Swachhtantra Campaign, aimed at fostering community engagement in cleanliness

and environmental sustainability.
The event took place at Parade
Park and featured a variety of engaging activities, including a Painting
Competition, Signature Campaign
and Ploughing Drive conducted by
the Municipal Council.

The Forest Department initiated a plantation drive themed "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," encouraging citizens to actively contribute to their environment.

Students from different educational institutions actively participated in the Painting Competition, showcasing their artistic talents.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Qadeer Ul Rehaman was the Chief Guest. He distributed bags and swachhata kits among educational institutions, instilling a sense of responsibility towards cleanliness

Local Mosque Committee Calls For Social Boycott To Curb Drug Menace

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: In an initiative aimed at addressing the rising drug menace in Kashmir, Idara-e-Imam Hussain (A.S), an organization overseeing the affairs of the mosque and community welfare at Baghwanpora, Lal Bazar convened a critical meeting. Recognizing the alarming impact of drug addiction on society, particularly in the Lal Bazar locality, the organization resolved to take firm and compassionate steps to curb the growing crisis.

The meeting resolved that the drug addicts would be given seven days to present themselves before the committee and everything possible would be done to ensure that they get rid of the addiction. However, if they fail to present themselves, a social boycott will be enforced.

Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary Irfan Ali highlighted the urgency of the situation and the organization's commitment to tackling the issue.

"Drug addiction is not just an individual problem; it is a societal plague that threatens our future generations. We have initiated this campaign with the goal of eradicating this menace. Our support extends to offering counseling



and rehabilitation to victims. However, if addicts and peddlers fail to cooperate and continue spreading this scourge, we will be compelled to enforce a social boycott against these elements," he asserted, emphasizing the need for

community cooperation. Masjid-Imam-e-Jamaat e-Imam Hussain (A.S), Agha Syed Gazanfar, appealed to the youth, stressing their pivotal role in safeguarding society. "The responsibility to protect our values and future lies on the shoulders of our younger generation. If we fail to address this issue now, the damage to our society will be irreversible. I urge the youth to embody the noble values of Kashmiri culture, work towards their betterment, and contribute positively to society," he said, calling for col-lective action to uphold moral and social integrity.

The initiative has received widespread support from the local community. Hakim Suhail Abbas, a local, expressed his appreciation for the organization's proactive stance.

"This is a great initiative and truly the need of the hour. Drug addiction is a silent destroyer, and it is high time we address it collectively. The efforts of Idara-e-Imam Hussain (A.S) to provide counseling, rehabilitation, and community accountability are commendable," he remarked.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous pledge to create awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and ensure that the initiative reaches every corner of the locality. Locals expressed optimism that this endeavor would set a precedent for other localities facing similar challenges.

Proper Arrangements Put In Place For Republic Day : IGP Birdi

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police Kashmir, V K Birdi, on Friday said that multi-tier security arrangements, including drones and spotters, have been put in place to ensure a smooth conduct of the Republic-Day functions in the Valley.

IGP Birdi, who attended the full-dress rehearsal of Republic Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium here while talking to the reporters said, "Proper and secure arrangements have been made for those who want to participate in the function."

IGP Birdi, said that multitier security arrangements are in place and surveillance is being maintained to ensure that function passes off peacefully. "Surveillance in the form of drones or spotters and very deep and intricate security arrangements have been made," he said.

The IGP Kashmir appealed to people to participate in the January 26 programmes in large numbers.

He said surveillance is also being maintained on "bad elements", including surrendered militants. "Police have their own SOP (Standard Operating Procedure). There is a way to keep surveillance on bad elements and we are undertaking these actions as per the law,"

Replying to a query on allegations of some big fishes involved in the narcotics trade escaping the clutches of the law, Birdi said while these are

a subject matter of investigations, habitual offenders cannot escape the law and action will be taken against them.

Meanwhile, the full-dress rehearsal was also attended by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bidhuri.

"This is a festival of the people and we want more and more people to participate in it. We chose the Bakshi Stadium as the venue so that people can come in large numbers," Bidhuri told reporters.

He said the arrangements this year are better than last year. "I request the people to come in large numbers. Just have an I-card along with you and there is no need for a special pass etc. Anyone can come to attend the functions," he added—(KNO)

125 MACT, Bank Recovery Cases Settled In Special Lok Adalat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority as well as under the able guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, the first Special Lok Adalat of this calendar year was organized throughout the UT of J&K with special emphasis on amicable settlement of-MACT and Bank Recovery Cases that were pending disposal before various tribunals and courts in UT of J&K.

As per the data received from various District Legal Services Authorities across the UT of J&K, a total of 505cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which125 MACT & Bank Recovery cases were amicably settled involving a total amount of Rs.2,46,68,953/- giving a huge relief to the litigants.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal

Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta, while talking to media persons informed that this was the1stSpecial Lok Adalat of the current calendar year and the next Special Lok Adalat shall be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 focusing on the settlement of Traffic Challans & Electricity Bill disputes. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such Special Lok Adalats which are being organized by the J&K Legal Services Authority.

Appreciating the efforts of all the Judicial Officers, Secretaries DLSA's, Advocates, staff of the district and tehsil courts as well as Legal Services Institutions besides litigants for their wholehearted participation in the Special Lok Adalat and facilitating settlement of cases in such a large number, he also acknowledged the role of Para Legal Volunteers and the media, both print and electronic in creating and spreading awareness amongst the masses about such initiatives of Legal Services Authority.

National Girl Child Day Celebrated At Kishtwar

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: The District Administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, celebrated National Girl Child Day by organising a series of engaging activities aimed at empowering young girls and raising awareness about their rights.

The event featured motivational lectures on the theme "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao," encouraging the protection and education of girls. Scintillating cultural performances, including solo and group dance besides musical acts by girl students representing different educational institutions added to the grandeur of the Event. The event also showcased singing and dance performances by the girls of "PARISHA" Home for Girls.

A remarkable skit, presented by Kishtwar Act Production, highlighted the importance of girls' education and their empowerment.

Adding to the celebration, Nidhi Aryan, winner of Kishtwar Idol Season 2, captivated the audience with her performance, leaving a lasting impression. A special segment of the event featured inspiring stories from girl entrepreneurs who have achieved remarkable success in their respective fields.

Among them were Ruhana

Sheikh, a talented calligrapher; Mehwish Tak, a skilled makeup artist; Azma Bhat, a home baker and cloud kitchen entrepreneur; and Sudarshana Devi, a successful mushroom cultivation entrepreneur.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan underscored the government initiatives to promote the empowerment of women and girls, including establishment of the Women Empowerment Cell, the Mission Yuva Scheme Registration, and facilitating loan opportunities for girl entrepreneurs.

He emphasized the administration's commitment to the uplift of the girl child and women's rights, as well as the need for stricter actions against domestic violence and the role of women in combating the growing drug menace.

District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed, also spoke about the significance of providing education to the girl child and supporting their career aspirations across various fields.

Samridhi Sen, International Gold Medalist Singer from Kishtwar, was also present and added to the event's vibrancy.

The Deputy Commissioner, along with other dignitaries, felicitated women achievers, including ALC Mamta Sudershan, Samridhi Sen, Sapna Thakur (Media) and other participants.

REPUBLIC DAY-2025

Full Dress Rehearsal Held Across Jammu Division

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In preparation for the 76th Republic Day 2025 celebrations, Full Dress rehearsal events were held across the Jammu Division featuring colourful cultural presentations and impressive March Past by contingents.

At Kathua: Full Dress rehearsal was held with great enthusiasm at Sports Stadium. Additional District Development Commissioner Surinder Mohan took salute at an impressive march past comprising contingents drawn from Police, CRPF, Forest Protection Force, NCC cadets besides formation of Police Band.

Students presented scintillating cultural items based on patriotism, cultural traditions and folk dances which were applauded by the audience present on the occasion.

ACR Vishav Pratap Singh and district heads of line departments, school staff, students and members of civil society were present to witness the full dress rehearsal

full dress rehearsal.

At Poonch: In a grand display of preparations, the Full Dress Rehearsal for the Republic Day 2025 celebrations was held at the Sports Stadium. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Tahir Mustafa Malik took the salute and hoisted the National Flag, marking the significance of the upcoming national celebration.

The rehearsal featured a meticulous inspection of the

parade, showcasing the dedication and discipline of the participating contingents. Accompanying the ADC was Additional Superintendent of Police (Add.SP) Mohan Lal Sharma. The parade was command-

ed by Deputy Superintendent

of Police (DYSP) Sayed Aqeel Shah, with Inspector Mukhtiar Ahmed serving as the secondin-command. At Doda: The full dress rehearsal for the 76th Republic Day celebration was successfully conducted at the Sports

Day celebration was successfully conducted at the Sports Stadium Doda. The rehearsal began with the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by the rendition of the National Anthem, instilling a deep sense of patriotism and unity among the participants and attendees.

The highlight of the event

The highlight of the event was the meticulously organized march-past parade, featuring contingents from the police, paramilitary forces, forest department, and school students, all displaying exceptional discipline and coordination. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sudershan Kumar inspected the parade

and hoisted the Tricolour.

Meanwhile, the full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day celebrations was also conducted at the New Bus Stand, Kotli Bhaderwah, Tehsildar Kamal Preet Singh unfurled the national flag and took the salute at an impressive march past presented by contingents of JK Armed Police, NCC Senior Division of Government Degree College (GDC) Bhaderwah, and NCC Junior Division teams from



Boys and Girls Higher Secondary Schools. At Reasi: Full Dress rehearsal in connection with the celebrations of Republic Day 2025 was held with great enthusiasm at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium.

ADC Rakesh Kumar took salute at an impressive march past comprising contingents drawn from Police, CRPF, platoons of NCC cadets, School, besides formation of Police Band.

Students presented a scintillating cultural program featuring patriotic songs, folk dances and skits conveying social awakening messages.

awakening messages.

ACR Anshumali Sharma; ASP
Iftkhar; DySP Neeraj Padyar;
DySP DAR Rohit Chahal; DFO,
CEO, DSWO, ARTO, Youth
Sports OFFICER, XEN PWD and
PMGSY, DIO(info) and other
district officers were present
on the occasion.

At Kishtwar: A comprehensive full dress rehearsal was conducted here at the historic

Chowgan Ground, setting the stage for the grand celebrations of the 76th Republic Day in 2025.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal hoisted the tricolor and took the salute at the march past comprising contingents from the CRPF, Police, CISF, IRP, NCC (Sr. Div.) of GDC Kishtwar, Forest Protection Force, Homeguard, and schoolchildren. The parade was led by Parade Commander Dy. SP Sumit Kumar.

The schoolchildren and local performers presented a colorful cultural program, showcasing theme-based performances that captivated the audience with patriotic enthusiasm. The event was carried out with strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The event was attended by ASP Pawan Sharma; PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma; CPO Shahnawaz Bali; ACR Idrees Ione; SDM Paddar Amit Kumar; DSWO Zubair Ahmed and other officers and staff from civil and police administration officials.

At Udhampur: In preparation for the Republic Day celebration, a full dress rehearsal was held here at Government PG College Boys.

Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh hoisted the National flag at 9:55 AM and took salute at an impressive march past comprising contingents drawn from District Police, SKPA, ITBP, NCC etc.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Gurvinderjeet Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan; Additional SP Sandeep Bhat and other district heads were present to

witness the event. **At Rajouri:** The full dress re-

hearsal was held at the District Police Lines where Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajiv Kumar Khajuria unfurled the National Flag and took the salute at an impressive Parade comprising contingents from CRPF, IRP, JKP, FPF and school squads, besides Police band. The ADC inspected the parade, observed the band drill and reviewed the contingents' march past

Among others present at the event were ASP Vikram Kumar; DSEO, Sandeep Sharma; DIO Ashiq Rafiq Malik; CEO Bishamber Dass, Tehsildar Varinder Sharma, EXEN PDD Mohd Rashid; EXEN PWD(R&B) Rajouri, Sardar Khan and other

officers.

At Ramban: The Full Dress Rehearsal for the 76th Republic Day celebrations was held with patriotic fervor here at the District Police Lines. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Varunjeet Singh Charak unfurled the National Flag and took the salute at an impressive Parade

The ADC meticulously inspected the parade led by Dy. SP DAR Imtiyam Ahmed, with contingents from Police, IRP, Forest Protection Force, Women Contingent of J&K Police.

en Contingent of J&K Police.

The parade was followed by a vibrant cultural program, featuring performances by local artists and students from educational institutions.

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAIN

For the convenience of Rail Passengers, Northern Railway has decided to extend the Periodicity of following Special Train as per details given below:-

Train No.	From	То	Frequency/ Days of Run	Notified Upto	Extended Upto	Total Trips
03309	Dhanbad Jn.	Jammu Tawi	Bi-Weekly/ Tue, Sat	28.01.25	From 01.02.25 to 29.03.25 (Except 01, 04, 11 & 25.02.25)	13
03310	Jammu Tawi	Dhanbad Jn.	Bi-Weekly/ Wed, Sun	29.01.25	From 02.02.25 to 30.03.25 (Except 02, 05, 12 & 26.02.25)	13

Rest of all information will hold good

or detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY

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J&K Skipper Rues Umpire's Not Out Calls: 'Been Going On For Years'

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: J&K skipper Paras Dogra seemed frustrated with the standard of umpiring in their Ranji Trophy game against defending champions Mumbai, and hoped that the match officials were a "bit more attentive".

The 40-year-old Dogra, a veteran of 140 first-class games who is playing his last season in domestic cricket, lamented that it "has been going on for years now".

On the second day, ICC elite panel discard Sundaram Ravi couldn't hear a loud nick off Shreyas Iyer's edge when it was heard by one and all and later shown on replays.

Then he adjudged Mumbai skipper Ajinkya Rahane caught behind and

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Unruffled by the lingering

fitness concerns surrounding Mo-

hammed Shami, the well-oiled ma-

chine that is India's T20 team will be

eyeing an encore of its opening game

performance against a stunned Eng-

land in the second game of a five-

India lead the rubber 1-0 after a fac-

ile seven-wicket victory at the Eden

Gardens on Wednesday. The hosts

would certainly want to see Shami in

action but his inclusion in the eleven,

as things stand now, will depend on

The 34-year-old was expected to

feature in the first game and he was

further evaluation of his fitness.

match series, here on Saturday.



the batter had crossed the boundary ropes when he was called back again. Ravi ruled Umar Nazir's deliverv as a no-ball but this time there was no replay

to corroborate his call. "What to say. This has been going on for years and there's nothing much that we can do about it. Umpires are human after all and can make mistakes. But had they been a bit

more attentive, it would

former Himachal Pradesh legend, told reporters after the end of day's play.

"But it's part and parcel of the game. That's why they got DRS. It would have been a good experihave been fun," Dogra, a ence to have DRS here, but

we can't control it since there are 10-15 games happening simultaneously. So, it does not make any difference.

Struggling 101 for 7 in their second innings, Mumbai rode on Shardul Thakur's (113 not out) unbeaten hundred to take their lead to 188 runs by the end of seconds day's

The J&K skipper was all praise for Thakur's effort. Dogra believes that if the target stays within 250-run mark, there is

match in hand.

"You have to be patient. Still the wicket is playing out well, they are 188 runs ahead. We will have to bat well and I am hopeful. We scored 200 in the last innings and the wicket is getting better, so there's hope," he said.

2nd T20I: India Look To Extend **Test Team Of The Year Lead Against England**

actively involved in the nets too, but

his comeback was postponed possi-

bly because the management wanted

to take a deeper look at his readiness.

much in Kolkata where pacer Arsh-

deep Singh, with the new ball, and

spinner Varun Chakravarthy, in the

middle phase, wrecked England,

would require much better contribu-

tions from experienced spinners Adil

Rashid and Liam Livingstone to chal-

lenge the Indians. Apart from pacer

Jofra Archer, none of the other English

bowlers could survive the onslaught of

Abhishek Sharma and the mini cameo

of Sanju Samson in the first match.

From England's perspective, they

producing impressive spells.

However, India did not miss Shami



DUBAI: Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, veteran allrounder Ravindra Jadeja and young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal deservedly found a place in the ICC's Test Team of the Year 2024 that featured four Englishmen with Australian Pat Cummins as its captain.

The team also had two New Zealanders, including the redoubtable Kane Williamson. Cummins was the lone Australian to make the all-star XI.

In total, Bumrah took 71 wickets in 2024 at an astonishing average of 14.92, finishing as the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket for the year.

Jadeja, meanwhile, scored 527 runs in 2024 at an average of 29.27 and picked up 48 wickets at an impressive average of

Jaiswal established himself as a premier Test opener and a standout figure in Indian batting during 2024. Over the calendar year, Jaiswal scored a remarkable 1,478 runs at an impressive average of 54.74, a tally second only to England's Joe Root (1,556 runs in 2024 at an average of

ICC Test Team of the Year 2024:

Pat Cummins (c) (Australia), Yashasvi Jaiswal (India), Ben Duckett (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Joe Root (England), Harry Brook (England), Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka), Jamie Smith (wk) (England), Ravindra Jadeja (India), Matt

Bumrah, Jadeja, Jaiswal In ICC



Henry (New Zealand), Jasprit Bumrah (India).

J&K v Mumbai: Day 2 Report

Shardul Thakur's second first-class hundred brought the Ranji Trophy defending champions back from the brink in their Elite Group A clash against J&K at MCA BKC Ground in Mumbai on Friday.

Having conceded a huge 86-run lead in the first innings, Mumbai were staring at a huge defeat after being reduced to 101/7 in the second innings before Thakur and Tanush Kotian put on a match-turning 173run unbeaten stand for the eighth wicket to turn the tables on J&K.

Mumbai recovered to 274/7 in 67 overs at stumps on Day 2, ahead by 188 runs with Thakur unbeaten on 113, having stroked 17 fours in his 119-ball knock. At the other end, Kotian played the supporting role to perfection, with a resolute 58 not out off . 119 balls.

I&K's athleticism on the field and persistence from their bowlers overshadowed some howlers from the umpires -- Shreyas Iyer (17) was caught behind off Nazir but was not given out by the umpire S Ravi, while Ajinkya Rahane (16) had to be called back from the pavilion.

Brief scores:

Mumbai 120 & 274/7 in 67 overs (Shardul Thakur 113 not out, Tanush Kotian 58 not out; Augib Nabi 3/69) lead I&K 206 (Shubham Khajuria 53, Abid Mushtaq 44; Shardul Thakur 2/39, Mohit Avasthi 5/52, Shams Mulani 2/61) by 188 runs.

Abhishek Sharma Suffers Ankle Injury Scare During Training

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: India opener Abhishek Sharma faced an injury scare ahead of the second T20I against England as he twisted his ankle during the catching drill at nets here on Friday. Subsequently, Abhishek

was checked by team physiotherapist on the field before retreating to the dressing to give rest to his ankle. He was seen slightly

limping while walking back to the pavilion and did not bat at nets either. The 24-year-old spent more than half an hour with the physio in the dressing room. Abhishek made a quickfire 79 in the first match in Kolkata where India scored a facile seven-wicket victory. If Abhishek has to sit out of

the match on Saturday here, India have the options of fielding Washington Sundar or Dhruv Jurel in the eleven.

In that event, Tilak Varma can move up the order to open with Sanju Samson.

India are leading the five-match series 1-0 after winning the first match in Kolkata by seven wickets.

MANOJ SINHA

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JAMMU & KASHMIR

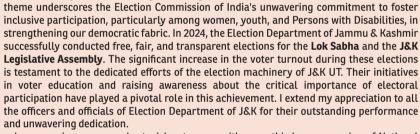


RAJ BHAVAN

JAMMU-180001/ SRINAGAR-190001

The National Voters' Day is celebrated every year to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, established on 25th January, 1950. On this day, the entire nation reverberates with the festivities of democracy as crores of Indians celebrate their right to vote. The primary objective of this celebration is to enhance voter enrolment, particularly among young voters, and to raise awareness about the importance of active participation in the electoral process

The theme for the 15th National Voters' Day, being celebrated on 25th January 2025, is "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure". This



I once again convey my best wishes to every citizen on this happy occasion of National Voters' Day and appeal everyone to make it a great success by becoming an integral part of the Democratic Electoral process.

19th January, 2025 Jammu

(Manoj Sinha)

ATAL DULLOO



Chief Secretary Jammu & Kashmir

MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to note that the 15th National Voters' Day is being celebrated this year across the UT of Jammu and Kashmir at all the polling stations, as well as at AERO/ERO levels and District Headquarters. This occasion serves as a reminder to all the eligible voters of their responsibilities to participate in the electoral process, thereby strengthening the democratic framework of our nation.

To upload the spirit of free and fair elections and encourage widespread participation, the Election Commission of India has chosen the theme "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure" for this year's National Voters' Day. This theme reflects the core philosophy of universal adult suffrage and the empowerment

that comes with exercising the right to vote in a democratic society. The Election Department of Jammu and Kashmir demonstrated commendable efficiency in delivering near-perfect Lok Sabha and J&K Assembly Elections in 2024. I wholeheartedly acknowledge their dedication and contribution to successful conduct of these elections.

I urge all stakeholders to actively contribute to the enrolment of eligible left out electors through the continuous updation of electoral rolls. I convey my greetings to all electors of

the Union Territory of J&K.

Pandurang K Pole, IAS Chief Electoral Officer

Jammu & Kashmir



Commissioner/ Secretary to Government **Election Department** Government of Jammu & Kashmir

MESSAGE

On the auspicious occasion of the "National Voters' Day" celebrated every year on 25th January, all across the country to mark the foundation day of Election Commission of India. This day is dedicated to the electors of the country, aiming to encourage, facilitate and maximize the enrolment and promote informed and active participation in the electoral process - Voting.

The Election Commission of India has selected the theme "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure" for this year's National Voters' Day. In 2024, the Lok Sabha and J&K Assembly Elections

were successfully conducted with a remarkable increase in voter turnout in both the Elections. The Lok Sabha Election recorded a Voter turnout of 58.20%, while the Assembly Election saw 64.28% voter turnout.

As of now, the total number of Electors in UT of Jammu and Kashmir stands at 89.00 Lacs. The Gender ratio of the Electoral roll has improved from 954 to 961 and the Electoral to Population ratio is 0.60.

I express my appreciation for the hard work of the BLO, Electoral Registration Officers, the election department staff, and all the stake holders for their unwavering dedication in keeping our democracy vibrant and thriving. On this National Voters' Day, I convey my best wishes to every citizen and encourage everyone to celebrate and uphold the values of our democratic heritage.

DIPK-NB: 3277/24 Dated: 24/01/2025

No Indian Player In ICC Men's ODI Team Of The Year



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India's lack of international commitments in the 50-over format in 2024 had a bearing on the ICC men's ODI Team of the Year with not a single cricketer from the country making it to the list released on Friday. The all-star team an-

three each from Pakistan and Afghanistan and one from the West Indies. India played only three ODIs -- an away series against Sri Lanka --, losing two of them while the third

nounced by the ICC features

four players from Sri Lanka,

one ended in a tie. Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka was named skipper of the ICC team as well for his stupendous batting through the year.

In his 16 ODI appearances in 2024, Asalanka scored 605 Runs at an average of 50.2 Average, including a century and four fifties.

Pakistan picked up seven victories from its nine ODI engagements, while Afghanistan won eight of their 14 one-dayers.

ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2024:

Charith Asalanka (C) (Sri Lanka), Saim Ayub (Pakistan), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan), Pathum Nissanka (Sri Lanka), Kusal Mendis (WK) (Sri Lanka), Sherfane Rutherford (West Indies), Azmatullah Omarzai (Afghanistan), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Pakistan). Haris Rauf (Pakistan), AM Ghazanfar (Afghanistan).

Europa League: Bruno **Fernandes Saves Man United**

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes scored a last-gasp winner to secure a 2-1 victory over Rangers in the Europa League group stage on Thursday and Tottenham Hotspur captain Son Heung-min struck twice in his team's 3-2 win at Hof-

United climbed to fourth

in the standings on 15 points going into the last round of matches, in a strong position to reach the knockout phase along with Spurs who are sixth with 14 points.

The English side broke the deadlock early in the second half when Rangers goalkeeper Jack Butland misjudged a Christian Eriksen corner, sending the ball into his own net.



CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR

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Website: www.cancersocietyofkashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Notice for inviting tenders for Anticancer Drugs and other related supportive drugs etc.

(TENDER NOTICE)

Sealed tenders in two cover bid system affixed with Rs.10/- Revenue Stamps are invited for and on behalf of Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir from Manufacturers/Firms/ Companies/Stockists/Authorised distributers for one year W.e.f. date of approval of rate contract which must reach this office by or before 22-02-2025 for the following groups.

Group-A Anticancer Drugs Annexure A Colostomy / Urostomy / ileostomy Bags Group-B Annexure B Group-C Surgical Items / Supportive Drugs Annexure C

The tenders should be accompanied with Earnest Money Deposit for Group "A" of Rs. 1.00 lac, for Group "B" Rs, 60,000/- & for Group "C" Rs, 5,000/- in shape of CDR/FDR to be drawn on any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Cancer Society of Kashmir. Without which tenders shall not be entertained.

The tenders should be addressed to the Chairman Cancer Society of Kashmir 4-Baghi Islam

Tenders should invariably be submitted in two Bid System containing two parts as detailed below:

Techno Commercial Bid in separate sealed cover

from 10:00 Am to 04:00 Pm.

Price Bid/Financial Bid for all groups in another sealed cover. Both sealed covers to be put in outer cover.

Detailed tender notice along with list of drugs & containing other terms & conditions can be collect from CSK office against the cash payment of Rs, 500/- each on all working days

Authorised distributor shall enclose copy of authorisation letter of the concerned company. CSK reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/tenders without assigning any reason thereof. On acceptance of tender and its communication to the successful tenderer, the same shall be binding upon the successful tenderer with immediate effect.

> --SD--**General Secretary** Cancer Society of Kashmir.