


# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Since 1997

www.kashmiobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmiobserver • facebook.com/kashmiobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016




www.elitepluscentre.com

## ElitePlus

DENTAL & DERMA CENTRE

+91-9797703533 | 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



BOOK APPOINTMENT

## Major Surgery Setback Looms For Kashmir's Private Healthcare Sector

Nazir Ganaie

Srinagar: In a move set to disrupt the private healthcare sector, the Jammu and Kashmir Government is contemplating a shift in its policy under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, which could result in the exclusion of four commonly sought surgical procedures from private hospitals. The new policy, under review and set to take effect from March 15, 2025, has



raised alarms among patients, healthcare providers, and stakeholders across the region. The procedures in

question—lap cholecystectomy, hemorrhoidectomy, appendectomy, and fissure in ano—are expected to be reserved exclusively for public sector hospitals, effectively barring private hospitals from offering them under the 'Golden Card,' the insurance coverage mechanism of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

This shift comes on the heels of a meeting chaired by J&K

**6** DIALYSIS, MEDICAL ONCOLOGY, ORTHOPEDICS, AND ENT SERVICES—essential healthcare domains—are particularly hard-hit.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, where the State Health Agency

(SHA) discussed the future of the AB-PMJAY and AB-PMJAY SEHAT schemes. The decision could have significant consequences for the region's already strained healthcare system, particularly for patients who rely on the private sector for timely surgical interventions.

Healthcare insiders fear that this move would exacerbate the already-overwhelmed public hospital system. With limited resources | [More on P7](#)

## Kashmir Sees Unusual Winter Weather: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir is going through an unusual weather pattern this winter with maximum and minimum temperatures in Srinagar witnessing a cumulative deviation of nearly 10 degrees over the past 24 hours, meteorological department data revealed on Tuesday.

Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 4.3 degrees Celsius on Monday night, which was 3.4 degrees below the expected minimum temperature for this time this year, the Met said.

It said the summer capital had recorded a maximum temperature of 14.2 degrees Celsius which was 6.4 degrees higher than the expected day temperature for this time of the year.

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 6.6 degrees Celsius, 1.1 degrees below normal, it added.

The maximum temperature in the south Kashmir base camp was 11.6 degrees Celsius, more than six degrees above normal.

The tourist resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.0 degrees Celsius against expected temperature of minus 7.6 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature was minus 4.1 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, which was 1.6 degrees below the normal. The maximum temperature was 15 degrees Celsius, almost eight degrees above average.

According to the meteorological department, the weather is expected to remain dry over the next 24 hours.

Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the harshest period of winter. During the 40 days of 'Chillai-Kalan', | [More on P7](#)

## JPC On Waqf Circulates Draft Report

'No Retrospective Scrutiny Of Existing Properties'



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Seeking to allay fears that existing Waqf properties will be subject to scrutiny after the amended Waqf law comes into force, a parliamentary panel on Tuesday recommended that no cases will be reopened against such properties on a retrospective basis, provided the asset is not in dispute or

belongs to the government.

In its 655-page draft report, the Joint Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill made it clear that the provisions to omit the 'waqf by user' definition of a waqf property will be with prospective effect.

"The committee, in order to evade such apprehensions, proposes that a proviso clearly specifying that | [More on P7](#)



Thousands thronged Hazratbal Shrine to witness the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) on the day following Shab-e-Me'raj. KO Pix Abid Bhat

J&K Budget Session 2025

## Security, Law & Order Likely Off The Debate Table

Agencies

Srinagar: As the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir prepares for its first "Budget Session" in March 2025, the legislators may not be allowed to discuss matters pertaining to All India Services, the Police, Law and Order, and Security.

This session, about the presentation of the 2025-26 annual budget, will be the first since the assembly was reconstituted in October 2024.

Jammu and Kashmir, re-organized into two Union Territories on October 31, 2019, has operated without a legislative assembly for many years.

Sources from the Assembly Secretariat said that there is every possibility that writers' questions on All India Services like IAS, Police, Law and Order, and security matters will not be permitted during the session, nor will these topics be debated unless allowed by the Speaker under special circumstances.

Additionally, issues related to All India Services are also likely to be excluded from the discussion. Opposition leaders have said that if such restrictions are put in place these would undermine their ability to represent their constituents effectively.

Sheikh Khurshid of the Awami Ittehad Party and Waheed ur Rehman Para of the PDP criticized the move, stating that security and law and order are central to the daily lives of | [More on P7](#)

## UCC Has Same Team Spirit As Sports: PM



Press Trust Of India

Dehradun: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which was implemented in Uttarakhand a day ago, has the

same team spirit as sports.

Speaking at the inauguration of the National Games at the Rajiv Gandhi international cricket stadium here, he congratulated the Uttarakhand government for | [More on P6](#)

## Jaundice Outbreak In Anantnag Village 27 Cases Reported, Probe Team Formed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least 27 people, mostly children, were tested positive for jaundice in Gutligund village in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, raising concerns among the locals.

An official said that the screening process is underway and so far 27 mostly children have been tested positive for jaundice in the area.

He said that medical teams along with Asha workers have been carrying out door to door awareness campaigns to educate people how to keep themselves safe. "The situation is under control as all the patients are stable and recovering well," he said. Meanwhile, the | [More on P7](#)

## Maharaja Hari Singh's Vision Shaped Modern J&K: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Maharaja Hari Singh Ji was a key architect of modern Jammu Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"He also played a major role in shaping its destiny during a critical period in history and ensured the dream of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' becomes a reality," the LG said.

LG on Tuesday felicitated the recipients of 'Maharaja Hari Singh Peace & Harmony Award', organised by Gulistan News Network at Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, Pandit Girdhari Lal Dogra and Shri Devender Singh Rana, who were honoured with the award



posthumously for their leadership qualities and tenacity and dedicating the life for the welfare of people.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to Maharaja Hari Singh and spoke on the | [More on P7](#)

## Rajouri Mysterious Deaths

### All Patients Out Of Danger, FSL Reports Awaited

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The situation in the Badhaal area of Rajouri district is improving as no new cases have been reported in the past seven days. Authorities are awaiting forensic reports to determine the exact cause of the mysterious deaths that claimed 17 lives, including 12 children, since December 8, 2024.

Dr Shamim Ahmad, Medical Superintendent at Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri said no fresh cases have been reported in the last week. "Currently, 11 patients admitted last week are under observation at GMC Rajouri, but all of them are out of danger," he said.

Dr Ahmad added that none of the patients are on



ventilators and their discharge will be decided soon after consultations with experts.

Following the mysterious deaths in Budhal village, authorities declared it a containment zone, with hundreds of close contacts relocated to an isolation

centre at the Government Nursing College in Rajouri.

Initial investigations suggest that the deaths may be linked to the consumption of contaminated food or water. Symptoms observed in the affected | [More on P7](#)

## RESERVATION POLICY

### No Official Record Of CM's Meeting With OM Students: RTI

Nida Sadiq

Srinagar: A recent Right to Information (RTI) request has uncovered surprising details—or the lack thereof—about a meeting between unreserved students and the then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. This meeting, which was supposedly intended to address concerns regarding the reservation policy, turned out to be an informal gathering without any official documentation or commitments.

The RTI filed by student leader Nasir Khuehami sought clarification on the assurances provided during the meeting, especially concerning the reservation policy and the possibility of suspending | [More on P7](#)



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

# IIT-Guwahati Develops Nanomaterial For Mercury Detection In Living Cells, Environment



Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati have developed an innovative and cost-effective method to detect the presence of harmful metals in living cells and the environment. According to officials, the innovation could revolutionise disease diagnostics and environmental monitoring by improving the detection and management of metal toxicity in biological systems. The findings of the research have been published in leading journals -- "Journal of Materials Chemistry C" and "Materials Today Chemistry". "Central to our research are perovskite nanocrystals, cutting-edge materials known for their exceptional properties, making them ideal for detecting metal ions. These nanocrystals, about one-lakh times smaller than a human

hair, interact with light in significant ways, enabling them to serve as fluorescent probes inside living cells. "However, their quick degradation in water has previously limited their applications," said Saikat Bhaumik, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, IIT-Guwahati. To address this, the researchers have encapsulated the perovskite nanocrystals in silica and polymer coatings, significantly enhancing their stability and luminescent intensity in water. "This modification ensures that the nanocrystals maintain their functionality over extended periods, making them highly effective for practical use. The enhanced nanocrystals emit a bright green light under specific wavelengths, enabling precise detection of mercury ions, which are hazardous even in minute concentrations," Bhaumik said.

He explained that mercury exposure, whether through contaminated food, water, inhalation or skin contact, poses severe health risks, including nervous-system damage, organ dysfunction and cognitive impairments. "The team's nanocrystals demonstrated remarkable sensitivity, detecting mercury levels as low as a few nanomolar concentrations. Moreover, when tested on live mammalian cells, the nanocrystals were found to be non-toxic, preserving cell function while effectively monitoring mercury ions. "The potential applications of this research extend beyond mercury detection. These nanocrystals could play a pivotal role in identifying other toxic metals in biological systems and could also be adapted for drug delivery, enabling real-time monitoring of treatment efficacy," Bhaumik said.

NEW ISLAMIA MODEL SCHOOL PALHALLAN								
list of officials in Managing Body								
S. No	Name	Parentage	Address	Phone	Occupation	Status	Sex	Adhaar No.
1	GHULAM NABI WAR ROUF AHMAD TANTARAY	GHULAM AHMAD WAR ABDUL RASHID TANTARY	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9858472883	Businessman	Chairman	M	831905908410
2	MOHAMMAD SHABAN BHAT	GHULAM HASSAN BHAT	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	8899495011	Pvt. School Teacher	Secretary	M	58117189817
3	AIJAZ AHMAD GANAIE	GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANAIE	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9070000152	Carpenter	Member	M	759685444589
4	PEER GHULAM JEELANI	PEER GHULAM MOHI UDIN	TAPPER WARIPORA, PATTAN	9622456745	Pvt. School Teacher	Member	M	487955613272
5	MOHAMMAD ISACQ MALIK	MOHAMMAD SHAFI MALIK	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9906535185	Pvt. School Teacher	Member	M	877004404887
6	SAIMA JAN	GHULAM MOHAMMAD W/O IRSHAD AHMAD BHAT	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9103662870	House Wife	Member	F	919728166892

FKO

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby informed that my name (with spelling) had been inadvertently recorded in the Family Pension PPO No. PNR-4/221227222 as Nazeema Bano W/O Late. Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/O Baghti Shroo, Allahi Bagh, Buchpora, Green Colony, Lane 7, Srinagar-190023 however the correct name with spelling is NAZIMA ASHRAF W/O Late. Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/O Baghti Shroo, Allahi Bagh, Buchpora, Green Colony, Lane 7, Srinagar-190023, the same has been recorded in all of my necessary documents vis Aadhaar, Ration Card, Voter ID etc.

In view of the above I want to correct my name with spelling as NAZIMA ASHRAF W/O Late. Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/O Baghti Shroo, Allahi Bagh, Buchpora, Green Colony, Lane 7, Srinagar-190023 instead of Nazeema Bano W/O Late. Mohd Ashraf Sheikh R/O Baghti Shroo, Allahi Bagh, Buchpora, Green Colony, Lane 7, Srinagar-190023

If any person having any objections in this regard, he/she may shall furnish the objection within seven days from the date of publication of this notice to the concerned department/authorities any representation/objection received after the stipulated time will not be entertained.

Nazima Ashraf  
W/O Late. Mohd Ashraf Sheikh  
R/O.Baghti Shroo, Allahi Bagh, Buchpora,  
Green Colony, Lane No. 7, Srinagar-190023, J&K  
PPO No. PNR-4/221227222. inf

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Opinion Kashmir Tour and Travels" Tour Operators " Situated at Gulshan Bagh, Hawal, Srinagar.

Whereas I, AFROZA W/O ASIF ALI KANDROO R/O R/O KANDAR MOHALLA AKHOON, NEAR RANGER STOP, SAIDA KADAL, SRINAGAR intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Opinion Kashmir Tour and Travels Situated at Gulshan Bagh, Hawal, Srinagar under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card \ 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.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: [dtrep123@gmail.com](mailto:dtrep123@gmail.com)) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

inf

**Office of the Chairman**  
**Modern Institute Of Learning Sheikhpora Kreeri**

List Of Managing Body

Ref No: MIL/01/SKP/25 Dated: 27-01-2025

S. No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qual.	Occupation	Designation
1	Syed Mushtaq Ahmad Bukhari	Syed Abdul Ra-sheed Bukhari	Sheikh-pora	B.A	Business	Chairman
2	Rehana Akhter	Ghulam Mo-hammad Wani	Harnow Kawa-check	M.A	Principal Of the school	Member
3	Saima Ashraf	Mohammad Ashraf War	Sheikh Pora	BSc	Teachere of the school	Member
4	Mohammad Nadiem Sheikh	Mohammad Shaban Sheikh	Sheikh-pora	MSc IT	Business	Member
5	Bashir Ahmad Dar	Abdul Gani Dar	Sheikh Pora	10th	Business	Member / Parent
6	Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh	Mohammad Maqbool Sheikh	Harishnar	BSc	Business	Member
7	Irshad Ahmad Khan	Ghulam Nabi Khan	Sheikh-pora	T.D.C	Business	Member/Parent

Note: Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact that worthy deputy commissioners office Baramulla within seven days from the date of publication of list managing body

Chairman  
fko Modern Institute of Learning Sheikhpora

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my Name from (Old Name) Peerzada Tajamul Islam S/O Mohd Yousuf Khaki R/O Khwah Bazar Cheeni Chowk Anantnag to (New Name) Peerzada Tajamul Islam S/O Mohd Yousuf Khaki R/O Khaja Bazar Cheeni Chowk Near Power House Anantnag in future I will be known as (New Name) Peerzada Tajamul Islam S/O Mohd Yousuf Khaki R/O Khaja Bazar Cheeni Chowk Near Power House Anantnag. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 (Seven) days after 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Peerzada Tajamul Islam  
S/O Mohd Yousuf Khaki  
R/O Khaja Bazar Cheeni Chowk Near Power House Anantnag  
JNA7780878931

**Objection Invited Reregistration**

Our Institution namely Harmukh Khadi Gramudyog Sansthan Srinagar J&K wanted to Reregistration from Directorate of Industries and commerce Kashmir. In this Connection if any person has any objection to inform the concern Department as well as our institution within 7 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

M.A. SHAH  
Secretary  
Harmukh Khadi Gramudyog  
Sansthan Srinagar (J&K)

Media Line Ads

**Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora**

Subject Application of Javid Ahmad Teli , Rayees Rashid Teli S/o Ab Rashid Teli R/o Sheerbugh Sultanpora Khoie for issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) for cast of Teli

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwal halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant in currently residing in village Sheerbugh Sultanpora Khoie and belongs to the Teli Community . The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S No Member	Name of the family	Relationship with the Family Head	Age	Occupation
01	Ab Rashid Teli	Ab Rehman	55	Labour
2	Raja Begum	W/o Ab Rashid	53	H/W
03	Javid Ahmad	S/o Ab Rashid	32	Student
4	Rayees Rashid	--	28	Student

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

fko Naib Tehsildar

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI**  
(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SABIYA FAYAZ MIR S/O FAYAZ AHMAD MIR R/O R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth, as 05/11/2017 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection, if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

Executive Magistrate 1st Class  
fko Kreeri

**Public Notice**

I have lost my B.ED Certificate bearing Registration no 884PRBM2006. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Andleeb Mustafa  
D/O Gh Mustafa Indrabi  
FKO

**Public Notice**

I Kifayat Qadir S/O Ghulam Qadir Dar R/O Palhallan Tantraypora have applied for the Pesticides Licence. If anybody have any Objection He/She may contact Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within 7 Days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

FKO

**Public Notice**

I, Shoab Amin Bhat, father of Wafiq Shoab, hereby request to correct my son's mother's name in the Date of Birth Certificate from Afshana to Afshana Farooq. Now I am applying for the same, and if anyone has any objection to this correction, they may contact the Srinagar Municipal Corporation within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Shoab Amin Bhat  
Father of: Wafiq Shoab  
Mother's Name: Afshana Farooq  
FKO

**Public Notice**

I, Ghulam Qadir Bhat, S/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat, hereby notify that I am applying to change the name on the electricity connection (Consumer ID: 021101006282) for my property in Litter. The connection is currently in my late father Ghulam Nabi Bhat's name. If anyone has any objections, they may contact the Electricity Department, Pulwama, within 7 days of this notice.

Dated: 28-01-2025  
Name: Ghulam Qadir Bhat  
Contact: 9541193615  
Address : Litter, Pulwama  
JMA

Published Since 1997 **KASHMIR**

# OBSERVER

**IS AVAILABLE IN SRIANGAR AT FOLLOWING PLACES**

ABDULLAH NEWS AGENCY	AMIRA KADAL	BUDSHAH NEWS AGENCY	AFTAB MARKET
SIKENDER NEWS AGENCY	AMIRAKADAL	RASHEED GAZALA	LAL CHOWK
GUPKARI NEWS AGENCY	LAL CHOWK	RAFIQ NEWS AGENCY	BATMALOO
KHAN NEWS AGENCY	REGAL CHOWK	MEHRAJ NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE
RASHEED NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE	ASHIQ NEWS AGENCY	GAGRIBAL
IMRAN NEWS AGENCY	KOHNKHAH	SAMA NEWS AGENCY	SHALIMAR
KOHINOOR NEWS AGENCY	NISHAT	WANI NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA
SHEIKH NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA	AL NOOR NEWS AGENCY	NOWGAM
FAIRDEAL NEWS AGENCY	AIRPORT	BISMILLAH NEWS AGENCY	BAGH E MEHTAB
AL FALAH NEWS AGENCY	NATIPORA	FIDA NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH
FIRDOUS NEWS AGENCY	PIRBAGH	HARMINDER NEWS AGENCY	GOGJI BAGH

TANTRAY NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH	BASHIR NEW AGENCY	NOWHATTA
ARIF NEWS AGENCY	JAWHAR NAGAR	AGA NEWS AGENCY	ALI KADAL
MUSHTAQ KALASH-PURI	KALASHPORA	HABBAKADAL NEWS AGENCY	HAB-BAKADAL
ALTAF NEWS AGENCY	FATEHKADAL	FAROOQ NEW AGENCY	GOJWARA
JEELANI NEW AGENCY	KHAWAJA BAZAR	DAR NEWS AGENCY	QAMAR-WARI
NAZIR NEWS AGENCY	RAINAWARI	CHANDER NEWS AGENCY	BEMINA
KHALID NEWS AGENCY	HAMDANIYA COLONY	JONSON NEWS AGENCY	SEKIDAFAR
BHAT NEWS AGENCY	JAMALLATTA	SHAFAT NEWS AGENCY	HAWAL
BILAL NEWS AGENCY	KAK SARAI	KHALIQ NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH-RA
MUZAFFAR ALI NEWS AGENCY	ALAMGIRI BAZAR	BILAL NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH-RA
TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	BUCHPORA	BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL
AIJAZ NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL	YASIR NEWS AGENCY	ZAKOORA

**FOR ANY QUERY, CALL CIRCULATION DEPTT. : 0194-2502327**

## Hazratbal Market Sees Huge Rush Of Shoppers

**Agencies**

Srinagar: The annual observance of Mehraj-ul-Alam at the Hazratbal Shrine Tuesday not only brought thousands of devotees together but also gave a boost to local businesses and transport services in the area.

The worshippers gathered to mark the sacred occasion and witness the display of the Holy Relic.

Likewise, the shopkeepers around the shrine reported an increase in sales, while transport operators witnessed a surge in demand.

Mohammad Shafi, a shopkeeper around the shrine, expressed his joy at the increase in business and said, "whenever such occasions are observed, it brings a sense of blessing for us shopkeepers as well. This year, the turnout of devotees has been extraordinary, and our sales have doubled."

Similarly, Abdul Rashid, a vendor outside the shrine offering vari-

ous items, including hardware, Islamic books, and accessories, said spiritual gatherings like these sustain their livelihood.

"People come here not just to pray but to take home something that connects them to this sacred place. The demand for religious items increases during Mehraj-ul-Alam," he said.

Moreover, the transport sector also experienced a noteworthy rise in activity, with buses, e-rickshaws, and private vehicles ferrying devotees from different parts of the valley to the shrine.

Ghulam Hassan, an e-rickshaw driver operating on the Hazratbal route said events like these are a blessing for them. "I have made multiple trips today, and there are still people waiting for rides back home."

Despite the winter chill, the festive atmosphere around Hazratbal Shrine turned the occasion into a vibrant gathering, benefiting both the devotees and the local economy. KNO

## Thousands Throng Hazratbal Shrine On Me'raj-e-Aalam

**Agencies**

Srinagar: Thousands of devotees thronged Dargah, Hazratbal shrine on Tuesday to mark Mehraj-ul-Alam, commemorating the ascension of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to the heavens.

The holy occasion, observed with night-long prayers and spir-

itual fervor, drew men, women, children, and the elderly in large numbers, seeking blessings and spiritual solace.

The Hazratbal Shrine, situated on the banks of Dal Lake, became the focal point of devotion as thousands of worshippers flocked to witness the holy relic of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

As the relic was displayed

to the crowd, cries of devotion echoed, with men and women overwhelmed by emotion as they sought blessings.

Ghulam Nabi, a 68-year-old resident of Ganderbal, who made the journey despite the winter chill said, "I have never missed night-long prayers on the occasion of Shab-e-Mehraj at Hazratbal in my life. For me, it's not just

a tradition but a deep spiritual connection."

The night-long prayers also resonated with the faithful's supplications for peace, prosperity, and blessings for Kashmir. "I feel blessed to be part of this gathering," shared Shabir Ahmad from Anantnag, who attended the prayers with his family.

Pertinently, Shab-e-Meh-

raj holds deep significance for Muslims around the world. It is believed to be the Prophet Muhammad's miraculous journey from Makkah to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven. "This is remembered as a moment of divine guidance when the Prophet (PBUH) interacted with other prophets and received instructions from Allah."—(KNO)

## DySP, Firefighter Injured In Jawahar Nagar Blaze

**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: A fire incident in the government residential quarters at Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, this morning left a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and a firefighter injured, officials said.

He said the injured individuals are currently undergoing treatment and the fire was later brought under control.

An official from the Fire and Emergency Ser-

vices (F&ES) Department said that a fire broke out in a double-storey government residential building, which houses two quarter sets (29 and 30).

He said fire tenders rushed to the scene shortly after the incident was reported, and an operation was launched to douse the flames.

He said in the incident Hilal Ahmad, a DSP of the ACB residing in one of the quarters, sustained burn injuries and was shifted to a hospital before the arrival of the Fire and Emergency Services.

(with KNO inputs)

**Mahasangam of Unity and Faith**

**Divine-Grand-Digital Mahakumbh of Unity**

**Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj**

**Amrit Snan on Mauni Amavasya**

**29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025**

**Message of Mahakumbh**

**Unity in Diversity, Strength in Togetherness**

**Upcoming Amrit Snan Dates**

**Basant Panchami - 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025 | Maghi Purnima - 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**

**Maha Shivaratri - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

mahakumbh\_25/ upmahakumbh MahaKumbh\_2025 https://kumbh.gov.in/

**ASPEE SINCE 1946**  
Aspee Ka India, Hara Bhara India

**SAD DEMISE**

With profound grief and pain, GM Agro Equipments Srinagar condoles the demise of Shri. SHARADCHANDRA LALLUBHAI PATEL, Chairman and Managing Director of Aspee Group of Companies has left for heavenly abode on Thursday, 23rd January 2025.

" May his soul rest in peace".

We pray for the solace of the departed soul and express our deepest sympathies/ prayers with the family of the deceased during the difficult time to bear this irreparable loss.

**On behalf of GM Agro Equipments Srinagar.**

FKO

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP  
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam  
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K  
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider  
News Editor: Farzana Nisar  
Opinion Editor: Tooba Towfiq  
Online Editor: Syed Hamid  
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,  
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah  
Business & Sales Head: Namisha Raj  
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja  
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705  
Editorial: (0194) 2502327  
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

### KO VIEW

## Statehood Dilemma

The demand for the restoration of statehood in Jammu and Kashmir is a politically complex issue. And the newly elected government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is finding it challenging to balance New Delhi's apparent reluctance to grant it and the growing political chorus in the Valley urging the CM to push for it. It is true that people have experienced a certain sense of loss since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, which revoked the region's special status and restructured it into two union territories. And restoration of statehood would go a long way to address this loss.

However, as the ruling National Conference's approach since its assumption of power in October underlines, it has chosen to work with the centre to resolve the issues of the UT. As things stand, cooperation with the centre over antagonism seems the way to go. This is a policy that has been advocated from the chief minister on down to deputy chief minister and the other senior leaders in the party. The Chief Minister has time and again made it clear that there was no reason to pick up a fight with the centre. He may be right as the prime minister Narendra Modi and the home minister Amit Shah have frequently promised the reinstatement of statehood. In fact, PM Modi reiterated the promise during his recent visit to the UT to inaugurate the strategically important Z-Morh tunnel that will connect Kashmir with Ladakh around the year.

The senior NC leader Ruhullah Mehdi has, however, been skeptical of the centre's assurances and has urged the CM to adopt a more assertive stance on the issue. His argument is that the mandate received by the NC is to champion people's rights in its dealings with the centre, not to be seen as submitting to it and playing a subservient role. Mehdi's position has resonated with a significant section of the population, which wants the elected government to make a stronger pitch for the restoration of statehood.

That said, it is still early days for the NC government, its honeymoon period so to say. And the Centre, on its part, hasn't gone back on its statehood promise. But it is also true that no timeline has been given so far, and there's hope that it too may come in due course of time. But for the statehood goal to materialize, it is important that both the J&K's hybrid government and the union government work together. For the Omar-led government, it will be a challenging balancing act but one that is critical to J&K's future.



Did You Know?

## The Fundamentals of Financial Health: Emphasizing Education

Irshad Mushtaq

A solid foundation in financial education is paramount to achieving and maintaining financial health. Before making any investment decisions, it's crucial to educate yourself thoroughly. Many individuals hesitate to engage with financial markets due to prevalent misconceptions:

1. Perceived Risk: A common belief is that financial markets are akin to gambling, posing significant risks of substantial losses.
2. Questionable Advice: There is concern that some financial advisors may suggest products that yield high commissions, often resulting in suboptimal investment choices.
3. Mistrust of Markets: The stock market is frequently viewed with suspicion, as many believe it is inherently hazardous, where losses are inevitable.

Contrary to these beliefs, affluent individuals often prefer investments in the stock market over traditional interest-bearing accounts or insurance policies. Insurance advisors may emphasize the risks of the stock market by highlighting instances of significant losses. While these losses do occur, they are typically due to uninformed investment decisions, including:

- Engaging in basic trading without sufficient knowledge
- Participating in aggressive or leveraged trading
- Making impulsive decisions based on unsubstantiated tips or media reports.

Investing in the stock market can be simplified through proper education. Strategies such as investing in fundamentally strong stocks or exchange-traded funds (ETFs), and utilizing Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) in mutual funds, can systematically build wealth over time.

Professional financial advisors can offer valuable insights and recommendations regarding stock or ETF investments. However, it's imperative for individuals to educate themselves to make informed decisions. Continuous education is a cornerstone of successful investing, underscoring the need to remain knowledgeable and informed about one's investments.

### Conclusion

Investing in your financial education is the key to true financial health! Many avoid the markets due to misconceptions about risk and mistrust. Remember, informed decisions can lead to wealth-building. Embrace continuous learning and consult professional advisors to navigate the stock market wisely.

Learn from the insights of @IrshadMushtaq, writer, investor, entrepreneur & Founder of MI Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com)  
Disclaimer: This article is for information only and doesn't offer investment advice. It's not an endorsement or an offer to buy or sell any financial products. If you decide to act on the information here, you do so at your own risk.

# Cambridge Curriculum in Trend

Why Are Most Schools in India Opting for the Cambridge Curriculum?



Newsheena Mushtaq

“Today's parents are looking for an education system that prepares their children to succeed in a challenging, competitive global world while fostering creativity and critical thinking skills. Schools that implement this curriculum are able to fulfill these needs by providing students with a rich, all-encompassing education that will prepare them for the future

Education is the cornerstone of a nation's progress, and with the evolving needs of learners, schools in India are increasingly opting for international curricula that align with global standards. Among these, the Cambridge curriculum is widely seen as the preferred option for schools nationwide. This burgeoning trend can be explained, on the one hand, by the specific benefits and integrated nature of the Cambridge curriculum and, on the other hand, by the educational and parental intentions.

One of the main reasons for the increasing popularity of the Cambridge curriculum is that it encourages critical thinking and the practice of inquiry-based learning. In contrast to conventional rote-learning approaches, this curriculum encourages students to make a deep exploration of concepts, leading to authentic learning and joy. It is not only about learning, but also about acquiring analytical and problem-solving skills. This trend toward competency-based education is of great importance in a society that increasingly requires flexibility and creativity.

In addition, the Cambridge curriculum is structured to offer students flexibility in learning, allowing them to address different interests and abilities. It provides a wide variety of subjects from which students can choose in order to mix and match according to their goals and abilities. This adaptability allows students to explore fields of interest rather than being, as it often happens in traditional education systems, confined to rigid tracks. For example, a student with high anxiety levels who is deeply interested in both mathematics and art can easily combine these two fields in the

Cambridge setting, fostering a balanced and satisfying academic experience.

Another important feature of the Cambridge syllabus is its international prestige. Qualifications such as Cambridge IGCSE and A-Level are highly recognized by the most prestigious universities and institutions worldwide. This global recognition gives Indian students a distinct advantage when applying to study abroad. At a time when globalization is offering career options, such credentials provide a pathway to multiple avenues.

The curriculum is further designed to enable mastery of core 21st-century skills, including collaboration, communication, and digital literacy. These competencies are seamlessly incorporated into teaching and assessment, ensuring that students are not only academically ready for the future but also prepared to handle real-world challenges. Specifically, the tests are structured to measure not only recall but also a student's ability to apply knowledge, contributing to lasting learning.

The flexibility of the Cambridge curriculum to local conditions is also one of its attractions. Although it operates from a global perspective, it allows schools to incorporate elements of local culture, history, and languages, ensuring that students retain their heritage while developing a global understanding. For instance, this balance is essential in India, where culture and tradition are fundamental aspects of education.

However, there is a lack of discussion about the popularity and training associated with the curriculum, despite the fact that many educators seek out the opportunity to gain valuable classroom experience.

Teachers receive intensive training to successfully implement the curriculum, ensuring high-quality teaching. Continued professional development equips them with the means to stay updated on current teaching practices, thereby further maximizing the learning experience for students.

The Cambridge curriculum aligns perfectly with the aspirations of a rapidly modernizing India. Today's parents are looking for an education system that prepares their children to succeed in a challenging, competitive global world while fostering creativity and critical thinking skills. Schools that implement this curriculum are able to fulfill these needs by providing students with a rich, all-encompassing education that will prepare them for the future.

In conclusion, the movement toward the Cambridge curriculum in Indian schools reflects a broader aspiration for quality education that is available and free from the constraints of tradition. Its focus on holistic learning, global acceptance, and flexibility makes it ideally suited to be the curriculum of choice for schools wishing to offer students an education that is both timely and meaningful. As India increasingly embraces a global outlook while maintaining its strong cultural identity, the Cambridge curriculum serves as a bridge between the ancient and the modern, empowering students for a fairer, richer future.

The author has completed her master's in English literature from the Central University of Kashmir and is currently an educator at Bir-la Open Minds International School, Pampore. The author can be reached at [newsheen9051@gmail.com](mailto:newsheen9051@gmail.com)



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email: [editpage.ko@gmail.com](mailto:editpage.ko@gmail.com)

## Deploy AI to Reduce Plastic Pollution

One of the most urgent environmental issues of our time is plastic trash, which calls for ground-breaking innovations to solve. The plastics sector in developed countries is undergoing a transformation thanks to artificial intelligence (AI) and digitization, which are providing solid solutions that may efficiently

reduce plastic waste and optimize its use through higher recycling. Waste collection in urban areas by state and central regime, particularly in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad, can be significantly improved by utilizing intelligent algorithms and integrating advanced technologies such as the Internet of Things

(IoT) and geolocation, which bring us closer to a more sustainable future. It is necessary to adopt more AI-enabled smart bins across the nation in order to sort materials at their source, maximize recycling potential, and improve plastic waste management. More industries ought to employ algorithms that develop cutting-edge goods

and package designs, use less plastic and other resources while maintaining performance standards. Potential effects of AI and digitization on the management of plastic trash could hasten the transition to a circular economy.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K

# Struggles of Private School Teachers

Rayees Yaseen

In India, private schools constitute a significant part of the education system, employing a vast workforce of educators. However, behind the polished exteriors of private institutions lies a disturbing reality—a toxic atmosphere that deeply affects the mental health and well-being of teachers. This article explores the challenges they face, the impact on their mental health, the consequences for students, and the need for systemic reforms to address these issues.

A toxic workplace in private schools is characterized by excessive stress, unhealthy work dynamics, and a lack of support. Teachers in such environments deal with multiple challenges that compromise their professional satisfaction and personal well-being.

Teachers are burdened with multiple responsibilities, including teaching, administrative work, and extracurricular activities. With limited time and resources, they often find it impossible to balance these duties, leading to chronic exhaustion and burnout.

Many private schools impose rigid policies, limiting teachers' autonomy and creativity. Constant monitoring and interference in their teaching methods undermine their confidence and professional satisfaction.

Despite their relentless efforts, teachers often feel undervalued as their contributions go unacknowledged. The absence of appreciation erodes morale and fosters feelings of inadequacy. Internal politics, favoritism, and bullying by superiors or colleagues create a culture of fear and mistrust. In many cases, hypocritical employees who prioritize pleasing management over genuine contributions are rewarded, while honest and dedicated teachers are overlooked or penalized. Schools often favor those who conform to superficial displays of loyalty, ignoring the valuable efforts of those who prioritize students and teaching. This discourages integrity and fosters resentment among dedicated employees.

Teachers are frequently expected to deliver exceptional academic results while managing large class sizes and diverse



student needs, a combination that adds to their stress.

The toxic atmosphere in private schools takes a significant toll on teachers' mental health, manifesting in various ways.

The constant pressure to meet unrealistic expectations and manage heavy workloads leads to chronic stress and fatigue. Many teachers report feeling drained, both physically and emotionally.

Job insecurity, low pay, and favoritism contribute to feelings of hopelessness, anxiety, and depression. Teachers often internalize these issues, feeling isolated and unsupported.

Continuous criticism, the lack of recognition, and witnessing the rewarding of less competent but politically savvy colleagues diminish teachers' confidence in their abilities.

The expectation to be perpetually available disrupts teachers' personal lives, straining relation-

Private school teachers are pivotal in shaping the future of our nation, yet their struggles often go unnoticed. Addressing the toxic atmosphere in schools and prioritizing their mental health is not just a moral obligation but a necessity for the progress of our education system

ships and leaving little time for self-care.

A toxic school is not just detrimental to teachers—it directly impacts students as well. When teachers are stressed, unmotivated, or emotionally drained, it reflects in their teaching quality and interactions with students.

Teachers in a toxic environment may struggle to maintain enthusiasm in the classroom, leading to uninspiring lessons that fail to engage students.

Teachers' stress and frustration can unintentionally manifest in their behavior, creating a tense atmosphere that students absorb. This can affect students' emotional well-being and learning experience. A lack of support for teachers often results in disorganized classrooms and decreased focus on individual student needs, ultimately hindering academic performance.

A toxic school culture sets a poor example for students,

teaching them to accept dysfunction as normal and discouraging them from advocating for healthy environments in their future workplaces.

The challenges faced by private school teachers are perpetuated by systemic neglect. Weak labor laws and inadequate regulations fail to protect their rights, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. Furthermore, the societal stigma surrounding mental health often prevents teachers from seeking help, as it is perceived as a sign of weakness. Many schools also lack counseling services or platforms where teachers can voice their concerns without fear of reprisal.

To create a supportive environment for private school teachers and ensure a positive impact on students, a multi-pronged approach is needed.

The government must introduce regulations ensuring fair wages, job security, and reason-

able working hours. Schools should be held accountable for implementing these policies. Schools should provide access to professional counselors and mental health resources, offering teachers the support they need to cope with stress and other challenges.

Schools should promote participative decision-making, allowing teachers to contribute to policies and practices. Recognizing and rewarding teachers' efforts can also boost morale. Assigning realistic responsibilities and ensuring adequate resources can help teachers balance their professional and personal lives.

Conducting workshops and seminars on mental health can help destigmatize the issue and encourage teachers to seek help when needed.

Some progressive schools have implemented reforms to improve teacher well-being. For instance, institutions that prioritize mental health through regular counseling sessions and flexible work policies report higher job satisfaction among their staff. Teachers in such environments feel valued and motivated, resulting in better outcomes for students as well.

Private school teachers are pivotal in shaping the future of our nation, yet their struggles often go unnoticed. Addressing the toxic atmosphere in schools and prioritizing their mental health is not just a moral obligation but a necessity for the progress of our education system. A toxic school environment negatively affects both teachers and students, creating a ripple effect that undermines the broader goals of education.

The culture of rewarding hypocrisy and neglecting dedication must be eradicated to ensure fairness and integrity in schools. A school that is healthy for its teachers is also healthy for its students—and ultimately for society. By fostering supportive environments, implementing systemic reforms, and prioritizing honesty and dedication, we can ensure a brighter future for education and for the generations to come.

The author can be reached for feedback at: rayeesshah157@gmail.com

## Pre-Crastination And The Science Of Doing Too Much, Too Soon

Eva M. Krockow

We've all heard of procrastination—the art of putting off until tomorrow (or next year) what could be done today. But have you met its hyper-enthusiastic cousin, pre-crastination? Instead of lounging on the couch while deadlines loom, the pre-crastinator is busy answering emails seconds after they arrive or carrying a heavier load of groceries just to avoid a second trip.

Coined by psychologist David Rosenbaum and colleagues in 2014, pre-crastination is the tendency to tackle tasks as soon as possible, even at the cost of extra effort. Why do people pre-crastinate and is it as heroic as it seems?

### The Science of Doing Too Much, Too Soon

Imagine you're standing in an alley with two buckets: one close to you, the other farther away. You need to choose one to carry over to the finish line at the end of the alley, but which one would you grab? Logic says the farther bucket—you'd save effort by carrying the heavy object for a short distance. But most people, in Rosenbaum's original bucket experiment chose the closer one, opting for a longer carry. They wanted to clear their mental to-do list, as soon as possible. Welcome to pre-crastination in action.

More recent studies introduced a creative twist to understanding pre-crastination through so-called double-response reaction time tasks. In these experiments,



participants were required to make two sequential decisions for each trial. The first response was made quickly, while the second allowed for potential reflection and revision. Researchers measured the time and accuracy of each response to uncover the dynamics of decision-making. The results were striking: Participants consistently spent more time on the first decision, prioritizing careful consideration, and rarely revised their initial choice. This pattern of behaviour highlighted a strong preference for resolving cognitive tasks upfront, minimizing the mental effort required to revisit decisions later. Rather than acting impulsively, as one might expect, participants demonstrated a deliberate effort to "think first, act once," a defining characteristic of pre-crastination.

### Why Do We Pre-crastinate?

Research shows that pre-crastination stems from a deep-seated desire to reduce cognitive load. The cognitive load-reduction hypothesis suggests that our brains crave clarity and order. By tackling tasks early or making decisions upfront, we free up working memory for other demands and avoid the mental strain of juggling too many unresolved options. One factor influencing this behaviour is self-control. Individuals with higher self-control are more inclined to initiate tasks sooner—not out of impulsiveness, but to alleviate mental clutter and regain focus. It's less about rushing decisions and more about creating a sense of mental calm. For example, you might book that vacation months ahead, even if it means

missing out on a last-minute deal. Think of it as the mental equivalent of Marie Kondo-ing your life—clearing the clutter to spark a little cognitive joy!

### Pre-crastination vs. Procrastination

While procrastination is the villain of missed deadlines, pre-crastination may be a misguided superhero. Sure, it feels productive to finish things early, but sometimes that "productivity" leads to inefficiency. Consider submitting a project draft too soon, only to realize it needed more polish—or, as researchers discovered, choosing to carry the closer bucket and exhausting yourself in the process.

A few pointers may help to keep your inner pre-crastinator in check:

### Pause Before You Act

If pre-crastination is your go-to mode, train yourself to pause. Take a moment to consider whether rushing through the task will save you time or create extra work.

### Chunk Your Tasks

Breaking larger tasks into smaller, manageable chunks can reduce the cognitive load without sacrificing efficiency. Instead of rushing to finish everything, focus on completing meaningful sections.

### Learn to prioritize

Not all tasks are created equal. Develop a habit of prioritizing based on importance and impact. Pre-crastination might make sense for quick, low-effort tasks, but big decisions deserve thoughtful deliberation.

### Use Your Calendar Wisely

Spread your workload across the week. Pre-crastinators often front-load tasks, leading to burnout. A balanced schedule helps maintain energy and focus.

Whether you're a bucket-carrying pre-crastinator or a chronic procrastinator, take a moment to reflect on your personal tendencies (but not too long). The sweet spot likely lies somewhere in the middle: act when it's time, wait when it's wise, and remember that clearing your mental clutter doesn't mean overloading your physical or emotional self.

The article was originally published by psychology Today

**RESEARCH SHOWS THAT PRE-CRASTINATION STEMS FROM A DEEP-SEATED DESIRE TO REDUCE COGNITIVE LOAD.** The cognitive load-reduction hypothesis suggests that our brains crave clarity and order. By tackling tasks early or making decisions upfront, we free up working memory for other demands and avoid the mental strain of juggling too many unresolved options. One factor influencing this behaviour is self-control

## J&amp;K'S EDUCATION SCENARIO

## 'Only 21 Percent Govt School Students Of Class-V Can Read Class II Textbooks'



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a worrisome development, only 21 percent of fifth standard students in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir government schools can read text level of second class.

On the contrary, more than 60 percent of 5th standard students studying in private schools of Jammu and Kashmir can read text level of second class.

The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), survey while assessing the learning 'recovery' since COVID in reading and arithmetic has revealed that "In government schools of Jammu and Kashmir, 18.1 percent of 5th standard students were able to read text of 2nd class level in 2022. However, in the year 2024, only 21.8 percent 5th standard students of government schools were able to read the text of 2nd class."

The report states that there was an improvement of 3.7 percent in reading from 2022-2024 in government schools.

The study further states that in private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, at least

54.9 percent students of 5th standard were able to read the text of 2nd class in 2022 and in 2024, at least 60.3 percent of students were able to read the text of 2nd class.

It said that there was an improvement of 5.4 percent in the 5th standard with regard to reading of text of 2nd class.

In the meantime, the report while highlighting the reading levels of 3rd standard students said that India has shown improvement in reading levels, but Jammu and Kashmir remains relatively low

"While learning levels across India are showing significant improvement, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir presents a contrasting trend. The region has experienced a learning loss of 2.3 percentage points in reading and 2.1 percentage points in Arithmetic," it reads.

The sampling of the survey is based on selection of 30 random villages in each district, 20 households in each village. It also surveyed all children of age 3-16 in household and assessed all children of age 5-16 in household. The sampling method has remained consistent over time—(KNO)

## 'In 2024, Over 13% Students Enrolled In Grade-I Were Underage'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In Jammu and Kashmir more than 13 percent of students enrolled in Grade-I were underage in 2024.

Besides, the enrolment in early childhood education programs or preschool was high with over 90 percent for ages 3 and 4.

The main finding of the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) of 2024 reveals, "Enrolment in early childhood education programs or preschool is high with over 90 percent for ages 3 and 4."

"Underage" (under-age 5) children enrolled in the first standard is declining. In 2024, in the first standard, 13.4 percent of children are underage," it reads.

It also said that of Age 6-14, overall enrolment in school for the age group remains very high at 99.4 percent.

The survey further reveals that there were improvements in basic reading and arithmetic seen in all grades, especially in early grades.

"Learning gains in most cases higher for children enrolled in government schools as compared to private schools," it reads—(KNO)

## '79% Students Of 14-16 Years Use Smartphone For Social Media Purposes'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In Jammu and Kashmir, more than 79 percent students of 14-16 years of age in a survey have reported that they use Smartphones for social media related activities while only 64 percent students have reported that they use the gadget for education purposes.

The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) of 2024 that was released on Tuesday, of those who can use a Smartphone, 79.4 percent of adolescents of 14-16 years of age says that they used the Smartphone for social media purposes in the seven days prior to survey.

The report further states that the 64 percent students

had used Smartphones for education related activities seven days prior to the survey.

The sampling of the survey is based on selection of 30 random villages in each district, 20 households in each village. It also surveyed all children of age 3-16 in household and assessed all children of age 5-16 in household. The sampling method has remained consistent over time.

The study further reveals that 93.7 percent adolescents of 14-16 years of age in Jammu and Kashmir were having a Smartphone at home and 83.9 percent were able to use it. Besides, 48.5 percent of adolescents of 14-16 years of age reported that they have their own Smartphone—(KNO)

## 62 BDO Posts Vacant Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As many as 62 key posts of Block Development Officers (BDOs) are lying vacant in the Rural Development Department (RDD) in Kashmir.

As per the details available, the highest number of BDO posts i.e. 17 are lying vacant in Kupwara district, only eight have been appointed against the total of 25 key positions.

Srinagar is the only place where no posts are lying vacant, reveals a document. In Anantnag and Bandipora, seven BDO positions are lying vacant respectively, it reads.

A total of 11 administrative

positions are lying vacant in Baramulla while 6 are unfilled in Budgam district.

According to the document, four key positions each are lying vacant in Pulwama and Kulgam districts while five are vacant in Shopian. In Ganderbal, one key post of BDO is also lying vacant.

Meanwhile, Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar said that the vacant posts will be filled soon.

"In the next 10-15 days, the issue related to the vacant posts of BDOs will be resolved," he said.

## Steps Underway To Transform Jammu &amp; Kashmir: Dy CM

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Elaborating the people friendly measures initiated by the present government, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday said that steps are underway to ensure transformation of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a conclave "Badalta Jammu and Kashmir" organised by Gulistan News Network here.

The conclave was attended by Minister for Health and Education, Sakeena Ito, Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture, Javed Dar, Minister for FCS&CA, Satish Sharma, Legislators, DDC members, Intellectuals, Academicians, Media persons and people from different fields.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that ever since the present government has taken over several steps have been taken to ensure Jammu and Kashmir comes up as most developed part of India. "These flagships programmes would ensure that the socio-economic and developmental initiatives get a fillip and people get benefited", he maintained.

While responding to a query, the Deputy Chief Minister said that we are committed to restoration of special status to J&K. He said that both the Prime Minister and Home Minister have already prom-



ised restoration of the statehood and we are looking forward to the fulfilment of the promise.

While referring to the initiatives undertaken to streamline the Mining operations, the Deputy Chief Minister said that strict enforcement has been ensured to stop illegal extraction of minerals. He said that a mechanism has also been devised for safeguarding the ecology of the region While undertaking such activities.

Responding to another query, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Government would take necessary steps for revitalising the local industry by way of necessary interventions." We are committed towards revitalising and catalysing the local industrial sector, so that the economy of the region gets a requisite boost. This would also go a long way in ensuring creation of jobs

to our skilled and unskilled youth", he emphasized.

Referring to increasing the connectivity in rural and far flung areas, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is actively pursuing the provision of 4 lane roads to the Pir Panchal road network so that the travelling time gets reduced and people get benefited.

The government has already taken it up with the concerned Union Ministry, he said and added that we are also taking up the issue of rail connectivity to other parts of Jammu and Kashmir with the Centre so that an elaborate network of railways is established for the convenience of the general masses.

The inaugural session of the conclave was attended by the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani and other dignitaries.

## Adopt Latest Technologies For Best Agriculture Produce: Javed Dar

Agencies

**JAMMU:** Minister for Agricultural Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives, and Election Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar, Tuesday said that all efforts are being made for best use of available agricultural land through adoption of the latest technologies.

Speaking in Jammu, the Minister emphasised the importance of modernising agriculture and addressing the challenges posed by decreasing land holdings. He outlined that, despite limited land resources, the government is focused on increasing agricul-

tural productivity by integrating modern techniques and fostering innovation in the sector. He highlighted the significant role of universities in driving reforms over the past three months, contributing towards prosperity of agriculture in the region.

The Minister urged the farmers to adopt latest and modern technologies for best produce in agriculture and allied sectors. He acknowledged the challenges posed by urbanisation, as many people aspire to move to cities for better facilities and exposure for their children. However, he assured that all central and UT level schemes including Holis-

tic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), are being implemented to revolutionise the agriculture sector and enhance livelihoods in rural areas.

Meanwhile, the Minister urged the citizens to maintain trust in the administration, assuring the public that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, remains dedicated to fulfil its promises. He assured that the government would continue its efforts to improve rural livelihoods and agricultural development, meeting the expectations of the general public to the best of its ability—(KNO)

## Bla To Get 'Developed District' Tag Soon: Shobha Karandlaje

Agencies

**BARAMULLA:** Union Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Labour, and Employment, Shobha Karandlaje on Tuesday assured major development and modernization of Sopore fruit mandi, Asia's second largest apple market.

MoS Shobha, during a review meeting lauded the Baramulla district administration for its outstanding performance, which has placed the district at the top position across the country.

She expressed confidence that the district would soon be recognized as a "Developed District," attributing the achievements to the collaborative efforts of the central and state governments.

On issues faced by farmers and apple growers, the MoS said that they are committed to addressing their concerns. She singled out Sopore Fruit Mandi, the second largest apple market in Asia, for development and assured stake-



holders that its transformation and upgradation would be prioritized to make it a top-rated hub in food processing.

"The Government of India is focusing on Baramulla on the fronts of education, health, skill development and infrastructure to ensure people benefit directly," she said.

The MoS commended Baramulla's strides in achieving significant milestones under the Aspirational Districts Program, which aims to accelerate socio-economic development in less-developed regions. She assured that ini-

tiatives under the program would continue to improve the living standards of the people.

Pertinently, MoS Karandlaje during her visit also inaugurated a hi-tech polygreen house with a total area spanning 500 square meters at Chakloo, sanctioned to the local farmer through HADP scheme at an estimated subsidy of 95%. She also inaugurated the Endo-Urological Equipment at the Associated Hospital as part of the Aspirational District Programme and other few projects—(KNO)

## DGP Reviews Operational Preparedness Of Reasi, Ramban

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, along with ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain and senior officers conducted an extensive review of the operational preparedness in the area.

As per a statement issued Kashmir Observer, the primary objective of the visit was to assess the security arrangements

and operational readiness of the various security forces deployed across the region.

The DGP visited multiple forward operating bases (FOBs), ensuring the forces were adequately prepared and equipped to handle any potential security challenges.

This visit was part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen security measures in view of the strategic importance of the area. A detailed briefing was made to the

DGP regarding the existing security setup, challenges being faced and countermeasures.

The DGP also interacted with personnel from all the security forces. He stressed on total operation coordination and efficient resource utilization.

The DGP also took the opportunity to engage with Special Operations Group personnel, discussing strategies and the way forward.

## Pahalgam To Get Gondola Facility To Boost Year-Round Tourism

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Pahalgam, one of Kashmir's most iconic tourist destinations, is set to receive a state-of-the-art gondola service, designed to rival the renowned Gulmarg Gondola. The proposed cable car project aims to enhance the region's tourism potential and attract visitors year-round, particu-

ed to transform Pahalgam into a year-round tourist destination," he added.

Local stakeholders, including hoteliers and travel agents, have warmly welcomed the move.

Uzair Ahmad, a local hotelier, said "Pahalgam sees a steady flow of tourists during the summer, but winter months witness a significant decline. Facilities like the gondola and



larly during the winter months.

The proposed aerial route will span approximately 2 kilometres, connecting Yatri Nawas to the scenic meadow of Bai Saran, which is surrounded by snow-capped mountains and dense pine forests.

An official from the J&K Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC) said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in its final stages, with the Board of Directors expected to make a decision soon. "While a few No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from forest and other concerned departments are still pending, efforts are underway to expedite the process," the official added.

The project, designed with environmental sustainability in mind, ensures no deforestation will occur during construction. A drag lift is planned for Aru Valley to promote winter sports and adventure tourism, which will further enhance the region's appeal as a hub for adventure activities, the official said.

"These initiatives are expect-

drag lift will keep Pahalgam vibrant throughout the year."

He said most hotels in the area currently lack central heating systems, as many remain closed during the winter due to low tourist numbers. "If the winter foothall increases, hoteliers can upgrade facilities, which will benefit the local economy," Ahmad added.

The gondola project is being described as a "game-changer" for Pahalgam by local authorities and stakeholders. It is expected to reduce congestion at Gulmarg by offering tourists an alternative adventure site while establishing Pahalgam as a premier destination for both summer and winter activities.

The drag lift at Aru Valley is particularly aimed at promoting winter sports, attracting adventure enthusiasts and hosting potential sporting events in the future.

With the completion of these projects, Pahalgam is set to see a boost in tourist foothall, particularly during the winter months—(KNO)

## Passport Office To Hold 2-Day Mobile Seva Camp At Karhama

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Regional Passport Officer (RPO) Kashmir and Ladakh, Davinder Kumar, on Tuesday said that two mobile passport seva camps will be held at Karhama in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on January 30 and 31.

Kumar said "The mobile passport van, equipped with the facilities required to process passport applications, is part of the government's efforts to bring essential services closer to remote and rural populations."

The van will remain stationed at Tehsil Office Karhama from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm on Thursday and Friday.

The Regional Passport officer said that 40 appointments will be processed per day during the camp, ensuring a streamlined service for applicants.

"Those interested are required to book their slots online via the Passport Seva portal using the Camp ID: RPO Srinagar Van-Budgam," he added.

The initiative, he said, provides an opportunity for individuals to apply for or renew their passports without the need to visit a formal passport office, offering a convenient and efficient alternative. "Applicants should secure their appointments early and bring the necessary documents for the application process. They must carry original documents for verification, including address proof such as Aadhaar card, bank passbook, water bill, postpaid mobile bill, or gas connection documents, and date of birth proof such as a matriculation certificate, birth certificate, or PAN card." Kumar said.

For more details on the application process and required documentation, residents can visit the Passport Seva portal—(KNO)

## Drass Gets First-Ever Fire Tender

Agencies

**KARGIL:** In a landmark development for the region, the administration in the Union Territory of Ladakh has provided Drass, a sub-division in Kargil, with its first-ever fire tender.

This initiative responds to the long-standing concerns raised by the residents, who have highlighted the absence of adequate firefighting resources in the area.

A formal ceremony to hand over the fire tender was held today, with several key officials present.

Councillor Bhimbat, Abdul Wahid, and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Drass, along with other dignitaries, were part of the event where the fire tender was officially received.

Councillor Abdul Wahid marked the occasion by cutting the ribbon, signifying the start of a new chapter in fire safety for Drass.

In his address, Councillor Wahid expressed his deep appreciation for the UT Administration Ladakh, especially the Lieutenant Governor, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, and the Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC, Kargil, for their steadfast efforts in re-



sponding to the needs of Drass.

He highlighted the importance of the fire tender in safeguarding the lives and property of the people in the region.

The addition of the fire tender is set to improve emergency response times, offering crucial support in tackling fire-related emergencies.

Residents of Drass have expressed their gratitude, recognizing this as a vital step towards enhancing public safety in the region. "For years, we've had to wait for help to arrive from far away, but now with this fire tender, we feel much safer," local resident Gulam Hassan told KNO.

This move reflects the administration's ongoing commitment to addressing the welfare of its communities—(KNO)

## Javed Rana calls on Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Pushes for holistic development of tribal population in JK

NEW DELHI JANUARY 28: Minister for Tribal Affairs, J&K, Javed Rana, today called on Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jual Oram, in New Delhi and discussed the roadmap for holistic development of tribal communities in Jammu & Kashmir.

He sought Centre's assistance for transforming lives of tribal communities by fostering sustainable, inclusive growth.

The discussions revolved around a range of proposals aimed at addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal populations in the Union

Territory.

Accompanying the Minister were Secretary, Tribal Affairs J&K, Prasanna Ramaswamy G and Deputy Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department.

The meeting witnessed presentation of a detailed proposal outlining transformative initiatives for welfare of tribal communities in Jammu and Kashmir. The focus was on improving access to education, healthcare, sustainable infrastructure, women empowerment and economic opportunities.

The Union Minister

commended the efforts of J&K government and assured robust support from the Centre.

One of the key highlights of the discussion was establishment of 15 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal-dominated districts. The initiative is set to provide quality education and skill development opportunities to tribal children, addressing long-standing educational disparities in the region.

Rana emphasised the transformative potential of these schools in empowering tribal youth. He sought support of the



Centre to develop a Tribal Smart Village with modern infrastructure, renewable energy solutions and digital connectivity. This project is envisioned as a model for sustainable and inclusive

development, catering to the unique needs of tribal communities, he added. He underscored the importance of such initiatives in setting a precedent for tribal development nationwide.

The Minister also proposed establishment of 50 telemedicine centers, six 30 bedded hospitals and deployment of advanced ambulances in remote tribal areas. These measures aim to bridge critical gaps in healthcare access and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations.

The challenges faced by nomadic tribes were also

highlighted, with plans for mobile education units and resettlement zones equipped with essential facilities like healthcare and grazing lands. The provision of tents for migratory families was highlighted as an immediate succour to improve their living conditions during harsh weather.

The Minister stressed on women empowerment with a mission to support self-help groups engaged in crafts, dairy and small enterprises. He noted that empowering women would have a ripple effect on the overall progress of tribal communities.

### CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

#### Major Surgery Setback

and staff, government hospitals could see a surge in demand for these procedures, leading to longer waiting times. One government official warned that patients may face waiting periods extending into months, particularly as the public sector already struggles to meet current demand. "The waiting lists for these procedures in government hospitals are already months long, and this will only make the situation worse," the official said.

Private hospital owners are equally concerned about the implications of the policy change. One hospital owner, whose facility performs a significant number of these surgeries, shared that these procedures account for 57% of the surgeries carried out under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. "In the past year alone, these surgeries helped us provide Rs 103 crore worth of benefits to patients. This policy change could be catastrophic for our operations," a private hospital owner from north Kashmir, explained.

Another private stakeholder, wishing not to be named, has expressed concerns over the ongoing government health scheme, labeling it as "unviable" for the private sector. He criticized the scheme's financial structure, which he described as "cash-starved," making it unsustainable for private healthcare providers to participate effectively.

"We have been requesting the government to review the scheme and increase the funding. However, to our knowledge, they are halting certain procedures and also reducing the 10% waiver, which will only worsen the situation," he said.

He further emphasized that, under the current conditions, the private sector will not be able to continue offering services under the scheme.

Another owner of a south Kashmir based private hospital suggested that the government must categorize hospitals across the region based on their facilities and infrastructure, ensuring that the scheme is implemented more effectively according to the capabilities of each healthcare provider.

Beyond just the procedural restrictions, private hospitals are also facing a potential 10% reduction in the package rates paid for services covered under the scheme. Many private healthcare providers argue that this reduction will not keep pace with rising inflation, increasing costs of medicines, supplies, and wages for medical staff. "The financial pressure on private hospitals could force many to reconsider participating in the scheme altogether," one private hospital owner in Jammu cautioned.

The effect on patients could be dire. With a capacity deficit in public hospitals, patients—particularly from poorer segments—could find themselves waiting longer for essential treatments or even facing the threat of complications from untreated conditions. A private hospital owner noted that patients, especially those suffering from conditions like pancreatitis, could face severe health risks if these procedures are delayed.

According to them one of the most pressing issues was the decision to remove four key medical procedures from the scheme for private sector hospitals. These procedures, which are critical to the treatment of various ailments, have left private hospitals grappling with financial losses. Furthermore, for other procedures, a 10% deduction has been implemented, further exacerbating the already poor reimbursement rates provided under the scheme. Dialysis, medical oncology, orthopedics, and ENT services—essential healthcare domains—are particularly hard-hit. The package rates for these services under the scheme are already insufficient, barely covering the costs incurred by hospitals. The added deductions and exclusions have left private hospitals unable to sustain these treatments without incurring heavy financial losses.

Is Ayushman Bharat Fulfilling its Promise? While the Ayushman Bharat Scheme was designed to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for millions of Indians, the situation in Kashmir raises questions about the scheme's effectiveness in the region. The private healthcare sector, already burdened by insufficient reimbursement rates, is now facing additional pressures due to the exclusion of key procedures and the reduction of package rates.

For many residents of Kashmir, private hospitals are a vital lifeline, particularly in a region where public healthcare facilities are often overburdened and under-resourced. Should private hospitals opt out of the scheme due to these financial pressures, it would significantly restrict access to healthcare for a large portion of the population.

The impact on private hospitals' participation in the scheme could be profound, with a decrease in the number of available healthcare providers for the most vulnerable citizens. Private healthcare facilities have historically played a crucial role in filling the gap left by the strained public system, especially in areas where government-run hospitals struggle to keep up with demand.

A Call for Action

The government's decision is not just a matter of policy; it could have real-world

consequences for the health of Kashmir's population. It is imperative that policymakers reconsider the current framework of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the region. Adequate funding and appropriate adjustments to package rates will be necessary to ensure the survival of private healthcare providers and, by extension, the quality and accessibility of healthcare for all Kashmiris. The stakeholders maintained that the vision of universal healthcare under Ayushman Bharat can only be realized if all stakeholders—both public and private—are adequately supported. Without addressing the concerns of private hospitals, the scheme risks becoming a hollow promise for the people it aims to serve. Private hospitals play a crucial role in filling the gaps left by the public healthcare system, particularly in regions like Kashmir, where government facilities are often overstretched and under-resourced. However, the current framework of the Ayushman Bharat scheme has created a financial strain that could force many private hospitals to reconsider their participation. This, in turn, would limit healthcare access for the very population the scheme aims to serve. "It is imperative that policymakers revisit and revise the implementation strategy of Ayushman Bharat in Kashmir. Adequate funding and realistic package rates must be ensured to support private hospitals, especially for critical specialties. Failure to address these concerns will not only jeopardize the survival of private healthcare providers but also compromise the quality and accessibility of healthcare for the people of Kashmir," they said, adding "The vision of Ayushman Bharat is to provide universal healthcare, but without addressing these systemic issues, it risks becoming an empty promise in Kashmir. The government must act promptly to safeguard both the hospitals and the lives that depend on them."

Government's Response  
In response to these concerns, the State Health Agency (SHA) has maintained that no final decisions have been made yet. The SHA spokesperson emphasized that the government is still evaluating the impact of the proposed changes. "As the new policy approaches its implementation date, we are closely assessing its potential effects on both public and private healthcare," the spokesperson said.

Sanjiv Gadkar, CEO of the SHA, acknowledged that while the agency has made strides in processing claims under the AB-PMJAY and PMJAY-SEHAT schemes, further refinements are necessary to ensure effective implementation. He confirmed that high-end and emergency procedures would remain prioritized, but offered little clarity on whether the exclusion of certain procedures from private hospitals would proceed as planned. The agency is also working to streamline the claims process and reduce administrative costs by hiring an insurance company to manage the scheme.

#### Kashmir Sees

which began on December 21, the chances of snowfall are the highest and the mercury drops considerably.

#### JPC On Waqf

the omission of 'waqf by user' from the definition of waqf will apply prospectively, i.e., the cases of existing waqf properties already registered as 'waqf by user' will not be reopened and will remain as waqf properties, even if they do not have a waqf deed," the draft report said. However, the property in question should not be wholly or in part involved in a dispute or be a government property, the committee said. The committee chaired by BJP leader Jagdambika Pal is scheduled to meet on Wednesday to deliberate and adopt the report. Opposition leaders, meanwhile, slammed the convening of the meeting at a short notice, contending that they do not have enough time to study the draft report.

"The parliamentary committee on Waqf Bill has been reduced to a farce. We were told that the draft report of the committee and its bill will be discussed tomorrow at 10 am. It is a 655-page report which has been sent to us just now," DMK leader A Raja said.

Raja said the MPs are expected to go through it, provide comments and submit dissent notes. "This is simply not possible. What is the point of an independent parliamentary committee if the union minister does as it pleases anyway," the former Union minister asked. Congress member Mohammed Jawed accused the BJP of trying to silence the voices of the opposition to take control of waqf properties. "This is how the BJP operates—rushing through processes, silencing voices, and pushing their agenda to take control of waqf properties. This isn't just about land; it's about our rights, our identity, and our community's future," Jawed said.

"We can't let this happen. We have to stand up and oppose this together," the Congress member from Bihar's Kishanganj said. The committee has also favoured audits of "significant incomes" from waqf properties to improve accountability and to ensure better transparency in their administration.

The amendment approved by the committee states that the accounts of waqf having income of more than Rs 1 lakh shall be audited

annually. The other amendments adopted by the panel include a decision to do away with vesting any inquiry into disputes over a government property with the district collector concerned. The amendment said the "state government may by notification designate an officer above the rank of collector" to carry out an inquiry, as per law.

This provision was also questioned by Muslim bodies, which pointed out that the collector who is also the head of revenue records cannot be an impartial judge to such disputes. One of the biggest objections was on the inclusion of non-Muslims to the Waqf Board. One of the changes accepted by the panel said "two of the total members of the board appointed under this sub-section, excluding ex-officio members, shall be non-Muslim". The phrase "excluding ex-officio members" did not feature in the Bill. This, as per sources, will allow the Waqf Board to have even four non-Muslim members instead of two.

#### Parliament To Take

all amendments proposed by the ruling BJP-led NDA members and negated every change moved by opposition members.

"Let them do what they want to do till a law is enacted for the country. Finally, it is Parliament which will decide on this and not the individual UTs or States," Abdullah told reporters here, reacting to the implementation of the UCC in Uttarakhand.

In response to another question related to the Waqf bill, he said the parliamentary committee is still holding discussions and the government is not implementing any law.

In the recent past, Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq met the committee and put forth his view point.

"Let the committee complete its work, then Parliament will discuss its report," the chief minister said.

"Allah Will Save Waqf"  
National Conference patriarch Dr Farooq Abdullah, on Tuesday, said that Allah was the master and He alone would save the Waqf.

Speaking about the situation of Muslims in the world, Abdullah said, "Our condition is bad because we're far away from Allah. We're namesake Muslims."

Abdullah said, "Allah is the master. He alone will save the Waqf. Whatever they do with the Waqf, they will not be able to erase the name of Allah."

Sharing his views on Article 370, he asserted, "Article 370 was for the protection of this place. The law implemented in 1927 by Maharaja Kashmir was made to save the jobs of people here because they were not very educated."

#### Security, Law

people in Jammu and Kashmir. "From passports to jobs, police verification is mandatory here. If we cannot address issues related to law and order, we are doing a disservice to our voters," said Para.

National Conference MLA Salman Sagar echoed similar views, pointing out the inherent challenge. "When the police and law and order are outside the purview of the state government, what answers can the state government provide on these issues? This limits our ability to hold meaningful discussions," he said.

A senior BJP leader said, "In a Union Territory, security and law and order are controlled by the Centre. This arrangement has reduced political interference in police operations, allowing them to function more effectively. In the past, political pressure often hampered the police from acting decisively."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, however, is reportedly in discussions with the Centre to push for the restoration of full statehood. Though no definite timeline has been given, it is hoped by the ruling dispensation that the statehood will be announced in near future. (KNO)

#### UCC Has Same

implementing the UCC and described it as a "historic step".

"UCC has the same team spirit as sports and discriminates against none," Modi said. Uttarakhand on Monday became the first state in independent India to implement the law.

The UCC gives priority to protection of personal rights and regulates the laws on marriage, divorce, inheritance, and live-in relationships, among others in the state.

The Uniform Civil Code Act, 2024, which applies to all residents of the state irrespective of their religion, also bans polygamy and child marriage. The Act, however, does not apply to the Scheduled Tribes notified under Articles 342 and 366 (25) of the Constitution and persons and communities protected under Part XXI.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 38th National Games here as a guest of honour, the PM reiterated that the bid, if successful, will be a game-changer for country's infrastructure.

"We are pushing for hosting rights of 2036 Olympics, it will take Indian sports to new heights," the PM said here.

"Olympics is not just a sporting event.

Wherever Olympics happen, all sectors gain. It creates better facilities for athletes. It spurs construction, creates new connectivity, transport facilities and most important of all, boosts tourism," he added.

"People from all over the world, including the athletes, will come down to India."

Modi had expressed India's intention to host the 2036 Games during the International Olympic Committee's Session in Mumbai in 2023. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has submitted the official letter of intent to the IOC.

The IOC will not decide before 2026 and the next step for India is to prepare an official bid, detailing its broad plan for the Games.

Countries like Qatar, and Saudi Arabia are also in the running for the 2036 hosting rights and it would take a significant effort to upstage their bids.

"It is our endeavour to enhance your capabilities and we are focussed on supporting you. We consider sports an essential aspect in development of country," Modi said addressing the gathered athletes at the ceremony.

"India is becoming one of the biggest economies in the world and the sporting economy must have a share in this. The coaches, trainers, nutritionists, physiotherapists, doctors and equipment, all these are part of this."

Talking about the National Games, he said, "These Games are more than just a sporting event. It is a great platform to showcase the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.' It is a celebration of India's rich diversity and unity."

"We are creating more and more opportunities for our athletes so they can enhance their potential to the fullest. We consider sports as a key driver for India's holistic development."

He also talked about the various government programmes which have benefitted the athletes, including the Target Olympic Podium Scheme and the Khelo India initiative.

"The sports budget has been increased three-fold and we have spent crores of rupees under TOPS for the benefit of the athletes."

"Because of Khelo India Youth Games, the young athletes are getting a chance to move ahead. The same is true for Khelo India University Games, the university students are getting new opportunities."

"After the Khelo India Para Games, the para athletes are achieving success."

The Prime Minister also gave some fitness tips to the youth, advising them to reduce their intake of oil and do more exercise to fight the growing menace of obesity.

"You all should cut down the intake of oil by 10 per cent and add more walks and exercise to your daily routines. We have to fight obesity. It is a major health issue," he said.

#### Jaundice Outbreak

local residents alleged that contaminated water is the main reason behind the outbreak with officials stating that water samples have already been taken, and the report is yet to come.

An official of Jal Shakti department said that water is being supplied to them after proper treatment and they are getting the water from the source, which supplies water to 30 villages.

He said some parameters have been already checked while some others are underway.

Meanwhile, the Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag has formed a five-member investigation team after a jaundice outbreak.

According to an order, the probe team will look into the possible source, preventive and control measures.

The team has been directed to visit the village and submit an action plan to Principal GMC Anantnag by the end of this month. It has also been directed to provide necessary health care interventions to affected people.

The team will be headed by Dr Mahbooba Rasool, Associate Professor, Community Medicine GMC Srinagar, while Dr Abiroo Jan, Associate Professor Microbiology, Dr Irfan Gul Associate Professor General Medicine, Dr Asif Aziz, Consultant Pediatrics and Aijaz Ahmad, Health Educator (UHTC Brakpora) will be its members.

#### Maharaja Hari Singh's

revolutionary reforms introduced by him that had made a profound impact on the society and the development of J&K.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Maharaja Hari Singh Ji was unflinching in his concern for the poor and the disadvantaged and he championed the cause of women empowerment, education, healthcare and upliftment of the marginalised. His entire life was a great saga of courage and conviction for betterment of society.

The Lieutenant Governor further highlighted that it is the responsibility of people at the helm of affairs to ensure that different segments and sections have a stake in Viksit Bharat.

He said the prestigious Maharaja Hari Singh Awards are the recognition of the work done for promoting peace, inclusive development, achievement in different sectors and a feeling of oneness between communities.

"As India moves forward on the path of rapid economic growth, your work in literature, social services, sports, education and business strengthens the fabric of our society. It is your

duty to ensure that weaker sections of society and empowerment of women are given top priority," the Lieutenant Governor told the Awardees.

Speaking on India's emergence as an economic super power, the Lieutenant Governor said the progress we achieved in the last 10 year, have assured that the nation will certainly accomplish the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

He emphasised that the government alone cannot achieve its goals and the citizens need to work together.

"It is true that despite all the differences, people share a common origin and a common destiny. I urge the people from all sections of the society to lead India into a developed nation and become the active partners in this development journey," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the J&K Government, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has fulfilled the long pending demand of declaring holiday on the birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh ji.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor was conferred with 'Maharaja Hari Singh Award in Reforms and Planning'.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Sham Lal Chaudhary, former Minister; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; members of Gulistan News Network; senior officials and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

#### All Patients Out

people include irritability, drowsiness, profuse sweating and respiratory distress, which are consistent with neurotoxicity or exposure to organophosphorus compounds.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said the deaths were caused by toxins rather than an infectious disease, adding that investigations are on to identify the source of the contamination.

An official involved in the probe said the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report from Chandigarh is expected within two days. "The FSL report will provide a clearer picture of the toxins responsible and enable authorities to establish the necessary protocols," the official said.

Law enforcement agencies are exploring the possibility of any criminal angle to the incident to rule out deliberate contamination or foul play.

Authorities have intensified surveillance in the region, while medical teams continue to monitor the health of affected persons. Health officials are coordinating with toxicology experts to ensure a swift response to any emerging symptoms. (KNO)

#### No Official Record

recruitment processes in Jammu and Kashmir until the sub committee's final report is released. He expressed that the response from the Chief Minister's Secretariat left him "shocked but not surprised."

Khuehami posted on X, "I filed an RTI regarding the reservation policy and the details of the Unreserved students meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, particularly about the assurances given to students, the response I got was shocking but not unexpected."

The Secretariat clarified that the meeting was informal and did not count as an official engagement. Consequently, no official records were kept. Additionally, the response indicated that the Chief Minister did not assure that the recruitment process would be postponed until the sub committee's report was released.

"No minutes or discussions of the meeting were recorded, and not a single government official was present during the meeting. There is no documentation, such as records, emails, letters, or any official communication, available regarding the meeting," he stated in his post.

"The lack of official documentation for a meeting on such an important issue raises questions about the seriousness of the engagement and the commitments made," Khuehami wrote.

The revelation has highlighted the informal nature of a meeting that had significant implications for unreserved students. Critics argue that the lack of documentation undermines the credibility of any commitments made and indicates a lack of seriousness in addressing critical policy issues.

Students have expressed disappointment and frustration after the revelation

"Even though the meeting was informal, the government should have at least acknowledged the drafts or any documents submitted by the students. I believe the Honorable MP should have facilitated a formal interaction with the students instead of steering it toward a protest," said Faizan, an unreserved student.

Other students, like Zahid, a PhD scholar, raised questions about the true nature of the meeting and its participants. "Where are the candidates who expressed 'satisfaction' after meeting the CM on social media?" Zahid questioned.

"This situation is a mockery of us. We were promised the release of the meeting minutes, but now, after a month, we've learned through the RTI that it was an informal meeting. It's truly a sad state of affairs," remarked Mir Zubair, a student.

## Bumrah Is Humility Personified After Winning Another Top ICC Honour

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Jasprit Bumrah feels honoured after winning the prestigious ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year award but the team's success would always be his priority, picking India's T20 World Cup triumph as his most cherished moment of 2024.

The 31-year-old was awarded the Sir Garfield Sobers Award on Tuesday following a remarkable 2024, where he showcased "a master-class in skill, precision, and relentless consistency" across all formats.

Bumrah's stellar performance earned him accolades, including the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year on Monday and a spot in the Test Team of the Year announced last week.

"I feel really good. As a youngster, I have seen my childhood heroes winning this great award, so yeah, very happy to be at the 'receiving end'," Bumrah



cheekily told broadcasters.

The India pace spearhead, however, said he will always prioritise team victory.

"So winning the T20 World Cup was really special, and the memories that we made after that are going to be close to me forever," said Bumrah, who played a pivotal role in India's T20 World Cup campaign in the Americas, picking up 15 wickets at an

astonishing average of 8.26 and an economy of just 4.17, leading India to the title. "So I will always pick us winning the T20 World Cup first."

Bumrah's consistent performances across formats also earned him recognition as the fifth Indian cricketer to win the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year Award. Previous winners from India include Rahul Dravid (2004), Sachin Tendulkar (2010), Ravichan-

dran Ashwin (2016), and Virat Kohli (2017, 2018).

"It feels really good to get honours from the legends of the game, but I always take things with a pinch of salt," Bumrah said.

"I'm very happy with the honour, but I don't let myself get too high. My feet are on the ground, and I'm really happy with the accolades that I get."

In the Test format, Bumrah finished 2024 with 71 wickets in just 13 matches, averaging 14.92.

Reflecting on his memorable wickets, Bumrah singled out Ollie Pope's wicket during the Test series against England as particularly special.

"I've been very happy to play a lot of Test cricket this year, and many wickets have been special. But the one that I took against England at Vizag, the Ollie Pope, was really special because that changed the momentum and everything," he said.

## Kohli Begins Delhi Training Ahead Of Ranji Comeback



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Star India batter Virat Kohli began training with the Delhi team here on Tuesday ahead of his eagerly-awaited Ranji Trophy comeback after a 12-year gap.

The 36-year-old Kohli will be playing against Railways from January 30, marking his return to the premier domestic event where he last featured way back in 2012 in a game against Uttar Pradesh in Ghaziabad.

He arrived at the Arun Jaitley Stadium sharp at 9am this morning and after a team huddle and some warm-up

exercises, proceeded to play football for about 15 minutes with his teammates.

The superstar, who is navigating a slump in form, seemed relaxed in the company of his new teammates almost all of whom are sharing the dressing room with him for the first time and were visibly excited to have him among them. The practice drill was being monitored by Delhi head coach Sarandeep Singh.

All star players, including ODI and Test captain Rohit Sharma, have showed up for their Ranji teams after the disastrous Test tour of Australia recently.

## Kargil Girl Samina Hope For Women Ice-Hockey Players

Press Trust of India

KARGIL: A pair of skiing boots lying idle in her house turned into a catalyst for 15-year-old Kargil girl Samina Khatoon to become the first female from a non-descript village Trespone to pursue ice-hockey.

Despite fierce opposition from her mother, Samina could not resist the temptation of putting on the pair, which was originally gifted by her uncle to her elder brother, who had no interest in skiing. The same pair proved to be her glide to glory.

On Monday, the youngest player of Ladakh team, she scored in her team's 4-0 in her team's gold medal match against arch-rivals ITBP at the Khelo India Winter Games 2025, which concluded in Leh.

Now her parents Mohamad Younus and Fatima



Bano are proud of their little daughter's achievements.

"I have a lot to learn and a long way to go," Khatoon said.

The ninth standard student at Mutahhary Public School, Baroo (Kargil), did not want to give up the opportunity and so juggled between school and practice, 2020 onwards, and won her parents' approval along the way.

Her classmates envied her. However, they helped her catch up with missed class notes, lectures and assignments.



**CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR**

کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

4-BAGH-I-ISLAM COLONY LAL NAGAR, CHANAPORA SRINAGAR 190 015 TELEFAX 0194-3500478-79 / 2441899  
Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Ref. No. CSK/DCC-66/2025/1022

Dated:-24-JAN-2025

**Subject: - 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 distributors 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.

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

- 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 Colony Lalnagar Chanapora.
- Tenders should invariably be submitted in two Bid System containing two parts as detailed below:-

- Part I** ----- **Techno Commercial Bid in separate sealed cover**  
**Part II** ----- **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 from **10:00 Am to 04:00 Pm.**
- 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**

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

# KASHMIR OBSERVER®



The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TVs across the world.

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

VISIT

<https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR