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**KULGAM TERROR ATTACK** 

## **Candlelight** Vigils Held Across Kashmir



#### **Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Demonstrations and candlelight vigil were held at several places in Kashmir on Tuesday against the killing of an ex-serviceman in a terror at-

tack, officials said. A wave of solidarity and grief was witnessed as people in large numbers took to the streets carrying placards and candles demanding an immediate end to the cycle of violence that has claimed innocent lives.

Terrorists shot dead former soldier Manzoor Ahmad Wagay and injured his wife and 13-year-old niece in an attack in Behibagh village in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday. This was the first killa non-combatant this

year in a terror attack. Candlelight vigil was held in Kulgam, Anantnag, Baramulla and Kupwara districts against

the killing.

The demonstrations were held in various parts of Kashmir where people from different walks of life gathered to express their anguish over the killings. The mourners, including family members of the deceased, civil society members, and political activists, urged authorities to take decisive action to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Speaking at one of the vigils, a protester said, "We have seen enough bloodshed. Every life is precious, and violence cannot be a solution. The government must ensure the safety of all citizens regardless I M

### **HM Reviews Security Situation In J&K**



nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir which has witnessed a few terror incidents in the recent past, sources said. Top officials of the Army, Jammu and

Kashmir Police and intelligence agencies briefed Shah about the | More on P10

# J&K's Anti-Drug Battle: Over 13,000 Arrests, Only 4 Convictions

Agencies

Srinagar: From 2019 to 2024, a total of 13,186 arrests were made in Jammu and Kashmir under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, while only four convictions were recorded during the same period.

According to the data provided by the Ministry of State (MoS) for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha, arrests in Ladakh were minimal, with only 11 cases reported between 2021 and 2022, and no convictions since 2019. "The arrests in J&K saw a

steady increase in the first five years, with 1,700 arrests in 2019, 1,769 in 2020, 2,217 in 2021, 2,755 in 2022, and 3,072

**No Exclusive** 

**Women Jails** 

In J&K: MHA

in 2023. However, the number of arrests dropped to 1,673 in 2024 (till date). As for convictions, J&K reported a total of 4 convictions during the same

period. There was 1 conviction in 2019, no convictions in 2020, followed by 1 conviction each in 2021 and 2022. No convictions were recorded

in 2023, but 1 conviction was made in 2024," the reply

Year-Wise

2019: 1,700

2020: 1,769

2021: 2,217

2022: 2,755

2023: 3,072

2024: 1,673

Arrests

The data indicated that the number of arrests in J&K increased by more than 70% from 2019 to 2024.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has established a 4-tier Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism to improve coordination between central and state drug law enforcement agencies. An NCORD portal has been developed to provide comprehensive information on drug law enforcement, including data on narco-offenders, legal information, and state initiatives, it added.

Following the 5th Apex Level Committee meeting of NCORD, each state and union territory has set up an Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), headed by an ADG/IG-level police officer, to act as the NCORD Secretariat and ensure compliance with decisions taken during NCORD meetings, the MoS said.

Border Guarding Forces like the BSF, Assam | More on P10

Jammu and Kashmir is one of 13 States and Union Territories across India that does not have

an exclusive women's jail, latest

government data revealed here

on Tuesday. According to data presented by the Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, in the Lok

Sabha, Jammu & Kashmir, along with several other States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, | More on P10

### **Light Rains, Snow Predicted**

**Agencies** 

Srinagar: A fresh spell of light to moderate snowfall is expected across higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, with light snowfall likely in the plains and South Kashmir, according to weather forecasts.

Light rainfall is predicted in the plains in Jammu, while Chenab Valley is likely to receive light snowfall. The higher reaches of Central and North Kashmir are also expected to witness light snowfall, with the plains seeing a mix of light snowfall and rain.

The fresh snowfall was experienced at multiple places in Kashmir on Tuesday late afternoon while rans lashed plains of southern parts of the Valley, bringing down the mercury here.

The fresh snowfall was experienced at multiple places including Sonamarg, Sinthan Top, Pir ki Gali, Kokernag and other places while light rains lashed Banihal, Qazigund - Kulgam axis and in Anantnag.

Director MeT, | More on P10

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The Peoples Conference (PC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have accused the National Conference-led government of tacitly endorsing the constitutional changes made on August 5, 2019, which re voked the region's special status.

sion of the J&K Assembly's business rules, removing references to the erstwhile J&K Constitution. PC chairman Sajad Gani Lone and PDP legislator Waheed Para voiced strong opposition, warning that this move could cement the post-2019 legal framework and undermine future legal challenges.

Procedure and Conduct of Business in the

### **Assembly Rule** Changes Spark Row **NC Accused of Endorsing Aug 5 Move**

House will be the I More on P10

The criticism follows a proposed revi-

"Endorsement of draft proposal prepared by Assembly secretariat regarding Rules of

### **Smuggling SIM Cards** Inside Central Jail

**CIK Police Detain** 

**5 Individuals Observer News Service** 

Srinagar:Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police have detained five individuals for questioning over their alleged involvement in a criminal conspiracy hatched to smuggle SIM cards inside the Central Jail premises here for its use by the jail inmates.

The suspects detained belong to the areas of Dawoodpora Anantnag, Kursu Padshahi Bagh, Qamarwari | More on P10

**Mysterious Deaths Investigation** 

### **Cervical Cancer Cases In J&K** Spike By 11.5% Over 5 Years: Govt

Kashmir has reported Parliament reveals.

**Annual Increases:** 3.05% (2019-2020) 2.66% (2020-2021) **2.59%** (2021-2022) **2.81%** (2022-2023)

The cases increased from 656 in 2019 to 732 in 2023, reflecting a year-on-year rise. Specifically, the number of cases grew by 3.05% from 656 in 2019 to 676 in 2020, 2.66% from 676 to 694 in 2021, 2.59% from 694 to 712 in 2022, and 2.81% from 712 to

This rise aligns with a national trend attributed to factors such as an aging population, improved life expectancy, greater awareness, and advances in diagnostic technology. In response, the government has taken measures to make cancer treatment more affordable, including price caps on scheduled cancer | More on P10

#### **Observer News Service** Srinagar: Jammu and 732 in 2023.

a total of 3,468 cervical cancer cases over the past five years, a data presented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the

The year-wise breakdown shows an increase in cases, with 656 in 2019, 676 in 2020, 694 in 2021, 712 in 2022, and 732 in 2023.

### Er Rashid Bail Plea

### **Delhi HC Official** Writes To SC

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court registrar general has written to the Supreme Court over the issue of jurisdiction of the court which should ideally hear jailed J&K MP Rashid Engineer's bail plea in a NIA case.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the NIA, informed Justice Vikas Mahajan that the senior high court official sought the Supreme Court's indulgence over the issue of jurisdiction.

The issue arose after a NIA court said it couldn't hear the bail plea of the jailed MP, facing terror charges, | More on P10



### Beware of such calls!

- **X** Don't panic there is nothing like digital arrest
- Non't share any personal/ financial information
- **◯** Don't pay
- **Immediately report** to cybercrime.gov.in or call 1930 for help





visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/da For feedback write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in



### Two Months On, Rajouri **Awaits Breakthrough**

Agencies

Srinagar: Despite the elapsing of two months, the investigations into the deaths in Badhaal area of Rajouri have failed to uncover the truth with the locals continuing to seek answers from the government.

Since December 7, 2024, 17 individuals, including 13 children, have died due to an unidentified illness. Despite extensive efforts by various health

agencies, the exact cause remains undetermined.

Over the last 15 days, no new cases have been reported, and most of the previously admitted patients have recovered, which has brought some relief to the fear-stricken community.

Locals said that though delayed, the government's preventive measures have helped in containing the crisis. However, they demanded urgent response regarding the | More on P10

### Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

### ازدفتر نايب تحصيلدارجاجن

عنوان: درخواست از جانب مجمه یوسف دُارولد مُرسجان دُارساکنه موضع بهارآباد نسبت حصول RBA سر شفیکیت بحق مهک یوسف دختر محمه یوسف دُار اشتهار بمرادآ گاہی

معامله عنوان السدر میں درخواست سائل بغرض حصول RBA سرتفیکیٹ ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے بٹواری حلقہ ہےرپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس کےمطابق رسائل کنبہ بذیل ہے محمد يوسف ۋار سربره خود مزدوري 48سال گلشه بیگم زوجه گفریلوکام 46سال شیبایوسف دختر زیرتعلیم 19سال مهک بوسف -- -- 17 JL 16 -- --

یں رہیا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کنیڈیس ہے کنیہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 1000000 روپید تک ہے۔ نیں اسکے کہ درخواست سائل پر مذید کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ ہرخاص وعام کو صطلع کیا جا تاہے کہا گرکسی شخص کوسٹیفیکیٹ ۔ ھذاا جراء کرنے میں کوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک ہفتہ کےاندراندر دفتر ہذامیں پیش کریں۔میعادگز رنے معاد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول

نائب تحصيلدا،

ازدفتر نايب تحصيلدارجاجن

عنوان: درخواست از جانب مجمد پوسف دار ولد محمد بیان دارساکنه موضع بهار آباد نسبت حصول RBA سر همکیت بحق نابده پوسف دختر محمد پوسف دار اشتهار بمراد آگایی

معاملة عنوان السدريين درخواست سائل بغرض حصول RBA سرتفيكيك ہے جوكه زير کاروائی ہے بٹواری حلقہ ہے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس کے مطابق رسائل کنبہ بذیل ہے محمر پوسف ڈار سربرہ خود مزدوری 48سال زوجه گھریلوکام 46سال دختر زیرتعلیم 19سال شيبا يوسف

JL-17 -- --ال 16 -- --نامده بوسف تبہ ہے۔ قیصر پوسف پسر ۔۔ 12 سال اس کےعلاوہ اورکوئی افراد کنبنہیں ہے ۔ کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 100000 روپیہ تک

ہے۔ قبل اسکے کہ درخواست سائل پر مذید کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ہرخاص وعام کومطلع کیاجا تاہے کہا گرکسی شخص کوسٹیفیکیٹ ھذااجراءکرنے میں کوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو ً وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندرا ندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔میعاد گزرنے معا دکوئی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نه ہوگا۔

نائب شخصيلدار

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The name and DOB of my daughter has been wrognly written in her adhaar card as Saleka Jan while her correct name is Salika Aijaz and her DOB has been wrongly enterted as 24-12-2016 instead of 24-03-2018 which needs to be corrected. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the concerned office within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aiiaz Ahmad Dewan F/o Salika Aijaz

R/o Hirpora Shopian

### ازنيابت پليالن

عنوان: \_ درخواست منجانب غلام حسن حجام ولد فتح حجام ساكنه پلهالن متحصيل پين بمرادا جرائي OBC سرففیکیث بحق عادل احمد تجام و بسمه حسن و یاسم پینه حسن اولا دان غلام حسن تجام

اشت**بار برخاص وعام** معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹنیکیٹ بذمرہ حجام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس ہے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی تجام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل پلہالن تحصیل پیٹن میں ر ہائش پذیر ہےاور بھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں گی ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پورمشمل ہے غلام حسن حجام ولد فتح حجام مز دوري 55 سال

گھریلوکام 51سال مساته عائشه بيكم زيرتعليم 25سال -- 20 ال -- 19 اسال

قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

JL-22 --طار لق احمد حجام سائل مذکور OBC سرٹفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کاخواں ہے سرٹفلیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کهاگرسی شخص کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خیارسات دن کے اندراندرآ پنے عذر یاعتراض ودالت هذا کودفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔بعد گز رہے میعاد کو بی عذریاعتراض

FKO

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have lost the RC of my vehicle Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, Maruti Baleno India ltd bearing Chessis no. Ma3ewb225je490642, Engine no k12mn4416629. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohammad Rafiq lone

S/0 Mohammad Yousuf lone

R/O Trehgaam heri .kupwara 193222

#### THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL **EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR**

ATTENTION PLEASE

The Candidates whose photograph is Published in this notice is claiming to have lost her 10 th Class Qualificateion / Diploma Certificate of Secondary School Examination issued by BOSE with the following particulars

Name.:- Neelofar Majeed Parentage .:- Abdul Maieed Dar Mothers Name.:- Hajirah Begum Residence .:- Khanoo Babagund .Distt .KUPWARA

Roll NO 10 th Class: - 570220. Session.:- Annual Regular 2011 Reg No:- N1048075075

Certificate Serial No:- 11 ARKAM - 7016071

D O B:- 07.11.1996 Result Qualified Class 10th Rezelt Grade. C1 Now the candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate Qualificateion / Diploma Certificate before the same is processed and issued in the candidate anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Astt Secretary, BOSE or undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above referred Qualificateion / Diploma certificate bearing serial no:-11 ARKAM - 7016071 .are be treated as cancelled

No:-F(Certs-1-DOC)B/KD/25

fko **Assistant Secretary** Certificates . KD

Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name, M/S MOON CHASERS Tour and Travels "situated at Malla Bagh Opp Beast Factory Gym Hazratbal Srinagar

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas I Mr Fayaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Ahad Bhat R/o Acha Bagh Malla Bagh Hazrat Bal Srinagar Tour and Travels intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style" M/s MOON CHASERS Tour and Travels "situated at Malla Bagh Opp .Beast Factory Gym Hazratbal Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas,I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate,Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department). Bank statement (minimum balance 1000),site plan. Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@ gmail. com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name, M/S HEAVEN HIVE Tour and Travels "situated at KralPora Budgam Kashmir

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas I Mr Aadil Fayaz S/o Fayaz Ahmad Malik R/o Malik Mohalla Magray Pora Pattan Baramulla Tour and Travels intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style" M/s HEAVEN HIVE Tour and Travels "situated at KralPora Budgam Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas,I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department). Bank statement (minimum balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@ gmail. com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 570201914446 from FATIMA to FATA BIBI. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within 7 days. After that no objection shall be

Fata Bibi

#### **NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby informed that my name daughter (with spelling) had been inadvertently recorded in the school records as Fozia Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Rather R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar however the correct name with spelling is Foziya Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Rather R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, the same has been recorded in all of her necessary documents vis Domicile Certificate.

In view of the above I want to correct my daughter name with spelling as Foziya Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Rather R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar instead of Fozia Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Rather R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar,

If any persons 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 office of the Principal R.P School Malla Bagh, Srinagar, any representation/objection received after the stipulated time will not be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad Rather F/O Foziya Fayaz R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar Mobile No. 7006868475

inf

#### **NOTICE**

The General Public is hereby informed that my name daughter (with spelling) had been inadvertently recorded in the school records as Saliha Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Rather R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar however the correct name with spelling is Soliha Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Rather R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, the same has been recorded in all of her necessary documents vis Domicile Certificate.

In view of the above I want to correct my daughter name with spelling as Soliha Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Rather R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar instead of Saliha Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Rather R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony,

If any persons 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 office of the Principal R.P. School Malla Bagh, Srinagar, any representation/objection received after the stipulated time will not be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad Rather F/O Soliha Fayaz

R/O Usmania Colony Umar Colony, Lal Bazar, Srinagar Mobile No. 7006868475

inf

#### **NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC**

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MURSALEEN HYDER while his actual name is MURSALEEN HYDER ALAIE. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that. Zahoor Ahmad Alaie

F/o Mursaleen Hyder Alaie

R/o SUNDIPORA BUDGAM CELL. 9697944339

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

My name has been wrognly written in my adhaar card as Urfie Jan while my correct name is Urfee Gh Mohd which needs to be corrected, if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Urfee Gh Mohd D/O Gh Mohd Bhat R/O Dreri Kali Pora

FKO

mcb

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### Directorate Of Floriculture (G&P) Kashmir

Tel:0194-2474234 Fax:2482032 email:kashflori@rediffmail.com

Subject: - Extension Notice No. 02.

In view of no response, the Bid Submission end/opening date (Online) of technical/financial bid in respect of e-NIT No. 45 of 2024 dated:-24.12.2024 invited by this office under endorsement No.DOFK-GSOTNDR/16/2024/E-7621223/e-NIT-45 Dated:-24.12.2024 with regard to "Outsourcing of Entry ticketing system of Gulnar Park Baramulla" is hereby extended as per details given below:-

1.	Bid Submission End date & time	15.02.2025	up to 02:00 PM
2.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.02.2025	at 02:00 PM

Other terms & conditions shall remain same as laid down in the concerned e-NIT.

Accounts Officer, (Member Secretary) Directorate of Floriculture

SD/=

No:- DOFK-GS0TNDR/16/2024/E-7621223/e-NIT-45 Dated.04.02.2025

JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UNION TERRITORY)

### office OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA.

Bashir Ahmad Hakeem S/o Abdul Gani Hakeem designation: - Filter Attendant Bijbehera, Anantnag Pin Code: -192124 Ph. No.: 9484016732/8492894618/9596017847 No: JSD/MDSA/8113-16 Dated:03-02-2025

Subject: Show Cause Notice Final opportunity thereof.

Reference:

Chief Engineer Srinagar's Letter No: JSD/Estt/28773-74, Dt: 23-01-2025.

this Office No: 4353-54 Dated:-10-09-2024 No: 4057-58, Dated:-27-08-2024 & No: 4220-21, Dated: -03-09-2024 In continuation to the previous communications under reference, we have observed that you have not reported for duty since 23-08-

Whereas, three explanations, followed by show cause notice as mentioned in reference at No 02 were served to you but no response resulted & despite repeated phone calls, your mobile phone remains switched off.

You are hereby given one more opportunity to report duties within 07 working days from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which disciplinary action shall be taken against you.

DIPK-11518/24 DATED: 04-02-2025

(Er. Manzoor Ahmad Dar) **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Single Cover System

DATED: 03/02/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

SNo	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. GST) (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)		Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Ac- count	AAA No & Dated	Class Of Contactor
1.	Restoration of CC Drain at Lurgam.	1.96	200/-	2% of Adv cost		3054-M&R	Chief Engineer South Kashmir's Authorization No: ARD/SK/44 Dated: 26/11/2024	DEE
2.	Restoration of Divisional office and Develop- ment of LAWN.	2.48	200/-	2% of Adv cost	10 working days	3054-M&R	Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Deptt. South Kashmir's Authorization No: ARD/ SK/44 Dated: 26.11.2024	DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded-Position of funds: -Available Project Authority:

E-NIT No: 134/EEA/RNB of 2024-25/9433-44

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www. iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03/02/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03/02/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	03/02/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	12/02/2025 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	13/02/2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Divi-
		sion Awantipora

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora\_ (tender receiving authority).

Note:- (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (As per format) and The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive. 2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in

favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee(bid security) should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the

form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Alloted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ including GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

Draftsman Technical Officer **Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora** DIPK-11521/24 dated: 04-02-2025

### **Mali-Cum-Chowkidars Stage Protest, Demand Pending Wages**

SRINAGAR: Scores of Malicum-chowkidars (peoncum-watchmen) staged a protest outside the Directorate of Rural Development Department (RDD) Kashmir at Lal Mandi here on Tuesday, demanding release of their long-pending wages.

The aggrieved workers said their wages have been withheld for over two decades despite repeated assurances

from the administration. They said, "We have been working tirelessly without receiving our rightful dues."

"How long will we suffer?" one of the protesters asked. He said that for over 20 years, they have been serving diligently, yet their salaries remain unpaid. "This is not just financial distress, but it is a violation of our rights, and we are struggling to feed our families and educate our chil-

dren," he said.

Another protester said they have approached everyone from department heads to ministers, yet the issue remains unresolved. "We met Minister Javid Ahmad Dar who wrote letters to the concerned department, but no action was taken," he said.

Another protester said they work even on holidays, yet they are ignored. "We are committed to our duties, whether it is maintaining government premises or ensuring security. Yet, we are treated as if our work does not matter," he said.

Moreover, the Mali-Cum-Chowkidars urged authorities to intervene immediately and resolve their grievances before they are forced to escalate their agitation. "If our wages are not released soon, we will be forced to intensify our agitation," they said—(KNO)

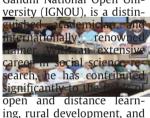
### **Prof. M. Aslam Honoured As Honorary Distinguished Fellow At AGRASRI**

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI) ounced the induc-Professor M. Aslam Honorary Distin to academia and grassroots

Pertinently, AGRASRI, established in 2001, is a premier autonomous and independent research institution committed to policy research, training, and advocacy on grassroots governance and development. The Academy operates under the leadership of eminent Constitutional expert and former Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap.

Prof. M. Aslam, former Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open Uni-



ing, rural development, and

grassroots governance. Prof. Aslam is a Member of the Collegium of Eminent Social Scientists at the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and a Fellow at the World Bank's Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI).

His inclusion in AGRASRI's esteemed list of Hon. Distinguished Fellows places him among other noted personalities such as Prof. Sukhadeo K. Thorat, former Chairman of the University Grants Commission of In-

Asia (PRIA)



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting of senior Health Officials here to review the progress on the operationalization of the Rehabilitation and Counseling Centre for youth affected by substance abuse established at Sanat Nagar.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahmad Kataria, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Medical officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, District Social Welfare Officer Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Ms. Shabeena, Incharge Drug De-Addiction Centre GMC, Dr. Yasir Rather, and other senior Officers.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the progress towards making the Centre fully functional and operational.

He finalized the requirements of manpower, paramedical staff, security and sanitation, baseline investigation labs, and other essential materials for the centre to possible.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the importance of ensuring proper functioning and utilization of the centre in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, Health Department, and IMHANS to achieve the intended goals.

He emphasized that the purpose of the Rehabilitation and Counselling Centre is to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to youth affected by substance abuse and facilitate their reintegration into society.

DC directed the officers to take the necessary steps to operationalize the OPD facility at the Centre at the earliest, enabling immediate rehabilitation and counseling services for substance abuse victims.

Pertinent to mention that, the rehabilitation & Counselling facility for victims of substance abuse at Sanat Nagar is, in addition, to the facilities available at SMHS Hospital, IMHAANS and JVC Hospital to provide rehabilitation and counselling services for substance abuse victims.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to change the name on my electricity bill bearing Consumer ID 0203050009692, from Nisar Ahmad Bhat R/O Mustafabad HMT Srinagar To Zahoor UI Haq Sultanpori R/O Model Town D Sopore. In this regard if anybody has any objection he/she may file the same with Executive Engineer 3rd Subdivision Zainakote with in a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.



## **City's Water Transport** Project Set To Sail Soon

**SRINAGAR:** The much-anticipated water transport system in Srinagar is under evaluation and is expected to be operational soon, officials from ity Srinagar said on Tuesday. hat the evaluation underway and that the work will commence shortly. "We had earlier floated the tender, and we are hopeful that the project to start the water trans public transporta- the flagship project under SSCL, which lected routes. Initial

Amira Kadal Pedestrian Footbridge 40% **Complete: Officials** 

**SRINAGAR:** The construction of the much-anticipated Amira Kadal pedestrian footbridge in the heart of Srinagar's bustling Lal Chowk is approximately 40 percent complete and is expected to open to the public soon, officials from Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) said on Tuesday.

According to SSCL officials, the bridge's key structural components, including its pillars and girders, have been successfully installed. The next major phase involves developing a plaza with seating arrangements on the opposite side of the road, which is currently delayed due to pending shop relocations.

work has been done." an SSCI offi- shopkeepers have been held, and we cial said.

"We are now awaiting the relocation of shops on the other side to proceed with constructing the plaza, which will complement the bridge's functionality.'

The project, initiated with an estimated cost of Rs 7.17 crore, was originally slated for completion by May 2024. However, delays related to shop shifting have slowed progress. Officials remain optimistic that, once the relocation is complete, construction will gain momentum, especially during the upcoming summer season.

"The shop relocation is being coordinated with the Srinagar Municipal

are working on providing them with alternative spaces. We are hopeful that the resettlement process will be finalized soon so that the project can proceed without further delays.'

The Amira Kadal pedestrian bridge is a key component of the broader Srinagar Smart City project, aimed at enhancing urban connectivity, easing pedestrian movement, and improving the overall aesthetic of the city's core commercial areas.

While initial deadlines have been extended, officials are confident that the project will regain full momentum once the logistical hurdles are cleared. "Our goal is to create not just a bridge but a vibrant public space







PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

#### **AIRPORTS** SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS** 



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

**OAZIGUND: 01951-296153** 

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



#### **PRAYERS FAJR** 6:01 **ZUHR** 12:45 ASR 4:24 Magrib 6:08 ISHA 7:28

### This Day In History

- 1918 Separation of church and state begins in USSR 1921 Yankees purchase 20 acres in Bronx for Yankee
- 1922- Reader's Digest magazine 1st published 1924- Mahatma Gandhi is released from Yerwada Prison
- in Pune, British India, on health grounds after a bout of appendicitis
- 1931- Malcolm Campbell sets world land speed record 💦 I of 246.08 mph driving his famous Blue Bird car at שמי נטחa Beach, Florida
- 1936- Harry Ferguson patents the suction side hydraulic control system, allowing control of three-point mounted agricultural implements attached to tractors
- 1945- US troops under General Douglas MacArthur enter Manila in the Philippines after a month long battle, ending ree years of Japanese military occupation
  58- Gamel Abdel Nasser nominated 1st President of
- **United Arab Republic** 1962 - Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and
- rn all within 16 degrees - Maarten Schmidt discovers enormous red shifts in
- unar probe failure V channel 51 in Fort Lauderdale, FL (IND)
- suspends broadcasting
- 1971 Apollo 14, 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands near Fra Mauro Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell (Apollo 14) walk on Moon for 4 hrs
- 1974 John Murtha becomes the first Vietnam War veteran elected to the United States Congress
  - 1987 Soyuz TM-2 launches
- 1989 Kareem Abdul-Jabar becomes 1st NBA player to score 38,000 points
- 1900 The United States and the United Kingdom sign treaty for Panama Canal
- 1922 Reader's Digest magazine 1st published 1958 - Test Cricket debut of Lance Gibbs, WI v Pakistan.
- 1958 Vanguard TV-3 back-up launches into Earth orbit; reaches 6 km
- 1970 US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site 1971 - Apollo 14, 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands
- near Fra Mauro Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell (Apollo 14) walk on Moon for 4 hrs
- 1987 Soyuz TM-2 launches

2004 Haiti rebellion

- 1994 68 killed and 200 wounded after a mortar bomb is set off in Sarajevo
- 1995- Japan's Shinshinto Party wins local elections 2004- Rebels from the Revolutionary Artibonite Resistance Front capture the city of Gonaïves, starting the
- 2004-Twenty-three Chinese people drown when a group of 35 cockle-pickers are trapped by rising tides in Morecambe Bay, England. Twenty-one bodies are recovered. 2008- A major tornado outbreak across the Southern
- United States leaves at least 58 dead, the most since the May 31, 1985 outbreak that killed 88. 2009- The United States Navy guided missile cruiser Port
- Royal runs aground off Oahu, Hawaii, damaging the ship as well as a coral reef 2013- UK House of Commons votes in favour of same-sex
- 2014- Archaeologists decrypt the 13th C Viking jötunvillur
- 2014- Google Vice President Susan Wojcicki (35) is named
- CEO of YouTube 2014- US President Obama and journalists globally call for
- the release of 3 Al Jazeera journalists detained in Egypt 2016- Computer hackers try to steal 1 billion from Federal

Reserve Bank of New York using Bangladesh banking

- codes, steal 81 million before a typo alerts authorities 2018- Share market sell off starts on Wall Street and spreads around the globe, Dow Jones Industrial Average has largest intraday point swing before finishing down
- 1,413 points or 4.6% 2019- China's first science fiction blockbuster, "The Wandering Earth" premieres, directed by Frant Gwo, based on a story by Liu Cixin
- 2021- Ocean life is being drowned out by human noise, especially shipping, construction, sonar and seismic surveys according to new research

### PM Modi Takes 'Urban Naxal' Jibe At Rahul, Tears Into AAP in LS

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a scathing attack on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said some people are openly speaking the language of urban Naxals and asserted that those who "declare a war" against the Indian state can neither understand the Constitution nor about the country's unity.

He also took a dig at Arvind Kejriwal and AAP a day before the Delhi assembly polls, saying "some parties

ple who speak the language of urban Naxals, who declare war against the Indian state, can neither understand the Constitution nor about the country's unity," Modi said.

Though Modi did not name anyone, his remarks were an apparent reference to Gandhi's comments last month that "we are now fighting the BJP, the RSS and the Indian state itself".

In a veiled jibe at AAP convenor Kejriwal, Modi said some leaders focus on jacuzzi and stylish showers while his government's focus is on providing water to every household.



are like 'AAP-da' for the future of the youth".

Modi asserted that while his government's schemes saved a lot of money, it was not used to build 'Sheesh Mahal'.

Replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha, he made several veiled attacks at former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, saying those who entertain themselves by getting photo sessions done in huts of the poor will find the talk about the poor in Parliament boring.

"Today some people are openly speaking the language of urban Naxals. The things that urban Naxals say (are being said). These peo-



**Today some** people are openly speaking the language of urban Naxals. The things that urban Naxals say (are being said). These people who speak the language of urban Naxals, who declare war against the Indian state, can neither understand the Constitution nor about the country's unity

### **Syrian President Says Elections Could Take Up To Five Years**

Agencies

DAMASCUS: Syrian Arab Republic President Ahmed Al-Sharaa said Monday that organizing elections could take up to five years, the week after he was appointed interim president and less than two months after oust-

"My estimate is that the period of time will be approximately between four and five years until the elections," Sharaa said in a prerecorded interview broadcast on a private Syrian television channel.

In late December, he told Al Arabiya TV the election process could take four years.

The infrastructure for the vote "needs to be re-established, and this takes time,' Sharaa added on Monday.

He also promised "a law regulating political parties," adding that Syria would be "a republic with a parliament and an executive government."

Military commanders last Wednesday appointed Sharaa interim president,



opposition factions toppled Assad on December 8, ending more than five decades of the family's ironfisted rule.

appointment Sharaa's has been welcomed by key regional players Egypt, Qatar, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia.

Sharaa was also tasked with forming an interim legislature, and the Assad-era parliament was dissolved, along with the Baath party, which

ruled Syria for decades. Syria's constitution was also repealed, and the Assadera army and security forces were dissolved, as were armed groups, including Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir Al-Sham.

A transitional government has been installed to steer Syria until March 1.



### **China Hits Back With Counter Tariffs at US, To Probe Google**

KEN MORITSUGU & HUIZHONG WU

BEIJING: China announced retaliatory tariffs on select American imports and an antitrust investigation into Google on Tuesday, just minutes after a sweeping levy on Chinese products imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump took effect.

American tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico were also set to go into effect Tuesday before Trump agreed to a 30-day pause, as the two countries acted to address his concerns about border security and drug trafficking. Trump planned to talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the next few days.

This isn't the first round of tit-for-tat actions between the two countries. China and the U.S. engaged in an escalating trade war in 2018, when Trump repeatedly raised tariffs on Chinese goods and China responded each time.

This time, analysts said,

New Delhi: The BJP govern-

ment in Gujarat on Tuesday

formed a committee headed

by a retired Supreme Court

judge to assess the need for

the Uniform Civil Code in the

state, and also draft a bill for

the decision was aimed at di-

verting attention from press-

ing issues ahead of the up-

coming local body polls, the

government claimed rights

of the tribal communities will

be protected if the UCC is im-

mittee, to be headed by

Justice (retd) Ranjana De-

sai, will submit its report

within 45 days, following

which a decision about

implementation of the UCC

will be taken, Chief Minis-

ter Bhupendra Patel told

The five-member com-

plemented.

reporters here.

While the Opposition said

Press Trust Of India

China is much better prepared, announcing a slew of measures that go beyond tariffs and cut across different sectors of the U.S. economy. The government is also more wary of upsetting its own fragile and heavily trade-dependent economy.

"It's aiming for finding measures that maximize the impact and also minimize the risk that the Chinese economy may face," said Gary Ng, a senior economist at Natixis Corporate and Investment Banking in Hong Kong. "At the same time ... China is trying to increase its bargaining chips.'

John Gong, a professor at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, called the response a "measured" one. "I don't think they want the trade war escalating," he said. "And they see this example from Canada and Mexico and probably they are hoping for the

'Going To Be Hindrance For Christians, Sikhs,

Muslims': Oppn As Gujarat Forms Panel For UCC

The committee will meet

"To assess the need for a

religious leaders, including

those from the Muslim com-

Uniform Civil Code and to pre-

pare a draft bill, we have decid-

ed to form a committee under

a former judge of the Supreme

committee are retired IAS of-

ficer CL Meena, advocate RC

Kodekar, former vice chan-

cellor of Veer Narmad South

Gujarat University Dakshesh

Thakar and social worker

Uttarakhand has already im-

ment is committed to fulfil

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's resolve of implemen

various aspects and take

views of people from different

NEWS MAKERS

the UCC across the country.

Notably, the BJP-ruled

CM Patel said his govern-

The panel will examine

Other members of the

Court." CM Patel said.

Gita Shroff.

plemented the UCC.

munity, for consultations.

Counter-tariffs

China said it would implement a 15% tariff on coal and liquefied natural gas products as well as a 10% tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery and large-engine cars imported from the U.S. The tariffs would take effect next Monday.

"The U.S.'s unilateral tariff increase seriously violates the rules of the World Trade Organization," the Council Tariff Commission said in a statement. "It is not only unhelpful in solving its own problems, but also damages normal economic and trade cooperation between China and the U.S.'

The impact on U.S. exports may be limited. Though the U.S. is the biggest exporter of liquid natural gas globally, it does not export much to China. In 2023, the U.S. exported 173,247 million cubic feet of LNG to China, about 2.3% of its total natural gas exports, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

walks of life, and an "appro-

priate decision" will be taken

after perusing its report, the

Harsh Sanghavi said that the

UCC, if implemented, will pro-

by Uttarakhand presented

a model before the country

because it protects the cus-

toms and traditions of trib-

als. (Union) Home Minister

Amit Shah has also clari-

fied in Jharkhand that UCC

will protect the traditions

followed by tribals," Sang-

religious leaders, including

Muslim leaders, to prepare

the state government's ap-

proach is sensitive and shows

it is committed to closing the

loopholes in laws and ensur-

the report, he added.

ing justice to all.

The committee will meet

Shroff and Thakar said

tect the rights of tribals.

Minister of State for Home

"The UCC implemented

CM said.

havi said.

### **Iran Army Kicks Off Massive Air Defense Drill**

Agencies

Tehran: Iran's homegrown 'Majid' air defense missile system took the lead during the new stage of the drill by bringing down various types of pi lotless aircraft on Tuesday.

During this phase of the comprehensive maneuver, tactics to detect, track, intercept and shoot down hostile targets are set to be practiced.

The air defense units participating in the exercise will employ indigenous radar systems as well as a surveillance network in the general areas of the drill, which covers the southwestern and central sectors of Iran

Command and control centers will use homegrown sophisticated active and pas-

seeks to integrate efforts from the Army's Air Defense Force

and the Air Force. The exercise is designed to simulate realistic battlefield conditions, providing an opportunity to test a variety of advanced, domestically pro-

duced air defense systems. The systems will engage in countering a range of threats, including aerial assaults, missile strikes, and electronic warfare tactics.

By recreating such scenarios, the drill aims to evaluate and enhance the readiness of Iran's air defense forces in responding to potential external threats.

The commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Forces asserts that the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces would



sive radar systems, and utilize signal and electro-optical monitoring to track hostile targets in the war game zone.

Upon interception, smart command-and-control tems will assign appropriate air defense systems to neutralize threats.

A homegrown Iranian radar system is deployed during the second stage of the largescale "Egtedar 1403" air defense drill, which covers the southwestern and central sectors of

Under the operational

confront whatever instance of violation against the coun-

Iran, on February 4, 2025.

command of the Joint Air Defense Base of Iran, the 'Eqtedar 1403' air defense drill try's soil.

Iranian military forces hold routine exercises according to a detailed schedule in various parts of the country in order to test their weaponry and equipment and evaluate their combat preparedness.

The country's officials have repeatedly underscored that the Islamic Republic will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will never be sub-

### **Trial Of Man In Salman Rushdie Stabbing Begins With Jury Selection**

Agencies

NEW YORK: The trial of the man charged with attempting to murder the novelist Salman Rushdie at a New York lecture is due to begin on Tuesday with jury selection. Hadi Matar, 26, can be seen

cellphone videos rushing the stage at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York in August, 2022, as Rushdie was being introduced to the audience. Rushdie, 77, was stabbed with a knife multiple times in an attack that led to the loss of his right eye and damaged his liver.

Matar has pleaded not guilty to charges of seconddegree attempted murder and second-degree assault. Rushdie, who has faced death threats since the 1988 publication of his novel "The Satanic Verses," is due to be among the first witnesses to testify at the trial.

Rushdie has published a memoir about the attack, and said in interviews he believed he was going to die on the Chautauqua Institution's stage.



attempted murder of British author

Rushdie, who was raised in a Muslim Kashmiri family, went into hiding under the protection of British police in 1989 after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then Iran's supreme leader, pronounced 'The Satanic Verses" to be blasphemous. Khomeini's fatwa, or religious edict, called upon Muslims to kill the novelist and anyone involved in the book's publication, leading to a multi-million-dollar bounty.

The Iranian government said in 1998 it would no longer back the fatwa, and Rushdie ended his years as a recluse, becoming a fixture of literary parties in New York City, where he lives.

### **Man Booked For Giving Rs 10 To Beggar In Indore**

case has been registered against a motorist for allegedly giving Rs 10 to a beggar in Madhya Pradesh's ■Indore, where the administration has enforced a ban on begging and giving alms, police said on Tuesday.

This is the second such case registered in the city within a fortnight, an official said. He said a first information report has been registered under section 223 (disobedience to order issued by a public servant) of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) against an unidentified motorist who gave alms of Rs 10 to a beggar sitting in front of a temple in the Lasudia police station area on Monday.

The case was registered based on a complaint by an officer of the administration's beggary eradication team.

Under BNS section 223, the guilty can be punished with imprisonment up to one year or a fine up to Rs 5,000 or both.

administration, which has set a target to

make Indore the country's first beggar-free

city, has imposed a legal ban on begging, giving alms and buying any goods from beggars. Earlier, an FIR was registered against

an unidentified person who gave alms to a beggar in front of a temple on Khandwa Road on January 23.

Talking to PTI, Phool Singh, an officer of the administration's Beggary Eradication Team, said, "In the last six months, more than 600 people involved in begging in the city have been sent to shelter homes for rehabilitation. Around 100 children were sent to childcare institutions.

He said many of these people were begging on the pretext of selling balloons and other small items at traffic signals.

The administration has also announced a reward of Rs 1,000 to persons providing information about begging in the city.

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has started a pilot project to make 10 cities of the country

### Will Order To Shoot Cow Smugglers: Karnataka Minister Vaidya

mid cow theft cases in Uttara Kannada district, district in-charge minister Mankal S Vaidya has warned that those indulging in such activities would be shot at on the road or at the circle in the open. Asserting that he will not let such activities to continue in the district, he assured that the administration is taking all necessary measures to protect cows and the interest of those rearing it.

The minister's statement came in the wake of the recent incident of the slaughtering of a pregnant cow near Honna-

var here. "Cow theft has been happening for several years. I have told the SP (Superintendent of Police) that this should stop and should not happen at any cost. It is



I will ensure that they (accused) are shot on the road or at the circle. Work, earn and eat. There are enough jobs available in our district. We won't support such people at any cost

wrong. We worship cows. We affectionately rear this animal. We grow up drinking its milk," Vaidya said.

Speaking to reporters here on Monday, he said, he had instructed police to take merciless action against those

behind it, irrespective of whoever they are.

"Arrests have been made (in some cases) - if such things continue - it may be wrong if I say this. I will ensure that they (accused) are shot on the road or at the circle. Work, earn

and eat. There are enough jobs available in our district. We won't support such people at any cost," he added.

Noting that such incidents had happened earlier too, when the BJP was in power, the minister hit out at the opposition party for targeting the government on the issue, and accused it of remaining silent on the issue while in power.

.. If we support such activities, how do FIRs and arrests happen? We are not sitting quiet, department (police) is taking action to control it, the government is there. I'm here, all action is being taken. Neither the government, nor the Chief Minister or Home Minister will support anyone on this issue. We will work to protect those rearing cows, there is no need to fear," he said.

## **Dr Farooq Says INDIA Bloc Intact**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said that the INDIA bloc is intact and will remain so in the future.

The statement was made by him just a day after his son and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated his call for 'strategy shift' in the INDIA bloc in a time-bound manner, failing which the purpose of the alliance will be defeated.

Dr Farooq while speaking to the media persons said that the INDIA bloc is doing absolutely fine and will keep doing good in the future as well.

Pertinently, Omar Abdullah on Monday underscored the need for the INDIA bloc to have a structured discussion on its future strategy, cautioning that internal rifts could harm its larger goal.

It's in place to mention here that in January this year when Omar had stated that the con-

stituents of the alliance were treading different paths, Dr Farooq Abdullah had put his weight behind the INDIA bloc saying,

"The alliance is not just about contesting elections. It is about

strengthening India and eliminating hatred. Those who believe this alliance exists only for parliamentary elections are mistaken. The alliance is permanent — it is for every day and every moment."—(KNO)

### Ghulam Nabi Azad Goes Missing From J&K's Political Arena

**Agencies** 

**SRINAGAR:** The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), founded by former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Union Minister Ghulam Nabi

Azad, is facing an uncertain future following its crushing defeat in the recent assembly elections.

The party's activities have come to a standstill, with Azad himself maintaining an unusual silence and absence from the political scene in Jammu and Kashmir.

Party insiders said that since the party's poor electoral performance, there has been no official statement from Azad, nor any reflection on the results. His only visit to Jammu since the elections was to pay condolences on the demise of some leaders. "Beyond that, he has not engaged in any political activity in the region. This has left party leaders demoralized and isolated, with no clear direction on the way forward," says a senior DPAP functionary.

Meanwhile, major political parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress, National Conference (NC), and People's Democratic Party (PDP) are actively holding meetings, strengthening organizational structures, and preparing for upcoming panchayat and civic elections. In contrast, DPAP has neither convened meetings nor initiated any strategies for future political progression.

ture political engagements.
Ghulam Nabi Azad launched
DPAP on September 26, 2022, after breaking away from the Congress. His early political engagements involved frequent visits
to Jammu and Kashmir, where
he held large public gatherings,
often highlighting the need for
assembly elections in the region.

As a veteran politician, he consistently highlighted his

tenure's achievements while in the Congress. However, his momentum dwindled following the announcement of assembly elections.

During the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, DPAP fielded three

candidates, all of whom suffered heavy defeats. In the subsequent assembly elections, 22 candidates, including Azad's close aides, contested under the party's banner but faced a complete rout. Azad himself

fell ill before the elections, which hindered his campaign efforts. The magnitude of the defeat has now raised serious questions about the party's survival.

Despite the setbacks, Azad has refrained from making any public remarks on the election results or the formation of the new government. His silence has added to the uncertainty within DPAP, with party leaders hesitant to speak openly about the future. Many have not defected to other parties yet but are closely monitoring the evolving political land-scape in Jammu and Kashmir.

A senior DPAP leader, speaking anonymously, acknowledged the party's crisis but argued that other regional parties are also struggling in the current political environment. "Congress and other parties are not doing much either. The BJP is also not in power at the state level. The statehood of Jammu and Kashmir has not been restored yet. Given the current situation, our leaders feel it is better to wait and watch," he said.

Adding to DPAP's woes, two key figures—GM Saroori and Jugal Kishore—deserted the party midway through the elections to contest as independents, only to face defeat. Now, they too are waiting to see how the political situation unfolds before making their next move—(KNO)

### Bihar Labourer Dies, Another Injured In Pulwama

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** A labourer from Bihar died while another was injured after falling in Lassipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday.

An official said that two Bihar labourers were injured after falling from a height while working at Mehboob-ul-Alam, a corrugated box manufacturing factory in Laccinora

ing factory in Lassipora. He said that both were shifted to hospital where doctors declared Manesh Kumar, son of Srikantdas Kumar, resident of Bihar with head injury as brought dead.

Another injured identified as Mitlas Kumar, son of Chutandas Kumar, resident of Bihar who sustained trauma in his right leg is undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance and started investigation in this regard.

### **Seminar On Bee Keeping Inauagurated At Shopian**

**Observer News Service** 

**SHOPIAN:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta on Tuesday inaugurated a two-day seminar on bee-keeping at Meeting Hall, Mini-Secretariat, which is being organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shopian.

Farmers Welfare, Shopian.

The Seminar highlighted the significance of Bee-keeping in enhancing agricultural productivity through pollination besides offering additional income sources such as honey, wax and breeding stock.

Speaking on the occasion, DC urged concerned officers to ensure the benefits of all the schemes for apiculture development including HADP reach to the potential farmers.

He also assured full support for initiatives that encourage sustainable apiculture and rural entrepreneurship.

Experts on the occasion, emphasized on creating awareness and providing training in bee-keeping to youth & farmers for sustainable agriculture and economic development.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, CAO, Farooq Ahmad, KVK head, Zaffar Ahmed, concerned officers and officials besides progressive farmers attended the programme.

## 'Over 5,000 Km Of Roads Completed In J&K Under PMGSY In 3 Years'

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir has seen significant progress in rural road development under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) over the past three years as over 5,000 km of roads have been completed.

In 2021-22, a total of 3,278 kilometers of road length was completed, enhancing connectivity in rural areas. The figures were shared by Kamlesh Paswan, the Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Rural Development, in response to a query in the Lok Sabha.

In 2023, a total of 1,217 kilometers of road length was sanctioned, with 464 kilometers completed. For the year 2023-24, 535 kilometers were sanctioned, and 956 kilometers were completed, indicating a steady push toward improving infrastructure across

the region, the reply reads.

The financial commitment to the scheme has been substantial. Central funds released for PMGSY stood at rupees 1,328.34 crore in 2021-22, rupees 717 crore in 2022-23, and rupees 1,304.17 crore in 2023-24.

These funds, according to him, have contributed signifi-

cantly to the progress made in rural road construction.

The total expenditure, including the state's share, reflected a consistent increase over the years. In 2021-22, the expenditure was rupees 1,485.28 crore, followed by rupees 1,114.78 crore in 2022-23, and rupees 1,256.96 crore in 2023-24.

#### **WORLD CANCER DAY:**

## **'Shifting Lifestyles Linked To Rising Cancer Cases'**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Cancer continues to emerge as a global health challenge, with Jammu and Kashmir witnessing an alarming surge in cases. Leading oncologists across the Union Territory have expressed deep concern over the rising numbers and called for preventive measures, lifestyle modifications and increased public awareness.

Dr Zahoor Ahmad, an oncologist at SKIMS Soura, said that cancer has become a widespread concern, with almost every family being affected directly or indirectly.

"Cancer is emerging as a lifestyle disease, spreading rapidly in regions where populations are shifting towards urban living. This shift is marked by increased caloric intake, consumption of ultraprocessed foods, reduced physical activity, and exposure to agricultural chemicals like fertilisers and pesticides," he said.

Dr Zahoor said that nearly 40-50 percent of cancers are potentially preventable through simple lifestyle changes such as quitting smoking, maintaining a balanced diet, regular physical activity and reducing the intake of processed foods.

Despite growing awareness about cancer and its treatment, he said many myths

and misconceptions still prevail. "These myths can only be dispelled through proper education and counselling," he added.

According to Dr Zahoor, advancements in cancer treatment are ushering in a new era of precision medicine. "With cutting-edge research uncovering the molecular profiles of tumours, treatments can now be tailored to individual patient characteristics. This approach minimizes side effects, avoids ineffective therapies, and maximises treatment benefits," he explained.

Dr Ashraf Ashai, an oncologist at GMC Anantnag, said the rising number of cancer cases is partly due to increased awareness and improved diagnostic capabilities.

"Cancer is no longer a death sentence if detected and treated early. One-third of cancers are preventable through lifestyle modifications, another third are curable with early intervention, and for the remaining cases, palliative care can significantly improve the quality of life," he said.

Doctors identified food adulteration, consumption of packaged and pre-cooked foods, smoked foods, highly processed red meats and foods high in salt and nitrosamines—such as salted tea and pickles—as contributing factors to increased cancer risk.

To mitigate these risks,

they recommend fresh, unprocessed foods, fruits rich in antioxidants (apples, pears, and berries), folate-rich and cruciferous vegetables, high turmeric and ginger consumption, and eggs and fibre-rich diets

Despite the increasing incidence, there is optimism in the medical community due to the availability of quality treatment options, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and targeted therapies. Continuous improvements in healthcare infrastructure are also enhancing patient care in the region.

Data from the Union Health Ministry reveals that between 2019 and 2022, Jammu and Kashmir reported 51,577 cancer cases, with 35,623 deaths during the same period. A 2012 study by SKIMS attributed the rise in cancer cases to dietary habits, lifestyle choices, and the consumption of high-salt foods.

Healthcare professionals are urging the public to adopt conscious lifestyle modifications, prioritize early detection through regular screenings, and seek timely medical intervention to combat the growing threat of cancer.

"Cancer may be a formidable foe, but with awareness, prevention, and advancements in treatment, it's a battle we can win," Dr Zahoor concluded— (KNO)

## India's First Solar-Powered Car 'RAY' To Hit Roads Soon

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In a groundbreaking development, India's first solar-powered car is set to hit the roads, boasting a new design and enhanced performance. The innovative vehicle has been developed by Bilal Ahmed, a 45-year-old mathematics teacher from Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, who dedicated over a decade to bringing his vision to life.

Bilal said he began working on this project in 2012, with the first prototype unveiled in 2022. Since then, he has incorporated numerous upgrades, making the car more practical and efficient. His creation has garnered widespread attention for its unique blend of innovation and style.

"I've named the car 'RAY,' inspired by the mathematical concept where a ray has a starting point but no end. Similarly, this car has a starting point but no end—it runs on solar energy, not fossil fuels," he explained.

Bilal said the car has a fully automatic system with gullwing doors: The futuristic gullwing doors, he said, are embedded with solar panels, adding both aesthetic appeal and functionality.

It is equipped with monocrystalline solar panels that optimise energy absorption, he said, adding that the car charges efficient-



ly, even in minimal sunlight.
With a dual power system,
RAY combines solar energy with
a rechargeable battery to ensure
smooth operation even during
nighttime through an integrated
solar power bank.

The car includes autonomous parking sensors for added safety and convenience, and the solar panels adjust their orientation automatically to maximise sunlight capture throughout the day. It has a distinctive feature that adds a futuristic touch to the car's design, he added.

Bilal claimed that the latest version reflects meticulous improvements in aerodynamics, solar panel efficiency, and overall performance, making it suitable for real-world driving conditions. "A major Indian company has agreed to manufacture the car, with plans to launch it on Kashmiri roads by June 2025," Bilal said, adding that he will publicly showcase the vehicle on February 10 ahead of his participation in an international solar energy event in Turkey this April.

"From the beginning until today, I haven't received any financial assistance from anyone. I managed everything on my own, spending around 22 lakh rupees on this project. But for me, this is more than a personal achievement," he said.

To safeguard his innovation, Bilal has patented the design and registered his company, Bilal Innovations Solar Automobiles (BISA), under which RAY will be officially launched.—(KNO)

J&K Budget 2025-26:

### CM Omar To Hold Consultations With MLAs Over Priority-Sector Works

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Minister in-charge of the Finance Department, is holding pre-budget consultations with members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and District

Development Council (DDC) chairpersons from Wednesday.

Sources revealed

that ahead of the Union Territory's budget, Omar Abdullah has decided to hold consultations with all MLAs, DDC chairpersons, and deputy commissioners.

To begin with, the CM will hold consultations with MLAs of four districts each on Wednesday and Thursday. "He will hold consultations with MLAs and DDC chairpersons of Anantnag, Budgam, Kathua, and Samba districts tomorrow and will hold similar meetings with legislators of Baramulla, Kulgam,

Ramban, and Udhampur on Thursday," a minister, wishing to remain anonymous, said.

He said these meetings are aimed at making the budget more inclusive and participatory. "These meetings are held to get inputs from MLAs about priority-sector works and en-

sure that the needs and aspirations of the people are reflected in the budget," he said.

He added that these meetings are being held after MLAs identified priority—sector works to the tune of

Rs 40 crore in their respective constituencies. "The list of these priority-sector works has been submitted by DCs to the government," he said.

It is worthwhile to mention that Jammu & Kashmir's budget will be presented in the Assembly next month. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Minister in-charge of the Finance Department, will present the budget—(KNO)

## DC Pulwama Reviews Implementation Of Jal Jeevan Mission

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom on Tuesday conducted an extensive review of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in District Pulwama.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of borewells under various schemes linked to JJM, Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS) and various Water Supply Schemes (WSS).

Emphasizing the importance of timely execution, the DC urged the teams to ensure the completion of all ongoing projects by or before March 2025.

The meeting focused on

tification, reinforcing provision of safe and sustainable water access to every household.

The Executive Engineers from JSD Pulwama and Awantipora informed that out of the total 25 and 21 borewells in

achieving the Har Ghar Jal cer-

their respective areas, 18 and 17 schemes have been successfully completed. Additionally, the DC was informed that the Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage has a pending completion of less than 13%, reflecting significant progress in the initiative.

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division South Awantipora also briefed regarding the status of electro-mechanical works and the installation of electric substations.

of electric substations.

Dr. Qayoom emphasized the need to expedite the remaining work to ensure an uninterrupted water supply for the residents of Pulwama. He outlined strict timelines for compliance and highlighted the importance of interdepartmental co-

ordination to achieve this goal. The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Pulwama/Shopian HQ Shopian, Executive Engineers from JSD Pulwama and Awantipora, along with AEEs and JEs as well as Executive Engineer of Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

Teams from DPMU Pulwama and the TPIA were also present on the occasion.

### Distt Admin B'la To Organise Training Prog For Haj Pilgrims

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: District Administration Baramulla will organize an Orientation cum Training Programme for selected Haj Pilgrims of Hajj-2025 to provide proper guidance and information to the pilgrims.

The first phase will be held on 15th February 2025 at 10:00 AM at Jamia Hamdania Masjid Sharief Kunzer for pilgrims from Pattan, Khoie, Wagoora, Kreeri, Singhpora, Tangmarg, Kunzer, and Karhama tehsils. The second phase is scheduled for 17th February 2025 at 10:00 AM at Masjid-e-Baitul Mukarram, Baramulla for the pilgrims from Baramulla, Boniyar, Wagoora, Dangiwacha, Rohama, Sopore, Watergam, Zainageer, Dangarpora, and Uri

The District Administration Baramulla urges selected Haj pilgrims to attend the training at their respective venues on the scheduled dates and time.

The programme has been organized to provide essential guidance and ensure a smooth and well-coordinated pilgrimage.

### Police Constitutes Team To Nab Bank Robbers In Kishtwar

Agencies

**KISHTWAR:** Police have constituted a special team to nab the robbers who looted a branch of Jammu Kashmir Bank in a faroff place in the Dachan area of

Kishtwar district.

A police official said that a special team has been constituted and the investigation has been intensified to crack the bank robbery. He said that CCTV footage has been obtained and some employees and security guards are being questioned.

Notably, unidentified thieves looted approximately Rs 19.50

lakh from a Jammu and Kashmir Bank branch in the remote Dachan area. The incident occurred in the early hours on Monday when the bank was closed. The robbers managed to gain access to the branch and made away with the cash before authorities could respond.

Officials stated that Dachan remains largely cut off during the winter months due to harsh weather conditions, making it difficult to access.

"The remote location may have worked in the favor of the criminals, delaying immediate response efforts." [KNT]

### **Body Found Under Mysterious Circumstances In Sopore**

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** A female body was found in a pool of blood at north Kashmir's Sopore, an official said here on Tuesday evening.

said here on Tuesday evening.

An official said that the body has been recovered under mysterious conditions at her home,

prompting forensic and other teams to reach spot.

The cause of death is being ascertained and further investigation has been taken up, he said.

Official identified the deceased as, Azha Begum, wife of late Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, a resident of Shalimar Colony Sopore.

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### 🔪 KO VIEW

### **Losing Our Teens** to Screens

t's now a familiar sight anywhere in the world. Teenagers hunched over their smartphones, scrolling endlessly, oblivious to the world around them. We brush it off as a sign of the times, but the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 forces us to pause and reflect. It reveals that 79 percent of students aged 14 to 16 in Jammu and Kashmir use smartphones, a figure higher than the national average of 76 percent. More strikingly, 64 percent say they use their phones for education, compared to a national average of 57 percent.

But are these numbers a sign of progress, or a troubling shift in how our young minds? True, the new generation is born into screens. For today's teenagers, the smartphone isn't just a gadget—it's their classroom, playground, diary, and best friend. They aren't just using these devices; they are living through them. The ASER survey found that nearly half (48.5 percent) of students in J&K own a personal smartphone, far above the national average of 31.4 percent. That means they are making their own decisions—what to watch, who to follow, when to log in, and when to tune out.

The pandemic only deepened this reliance. With schools shut and classrooms shifting online, smartphones became the lifeline of education. Even today, schools continue sharing lectures, assignments, and study materials through WhatsApp and Telegram, making digital access more of a necessity than a luxury.

Yes, students are using their phones to search for information, attend online classes, and complete assignments. But education is only part of the picture. Social media is where they spend most of their time. ASER found that 73.8 percent of J&K students know how to block or report a profile, much higher than the national average of 62 percent. But at what cost? Attention spans are shrinking. Face-toface interactions are dwindling. Family conversations are being replaced by silent dinners where everyone is glued to a screen. We are raising a generation that knows how to change a password - 75.4 percent of J&K students can, compared to a national average of 57.7 percent.

Where do we go from here? This is not about banning smartphones. That ship has sailed. The question now is how to strike a balance. Schools must teach digital discipline, not just digital access. Parents need to step in, not as enforcers, but as guides—setting limits, encouraging outdoor activities, and most importantly, being present.



Did you know?

### Why Many Beginners Lose Money

A Simplified Guide for Novice Investors in Kashmir

Irshad Mushtaq



stock market can be an appealing way to grow wealth, but ılarly in regions like Kashmir, often find them-losses. This article aims to explain key reasons straightforward language and relatable concepts

### The Allure of Quick Wealth

Many are drawn to the stock market with the hope of becoming millionaires overnight. This mentality can lead to poor decision-making. It's crucial to recognize that investing is not a guaranteed way to make instant money. Instead, i should be viewed as a long-term endeavor that requires patience and knowledge

### **Emotional Trading**

One of the biggest pitfalls for novice investors is letting emotions drive their trading decisions. Fear and greed can cloud judgment, leading to rash choices, such as selling stocks during a market dip out of panic or buying into a hype without proper research. Understanding how emotions impact trading is essential for making rational decisions.

Lack of Knowledge

Many individuals dive into trading without understanding the basic concepts of the stock market. Knowledge of technical aspects (like chart pat terns) and fundamental analysis (like understanding a company's financial health) is paramount. Without this foundation, traders may make impulsive decisions based solely on price movements seen on the screen.

### The Danger of the Get-Rich-Quick Mindset

Beginners often view the stock market as a lottery, where simply picking the right stock can lead to immense rewards. This misconception can result in aggressive trading strategies, where individuals invest based solely on the belief that prices will rise without conducting thorough research or under standing market dynamics.

### Social Media and Hot Tips

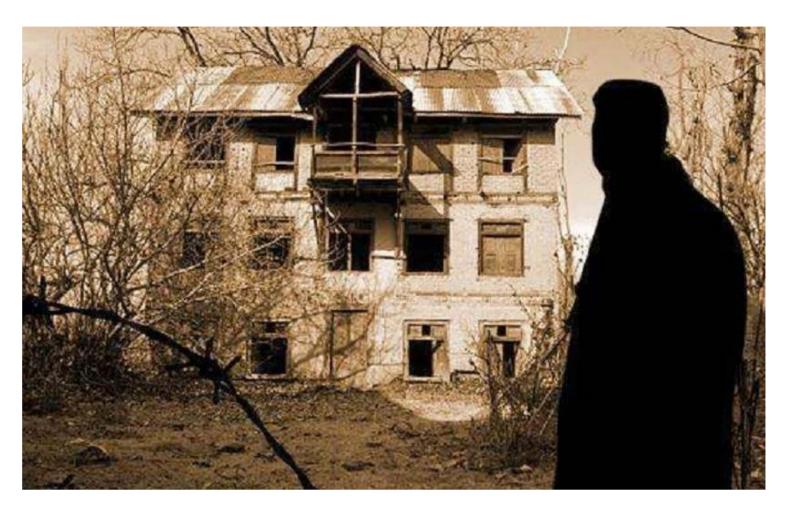
In today's digital age, advice from social media can be misleading. Many fall into the trap of following "hot tips" from influencers or others claiming insider knowledge. This herd mentality can lead to poor investment choices, as these tips are often not backed by strong analysis or facts.

### Read the full article on our website: https://kashmirobserver.net

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## The Imperfect Dichotomy

How Government Policies Strained Kashmiri Muslim-Pandit Brotherhood and Continue to Shape Their Fate



Prerna Bhat

"Beyi yi wathwo, bey yi saet, asih kyah chhu door karaan?"

(Translation: Let us sit together again, let us walk together - what is it that keeps us

or decades, the bond between Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri Muslims was one of deep cultural and social interweaving, marked by shared traditions, language, and values. This brotherhood, however, has faced continuous strain due to government policies that have historically manipulated the region's demographics, politics, and communal harmony for strategic gains. What began as administrative decisions gradually turned into policies that not only deepened the rift but also ensured that mistrust remained embedded in the psyche of both communities. Today, this divide is not just a relic of the re-

largely unnoticed by the rest ( The most significant ruptur 1990 when the targeted killing forced thousands of Kashmi flee the Valley. This exodus v but what is often left unspoke establishment responded to it ing the divisions but by exploit displacement of an entire comr have been a moment for recoil no serious attempt was made t Pandits could return safely. were resettled in isolated cam from their homeland, with litt integrate them into Kashmiri suffering became a tool, used political discourse while no r were taken to heal the wounds

For Kashmiri Muslims, th marked by a different kind of s that saw crackdowns, disappearances, mass incarcerations, and a general atmosphere of fear under militarization (ongoing). While the Pandits were forced to leave, Muslims in the Valley were left to navigate a landscape of constant suspicion and violence. The government did not just fail to protect the Pandits but also ensured that Kashmiri Muslims bore the brunt of being perceived as the "other," held responsible for a tragedy that had more to do with the breakdown of governance than

with inter-community hostility. The years that followed saw a systematic The most damaging

aspect of this state-driven divide is how it has shaped narratives about Kashmir. In mainstream discourse, the story of Kashmiri Pandits is often framed as one of victimhood at the hands of their Muslim neighbors, ignoring the broader political context in which the exodus took place. On the other hand, Kashmiri Muslims are viewed with suspicion, their grievances dismissed as propaganda

toward safe, voluntary repatriation. Pandits who do return are often placed in segregated housing, reinforcing the very separation that needs to be dismantled. Meanwhile, Kashmiri Muslims continue to bear the burden of military presence and surveillance, their loyalty to the state constantly questioned.

The most damaging aspect of this state-

driven divide is how it has shaped narratives about Kashmir. In mainstream discourse, the story of Kashmiri Pandits is often framed as one of victimhood at the hands of their Muslim neighbors, ignoring the broader political context in which the exodus took place. On the other hand, Kashmiri Muslims are viewed with suspicion, their grievances dismissed as propaganda. This selective storytelling ensures that both communities remain alienated from each other, unable to reclaim the brotherhood that once defined them.

What remains largely unnoticed is the deliberate strategy behind this division. A united Kashmir - where Pandits and Muslims stand together demanding justice for all - poses a challenge to the state's control over th



manner mat sidemned Kashiniri voices ar together. Decisions affecting the region are now made without its people, further disempowering both communities and ensuring that they remain at odds with each other rather than questioning the state's role in their shared predicament.

The government's handling of Kashmiri Pandit concerns continues to be performative rather than substantive. Political parties, especially those in power, invoke the exodus only during election campaigns, using it as a tool to justify their policies in the region. Yet, no real progress has been made

aration that the possibility of genuine peace can emerge. Until then, the state's invisible hand will continue to dictate the terms of their fractured existence, keeping them apart not by force but by a carefully constructed illusion of irreconcilable differences.

> The author is pursuing MA Mass Communication (2nd Semester) from AJK Mass Communication Research Centre,

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



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

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### Concerns Regarding Upcoming JKAS Prelim Exam

am writing to express the concerns of many aspirants regarding the upcoming JKAS Preliminary Examination, which is set to take place this month. With the exam just around the corner, candidates are hopeful that the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) will ensure that the examination process runs smoothly, particularly with regard to the accuracy of the answer key.

As you are aware, the last JKAS exam faced significant issues due to the issuance of an incorrect answer key, causing confusion and anxiety among the candidates. Many aspirants had to bear the consequences of this error, as it affected their performance and, in some cases, their prospects of moving forward in the selection process.

Given that the stakes are high for every candidate, the aspirants have

every reason to hope that the JKPSC takes the necessary precautions to avoid repeating such blunders. We urge the Commission to ensure that the answer key issued post-examination is thoroughly reviewed, and any discrepancies or errors are promptly addressed to maintain the credibility of the examination process.

The aspirants have put in years of hard work and effort, and it is only fair that their performance is evalu-

ated accurately and fairly. A mistake in the answer key can have far-reaching consequences, including unfair disqualification of deserving candidates. Hence, we trust that the JKP-SC will take these concerns seriously and work to prevent such issues from occurring again.

We sincerely hope that this time the examination process is conducted with the utmost transparency, accuracy, and fairness.

## The Battle for an Equitable Future

## A Future Defined by Intelligence or Inequality?

**Syed Mudasir Mushtaq** 

rtificial General Intelligence (AGI) promises to revolutionize every aspect of human life. Unlike today's narrow AI, which performs specific tasks like language translation or image recognition, AGI will think, learn, and adapt across multiple domains—just like the human mind. But as this superintelligence rises, a crucial question remains: Will AGI bridge the global digital divide or deepen the gap between the AI-empowered and the AI-excluded?

The world already struggles with unequal access to technology, internet connectivity, and digital education. If AGI is monopolized by a few, it could become the ultimate divider. However, if used wisely, it has the potential to create a more inclusive, knowledge-driven society. The battle for an equitable AGI future has begun.

### Understanding the Digital Divide in the Age of AI

The digital divide is not just about access to the internet; it's about who benefits from technological advancements and who gets left behind. This divide exists at multiple levels:

divide exists at multiple levels:
Educational Divide: Wealthy nations and corporations have access to cutting-edge AI, while developing countries struggle with basic digital infrastructure. AI-powered learning is advancing rapidly, but millions of students world-wide lack access to digital education.

Technological Divide: Small businesses and individuals in underprivileged areas lack access to Al-driven automation and decision-making tools.

Barriers: Inadequate infrastructure, such as poor internet access, electricity, economic barriers, knowledge gaps, and cybersecurity concerns, are contributing to the digital divide. As AGI emerges, this gap could widen, making AI-driven wealth and opportunities accessible only to a privileged few.

#### How AGI Could Widen the Digital Divide

If left unchecked, AGI may deepen global inequalities in the following ways:



AI-Controlled by the Elite: Tech giants and wealthy nations may monopolize AGI, making its benefits available only to those who can afford it.

Job Displacement Without Reskilling: AGI could automate complex jobs, and without proper reskilling programs, millions could be left behind.

High Costs of AI Infrastructure: AGI requires massive computational power, and many countries may not have the resources to develop or integrate AGI.

Widening Economic Inequality: Those who can leverage AGI will gain immense wealth and power, creating a new "Al aristocracy."

#### How AGI Could Bridge the Digital Divide

Despite these challenges, AGI has the potential to be a great equalizer if developed and distributed responsibly. Here's how it could help:

Al-Powered Education for All: AGI can provide personalized, high-quality education to anyone with internet access, helping bridge the education gap.

Healthcare Revolution in Underserved Regions: Al-driven diagnostics and virtual doctors could provide healthcare in remote areas.

Automating Small Businesses & Agriculture: Small businesses could use AGI-powered automation, leveling the playing field against big corporations. Farmers could use AI to increase food security.

Democratizing AI Research & Development: Open-source AGI initiatives could ensure AI benefits all of humanity, not just a few corporations.

### The Battle for an Equitable Future: What Must Be Done?

Global Al Policies for Fair Access: Governments must regulate Al to prevent monopolization and ensure fair access.

Digital Literacy & Al Education: Educational institutions should integrate Al literacy programs, and reskilling programs must be implemented.

Investment in Al Infrastructure for Developing Nations: Investment in affordable Al tools and connectivity is essential for underserved regions.

ential for underserved regions. Ethical AGI Development: Tech companies must develop AGI that serves humanity, with equity and inclusivity at its core.

Healthcare as a Human Right: Universal healthcare access should be a priority, ensuring that no one is denied treatment due to financial constraints.

### Conclusion: AGI for All, Not Just for the

The rise of AGI is inevitable—but how it shapes our world depends on the choices we make today. Will AGI be a tool for empowerment, providing equal access to knowledge and opportunities? Or will it become a gatekeeper of power, deepening the chasm between the privileged and the excluded?

The battle for an equitable AGI future is in our hands. Governments, businesses, and individuals must act now to ensure that the next era of intelligence is inclusive, ethical, and accessible to all. The future of AI should be a future for humanity—not just for the few.

The author has a PG in Public Administration

## Kashmir's Food Safety under question: Do We Really Know What We're Eating?

Himayun Mukhtar Qureshi

disturbing incident has sparked outrage in Kashmir—a rat was allegedly found in the cooking oil of a local street vendor. The shocking discovery has left people asking serious questions: How safe is the food we eat every day? Are proper hygiene checks being conducted? And do we really know what's being served on our plates?

From roadside stalls to highend restaurants, from butchers to poultry shops, food safety concerns have come under the spotlight. The bigger issue is not just one incident but whether the entire system is functioning the way it should.

### Are Hygiene Standards Being Followed?

While many food businesses take pride in quality and cleanliness, how do we know if all of them meet the required food safety standards? Are regular inspections happening? Is there strict enforcement of hygiene regulations?

### 1. Are Restaurants Meeting Safety Standards?

Do all restaurants follow proper food storage guidelines?
Is oil being changed regularly,

limits?

How can customers be sure that hygiene checks are routinely

or is it being reused beyond safe

carried out?
2. Butchers and Meat Shops: Are Storage Rules Enforced?

Is meat being stored at the right temperature, or is it exposed to unsafe conditions?

Are there proper inspec-

tions to ensure compliance with health standards? Do authorities regularly check if expired or poor-quality meat is

being sold?
3. Poultry Dealers: Are Safety
Measures in Place?

Are live birds being kept in clean and regulated conditions?
Is frozen chicken being handled

correctly, or does it go through temperature fluctuations?

Do regular health checks take place to ensure poultry safety?

4. Dairy and Milk Products: Are They Properly Regulated? How often are dairy vendors inspected to prevent contamination?

Are proper refrigeration facilities in place? Is there monitoring to ensure milk isn't being adulterated?

**5. Street Food Vendors: Are They Following Hygiene Norms?**Do all vendors have access to

clean water and proper sanitation facilities? Is the cooking oil being used

safely, and are utensils properly cleaned? Are food safety officials con-

ducting frequent inspections?

Who Is Responsible?

The big question remains: Are regular food safety checks happening as they should? If inspections are routine, why do such incidents take place .If they are not, then who is accountable?

#### The Way Forward

- Transparent Inspections: Authorities should publicly share food safety inspection results.
- Stronger Regulations: If gaps exist, stricter enforcement of hygiene laws is needed.
- Consumer Awareness: People must be informed about their right to safe food and how to report violations.
- Accountability: Businesses and authorities alike must ensure food safety is a priority.

The recent incident is a wakeup call. It's time for serious discussions about food safety in Kashmir. In Kashmir we hesitate to question the dealers and restaurant staff about the purity of things. We as a society need to inculcate this habit of questioning the safety, quality and other food safety standards. Every person deserves to know that the food they eat is safe.

## **Embracing Patience and Tolerance**

## Fundamental Principles for Navigating Life's Challenges

Zulfiqar Ali

Tumans are the most versatile creatures ever created by the Almighty Allah. We as humans have been bestowed with the privilege of being God's representatives on Earth and granted free will, elevating us above angels. However, our human intellect is confined within the limits of our perceptual abilities. In today's rapidly changing world, we often find ourselves impulsive, anxious, and melancholic. Nevertheless, through patience and tolerance, we can bring a distinctive quality to the world. This is no simple task, as our planet urgently requires each individual's best efforts. By cultivating these virtues, we can synchronize with life's natural cadence, enabling us to navigate its challenges more effectively.

The holy Quran states "He (Allah) has created man from a sperm-drop; and behold this same (man) becomes an open disputer!" [16:4]. The disputes created by man are nowadays his daily routines. Man has forgotten that his true nature, inherited by birth, was to show love, compassion, sympathy and generosity towards his fellow beings. In these fellow beings, family and relatives has been given a special preference. In Islamic literature the term "Silat-al-rahm" has been specifically used for the requirement of kinship(relatives). The prophet of Allah Prophet mohammad 🚎 says "Whoever is pleased that he be granted more wealth and that his lease of life be pro longed, then he should keep good relations with his kith and kin." (Bukhari, Adab, 12). Similarly Hazrat Ali Ibn Abi Talibعَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامِ(Ghurar-al-hikam) says,"I bid you not to adorn yourself with stinginess, for it will disparage you near those who are close to you and will make you hated by your relatives".

Life doesn't move on smooth tracks. It moves through ridges and furrows. The Prophet Mohammad once said, 'Listen, obey and be patient.' (Musnad Ahmad, Hadith No. 8005). On another occasion, he observed: 'God has commanded man to be patient and forgiving.' (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 4566). So what does patience stand for? what will it yield for a common man? and what is the process to inculcate the behaviour of being patient? Let's start by simplifying the definition of patience. Patience encompasses the ability to maintain composure and self-control in the face



of adversity and provocation. It is a virtue by which you can understand and value the individuals you engage with, particularly those who challenge you or are different from you. The capacity to acknowledge the good traits and contributions of others, even when they are not immediately apparent or in line with your preferences, is the essence of appreciation. You may cultivate a sense of respect and connection as well as lessen the propensity to point the finger or offer criticism by showing empathy and appreciation.

By developing patience, individuals can learn to manage their temper and avoid making rash decisions. The practice of patience offers numerous benefits and is considered an essential component of genius. It involves enduring challenges with dignity and resilience, recognizing that our true value lies not in others' perceptions, but in our self-perception.

Patience, though often praised, is a quality few truly master. Al-Ghazali describes patience not as mere words, but as a char-

acter trait that allows adaptation to various situations. It extends beyond simply waiting, encompassing the ability to maintain composure and calmness in difficult times while continuing to make positive contributions. Patience involves recognizing that change is unavoidable and that, given time, order and purpose will emerge from apparent chaos. It is crucial to disregard minor idiosyncrasies and instead concentrate on nurturing harmonious relationships in both personal and professional spheres. Patience teaches us about enduring challenges with dignity and resilience, which makes us understand that our true value lies not in others' perceptions, but in our self-perception.

In contrast to the past, our modern world is characterized by rapid technological advancements and a fast-paced environment. To keep up with these dynamic changes, people are forced to adapt, often making quick decisions that may be harmful or inappropriate. Individuals are becoming less patient and more aggressive, even over minor issues.

Within a short time, seemingly insignificant problems can escalate to situations with severe and irreversible outcomes. A recent example is the stabbing incident at Parimpora Srinagar, which resulted in the loss of a young life. The primary concern is to address and understand the reasons for people's increased impatience and intolerance in today's society.

Not everyone can possess patience and tolerance, yet these virtues are attainable for all, though the possession requires significant and proper cultivation methodology. Patience can guide us to the truth, solve issues, and prevent catastrophes and wars. However, humility is a prerequisite for patience. The ability to control one's anger is essential to developing patience. Self-control during conflict is the sole reason the world exists. Men that are impatient can be quite harmful. Impulsive judges and leaders are viewed as impractical and are dreaded. Anger breeds aggression. Although it is difficult to control anger, self-reflection and meditation

can teach one how to settle disputes amicably. This is due to the fact that anger can occasionally be sparked by miscommunication and may not always be justified. Murder may result from hasty anger. To put it another way, anger breeds impatience and aggression. We can use forgiveness to counteract wrath. Patience is impossible without tolerance. Realizing patience requires tolerance, which is fundamental.

Being patient increases our self-assurance in our capacity to handle any challenges that may arise.

We are in an era of constant stress and psychological crises but we should remember the words of Allah(SWT) from the holy Ouran

"O you who believe! Seek help through patience and prayers. God is with the steadfast." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:153).

"...And be patient and persevere, for Allah is with those who patiently persevere." (Al-Anfal 8:46).

"Allah loves those who endure in patience." (Al-'Imran 3:146)

Islam's position on patience is clear: it is a strength that allows us to remain calm and persistent in the face of adversity. The Prophet said: Allah Almighty says: "O son of Adam, if you are patient and restrained at the first moment of calamity, I would not be pleased with any reward for you less than Paradise". Similar to this, Imam Ali's hadith (عليه highlights how crucial it is to practice patience and tolerance when interacting with other people. The Arabic expression "علية " (Alika bil-ihtimal) can be rendered as "Embrace patience" or "Adopt tolerance. The term "الوخيال " describes the act of bearing, enduring, or tolerating something.

Endurance serves as an internal reservoir of strength when encountering life's challenges, guiding individuals through difficult times with serenity and receptiveness. This quality can also bolster mental resilience when facing hardships without grumbling, fostering positive attributes that lead to the determination needed to confront life's obstacles. Those who exhibit a considerable level of endurance can demonstrate self-restraint during adversity. Drawing upon their inner fortitude and the understanding that they can find true solace and inner peace.

The author is a research scholar

## **Study Sheds Light On Why Coffee Tastes So Bitter To Some**

Press Trust Of India

enetics may be contributing towards how one perceives the taste of coffee -- 'bitter' or 'not bitter', according to a study.

Researchers at the Technical University of Munich, Germany, have identified a new group of bitter compounds in roasted Arabica coffee and analysed how they influence its taste.

They also demonstrated for the first time that an individual's genetic tendencies also play a role in determining how bitter these roasting substances taste. The findings are published in the journal Food Chemistry.

Beans from the 'Coffea Arabica' plant are roasted to develop a flavour before being ground and brewed for a beverage.

While caffeine has been known to be bitter-tasting for a long time, even de-caffeinated coffee tastes bitter, possibly suggesting that there are other substances contributing to the bitter taste of roasted coffee, the researchers said.

'Mozambioside' is one such substance in Arabica beans, known to taste about 10 times more bitter than caffeine and activate two of the roughly 25 bitter taste receptors in the human body -- namely, the 'TAS2R43' and 'TAS2R46' receptors.

However, we found that mozambioside levels significantly



### This prompted us to test whether roasting produces breakdown products of mozambioside are also bitter and could affect coffee's taste

drop during roasting, and therefore, the substance "only makes a small contribution to the bitterness of coffee", according to lead

researcher Roman Lang. "This prompted us to test whether roasting produces breakdown products of mozambioside are also bitter and could affect coffee's taste," Lang said.

The team showed that mozambioside degrades into seven

different products during roasting, which are found in varying amounts in roasted coffee, depending on roasting temperature and duration. Through experiments on cells, the seven products were found to activate the same bitter taste receptors as mozambioside.

Three of the roasting products even had a stronger effect on the receptors, compared to the original mozambioside, the research-

However, they also found that the concentrations of these roasting products measured in brewed coffee were too low to induce a noticeable taste on their own.

Only a combination of mozambioside and its roasting products in a sample led eight out of eleven participants to perceive a bitter taste, the team said.

Further, a genetic test showed that taste sensitivity depended on the genetic inclination of the participants -- two had both copies of the TAS2R43 gene variant defective, seven had one intact and one defective variant of the gene, while only two people had both copies of the gene intact.

"The new findings deepen our understanding of how the roasting process influences the flavour of coffee and open up new possibilities for developing coffee varieties with coordinated flavour profiles. They are also an important milestone in flavour research, but also in health research," Lang said.

"Bitter substances and their receptors have further physiological functions in the body, most of which are still unknown," Lang said.

According to Lang, there is still a lot of work to be done, since for many bitter substances in coffee alone, it is not yet known which bitter taste receptors they activate, even though millions of people worldwide drink coffee every day.

objection shall be entertained.

### New Research Identified Rare Type Immune Cells For Response **Against Cancer: Study**

ANI

he researchers have identified a rare type of immune cell, called stem-like T cells, that holds the key to maintaining powerful, long-term immune responses against cancer and other chronic infections.

Prolonged illnesses like cancer and chronic infections often leave the immune system in a state of exhaustion, where its frontline defenders - T cells - lose their ability to function effectively.

The research, led by the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute) and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Peter Mac), revealed that the endurance of stem-like T cells is fuelled by a protein called ID3 and is expressed by a gene of the same name.

As per the Study, these ID3+ T cells have a unique ability to self-renew and resist exhaustion, giving them the power to sustain immune responses far longer than other T cells that don't express ID3 against chronic diseases

The study is published in Science Immunology. The University of Melbourne's Catarina Gago da Graca, PhD Candidate at the Doherty Institute, said the research highlights how ID3+ T cells hold the key to overcoming one of the biggest challenges in treating chronic diseases--immune exhaustion.

"ID3+ T cells have the remarkable ability to resist burnout and maintain a powerful immune

fko

response over time, making them particularly effective in the face of chronic infections or cancer," said co-first author Gago da Graca.

The research also found that certain signals in the body could increase the number of ID3+ T cells, paving the way for improved treatments like CAR T cell therapy.

Professor Ricky Johnstone, Executive Director of Cancer Research at Peter Mac and co-lead author of the study, said enhancing ID3 activity could strengthen the endurance of these cells, making therapies more effective and long-lasting.

'We discovered that ID3+ T cell formation could be promoted by specific inflammatory cues, potentially offering new strategies to boost the number of immune cells that excel at fighting cancer in patients," said Professor Johnstone.

"This could lead to better treatments for cancer patients and improve clinical immunotherapy outcomes." he added.

The University of Melbourne's Dr Daniel Utzschneider, Laboratory Head at the Doherty Institute, said the findings could lead to advancements in immunotherapy treatments and the development of vaccines that provide longlasting protection.

This research is the result of a collaborative effort between the Doherty Institute, Peter Mac, La Trobe University, Northwestern University (USA), the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute, the University of Birmingham (UK) and the University of Melbourne.

### Studies Find Children, Teens Under-Represented In Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Case Numbers

Press Trust Of India

tudies have found that children and teenagers treated multidrugresistant tuberculosis, including those in India, are under-represented in case numbers, with researchers calling for a "focus for case-finding efforts" in this age group.

patient is said to be multidrug-resistant when the bacteria strain causing the infection has become immune to at least two of the effective drugs.

Multidrug-resistance is a significant challenge in eliminating the bacterial disease, as the complication increases treatment durations, which further risks

those treated for MDR (multidrug-resistant) and RR (rifampicin-resistant) tuberculosis and should be a focus for case-finding efforts," the authors wrote

Rifampicin is a key drug recommended by the World Health Organisation as first-line treatment for TB.

Further, older teens between 15 and 19 years represented nearly 70 per cent of all the participants. They tend to have disease patterns similar to those seen in adults with TB and in whom it is easier to confirm the diagnosis microbiologically (through lab tests), the authors said.

They added that children aged under 5 were particularly under-represented, an important limitation as most deaths in

#### OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub..Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.

**Public Notice..** 

The registar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Khayila Rafiq D.o.B 02/03/2016 and Aabid Rafiq Khan Khan D.o.B 10/05/2011 ss/o Mohammad Rafiq Khan R/o Babagund Mamoosa Tehsil Pattan.in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN Sub. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth. **Public Notice** 

The registar birth BDO Sherabad Khore has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Shameema Begum w/o Habib Ullah Tantray with verified date of birth 02/03/1963 occurred at home.in this connection if any body having objection for issu-

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

ance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The name of my Daughter has been wrongly written in her Adhaar Card as Munazah Bashir while her correct name is Mir Munazah Bashir whic needs to be updated. If anybody has any objection in this regar he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Bashir Ahmad Mir

F/o Mir Munazah Bashir R/o Nihalpora Tehsil Pattan

days after that no objection shall be entertained.

#### SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub. Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.

Public Notice..

The registar birth EO Pattan has submitted a case file pertain-

ing to birth of Sheikh Mohammad Ariham s/o Mohammad

Ashraf Sheikh R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date

of birth 20/02/2020 occurred at SDH pattan.in this connec-

tion if any body having objection for issuance of said certifi-

cate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.

Public Notice..

The registar birth EO Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Areefa Anam D/o Zahoor Ahmad Khan R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 27/03/2021/ occurred at SDH pattan.in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Public Notice.. The registar birth EO Pattan has submitted a case file per-

taining to birth of Sabtain Ali Ganaie s/o Barkat Ahmad Ganaie R/o Nowlari Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 13/11/2023 occurred at SDH pattan. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

#### OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.

**Public Notice.** 

The registar birth EO Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Suriya Sajad D/o Sajad Ahmad Peer R/o Sangrampora Sopore with verified date of birth 21/02/2020 occurred at SDH pattan.in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want change the name on electricity bill which was early on my Father-in-Law's Name Ghulam Nabi Tantray S/o Mohd Shaban Tantrav R/o Palhallan to my Mushtag Ahmad Mir Son-in-Law of Ghulam Nabi tantray R/o Palhallan. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mushtag Ahmad Mir S-in-L Ghulam Nabi tantray R/o Palhallan

### OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.

**Public Notice** The registar birth EO Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Huda Hilal D/o Hilal Ahmad Ahanger R/o Susan Khoie Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 09/01/2021 occurred at SDH pattan.in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD /-Naib Tehsildar Pattan



the spread of the infection.

Researchers reviewed previously published studies to understand trends in multidrug-resistant treatment of TB in children and teenagers aged 18 or below.

One of the reviews, by researchers, including those from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, analysed 42 studies involving over 23,369 children and teenagers aged 19 or below, mostly from India and South Africa.

The findings, published in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health journal, revealed that nearly three in every four children or teens were successfully treated, with treatment durations typically lasting 16 months overall.

"Younger and clinically diagnosed children are under-represented among

children due to TB worldwide are in this age group and who were never started on treatment.

Another review by researchers from the University of Toronto, Canada, looked at 48 studies, including those from India.

They found high rates of successful treatment (almost 90 per cent) in children and teenagers with extensively drug-resistant TB -- when the infectioncausing bacteria is resistant to nearly all available

effective drugs. However, "few childhood XDR- (extensively drug-resistant) and pre-XDR-TB cases are reported", the authors wrote in the study published in the journal PLoS Global Public Health. Treatment durations were found to range from 6 to 27 months.

IS AVAILABLE IN SRIANGAR AT FOLLOWING PLACES				
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SIKENDER NEWS ANGENCY	AMIRAKADAL	RASHEED GAZALA	LAL CHOWK	
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RASHEED NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE	ASHIQ NEWS AGENCY	GAGRIBAL	
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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
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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 BAI
AIJAZ NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL	YASIR NEWS AGENCY	ZAKOORA

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### **Govt Committed To Promotion** Of Horticulture, Welfare Of **Traders, Growers: Javed Dar**



**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU- Minister for Agricultural Production and Rural Development Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar, Tuesday reaffirmed government's unwavering commitment towards promotion of the horticulture sector with emphasis on welfare of fruit traders and growers in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held with the members of Jammu Fruit Traders Association at Fruit Mandi Narwal.

The meeting had detailed discussion on key issues faced by fruit traders besides exploring measures for strengthening the horticulture sector. The Minister said that the Horticulture sector is and will remain a priory sector for the government as it plays a pivotal role in Jam-

mu and Kashmir's economy. He highlighted the significance of the horticulture sector in J&K, stating that around 70 to 80 percent of the region's population is directly or indirectly associated with this sector. "Thousands of people earn their livelihood through horticulture activities and the government

**Press Trust Of India** 

NEW DELHI- Market inves-

tors added Rs 5.95 lakh crore

to their wealth on Tuesday

as benchmark indices rallied

nearly 2 per cent after US Pres-

ident Donald Trump delayed

tariffs on Mexico and Canada

The BSE benchmark Sensex

jumped 1,397.07 points or 1.81

per cent to settle at a month's high of 78,583.81. During the

day, it surged 1,471.85 points or

1.90 per cent to 78,658.59. The

NSE Nifty soared 378.20 points

or 1.62 per cent to 23,739.25, a

level not seen since January 3.

Following the sharp rally in

equities, the market capitalisa-

tion of BSE-listed firms surged

Rs 5,95,996.51 crore to Rs

4,25,50,826.11 crore (USD 4.88

"Indian equity markets wit-

nessed sharp rally after US

President deferred the planned

tariffs both on Canada and

Mexico by 30 days, providing

a major relief to the escalating

trade war," Siddhartha Khem-

ka, Head - Research, Wealth

Management, Motilal Oswal

for a month.

trillion).

**Investors' Wealth Surges** 

Rs 5.95 Lakh Cr As Mkts

**Bounce Back Sharply** 

is highly sensitive to the challenges faced by the growers and traders. We are committed towards implementing welfare initiatives that will ensure the sustained growth and prosperity of this vital sector," emphasised the Minister.

During the meeting, the Minister acknowledged the pressing need for additional storage space for apple produce, especially during the peak season, to support Jammu based traders. Recognizing the genuine concerns of the traders, he directed the concerned authorities to identify a suitable patch of land to address this requirement at the earliest.

A delegation of the Fruit Traders Association, led by its President Parveen Kumar, presented a comprehensive list of issues and demands to the Minister. The issues included extension of existing leases, implementation of stringent quality checks on imported fruits to safeguard the interests of local growers, proper grading facilities for dry fruits particularly walnuts and enhancement of marketing infrastructure to improve the competitiveness of local produce.

## **Govt Intensifies Drive Against Sale Of Unlabelled Machine-Made Carpets**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR- In response to growing complaints from buyers and tourists about the sale of machine-made carpets from outside the region being falsely marketed as authentic Kashmiri handmade carpets, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, has further intensified its crackdown on unscrupulous carpet sellers.

Several counterfeit products were confiscated and stern warnings were issued to errant dealers to ensure com-pliance with Quality Control standards.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesperson from the Department said that this action follows recent reports in local dailies highlighting the influx of machinemade Turkish and Iranian carpets being sold under the guise of genuine Kashmiri hand-knotted carpets. "The enforcement wing of the Quality Control Division conducted a comprehensive inspection of several wholesale carpet dealers in Srinagar and this exercise shall continue," he added.

During the inspection, the team discovered stocks of Turkish and Iranian carpets, some of which were unlabelled or partially labelled. Such practices mislead con-



sumers about the origin and nature of the products, constituting a violation of fair-trade practices, he stated, adding that the dealers found in violation of the Tourist Trade and Quality Control Acts will be issued warnings and advised to ensure all products are properly labelled as per pre-scribed specifications. "This includes clearly distinguishing between the machinemade carpets and authentic Kashmir hand-knotted car-

The Handicrafts and Handloom Department has reiterated its commitment to maintaining transparency and safeguarding consumer

**CS For Adopting Multi-Pronged Strategy** 

pets," he added.

interests. Regular inspections will continue to ensure compliance and protect the reputation of genuine Kashmiri handmade carpets, which are an integral part of the region's rich cultural heritage.

The spokesman further emphasized Department's commitment in upholding the integrity of Kashmir's handicrafts sector. "All stakeholders are urged to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations governing the industry. Any deviations or malpractices will be met with stringent actions to protect the interests of

### genuine artisans and preserve the authenticity of Kashmir's



**Observer News Service** 

Those who attended the

Finance; Com-

meeting included Principal

missioner Secretary, Tour-

ism; Secretary, PWD; CEO,

SMVDSB; DC, Jammu; DC,

Reasi; MD, JKTDC; Director

Tourism, Jammu and other of-

During the meeting, the

Chief Secretary sought sug-

gestions from the representa-

tives of hoteliers, transporters and other tourism players

about the ways and means to

attract these pilgrims coming

to this shrine to other reli-

gious or tourism destinations

Dulloo said that the tourism

players too had a role to play

in promoting places in and

around Jammu. He suggested

spread across the region.

ficers of the Department.

Financial Services Ltd. said. IAMMU- Chief Secretary, Atal From the 30-share blue-chip Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a pack, Larsen & Toubro rallied meeting of all the stakeholders nearly 5 per cent. Adani Ports, including tourism players from IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Re-Jammu to seek their suggesliance Industries, UltraTech Cetions for optimal utilisation of ment and Asian Paints were also tourism potential of this region among the major gainers.ITC Hoespecially in the wake of neartels, Zomato, Nestle and Maruti ly one crore pilgrims visiting were among the laggards. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine (SMVDS) in Katra.

Secretary,

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended significantly higher. The BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.35 per cent and smallcap index surged 1.20 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, capital goods rallied 3.42 per cent, industrials (2.59 per cent), energy (2.50 per cent), oil & gas (2.40 per cent), power (2.31 per cent), and financial services (2 per cent).

BSE FMCG emerged as the only laggard.

"Pause in tariffs on Mexico and Canada eased global worries of a trade war while domestic focus turned to THE RBI meeting," Satish Chandra Aluri, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

As many as 2.509 stocks advanced while 1,410 declined and 154 remained unchanged

them to come up with concrete suggestions and plans for each of the destination. He advised them to frame two, three or four day packages based upon the potential and intensity of each place. He further asked them to

look into a mix of activities in each package inclusive of spiritual, eco-tourism, leisure, cuisine, culture and adventurous aspects. He enjoined upon them to offer several baskets along with Shri Vaishno Devi Yatra so that people are able to choose as per their choice and inclination.

The Chief Secretary also urged them to look for creation of a lot of promotional content as we have different success stories to guide us. He maintained that the continuous uploading of content over social media besides other promotional campaigns is definitely going to bear fruits over time.

He committed that the government would extend all kind of support to realise the objectives. He added that a plan for each season should be ready for joint promotion of the same with active support of the Tourism Department.

Dulloo also underscored the need for having better infrastructure and amenities at all these sites. He told them that the government would be forthcoming to invest more funds in any of the projects required at these sites. He assured them of better infrastructure, transport and other

amenities at all these sites. Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, highlighted the significance of certain locations found around Katra township. She gave out that the places like Shiv Khori, Baradari, Chenab Rail Bridge, Jammu City, Patnitop, Mantalai, Sanasar and Sudhmahadev are some of the potential sites found in the radius of 100 km and can be offered to the pilgrims on visit to the cave shrine.

She maintained that the Department is organizing several festivals and FAM tours across the tourism destinations of J&K to promote them in national and international markets. She also threw light on the campaigns the department has carried out so far along with the increase in footfall to each of the above locations.

### **J&K Bank Organizes Awareness Camp On High-Density Plantation Scheme At GDC Pulwama**



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR- J&K Bank Tuesday held a day-long awareness camp on the High Density Apple Plantation (HDP) scheme at Govt. Degree College Pulwama bringing together various stakeholders including farmers and horticulture experts to promote advanced agricultural practices in the region.
Additional DC (Pulwama)

S M Ashraf presided over the camp in the presence of Bank's GM & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Shabir Ahmad, Zonal Head (Pulwama) Shaista Khan, DGM Rakesh Magotra, LDM Showkat Ahmad Masoodi, Cluster Heads of pulwama and shopian, District Horticulture Officer Gousia, and Principal of Govt. Degree College (Pulwama) Dr Harris.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic engagement from branch heads of Pulwama and Shopian districts, local growers and representatives from private enterprises, reflecting a collaborative effort to drive sustainable agricultural

Appreciating the Bank's proactive approach at the camp, ADC Pulwama said, "High Density farming is going on in a mission mode in our district

and we are proud to be Number One district in the valley. J&K Bank's initiative to promote high-density plantation reflects its deep commitment to the welfare of farming com-munity and is poised to double your income."

Urging the growers to shun conventional farming and adopt progressive methods through High-Density farming, Divisional Head (Kashmir) Shabir Ahmad stated, "This initiative underscores our mission to drive rural prosperity. By facilitating high-density plantation, we are enabling farmers to maximize their yield potential and profitability while enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring long-term economic sustain-ability in the area."

Highlighting the scheme's farmer-friendly features, DGM Rakesh Magotra remarked, 'Our High-Density Plantation Scheme is designed to help farmers establish modern or-chards with high-yielding varieties and offers collateral-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh, ensuring easy access to credit for small and marginal farmers. Additionally, we provide highly competitive interest rates to make financing affordable for

### **Gold Rallies For Fifth Straight Day** To Hit Fresh Peak, Moves Closer To Rs 86k-Mark

**Press Trust Of India** 

NEW DELHI- Gold prices extended the rally for the fifth straight session and rose Rs 500 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 85,800 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid robust demand from jewellers and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 85,300 per 10 grams in the previous session.

In this year, gold has surged Rs 6,410 or 8.07 per cent to Rs 85.800 per 10 grams from Rs 79,390 per 10 grams on Janu-

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity also climbed for the fifth straight session and gained Rs 500 to hit another record high of Rs 85,400 per 10 grams on Tuesday.

prices, however, Silver snapped a five-day winning streak and fell Rs 500 to Rs 95,500 per kg against Monday's closing level of Rs 96,000

In futures trade, gold on the MCX for April delivery declined Rs 208 or 0.25 per cent to Rs 83,075 per 10 grams.

"Gold's positive rally took a slight pause as MCX gold traded near Rs 83,000 with a minor Rs 200 dip. This weakness came as tariff discussions between the US, Canada, and Mexico gained traction," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst -Commodity and Currency at



LKP Securities, said.

Silver futures for March delivery also slipped Rs 35 to Rs 94,222 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Comex gold futures for April delivery fell USD 17 per ounce or 0.60 per cent to USD 2.840.10 per ounce

On Monday, the yellow metal futures had hit a fresh high of USD 2,872 per ounce.

According to Abans Holdings' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta, gold hit record highs on Monday amid fears of a global trade war, driving investors toward the safe-haven metal at high premiums.

"Geopolitical uncertainty continues to rise as Trump's tariffs on Canada and Mexico are paused for a month following negotiations on stricter border enforcement.

"Meanwhile, China's central bank increased its gold reserves for the second consecutive month in December, as central banks worldwide continue to hedge against economic volatility," Mehta said. Comex silver futures in the

Asian market hours decreased 0.71 per cent to USD 32.20 per

### Rupee Recovers 4 Paise From All-Time Low To Close At 87.07 Against US Dollar

**Press Trust Of India** 

**MUMBAI-** The rupee recovered 4 paise from its all-time low level to close at 87.07 against US dollar on Tuesday, as the American currency index retreated from its elevated level after President Donald Trump agreed to pause tariffs on Mexico and Canada.

Forex traders said the US dollar index, which had surged past 109.88 level, retreated to 108 level after Trump announced the temporary pause on tariffs for 30 days.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.98 and touched an intraday low of 87.13 against the American currency during the session.

The local unit finally settled at 87.07, higher by 4 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee plunged

49 paise to close at an all-time low of 87.11 against the US dollar. "We expect the rupee to trade

with negative bias over uncertainty over US trade tariffs. Escalation of the tariff war by China may dent global risk sentiments wherein the US dollar may strengthen and investors would look out for safe haven. However, any central bank intervention may support the rupee," Anuj Choudhary – Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said.

Investors may remain cautious ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy meeting this week, Choudhary added.

The monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve bank of India (RBI) will begin its threeday meeting on February 5. The MPC will announce its policy decisions on February 7.

Trump on Monday held off on his tariff threats against Mexico and Canada for 30 days after they pledged to boost border enforcement.

Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said the rupee gained as some relief emerged from global trade de-escalation talks.

"Domestically, the growth-focused budget has provided a cushion for the rupee, preventing an immediate slide below 87.50. Market participants will continue monitoring further tariff negotiations and global trade policies, alongside capital flows, to assess the rupee's next move," he said.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the value of Indian rupee is marketdetermined, and there has been no devaluation, which is a feature of a fixed exchange rate regime.

### Maldives Sets Target To Woo 3,00,000 Indian Tourists In 2025

**Press Trust Of India** 

MALE- The Maldives government has set a target of attracting 3,00,000 Indian tourists in 2025 after their numbers slumped from the top place in 2023 to sixth in 2024 following strained relations between Male and New Delhi.

Maldives' Ministry of Tourism's statistics showed that Maldives received 20,46,615 visitors in 2024 compared to 18,78,543 tourist arrivals in 2023; China occupied the top slot followed by Russia in 2024. Indian tourists' visits to the archipelagic nation declined from January till about October last year with the number slowly rising thereafter.

Maldives Marketing and Public Rela-tions Corporation (MMPRC) chairman Abdulla Ghiyas told a local news portal Adhadhu on Monday that monthly events will be held in India to achieve the goal of attracting 3,00,000 tour-

ists. "We are conducting it as a very big campaign. For the first time, we are targeting to hire a brand ambassador to advertise in the Indian mass media. We are also trying to hold cricket summer camps in Maldives," he said.

The MMPRC is also working with airlines, both Indian and Maldivian, to bring tourists from more destinations in India, Ghiyas said. They are targeting to fly from newer destination cities such as Kolkata, Pune, Chennai too, he added.

Post Covid-19 pandemic, Indian tourists occupied the top slot of arrivals to Maldives continuously from 2020 till 2023. However, Maldives faced a backlash from Indian tourists following derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media by three Maldivian ministers. Their comments came after Modi posted photos and video of the pristine Lakshadweep Islands on India's west coast on January 6 on his X handle.

### Dir Agri Inaugurates Seminar On 'Scientific Beekeeping'

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR-** A two days seminar on "Scientific Beekeeping" being organised by Agriculture Production and Farmer's Welfare Department Kashmir was inaugurated by Director Agriculture Kashmir Mohammad Ilyas Khateeb Tuesday at Kashmir Haat Srinagar.

The two days seminar is sponsored by National Bee Board Under National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission( NBHM). The seminar was attended by Beekeepers, Farmers, Stakeholders, Students and Unemployed youth.

While addressing the event Dir said that the program is aimed to promote latest trends and technologies in the field of apiculture besides financial assistance schemes for farmers.

He highlighted the significance of beekeeping in enhancing the farm productivity and sustainance of rural livelihoods.

On the occasion, farmers were informed about financial incentives, including 80% subsidy on beekeeping units, aimed at bolstering the sector in the region.

# Disasters In J&K: 28 Dead, 1,069 Houses Damaged, 73 Cattle Killed

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded substantial damage due to hydro-meteorological disasters during the year 2024-25, with 28 human lives lost, 73 cattle perished and 1,069 houses or huts damaged during the period. A cropped area of 0.02 lakh

presented in the Lok Sabha by Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai reads.

"As per the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM), the primary responsibility for disaster management, including the disbursal of relief assistance at the ground level, lies with the respective

"In the wake of natural calamities, State Governments undertake relief measures using the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), which is already at their disposal, in accordance with the Government of India's approved items and norms," he added. He said that the Central

these efforts by providing logistical and financial support. "Additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for disasters of a 'severe nature,' following a detailed assessment by an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT)," he added.(KNO)

### J&K Reports 645 Mumps Cases In 2 Years

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav on Tuesday said that J&K has recorded 645 cases of Mumps, a contagious viral disease, over the past two years.

Jadhav informed the Parliament that the region saw 450 and 95 cases in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

The Minister said that the Union Territory of Ladakh, which had no recorded cases of Mumps in previous years, reported 111 cases in 2024.

Despite the rising number of cases, no deaths have been reported in J&K or elsewhere in India during this period.

Pertinently, Mumps is a contagious viral disease and can be prevented through the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. However, the government has clarified that Mumps vaccination is not currently part of India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), which covers 12 other preventable diseases.

### **CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE**

### **Candlelight Vigils**

of their past affiliations."

The killing has triggered widespread concern, with political leaders calling for swift investigations and justice. Several parties have condemned the attack, urging security agencies to maintain peace and stability in the region.

The terror attack has drawn widespread condemnation. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the perpetrators would be punished soon.

"I strongly condemn the heinous terrorist attack on Shri Manzoor Ahmad Wagay and his family in Kulgam. The entire nation stands in solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief. I have instructed the officials to provide the best possible treatment to the injured. Praying for their speedy recovery," he said.

"I assure the people that the perpetrators of this cowardly attack will be punished soon", the Lieutenant Governor said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his sorrow over the killing. "Such heinous violence has no place in our society and must be condemned in the strongest terms," he said in a post on X on Monday.

#### **HM Reviews Security**

prevailing situation in the Union territory and ongoing operations against terrorists, they said.

The meeting was held a day after a terror attack in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, in which ex-serviceman Manzoor Ahmad Wagay was killed and his wife and niece were injured.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, DGP Nalin Prabhat, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi and other top army, police and civil officials attended the meeting.

Shah is also likely to chair another security review meeting with top officials of the paramilitary forces on Wednesday.

During the last review meeting on December 19, 2024, Shah had directed all security agencies to continue working in a coordinated manner to eliminate terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government has maintained that there is a significant decline in terrorist incidents, infiltration and recruitment of youth in terrorist organisations

The security forces last week launched a massive operation in Jammu and Kashmir, mostly in the higher reaches and forest areas along the Line of Control, to locate and eliminate the terrorists who carried out multiple attacks in different districts last year.

Areas such as Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Jammu and Rajouri have seen increased terror activity in the last couple of years.

### **J&K's Anti-Drug**

Rifles, and SSB, along with agencies such as the RPF and NIA, have been empowered to take action under the NDPS Act. Intelligence sharing and controlled delivery operations are being conducted regularly within India and with foreign countries.

To strengthen the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), 425 new posts have been created, increasing its sanctioned strength to 1,598. The NCB is also actively conducting drug awareness programs in schools and colleges, organizing rallies and dramas in collaboration with NGOs, and sending SMS alerts through mobile service providers to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.

Every year on June 26, the NCB observes the

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to educate the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and trafficking.(KNO)

#### **No Exclusive Women**

and others, lacks dedicated facilities for incarcerating female prisoners.

Across India, there are 34 exclusive women's jails, with some states like Rajasthan (7), Tamil Nadu (5), and Kerala (3) having more developed infrastructure to accommodate female prisoners. However, several regions still rely on general jails to house both male and female prisoners, raising concerns about safety, security, and the overall conditions for women detainees.

"The respective State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for prison management and the welfare of women inmates and their children." he said.

However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) supports these efforts by issuing guidelines. As per MHA, children of female prisoners should be provided education, healthcare, food, shelter, and recreational facilities. The MHA has also circulated the Model Prison Manual 2016, which includes provisions for the care of children living with women inmates. (KNO)

#### **Light Rains,**

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that an improvement is expected from February afternoon, adding that the higher reaches of Chenab Valley & Pirpanjal Range in South Kashmir may receive snow depth of 8-10 inches till tomorrow forenoon.

Ahmad also said that the weather is expected to remain partly cloudy with generally dry from February 06 to 08 while fresh spells of light rain and snow is expected at isolated to scattered places on February 09.

From February 10-11, the weather would remain generally cloudy with the possibility of light rain and snow scattered to fairly widespread places.

Pertinently, the MeT had predicted back-toback WDs in Jammu and Kashmir till February 05. It is worth mentioning that Jammu and Kashmir had recorded a deficit rainfall of 87 per cent in the month of January as against the normal rainfall of 88.2 mm, the Union Territory has recorded a precipitation of just 11.5 mm only.

Moreover, the MeT has issued an advisory for tourists, travellers and transporters, asking them to follow administration and traffic advisory.

As Chillai Kalan, the harshest 40-day winter period, has ended, night temperatures have shown improvement in the Valley. A gradual rise in both minimum and maximum temperatures is expected in the coming days, with no significant drop

### **NC Accused of**

most explicit and unforgivable ratification of August 5, 2019 changes," Sajad Lone wrote on X.

"It will effectively end once and for all any scope for legal challenge to 5 August changes, in the future. While we dreamt of a an unambiguous resolution by the new assembly rejecting 5 August 2019, and that becoming a reference point in any future legal challenge —-now we have a shocker," he wrote.

"The same Assembly is being used to bury any such chances of legal challenges in the future. The present assembly reflecting the will of people of J and K, will now be remembered as the endorser not the rejector of August 5 2019," he added.

"The Assembly which we thought will be the

voice of people of J and K is now a shameless rubber stamp of the perpetrators of August 5. The ruling NC led government purposely constituted a Committee which had 6 NC members and 2 BJP members. There was no one from the Kashmir based opposition parties or MLAs," Lone wrote.

"This committee endorses all changes made on 5 August 2019. By virtue of this draft— they even take away references to J&K Constitution and bills governing permanent residents from the Rules. Such a cruel joke at the expense of people of Kashmir," he said.

"Let me briefly summarise the NC BJP covert agreement to endorse and normalise 5 August 2019. First they script the context. NC starts the "all are BJP" discourse. Second, the BJP mysteriously behaves in a manner which endorses that discourse. The discourse is strengthened and then elections are announced. While the people of J and K to some extent subscribe to the "all others are BJP" discourse, the agencies led by a retired old war horse in uninterrupted engagement with the NC from the last 3 years, ensures total compliance of the agencies in favour of NC," he wrote.

"This 42 seat lottery is a gift in order to endorse. The NC is the master endorser of all the changes that Delhi had brought in. Remember the older gifts in lieu of endorsements. 1975 gift of government with no MLAs to endorse erosions from 1950 to 1975. 1996 gift of government on a platter by conducting an exercise of selection in Kashmir and calling it election. That was to endorse the killings and acts of violence committed by the state. And now 2024 gift to endorse changes made on 5 August 2019. It is a curse to be an MLA of an assembly which will be remembered for endorsing 5 August," Lone wrote.

Meanwhile, PDP MLA Waheed Para posted a screenshot of a news report on X which read: "The modifications have been proposed to make the rules in sync with the constitutional changes effected on August 5, 2019," a member of the committee wishing to remain anonymous said.

"The modified J&K Assembly business rules mark a shift from Article 370, effectively endorsing the constitutional changes of August 5, 2019. A clear acknowledgment of the new status quo," Para wrote on X.

### **CIK Police Detain**

Srinagar, Nathpora, Kaloosa and Bandipora.

Police said on Tuesday that in connection with the investigation of case FIR No. 06/2023 u/s 153-A, 505, 121 & 120-B IPC r/w 13 & 39 UA (P) Act of Police Station CI-K. 05 individuals were detained for interrogation/questioning for their involvement in a criminal conspiracy hatched with anti-national elements aiming at procuring / transportation/ smuggling of SIM cards inside the Central Jail premises for its use by the jail inmates which include those involved in terrorism and Narco-terrorism.

Police Station CIK had earlier carried out searches inside the Central Jail premises and it was found that these suspects in connivance with some inmates have procured and transported SIM cards inside the Jail for its use in a variety of terror related activities.

The role of PoS/vendors of different Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) who have issued these SIM cards is being ascertained and further arrests are expected.

### **Cervical Cancer**

drugs, reduced customs duties, and discounts

on anticancer medications through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBIP).

The government also offers financial assistance through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), which covers health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per family annually. Additionally, cancer treatment is available at various healthcare facilities, including district hospitals and specialized centers like AIIMS, with AMRIT Pharmacy stores providing cancer drugs at lower prices. Awareness campaigns on prevention and early detection are also being conducted nationwide.

#### **Two Months**

exact cause of the deaths so that proper safety measures can be put in place and that the residents can resume normal life without fear.

They expressed frustration over the slow pace of the investigation, saying the issue should have been treated as a health emergency and resolved on priority.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has questioned over 100 individuals but has not uncovered any new leads.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has ruled out infectious agents as the cause, shifting the focus of the investigation toward potential toxins. Experts from AIIMS Delhi and PGIMER Chandigarh have visited the affected area, collected samples, and are conducting analyses to identify possible toxic substances.

A top doctor informed KNO that all the patients at GMC Rajouri have recovered and all of them are off the atropine now.

He said that antidotes given to the affected patients have been effective, but authorities still lack conclusive evidence about the cause of the deaths and are awaiting Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports.

The medico said that authorities have narrowed down investigations on toxins like Aldicarb, Cadmium and other salts but official reports are vet to come.

"At least, we have found a solution in the form of antidote Atropine, which has given 100 percent results," he said.

"Atropine is an antidote for organophosphorus poisoning, but surprisingly the typical features of organophosphorus poisoning were not there but based on treatment data analysis of those who survived in December with those who could not, atropine was given that helped to treat patients,"

He said official reports are yet to come but they are expecting them this week.

Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, and the village remains under strict surveillance to prevent further incidents. (KNO)

### Delhi HC Official

as it lacked jurisdiction. On the other hand, the statute doesn't allow courts designated to try MPs and MLAs to hear cases probed the National Investigation Agency.

Justice Mahajan issued notice to its registrar general on the issue after Rashid said he was left without any remedy after the NIA court dealing with his bail application "left him in a limbo" post his election to the Lok Sabha last year saying it

wasn't a special MP/MLA court. Luthra opposed Rashid's plea for interim bail to attend the ongoing Parliament session, arguing he had no such "right" as a parliamentarian.

The court was informed that in November last

year, the agency made a representation to the registrar general on the issue of designation of the NIA court as a court which could hear MP/MLA

"It is deemed appropriate to issue notice to the registrar general of the court to ascertain the status as regard the administrative order and clarification on the issue. Issue notice," said Justice Mahajan.

The matter would be heard on February 6.

In the alternative, Rashid sought custody parole during the budget session of the Parliament, which began on January 31 and concludes on

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

When Luthra opposed grant of regular bail to Rashid, senior advocate N Hairharan, representing the MP, said at the current stage he only sought interim bail to attend the parliamentary proceedings and the main bail plea could be taken up later.

Hariharan said there were no complaints of bail condition violations when Rashid was released on interim bail ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

'There may be no right but (court's) discretion is there. Can we contemplate a state like this? MP/ MLA court was created to provide speedy disposal. Adjournment was given (by NIA court) and I am left in a limbo since September. Can my constituency be left without representation?" asked

Luthra said the main petition was not maintainable and Rashid should have filed an appeal as per the NIA Act for redressal.

În his main petition, Rashid urged the high court to either direct the expeditious disposal of his pending bail plea by the NIA court or decide the matter itself.

In response to the main petition, the NIA said being an MP, Rashid was a "highly influential person" who could influence witnesses and hamper

The trial was under progress with 21 prosecution witnesses of the total 248 witnesses being examined and there was no delay on the prosecution's part, it said.

It alleged Rashid used public platforms to "propagate separatist and secessionist ideology" while providing sustenance and cover to members of various terrorist organisations and militants and he did not satisfy the twin tests for grant of bail under UAPA.

"In 2016, the petitioner actively participated in anti-national activities in the Kashmir Valley along with other accused persons. The petitioner had also been receiving funds from abroad including from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, UK and had connections with JKLF and its overseas branches," the reply said.

The NIA said there was no material change in circumstances to consider granting bail to Rashid after dismissal of similar pleas earlier. He misused the telephone facility in Tihar jail, added the NIA

While opposing the interim bail, NIA said it was a classic case of misuse of the provision which ought to be used sparingly when intolerable grief and suffering was displayed by the accused concerned

It said his election as a parliamentarian could not be used as a tool for getting relief.



# KASHMIR OBSFR

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## With CT In Mind, Varun Chakravarthy Added To Indian ODI Squad v England

NAGPUR: In-form mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has been included in the Indian ODI squad after his heroics in the just-concluded T20I series against England as the team management wants the KKR mystery spinner to "keep up the momentum".

There is a fair chance that Chakravarthy might just replace one of the four specialist spinners in the Champions Trophy squad. It could be one among Kuldeep Yadav or Washington Sundar, who could be axed to accommodate Chakravarthy before the final squad is announced. A lot will depend on how he fares in the ODIs.

Chakravarthy, who got 14 wickets in five T20Is against England and was adjudged the 'Player of The Series', hasn't been picked for the three ODIs against England and the Champions Trophy later this month.

Chakravarthy was seen training and bowling in the nets on Tuesday.



With the deadline for squad

changes for the Champions Tro-

phy set for February 12, he re-

"Yes, Varun Chakravarthy is part of the squad," India vicecaptain Shubman Gill confirmed in a media interaction after the team's training.

It is understood that head coach Gautam Gambhir wants

mains a strong candidate for se-Chakravarthy to remain in rhythm and bowl to the likes of lection. However, it is unlikely that he will be added to the CT squad Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Rishabh Pant. without playing a single ODI.

India have got three finger spinners -- two left-armers (Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Paner in Washington Sundar. Kul-deep Yadav, who is returning to the Indian team after undergoing a sports hernia surgery in October 2024, is the lone wrist spinner in the squad. "As of now, the team man-

agement wanted Varun to bowl in ODI squad nets ahead of England series. Varun doesn't play red-ball cricket," a senior BCCI source told PTI on condi-

tions of anonymity.
"With domestic white ball season already concluded, he doesn't have any assignments till start of IPL end March. He is in good rhythm and they want him to continue that," he added.

The Men in Blue don't have a second wrist spinner and Chakravarthy's strong form could work in his favour.

When he last played on the flatter tracks in Dubai during the 2021 T20 World Cup, Chakravarthy struggled to make an impact. However, he has significantly improved since then, focusing more on over-spin to refine his variations.

### Anantnag's Shariq Majeed Set To Represent India Deaf Team

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** Hailing from Bijbehara, Anantnag Shariq Majeed has defied all odds to make his mark in cricket. Despite being deaf and mute from birth, his passion and dedication have propelled him to incredible heights, as his talent has been recognised by the Indian Deaf Cricket Association.

On December 26, Shariq, a talented batter, was named to the India T20 Deaf Cricket Team for the upcoming international T20 tri-series involving Australia and South Africa. The series will begin from March 2 till March 8 in New Delhi.



The Indian deaf team has been undergoing extensive training in preparation for the tournament. After this, the team will play a three-match ODI series against Australia from

March 10 to 12. Apart from Shariq Majeed, another J&K deaf cricketer has made the team. Umar Ashraf, a wicketkeeper batter, from Srinagar is also in the team.

### **DG YSS Tours Anantnag, Reviews Developmental Works**

**Observer News Service** 

**ANANTNAG:** Director General Youth Services & Sports, along with the Joint Director, Youth Services & Sports, Kashmir, conducted a comprehensive tour of District Anantnag on Tuesday. They assessed the ongoing projects and explorec avenues for further enhancing sports and vouth-related infrastructure in the region.

During the visit, the officials took stock of various developmental activities, with a particular focus on the construction of the new District Office build-



ing for the Department of Youth Services & Sports.

The Director General YSS highlighted the significance of a well-equipped District Office, stating that the new infrastructure will serve as a hub for the seamless execution of various youth engagement programs and sports initiatives.

Discussions were held on upgrading existing sports complexes and developing new facilities to nurture talent at the grassroots level especially the construction of Youth

### JKSC, Ishfaq Ahmad Hold Football **Coaching Camp In Jammu**

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: Under the supervision of well-known coach Ishfaq Ahmad, the J&K Sports Council has been organising a football coaching camp for young footballers in Jammu.

The camp has been ongoing for over a week at Mini Stadium, Parade Ground in Jammu. Ishfaq Ahmad is leading the coaching sessions, with senior coach Satpal Singh assisting him.

The primary objective of the camp is to promote and develop football in



Ishfaq Ahmad said over 80 players participated in the trials. "We have selected 28 players, and among them, the most talented will have the opportunity to join the U-20 Jammu and Kashmir team," he said.

The J&K Sports Minister, along with the J&K Sports Council and Department of Youth Services & Sports, has shown keen interest in developing a football cul-

### **First-Ever Basic Skiing Course Underway In Sonamarg**

**Observer News Service** 

GANDERBAL: Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal has towards promoting winter sports by organising its first-ever basic Snow Skiing Course for boys at Sonamarg.

The course, which commenced on February 2, was inaugurated by J&K Minister of Sports, Satish Sharma, and is currently in its third day.

Over 30 students from various districts are participating in the training program. Under the guidance of expert trainers, the students are receiving training in skiing techniques, with a strong em-



phasis on safety and skill

development. Expressing their excitement, the young participants conveyed immense gratitude to DYSSO Ganderbal and the expert trainers for organizing such a vibrant and enriching course in Sonamarg.

They emphasized the importance of continuing such initiatives in the future to ensure that more students have the opportunity to experience and excel in winter

### **Short TAKES**

### **'Virat, Rohit Are Not Robots'**

Out-of-form veterans Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma deserve a lot of empathy as they are "not robots" and one shouldn't forget the kind of joy they provided in their pomp, former England skipper Kevin Pietersen said on Tuesday. Both Kohli and Rohit have been struggling form and after 1-3 defeat against Australia, the calls of retirement has only grown louder.

"(It's) unfair. How can you tell somebody who's scored as many runs as these guys, they must retire? Yes, it's a discussion and it's a topic I get it, I understand it, but they deserve more respect than that," Pietersen said during a promotional event.

"Having had exactly the same challenges in my career, it happens. Rohit and Virat are not robots. They don't walk out there and get a hundred every time they bat. Maybe they had one bad Australian tour. Does that make them bad people? No. Does it make them bad cricketers? Absolutely not," he said.

"You guys need to understand, these guys are human beings. You give them the stick now, but at the end of their careers, you look back and how did they make you feel when they played? They made people feel happy."

### **Should Ace Pacer Jasprit Bumrah Be Rested From IPL?**

ormer England captain Kevin Pietersen emphasised that India will have to find a way to keep ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah fit given a busy few months of cricket coming up.

India have big ticket assignments in Champions Trophy, the five-Test tour of England and Indian Premier League in between.

"India just has to try and keep Bumrah fit. That's what India need to do over the next few months and that's the big ball that the BCCI have got to toss up. "They've got to try and understand and figure out

what do they do," Pietersen said. "Do they play him in the Champions Trophy? Do they play him in IPL? Do they play a little bit of IPL, a little bit of Champions Trophy? Do they say no to IPL? There are some very big decisions." "What we have seen in this Australia-India series, the public are heavily invested still in Test match cricket," he said.

### **Pant Bats, KL Keeps But Who Will Be The Final Choice?**

**D** ishabh Pant's game-changing audacity or KL Rahul's quiet dependability?

It is a tough call that head coach Gautam Gambhir and skipper Rohit Sharma will have to take when they zeroin on the batter-keeper's slot for the Champions Trophy during the ODI series against England starting Thursday.

The first training session on Tuesday provided intriguing clues as to which of the two might find a place in the playing eleven.

Both players spent significant time honing their skills, but it was Rahul who had the more extensive session in which he not only batted but also underwent wicket-keeping drills.

Meanwhile Pant focused solely on his batting, treating the spinners with disdain as he hit one-handed sixes, cheeky ramps, and his trademark falling slog

Rahul looked more measured, preferring to pierce the gaps rather than display brute power. More importantly, he also kept wickets, reinforcing his credentials as India's potential first-choice wicketkeeper.

### AC Milan Sign Forward Joao Felix **On Loan From Chelsea**

A C Milan have signed Portuguese forward Joao Felix from Chelsea on loan for the rest of the season, the two clubs said on Tuesday.

Felix joined Chelsea from Atletico Madrid in August on a seven-year deal for a reported fee of 46 million pounds (\$57.16 million), but the 25-year-old has struggled for game time in his second spell with the Premier League club.

Since his arrival at Chelsea, Felix has started just three league games despite scoring on his club debut against Wolverhampton Wanderers -- his only league goal this season. At Milan, Felix will work with Portuguese coach Sergio Conceicao.

Milan, who drew 1-1 with Inter Milan in Sunday's derby, are eighth in the Serie A standings and take on AS Roma in the quarter-finals of the Coppa Italia on

### Transfer Deadline Day: Man City, PSG & Aston Villa Go Big In The Winter Window

**Agencies** 

anchester City and Aston Villa made big moves just before the midseason transfer window closed on Monday.

Four-time defending Premier League champion City secured a late deal for Porto midfielder Nico Gonzalez for a reported \$61.8 million, while three-time Champions League winner Marco Asensio joined Villa on loan to the end of the season.

Uncertainty over Bayern Munich forward Mathys Tel finally ended when he completed a loan move to Tottenham with the option of a permanent deal in the summer.

Paris Saint-Germain was one of the most active clubs during the window by signing Khvicha Kvaratskhelia from Napoli, and releasing several players.

#### **Man City Goes Big To Salvage** Season

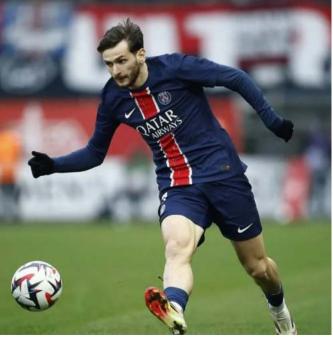
City usually makes its moves in the offseason. But in a bid to rescue a campaign that unraveled at the end of last year and was derailed again in a 5-1 loss at Arsenal, City spent big in January on five new signings. Gonazalez took its outlay past \$200 million. City signed Egypt forward

Omar Marmoush for \$73 million and defenders Abdukodir Khusanov from Lens and Vitor Reis for a combined \$77 million. Christian McFarlane, an 18-year-old left back, joined from sister club New York City FC while captain Kyle Walker left for AC Milan.

Gonzalez's arrival finally gives City a defensive midfielder in the mold of Rodri - the Ballon d'Or holder who was ruled out for the season in September because of an ACL injury.

The Premier League title seems well beyond City, which is 15 points behind leader Liverpool, and a Champions League bid has been made extra difficult after being drawn against holder Real Madrid in the playoffs. But City manager Pep Guardiola will hope the new additions can return the club to the Champions League next

**PSG Re-Enters The 'Galactico'** 



Paris Saint-Germain has lost much of its star appeal in recent years following the departures of Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappé. A shift in strategy has seen the Qatar-backed

club focus more on younger and French talents rather than superstar names.

But the Kvaratskhelia deal for a reported fee of around \$72 million represents another marquee signing.

The Georgia forward isn't at the level of Messi and Neymar but he has long been among the most sought-after players in Europe with thrilling, matchwinning qualities.

PSG offloaded striker Randal Kolo Muani – a \$101 million signing last season - to Juventus on loan, and central defender Milan Skriniar to Fenerbahce, and Asensio.

#### Villa's Champions League Push

Through to the Champions League last 16, Aston Villa boosted its attacking options in the form of Marcus Rashford and Asensio.

Rashford was one of the big stories of the window after falling out of favor at Manchester United. Despite being linked with clubs across Europe, as well as Saudi Arabia, he secured a loan to Villa for the rest of the season.

If Unai Emery can get the best out of the former England international, he could prove to be an inspired signing in terms of Villa's Champions League campaign and push for a top four

Real Madrid midfielder Asensio, Villa has a player with Champions League-winning knowhow.

finish. Meanwhile, in former

### Saudi Recruitment Stalls?

Neymar's high-profile move to the Saudi league was cut short last week when the Brazil great's contract was terminated by Al-Hilal and he left for boy hood club Santos. Along with Cristiano Ronaldo

and Karim Benzema, the former Barcelona and PSG superstar was a standout signing as the Saudi league launched a recruitment drive to lure the world's top players. But injury meant Neymar was reduced to seven games for Al-Hilal following his 2023 move for a reported \$98 million and his departure brought an underwhelming end

to his time there. Previously, Jordan Henderson left Al-Ettifaq after just six months to join Ajax, and Portuguese forward Jota spent a year at Al-Ittihad before leaving for French team Rennes. Jota rejoined Celtic during this

The big signing for the league

during this window was Jhon Duran, the Colombia striker who joined Ronaldo's Al-Nassr from Villa for a reported 64 million pounds (\$80 million).

Perhaps bigger is to come in the future, with Liverpool's Mohamed Salah out of contract at the end of the season and repeatedly linked with a move.

### Relief For Barcelona

Rather than bringing in new players, Barcelona's biggest challenge was registering two it already owned.

Dani Olmo and Pau Víctor were registered only after the government sports authority intervened. The Spanish league and the federation had denied Barcelona's request to re-register the duo because it missed the end-of-year deadline to comply with salary cap rules.

Barcelona accused the league of making unrealistic requests for extra documentation and said payment for VIP seating at the new Camp Nou stadium became available only on Jan. 3. That payment allowed the club to comply with the league's financial fair play rules. (AP)







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<sup>\*\*</sup>Based on the variant opted in health plan