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#### **BUDGET SESSION 2025-26**

# **LG's Prior** Approval Required For Money Bills

#### Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has directed departments to submit money bills at least 21 days in advance for necessary approvals to the Lieutenant Governor's secretariat.

Ahead of the budget session, the Department of Justice, Law and Parliamentary Affairs has directed departments to submit money bills for neces-sary approvals 21 days in advance to Raj Bhavan for LG's recommendation.

"For proposals requiring the Lieutenant Governor's recommendation under Section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, departments must submit them at least 21 days in advance for necessary approvals,"

reads the circular issued by the department. Under the said provi-

sion of the Act, any bill or amendment

#### related to taxation. government financial obligations, or appropriation of funds from the consolidated fund can only be introduced in the Legislative Assembly with the prior recommendation of the Lieutenant Governor

The department underlined that there is a need for timely submission and legal vetting of legislative proposals before their introduction in the House.

"To ensure thorough examination, departments must refer all Bills and other legislative matters to the Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs well in advance," the department directed.

The Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has also directed them to adhere to the procedure of introduction of bills as delineated under the Transaction of Business of the Government of Jammu

and Kashmir Rules, 2019. The Part-C of the Business Rules outlines the procedure for

**Ensure Priority, Protocol To MLAs: Govt To Officials** initiating | More on P6 **J&K BUDGET CONSULTATIONS** 

Jammu: The Jammu and government on Kashmir Friday issued a directive to its employees, directing them to ensure that all elected representatives are attended to on priority in public offices and that proper protocol as per es-

process at the grassroots level. It is, therefore, imperative that all government departments, officers and officials extend due cooperation and accord priority to issues highlighted and flagged by these public representatives," stated a circular issued by General Administration ent (CAD) secretary M Depar

#### MYSTERIOUS DISEASE IN RAJOURI

# **38 Patients Discharged After Complete Recovery**



## **Cabinet Clears New I-T Bill**

#### **Press Trust Of India**

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Friday approved the new income tax bill, which will replace the six decades old I-T Act, sources said. The new bill seeks to make direct tax law simple to understand and not to impose any new tax burden. It will not have provisos and explanations or long sentences.

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the New Income Tax Bill, sources said.

Sources said the new income tax bill will now be introduced in the Parliament next week and would be sent to Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance.

The first leg of the ongoing budget session ends on February 13. The session will reconvene on March 10 and sit through April 4. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in Budget 2025-26 that the new tax bill will be introduced in the ongoing session of Parliament.

Sitharaman had first announced a comprehensive review of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in July 2024 Budget.

The CBDT had set up an internal committee to oversee the review and make | More on P6

## **NEET-UG To Be Conducted** On May 4

**Observer News Service** 

New Delhi: The medical entrance exam NEET-UG will be conducted on May 4, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Friday The application process for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG began on Friday and will conclude on March 7. It is the largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of candidates appearing for the test. In 2024, a record more than 24 lakh candidates took the exam. The NTA conducts the NEET every year for admission into medical colleges. A total of 1,08,000 seats are available for MBSS course. Approximately 56,000 of them are in government hospitals and about 52,000 in private colleges. Admissions to undergraduate courses in Dentistry, Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha also utilise the results of the NEET for admission. The NTA had last month announced that the crucial exam will continue to be conducted in pen and paper mode. The decision came after detailed deliberations between | More on P6

ontinuing with the pre-budget consultations for the third consecutive day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah engaged in extensive discussions with public representatives and key stakeholders to gain firsthand insights into the issues and developmental priorities of various

# **Observer News Service**

Kashmir's Winter Pantry: A vendor displays Hokh Syun - a colorful assortment of dried vegetables, cereals and dried fish.

From earthy browns to vibrant reds, these dried vegetables tell a story of tradition and flavor. KO Photo Faisal Khan

sectors and districts. The meeting | More on P6

TO ENSURE THOROUGH EXAMINATION, DEPARTMENTS MUST REFER all Bills and other legislative matters to the Department of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs well in advance."

Nothing Said Here Will Be Ignored: CM

## J&K Has Only 2 Special **Needs Child Care Homes**

#### Agencies

Jammu and Srinagar: Kashmir has two Child Care Institutions (CCIs) catering to children with special needs under the Mission Vatsalya scheme. However, no such facility exists in Ladakh, the Union government informed Parliament on Friday.

The information was provided by the Minister of

State for Women and Child Development, Savitri Thakur, in response to a parliamentary query on shelter homes for mentally challenged destitute children across the country.

According to official data, Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 55 CCIs, out of which two have special units for children with special needs. Ladakh has seven CCIs but lacks any | More on P6

tablished government norms

and guidelines is maintained. The directive also emphasized that MLAs should be invited to all official functions and meetings organized with-in their jurisdiction.

"The elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are expected to play a crucial role in the governance Raju on Friday. He further directed that all officers and officials working in various government depart-

ments of the Union Territory must attend to the elected representatives on priority in public offices and adhere to proper protocol as per established government norms and guidelines. "Communications, requests

and grievances | More on P6

#### Govt To Finalize Guidelines On CDF

he Jammu & Kashmir government is in the pro-cess of framing guidelines for the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), sources disclosed. Sources said that the Finance Department is working to finalize the guidelines for the utilization of the | More on P6

MLAS SHOULD BE INVITED to all official functions and meetings organized within their jurisdiction.

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Jammu: Thirty-eight patients, who were admitted to different hospitals after falling ill due to a mysterious illness at Badhaal village in J-K's Rajouri district, have been discharged after complete recovery, officials said. Currently, 363 individuals from 60 families remain quarantined in various facilities across Rajouri, they informed a meeting of health professionals and police personnel chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dullo on Thursday.

The mysterious illness has claimed 17 lives from three

families in Badhaal between December 7 and January 19. Health Secretary Syed Abid Rashid Shah briefed the meeting, stating that every measure has been taken to isolate the affected families and provide them with food and water after testing.

"Out of the 55 symptomatic persons, 38 have been discharged after recovery, while 17 deaths have been registered so far," Shah said. There are currently no new admissions in hospitals, and the existing patients have been examined by teams of doctors from PGIMER, Chandigarh, and AIIMS, | More on P6

## 'Custody Parole Not Vested Right' **HC Reserves Verdict On Er Rashid's Plea To Attend Parliament**

#### Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday reserved its order on a plea seeking custody parole to attend the ongoing Parliament session by jailed MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Engineer Rashid, accused of funding separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Judgement reserved." said Justice Vikas Mahajan after hearing the counsel appearing for the Lok Sabha MP from Baramulla (North Kashmir) and the National

**MP's Health** 

Worsens on

8th Day of



Investigation Agency (NIA). Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra and advocate Akshai Malik, representing the NIA, argued against the granting of custody parole, and said Rashid did not | More on P6

**CM Omar** 

ammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday expressed concern about the health condition of Baramulla Lok Sabha member Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer, who is on an indefinite hunger strike. "Very concerned to hear about Engineer Rashid having to be shifted to hospital. | More on P6

## **10 Hectares Of Forest Land Cleared For Water Projects**

Jammu: Pursuant to clearance of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved diversion of more than 10 hectare of forest land for various Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in Doda and Udhampur districts.

The projects mostly pertained to water supply infrastructure projects related to Jal Jeevan Mission for augmentation of water supply schemes in the districts.

Additionally, clearance has been given for diversion of 1.23 hectare of forest land of Social Forestry Division Baramulla for Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri road. After a high level meeting

Bhupender Yadav and JK Forest Minister Javed Rana held last week, MoEFCC moved promptly and expedited Phase-III clearance of the projects on 1st February and accordingly JK Forest Department has approved diversion of requisitioned forest land subject to compensatory afforestation.

It is pertinent to mention that Javed Ahmed Rana, had recently met Union Forest Minister in New Delhi and urged him to expedite the clearance of pending cases under the Forest Conservation Act related to Jal Jeevan Mission, awaiting Phase-III clearance at the regional office, so that water infrastructure projects in forested areas can be | More on P6



### 'Books Only Can Provide True Knowledge'

#### **Observer News Service**

Jammu: Stating that the digital world has changed the perspective of human beings, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that books only can provide "true knowledge.'

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the World Book Fair here, LG Sinha said, "The digital world has changed human perspectives. It can provide inspiration, but not true knowledge (gyan). Books only can provide true knowledge. Youth need to become avid | More on P6

Hunger Strike

he health of jailed Member of Parliament Engineer Rashid has worsened as his indefinite hunger strike at Tihar Jail entered its eighth day on Friday. Rashid has been shifted

to Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital in New Delhi for medical attention, the Awami Ittihad Party (AIP) said in a press statement. The health situation of Er Rashid is | More on P6

## **Expresses Concern**

# Agencies

## To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

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

## KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Saturday | 08-02-2025

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY **E-TENDER NOTICE**

**CLASSIFIED** 

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders or https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-45-24-25. Closing Date/Time 03.03.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. NITHEADER Contract Type Works

Name of work	operated I (ii) Comprehe (Westrace	ifting barrie ensive An e) Make E gal (KNG)	ers in D inual I Electror	route ove Maintena iic Interlo	I lifting barriers with r Firozpur Division. nce Contract of ocking systems in ) stations of Firozp	Siemens nstalled at
Tender C	losing Date &	Time		03.03.	2025 at 15:00 hrs.	
Date & Ti	ime of Uploadi	ing Tender	r	06.02.	2025 at 13:05 hrs.	
Advertise	ed Value(₹)	<b>(i)</b> ₹3,38	3,37,17	1.42 <b>(ii)</b>	₹54,61,573.86	
Earnest I	Money(₹)	<b>(i)</b> ₹3,19	9,200/ <del>-</del>	(ii)	₹1,09,200/-	
Biding St	tart Date as pe	r IREPS	17.02	.2025		
Period of	Completion		(i) 09 I	Months	(ii) 36 Months	
Tender No	tice No.: 433-	Sig-T-45-2	4-25 Da	ate: 06.02	2.2025	410/2025
	SERVIN	IG CUST	ГОМЕ	RS WIT	TH A SMILE	

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

We, Zamindaras of a land holing measuring 49 Kanal and 12 marlas covered under Survey No. 1726/63, mutated vide mutation Nos. 27/5, 2703, 4507, 2774, 2798, 3467, 2778, 2779, 4515 & 4518 situated at Shamsabad revenue estate Batamalo inform to general public that some boys of Shamsabad, Bemina have approached to Govt, and other political leaders seeking laying out a playground or a public park from land holding of survey No. 1726/631 which as per their view is the stated land, therefore, it is through this notice clarified to General public that the land is propertoy of Zamindaras and none else except Zamindars hold every right to ava of and enjoy the property.

Therefore, through his notice, it is impressed upon all to fore-bare and desist from urging any claim or right on the said land.

Even state Govt, is under stay order of the Hon'ble High court.

PD

Zamindars of Tenpora, Batamaloo	
Through their attorney	
Imtiyaz Ahmad Ganai	
S/o Ab. Hameed Ganai	
R/o Tengpora Byepass,	
Srinagar Cell No. 8082802658	

#### **Public Notice**

I mukhtar Ahmad Kalas S/o Mishri Kalas R/o Batafoian Chowan Tehsil Keller District Shopian want to correct my Son's name in Adhaar and other records which has been wrongly entered as Waseem Mukhtar Kalas instead of Waseem Ahmad Kalas, Now I have applied for the Correction of the same. If anybody has any objection may contact concerned Adhaar centre or concerned Authorities within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mukhtar Ahmad Kalas F/o Waseem Ahmad Kalas fko R/o BataFojan Chowan Tehsil Keller District Shopian

#### **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420180001983 issued in favour of SAMEER AHMAD KHAN Parentage ABDUL AHAD KHAN

Whereas an application has been recieved by one SAMEER AHMAD KHAN Parentage ABDUL AHAD KHAN wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as SAMIULLAH KHAN Parentage AB. AHAD KHAN Which needs to be changed as SAMEER AHMAD KHAN Parentage ABDUL AHAD KHAN

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained. Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

## Are Eggs Good Or Bad For Our Health?

#### The Conversation

ou might have heard that eating too many eggs will cause high cholesterol levels, leading to poor health. Researchers have examined the science behind this myth again, and again, and again – largely debunking the claim. A new study suggests that, among older adults, eating eggs supports heart health and even reduces the risk of premature death.

Let's unpack the details.

#### What was the study?

Researchers examined data from a large, ongoing study that is following older adults and tracking their health (the ASPREE study). In their analysis of more than 8,000 people,

they examined the foods people usually eat and then looked at how many participants died over a six-year period and from what causes, using medical records and official reports.

Researchers collected information on their diet through a food questionnaire, which included a question about how frequently participants ate eggs in the past year: never/infrequently (rarely or never, 1–2 times per month)

weekly (1–6 times per week) daily (daily or several times per day).

Overall, people who consumed eggs 1–6 times per week had the lowest risk of death during the study period (29 per cent lower for heart disease deaths and 17 per cent



lower for overall deaths) compared to those who rarely or never ate eggs. Eating eggs daily did not increase the risk of death either.

#### How reputable is the study?

The research was published in a peerreviewed journal, meaning this work has been examined by other researchers and is considered reputable and defensible. In the analysis, factors such as socioeconom-

ic, demographic, health-related and clinical factors, and overall dietary quality were "adjusted" for, as these factors can play a role in disease and the risk of early death.

Researchers received funding from a variety of national funding grants in the United States and Australia, with no links to commercial sources.

What are the limitations of this study? Due to the type of study, it only explored egg consumption patterns, which participants self-reported. The researchers didn't collect data about the type of egg (for example, chicken or quail), how it was prepared, or how many eggs are consumed when eaten.

This analysis specifically looked for an association or link between egg consumption and death. Additional analyses are needed to understand how egg consumption may affect other aspects of health and wellbeing. Lastly, the population sample of older adults were relatively healthy, limiting how much findings can be applied to older adults with special needs or medical conditions.

#### What is ASPREE?

ASPREE (ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) is an ongoing, large, randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial involving more 19,000 participants in Australia and the US. This means some people in the trial were given an intervention and others weren't but neither the participants nor the researchers knew who received the "placebo", or dummy treatment.

ASPREE started in 2010 to investigate whether low-dose aspirin (100 micrograms daily) could help prolong older adults' health and lifespan, specifically by preventing heart disease and stroke. The first findings were published in 2018.

One of the fundamental conclusions of the ASPREE trial was there was no benefit from taking aspirin to prevent cardiovascular disease (heart disease or stroke).

ASPREE is still ongoing as a longitudinal study, which means it provides information on other aspects of healthy living and long-term outcomes in older adults - in this case, the link between egg intake and the chance of death.

#### Why the focus on eggs?

Eggs are a good source of protein, and con-tain B vitamins, folate, unsaturated fatty acids, fat-soluble vitamins (A, D, E and K), choline, and minerals.

The fuss over eggs comes down to their cholesterol content and how it relates to heart disease risk. A large egg volk contains approximately 275 mg of cholesterol near the recommended daily limit of cholesterol intake.

#### NOTICE NOTICE | Zainab W/o Gh Nabi Mattoo Legal Guardian of Mohammad Aasim **NOTICE** Zainab W/o Gh Nabi Mattoo Legal Guardian of Mohammad Zayeem NORTHERN RAILWAY have changed my name E-TENDER NOTICE Sr. DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled from(old Name)**Hameeda** want to correct name of my Grand Child in his School Record From Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only Akhtar Hamdani to (New Name) Moh mmad Aasim To Moha Aasim Mattoo Studying 8th class in R. P. School Alamdar Colony which Tende App. Cost Earnest Completion Opening of Website Hameeda Akhtar. In Future I will Name of Work No. Money (in ₹) Period Tender Particulars (in ₹) be known as(New Name) needs to be corrected. In this regard, 251J-Hameeda Akhtar. If anybody is Electrical work of Provision of IBS If anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal R. P. School Alamdar 28.02.2025 Electhaving any objection, he/she between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Rs T-14vww.ireps.gov.in 3 Months 5,400.00 Katra- Chakrakhwal stations 2,71,363.31 may contact Passport Office, Colony (Mala Bagh, Srinagar, KMR) within a period of seven days from 15:00 Hrs 2024-(single line). Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 25 the date of publication of this notice. No.: 251J-Elect/T.Notice No. 14-Elect/2024-25, Dated: 05.02.2025 days no objection will be 401/2025 After that no objection shall be After that no objection shall be SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE ned. accepted entertained. MEDIA LINE ADS

### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR** OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER CHADOORA

#### Email-cdpochadoora@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Tentative Provisional Selection List of Candidates who have applied for engagement	2 Zoohama "B"	7	1	4
as Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) for AW Centres of Poshan Project Chadoora and inviting of	3 Bugam "A"	6	1	4
objections thereof.	4 Gowherpora "A"	5	1	6
	5 Awanpora	8	1	8
In pursuance to the Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023 and approval	6 Qunangopora	6	1	4
in pointer to the overhiment of definition and Matting and Matting and the office of the depindent	Total Applications received		06	33

Phase 2nd (re-advertised posts):

Details of newspapers viz. Brighter Kashmir, Srinagar Times and News Kashmir dated

J2J.			
Anganwadi centre			Apllication forms received
Gowherpora "E"	4	1	4
Buchroo "A"	3	1	5
Bonen "A"	3	1	4
Dangerpora	7	1	4
	Anganwadi centre Gowherpora "E" Buchroo "A"	Anganwadi centre Ward No. Gowherpora "E" 4 Buchroo "A" 3 Bonen "A" 3	Anganwadi centre Ward No. No. of posts of Anganwadi Centre Ward No. No. of posts of Angan- wadi Worker Gowherpora "E" 4 1 Buchroo "A" 3 1 Bonen "A" 3 1

Mattoo want to correct name of my Grand Child in his School Record From Mohammad Zayeem To Moha Zayeem Mattoo Studying 10th class in R. P. School Alamdar Colony which needs to be corrected. In this regard, If anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal R. P. School Alamdar Colony (Mala Bagh, Srinagar, KMR) within a period of seven days from he date of publication of this notice

ز نیابت پلہالن نوان: - اجرائی EWS سرگفیکیٹ بحق برکت احمد بٹ وجادیدا حمد بٹ پسران غلام محمد بٹ باكنه پلہالن تحصيل پڻن

اشتهار هرخاص وعام

عاملہ مندر جو عنوان الصدر میں سائللان نے online درخواست بغرض EWS سر شیکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے ریورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس ہے عیال ہے کہ سائلان واقعی پلہا کن کے سکونت دارہےاوروالد سائلان کا مکان رہائیں یکمنزلہ ٹین یوش موجود ہے مکان رہائتی زیر بحث کا کل رقبہ 766 مربعہ بیٹے اس طور سے کل کان وضحن 45.6x36.5 موجود ہے کنبہ کی مہوارا آمدنی 7300 روبیۃ ک ہے ۔ سرٹفیلیک یر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عز ریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خبارسات ن کے اندرا ندرآ پنے عذر یاعتراض ودالت ہذا کودفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گز رے ميعادكويي عذريا عتراض قابل قبول نہيں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصيلدار FKO-r

نمبر پلیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری گاڑی((ASHOKA LEYLAND (207)زیرنمبر JK04F) 4913 *کے ن*بر پایٹ کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈ نے پرنہیں ملی۔اگر کسی نے ٹھائی ہوتو وہ برائے انسانیت نیچ دئے ہوئے نمبر پرفون کرے۔بصورت دیگر یں ڈیلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔اس بارے میں اَکْرُسی کوکو کی اعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک فتہ کے اندراندر ARTO بڑگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعداز میعاد کوئی عتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ متراص قابل فبول بیس ہوگا۔ نساراحمد کمار ولد غلام رسول کمار ساکن قاضی باغ ایچھرگام زگام\_فون\_962254937

Government Order No.103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023 wherein a total of 50 (fifty) application forms were received and tentative provisional merit list has been framed for 10 (ten) Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) against 10 (ten) Anganwadi centres purely on the basis of merit by the District Level Selection Committee.

from Mission Director Poshan J&K, Advertisement Notice was issued by the office of undersigned

Child Development Project Officer Chadoora under Phase 3rd, vide Advertisement Notice No. 04

91 dated 09-12-2024 followed by extension Notice No. CDPO/Poshan/Chd/2024/Adv/1379-1400 dated 31-12-2024, and under Phase 2nd (re-advertised posts) vide this office Advertisement No-

tice No. 01 of 2025 dated 03-01-2025 issued under endorsement No. CDPO/Poshan/Chd/2025/

Adv/05-19 dated 03-01-2025 for receipt of application forms from the eligible candidates for

Accordingly, merit list of the candidates has been prepared as per the criteria laid down vide

of 2024 dated 09-12-2024 issued under endorsement No. CDPO/Poshan/Chd/2024/Adv/1178-

The details of the posts indicating name of AWC, Panchayat ward with no. of Application Forms received against the said vacant posts in phase-wise manner and also name of newspapers in which advertisement notices were published is given as under:-

Phase 3rd:

the posts of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers).

Details of newspapers viz. Kashmir Images, Alsafa News and Sharbeen dated 11-12-2024 and Extension notice newspapers viz. Srinagar-e-Jang, Awami Tanqeed, and Kashmir Images dated 05-01-2025

S.No.	Anganwadi centre			Apllication forms received
1	Shumnag "A"	2	ganwadi Worker	7
u	Shuthing A	Z	1	/

Total Applica	tions received		04	4 17
Grand total adv.)	(Phase 3rd & 2nd	Re-	10	50

The tentative provisional selection list (Annexure A) is hereby published for information of public in general and Applicants/Candidates in particular for filing appeal/objections, if any within 10 (ten) days in the office of Child Development Project Officer Chadoora during office hours from the date of publication of this notification. No objection/appeal shall be entertained after expiry of last date of filing the objection/appeal.

Dated: 07 / 02 /2025

Sd/-Child Development Project Officer Chadoora

No. CDPO/POSHAN/CHD/2025/171-182

**ANNEXURE "A"** 

#### OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER CHADOORA

Subject: Tentative Provisional Selection List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sangnis (AWWs) against the locations of AWCs advertised vide this Office No. CDPO/Poshan/Chad/2024/ Adv/1178-91 Dated:- 09-12-2024 published in Daily Newspapers Kashmir Images, Alsafa News & Sharbeen on 11-12-2024 and Extension Notice No. CDPO/Poshan/Chad/2024/Adv/1379-1400 Dated:- 31-12-2024 published in Daily Newspapers Awami Tanqeed, Srinagar-e-Jang & Kashmir Images on 01-01-2025 for general information.

S. No.		Name of the Candidate with Parentage and Residence	Name of Angan- wadi Centre	Name of Pan- chavat Halga	Name/No. of Panch ward	Date of Birth	Qualifica- tion		12	th Merit		Total Merit
110.	110.		Wadreentre	enayaenaiqu			cion	Max. Marks	Marks obtained in 10+2	%age	Add-(02) points as per HR Policy	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	8	Owaisa Nabi D/o- Gulam Nabi Nengroo R/o- Shumnag	SHUMNAG "A"	SHUMNAG	Shumnag Panch Ward No. (02)	09-03-1998	10+2	500	285	57.00	0	57.00
2	27		ZOOHAMA "B"	ZOOHAMA		18-06-2004	10+2	500	291	58.20	0	58.20
3		Zamrooda Farooq  W/o- Firdous Ahmad Ganie  R/o Bugam	BUGAM "A"	BUGAM	Bugam Panch Ward No. (06)	03-01-1992	10+2	600	392	65.33	0	65.33
4		Binish Manzoor D/o- Manzoor Ahmad Wani R/o Gowherpora	Gowherpora "A"	GOWHERPORA	Gowherpora Panch Ward No. (05)	03-01-2003	10+2	500	340	68.00	0	68.00
5	-	Muskaan Bashir D/o- Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o Awanpora	AWANPORA	KAISERMULLA	Awanpora (PH Kaisermulla) Panch Ward No. (08)	05-03-2006	10+2	500	443	88.60	0	88.60
6		Tabasum Fayaz D/o- Fayaz Ah- mad Wani R/o Quanangopora	quanangop- ora	WAGAM	Quanangopora (PH Wagam) Panch Ward No. (06)	09-03-1998	10+2	500	393	78.60	0	78.60

Subject: Tentative Provisional Selection List of Candidates who have applied for engagement as Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) for AW Centres of Poshan Project Chadoora vide this office Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2025 vide endorsement No. :- CDPO/Poshan/Chd/2025/Adv/05-19 dated:- 03-01-2025 published in Daily Newspapers Brighter Kashmir, Srinagar Times, News Kashmir on 05-01-2025 for Panch Wards/Municipal Wards as shown below (Phase 2nd re-advertised posts):-

S.	Index	Name of the Candidate with Par-	Name of Angan-	Name of Pan-	Name/No. of Panch	Date of Birth	Qualifi-		12:	th Merit		Total Merit
No.	No.	entage and Residence	wadi Centre	chayat Halga	ward		cation					
		_						Max.	Marks obtained	%age	Add-(02) points as	
								Marks	in 10+2		per HR Policy	
1	2	3	4	5	б	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	1	Nisha Manzoor D/o- Manzoor Ah-	Gowherpora "E"	Gowherpora	Gowherpora Panch	18-01-2005	10+2	500	400	80.00	0	80.00
		mad Khanday R/o-Gowherpora			Ward No. (04)							
2	12	Bisma Jan D/o- Gh Mohammad	Buchroo "A"	Buchroo	Buchroo Panch	03-07-2004	10+2	500	453	90.60	0	90.60
		Rather R/o- Buchroo			Ward No. (03)							
3	3	Sumaira Nazir D/o- Nazir Ahmad	Bonen "A"	Bonen	Bonen Panch Ward	01-01-2004	10+2	500	338	67.60	0	67.60
		Doyee R/o-Bonen			No. (03)							
4	17	Muskaan Shakeel D/o- Shakeel	Dangerpora	Wathora	Dangerpora Panch	22-03-2003	10+2	500	427	85.40	85.40	85.40
		Ahmad Bhat R/o- Dangerpora			Ward No. (07)							
	(-11695/										Child Develop	
date	d: 07-0	2-2025										Ch

mcb

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



## KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Saturday | 08-02-2025 🔾

## **Minors Seen Riding Two-Wheelers In City**

#### Agencies

Srinagar: Srinagar residents have expressed concern over the growing number of underage riders on city roads, despite a police ban following the fatal Tengpora accident. The authorities had prohibited minors from driving two-wheelers after the tragedy, but reports indicate that young, unlicensed riders are once again flouting the rules.

Eyewitnesses have spotted minors recklessly riding Scooties, often car-

rying three pillion passen gers, particularly in the Raj Bagh area. Concerned citizens have urged the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic to take strict action against not only the offenders but also their parents, holding them accountable for allowing their children to violate traffic laws.

With road safety at stake, residents fear that continued negligence could lead to more accidents, calling for immediate enforcement of the ban to prevent further tragedies. [KNT]

## **ACS Reviews Educational** Scenario Of Kashmir



#### Observer News Service

Additional Srinagar: Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu, chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the educational scenario of Kashmir division.

While reviewing the steps being taken, the ACS directed the CEOs and ZEOs to ensure that in the coming session, the respective heads in all schools of the valley take extra steps to impart moral education to the children. He said that when we talk about quality education, we should give special attention to the mother tongue along with imparting moral education to the children.

Shantmanu emphasized that the current time is an era of Artificial Intelligence (AI), so we cannot imagine quality education unless we provide education to children by adopting innovative methods and in-

## novative tools.

The ACS also emphasised that we cannot enhance the personal development of children unless we remove learning gaps through a friendly environment in schools, enhance children's communication skills and strengthen their

confidence. Shantmanu directed the officers and school heads to adopt these suggestions at the ground level to see a new change in the education scenario.

Earlier, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, while presenting the details of the current educational scenario in the valley, said that the department has prepared a roadmap for providing effective education to the children for the coming session.

The meeting was attended by Director School Education Kashmir. Chief Educational Officers of Kashmir Division and other concerned.

## **Houseboat Owners In Jhelum Demand Rehabilitation**

#### Agencies

Srinagar: As the much-anticipated water transport system in Srinagar is under evaluation and is expected to be operational soon, the houseboat owners and their association have demanded the rehabilitation of houseboats on the Jhelum River and Tsoont Kol.

Houseboat owners said they have been demanding rehabilitation for a long time but are being ignored. Now, with the water transport system set to begin, they are calling for immediate rehabilitation.

The houseboat owners and their association said that it is a positive step that water transport will be introduced in Srinagar, and they welcome the move.

Srinagar: The J&K Forest Depart-

ment organized a one-day workshop

at Forest Headquarter, Srinagar fo-

cused on fostering leadership excel-

to equip Range Officers with the

necessary skills to effectively

The aim of the workshop is

lence among Range Officers.

**Observer News Service** 

However, they also demand immediate rehabilitation, as the waves from water transport will damage their houseboats. Gulzar Ahmad, a houseboat owner said they (houseboat own-

ers) have been demanding rehabilitation for a long time but have been ignored. "We want immediate rehabilitation, and once the water transport system is introduced, our boats will be damaged, as the high tides will impact our houseboats, and they might even sink," he said.

"We have been calling upon the administration for many years, but we are continuously being ignored. We feel like a neglected community and nobody is paying attention to us," said Rafiq Ahmad, another houseboat owner.

He added that with the new gov-

Workshop On Fostering Leadership Excellence In Forestry Held

lead and manage their teams,

promote collaboration among

stakeholders, and address the

challenges facing the forestry

sector. About 25 Range Officers

across the region participated in

Conservator of Forests (CCF),

Kashmir who was Chief Guest

Irfan Rasool Wani, Chief

ernment in place and discussions about water transport ongoing, they request the Chief Minister and other authorities to rehabilitate them.

Kashmir Observer

Manzoor Ahmad Pakhtoon, Chairman of the Houseboat Owners Association (HBOA), said they demand the rehabilitation of houseboats from the Jhelum River and Tsoont Kol.

We also met MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq and discussed the issue of rehabilitation, along with our long-pending concerns affecting the houseboat industry," he said.

Notably, it has been already reported that the water transport system in Srinagar will be launched soon. The project is currently under evaluation, and work is expected to commence shortly—(KNO)

on the occasion, highlighted

the importance of leadership in

shaping the future of forestry in

tailed presentation by expert

speakers who shared their valu-

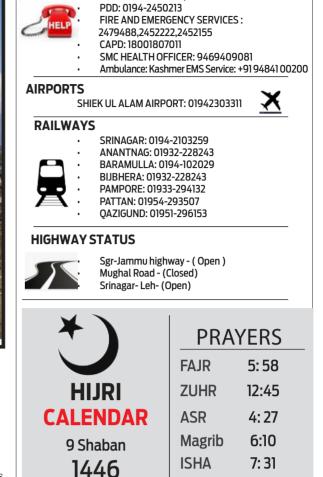
able knowledge and experience in

various aspects of leadership with-

in the forestry sector.

The workshop featured a de-

the region.



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

## This Day In History

- 1622 King James I disbands the English parliament 1672 - Isaac Newton reads 1st optics paper before Royal Society in London
- 1743 Comet C/1743 C1 approaches within 0.0390 AUs of Earth
- 1744 French and Spanish fleet leave Toulon.
- 1807 Battle of Eylau ends inconclusively between Napoleon's forces and Russian Empire - 1st battle Napoleon isn't victorious
- 1809 Franz I of Austria declares war on France
- 1849 New Roman Republic established in Italy
- 1867 The Ausgleich results in the establishment of the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary.
- 1879 Sandford Fleming first proposes adoption of Universal Standard Time at a meeting of the Royal Canadian Institute.
- 1883 Louis Waterman begins experiment to invent the fountain pen
- 1905 Cyclone hit Tahiti & adjacent islands, killing some 10,000 people
- 1912 British Emissary journeys to Berlin to suggest that Britain might support German colonial aspirations in Africa if Germany agrees to hold her current naval strength
- 1920 Bolshevik troops capture Odessa, bringing an end to foreign involvement in the resistance against Bolshevik rule
- 1926 Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio becomes Walt Disney Studios
- 1927 Belgian-Swiss treaty signed

#### Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering **Complex Srinagar Rajbagh** Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008.

#### **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** E-NIT No.196/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/9648-56

DATED:06-02-2025.

Forandonbehalf of TheGovernment of J&K(U/T)e-tenders(inDoublecoversystem)are Invitedonpercentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other further and the contractor of the function of the function

SL No	2. N	ame of Work	Estimated. Cost (In. Lacs)	Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Complet ion (Calend ar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	by way of P	n of NIC Shopian Procurement of ectrification BWO Installtion.	Rs. 2.50/= Lacs	Rs. 200/=	Rs. 5005/=	<u>10Days</u>	"AAY" Class Electrical	District Capex Budget 2024-25	Accord of Administrative Approval Accorded by Distri Development Commissioner Shopian vide order No.194 DDCS of 2024 Dated:-11-12- 2024
1 [	ate of Issue	of Tender Notice			<mark>06-02-2025</mark>				
<b>2</b> P	Period of dow	nloading of biddir/	ng documents	3	06-02-2025	from 06.	00PM		
3 B	id submissio	on Start Date			06-02-2025	from 06.	00 PM		
<b>4</b> B	id Submissi	on End Date			18-02-2025	upto 04.	00 PM		
<b>5</b> D	Date & time o	of opening of Tech	inical Bids <b>(O</b>	nline)	<mark>19-02-2025</mark> R&B Electri Rajbagh.				Of Executive Engineer ring Complex Srinagar
6 D	Date & time o	of opening of Final	ncial Bids(On	lino)	To be notifi	ad after t	looppical	hid availab	ation is completed.
sch	edule of date	documents consisting ns of contract and other as given below: and advised to read all	ng of qualifying her details can b conditions laid	information e seen /dow down in the	n, eligibility cr. vnloaded from E-NIT carefull	iteria, speci the departn ly before up	fications, dr nental websi loading soft	awings, bill te <mark>WWW.jk</mark> 's copy.	of quantities( BOQ), set of tenders.gov.in as per
<u>sch</u> Note:	edule of date - The Bidders a As per Circu A/24(2017)-6 Furnishing of declared 1st L	documents consistii ns of contract and oth es given below: re advised to read all ular issued by the G 51 dtd.07-06-2018which Hard copies of bids immed owest (1-1) after opening	ng of qualifying her details can b conditions laid overnment of J meadsasunder:- iately after submiss g of financial bids.	information e seen /dow down in the ammu and sionof e-tend	n, eligibility cr. nloaded from E-NIT carefuli Kashmir Civ ers is dispensed v	<u>iteria, speci</u> the departn ly <u>before up</u> ril Secretari with. The sam	fications, dr nental websi loading soft atFinanced e should be of	<u>awings, bill</u> te WWW.jk <u>'s copy.</u> epartmenty	of quantities( BOQ), set of tenders.gov.in as per rideNo. OM No.
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The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

The Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender without any Prior Notice to the Bidders

#### No.ERB/9648-56

DATED:-07-02-2025 DIPK-11675/24

- The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after subr Treasury Challan.
- The earnest money may be forfeited if:

the workshop.

- Any bidder/ tendered with draws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms <u>a.</u> and conditions of the bid
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit b.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders 6.1. Manual Kit" on website www.iktenders.gov.intoacquaint bid submission process
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- 6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- 6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must insure to upload can need copy of all necessary documents with the bid. 6.5
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- 8.1. Price escalation and Taxes:-The percentage quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the percentage rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to stores much documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding document shall be followed.
- te that if the do ts uploaded/submitted on the basis of whi **Bidders sho** awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and thecontractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- 12.1 All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-
- а. Allthebidders current year.
- Scanned copy of GSTIN Re 2024or Quarter October to December
- ScannedcopyofPANcard.(AsreflectedinGSTRegd./GSTForm-3B). C.
- d. Scannedcopyofvalidcontactnumber/E-mail-id.
- e. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Tender document cost) (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) by debit to M.H.0059 in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir (Tende inviting authority).Me
- Scanned copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR /Pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir f. (Tender Inviting Authority).(dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date).
- 9. The successful bidder shall submit the scanned copy of Latest renewed JKPWDOMS Contractor card valid for the current year before issuance of contract allotment.
- h. The successful bidder has to execute the agreement and subsequently submit the same to this office within same day after ncement of work as per the term

SD/= ExecutiveEngineer, (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh

- 1934 Gaston Doumergue forms new French government
- 1936 Pandit Jawaharlal suceeds Mahatma Gandhi as chairman of India Congress Party.
- 1942 Nazi architect Albert Speer appointed Minister of Armaments by Adolf Hitler after death of Fritz Todt in a plane crash

#### NOTICE Nazir Ahmad Mir, father of

Zaid Nazir, is formally

correcting his wife's name or

his son's Date of Birth

certificate from "Rafeega" to

"Rafeeqa Akhter" to align with

her Aadhar details.

Any objections to this

correction must be submitted

to the Registrar of Births and

Deaths (BDO Surasyar) within

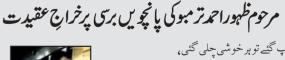
seven days of this notice. No

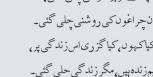
objections will be entertained

after this period.

NOTICE I Nisar Ahmad Bhat want to change my daughters name in her aadhar card bearing no 3837 8414 3677 from Zirwa (old name) to Humna binti Nisar (new name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

ivd





ج ہی کےدن، یعنی 8 فروری 2020 کو، آپ ہم سے ہمیشہ کے لیےجدا ہو گئے۔ یکن آپ کی یادیں آج بھی ہمارےدلوں میں زندہ ہیں۔ آپ کی محبت ، آپ کی شفقت ، ب کچھآج بھی ہماری زندگی کا حصہ ہے۔ ہمیں یقین ہے کہ آپ جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام پا چکے ہوں گے۔ للد تعالی آپ کو ہمیشہ اپنے جوارِرحمت میں رکھے اور ہمیں آخرت میں آپ سے ملنے کی بعادت نصيب كرب\_

ېذرىيە، الحبيب سيدە، بيوى، بيٹا، بيٹى، دامادادر بېو

9906883396

inf

إِ تَالِلٌ وَإِ تَا إِ لَيْ رَاجِعُونَ

اگرآپ مزیدکوئی ترمیم یا بهتری چاہتے ہیں توبلا جھجک بتائیں۔

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com



# **How Social Media is Draining Kashmir's Spirit**

e live in an era dominated by technology and social media. Information is available at our fingertips, and yet, instead of using these platforms for positivity and enlightenment, they have become sources of endless distress. Every time we open a social media app, we are met with heartbreaking news of death, disease, and despair. The digital space, which could have been a beacon of hope and knowledge, has turned into a relentless stream of sorrow, draining the mental and emotional strength of people.

In Kashmir, this phenomenon is even more pronounced. Every second, we come across posts about someone's passing, another person battling cancer, or someone suffering from kidney failure. These tragedies are real, but their constant exposure through social media has left people feeling hopeless and mentally exhausted. Even those who are physically fit and fine are now feeling the weight of collective grief.

While awareness about illnesses, deaths, and social struggles is necessary, the sheer volume of such content flooding our digital spaces is taking a toll on our mental health. Studies have shown that continuous exposure to distressing content increases anxiety, depression, and a sense of helplessness. For a place like Kashmir, already struggling with numerous socio-political and economic challenges, the addition of this emotional burden is overwhelming.

Social media is a powerful tool, capable of shaping narratives and influencing emotions. While some media professionals and individuals genuinely aim to spread awareness, many others share distressing content solely for engagement likes. shares, and comments without realising the deep psychological impact it has on the people of Kashmir. Tragedy should never be used as a means to gain social media traction. Unfortunately, the race for viral content has led to an increase in posts that capitalize on human suffering. People are now consuming grief like entertainment, scrolling through endless sorrow without realizing its effect on their emotional well-being.

Kashmir has already witnessed decades of conflict, uncertainty, and trauma. The addition of digital grief has further intensified the emotional strain on its people. With every tragic post, a sense of powerlessness deepens. The people of Kashmir are not just battling real life struggles but are also fighting an unseen war of digital despair. Psychologists warn that exposure to excessive negative content can lead to increased anxiety and depression.



#### Photo for representational purposes only

Constantly reading about death and disease creates a sense of fear and helplessness. It leads to a desensitization towards Tragedy. Over time, people may become numb to suffering, losing empathy for real life issues. The continuous flood of bad news also leaves people drained, reducing their ability to function effectively in daily life

It is high time we reconsider our digital habits. Instead of flooding social media with despair, let us make a conscious effort to share hope, encouragement, and stories of resilience. There are still moments of kindness, acts of bravery, and instances of love that deserve recognition. Let's highlight those. Imagine a social media feed filled with stories of courage, tales of individuals who have overcome hardships and inspired others; instances of acts of kindness, stories of people helping each other in times of need; or the news of people celebrating the successes of Kashmiris in various fields, from education to entrepreneurship. Additionally, a digital space filled with encouraging conversations around well-being, self-care, and seeking professional help when needed.

Social media is shaped by its users. Each one of us plays a role in determining what kind of content dominates our digital spaces. By being mind-

ful of what we share, we can collectively break this cycle of sorrow and inject some light into our online world. This is not to say that we should ignore reallife issues. Rather, we should balance awareness with optimism. While it is important to acknowledge struggles, it is equally crucial to remind ourselves and others that life, despite its hardships, still holds beauty and hope

The people of Kashmir deserve a sense of hope, a reason to smile, and the reassurance that better days lie ahead. It is our responsibility to create a digital environment that uplifts rather than drains, that empowers rather than disheartens.I urge every individual to be mindful of what they share. Let us become the voices of optimism, guiding each other toward a future filled with strength, resilience, and positivity. The change begins with us. Let's choose hope.

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

> The author is a student and tweets at @Shahidulislam 0

an the capital expenditure envisaged in the Budget elicit more formal sector job creation? The claims made by the finance ministry's Economic Survey 2025-26 about labour force participation rate (LFPR) and worker population ratio (WPR) rising, and the unemployment rate (UR) falling are just that — claims. The facts are as follows. In 2017-18, India reached the highest UR in the history of labour surveys in the country. The economy slowed over nine quarters from 2017 to early 2020, and then the Covid-19 pandemic sent unemployment shooting up, as the economy contracted (by twice as much as the global economy in FY2021). Hence, 80 million workers went back to agriculture, reversing the exit from agriculture between 2004 and 2019. Thus, LFPR has risen, as has WPR, and UR fell, but only because women also joined agriculture as unpaid family labour with 40 million additional workers. That is what the capital, labour, energy, materials, and services (KLEMS) researchers, and the Prime Minister have called eight crore new jobs in four years (2020-24). The Economic Survey admits real wages have not risen for 80% of workers in the last five years, but still has claims that jobs have grown — a rather contradictory conclusion. Overall, the combined capex of the Union government and central public sector enterprises is budgeted at 3.7% of GDP in FY26BE, better than 3.6% of GDP in FY25RE, but lower than 3.8% of GDP in FY24 and 3.9% of GDP in the pre-Covid years. In other words, don't expect growth to rise merely on the basis of combined capex.Given this background, one would have expected that economic policy generally, and Budgets post-Covid in particular, would be designed to create non-farm jobs — given that aggregate demand collapsed in the economy, as macro-economic aggregates have shown. However, the finance minister's answer, in the Budget 2025-26 speech, has been to give personal income tax (PIT) breaks to the middle class, hoping to revive demand. Given that the middle class itself has had to dissave to maintain consumption, and consumption has barely grown, the tax breaks to 30 million PIT payers (in a workforce of 600 million) is hardly likely to sud-

# Will Budget Create Jobs?

there is not so much as a mention of the Internship Scheme announced in Budget 2024-25. It was meant to ensure that lakhs of youth would receive internships in the 500 top firms of India. So what happened to it, citizens would want to know.Meanwhile, the Budget scheme for so-called employment hardly seem promising in respect of non-farm jobs. The first scheme is the "enhancement of credit availability with guarantee cover". This is supposed to improve access to credit. The credit guarantee cover will be enhanced for micro and small enterprises, from `5 crore to `10 crore, leading to additional credit of `1.5 lakh crore in the next five years. The second scheme is to promote employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in labour-intensive sectors. Thus, the government will undertake a Focus Product Scheme for the footwear and leather sectors. Finally, there is a scheme for tourism for employment-led growth. Thus, the top 50 tourist destination sites in the country will be developed in partnership with states through a challenge mode. The land for building key infrastructure will have to be provided by the states. Hotels in those destinations will be included in infrastructure. These are not exactly schemes that will set the labour market ablaze.For a country that adds six-seven million new job seekers each year; where 46% of its workforce in agriculture should exit farming; and has 100 million youth not involved with education, employment, or training, and which also has about 25 million unemployed, these three Budget schemes are unlikely to address the challenges of job creation. And if the middle-class tax cuts are not expected to raise consumption demand and hence investment, the needed rise in private investment is unlikely.Our policymakers need to remember that India's demographic dividend runs out in 2040, when the country will become an ageing society. Without jobs before 2040, the dividend is likely to become a disaster.

Shahid Ul Islam

### Each one of us plays a role in

determining what kind of content dominates our digital spaces. By being mindful of what we share, we can collectively break this cycle of sorrow and inject some light into our online world. This is not to say that we should ignore real-life issues. Rather, we should balance awareness with optimism. While it is important to acknowledge struggles, it is equally crucial to remind ourselves and others that life, despite its hardships, still holds beauty and hope

## Tax breaks unlikely to ignite demand, let alone spur private investment & fuel growth.

Santosh Mehrotra



denly turn around aggregate demand, let alone encourage private investment and hence generate growth or jobs.

The labour and skill development ministry has received a significant boost, with the Budget 2025-26 allocating `38,746.3 crore — an 80% increase from Rs `21,608 crore in the previous year. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has outlined plans to spend 2 lakh crore over the next five years. reinforcing the government's commitment to skill development and internship programmes.

Even after so many interventions and schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (2015 to present), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (2014 to present), and the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (2016 to present), placement data and efficiency of these schemes are not available for monitoring and evaluation. A deeper dive into

the implementation of these policies raises concerns.

Despite the increased allocation of funds, the focus seems to be on expanding the quantity of trained individuals rather than increasing quantity while improving the quality of training. The government is prioritising capital expenditure and quick certifications over substantive skill development. They may hold certificates but lack realworld proficiency, and not get jobs.

The government's ambitious Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation Scheme, announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 with a proposed investment of `60,000 crore over five years, aims to revamp 1,000 ITIs under a hub-and-spoke model where costs will be borne by the Centre and states equally. The budget for the Scheme increased from `1,000 crore in FY25 to `3,000 crore in FY26. However, the scheme's formulation and implementa-

## "

**Despite the** increased allocation of funds, the focus seems to be on expanding the quantity of trained individuals rather than increasing quantity while improving the quality of training. The government is prioritising capital expenditure and guick certifications over substantive skill development

#### tion appear haphazard.

Despite significant capital expenditure, there is little emphasis on updating curricula, enhancing teacher training, or improving the overall skill development system.A mid-term evaluation of a similar initiative, the Model ITI scheme, revealed that the share of funds allocated to civil works (57.9%) and equipment purchases (31.3%) was high, with minimal focus on curriculum development or instructor training.

So these efforts may prioritise infrastructural enhancements over substantive educational reforms, limiting the effectiveness of the initiative to address the demands of industry.Finally,

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express



# Geo-tagging of Chinar Trees in Kashmir

A good initiative towards the conservation of Kashmir's heritage tree

THE GEO-TAGGING PROCESS WILL HELP PRESERVE THE REMAINING CHINAR TREES and ensure that the trees don't face any kind of disturbance or intervention further. As per the officials, this geo-tagging process will create a database and store all the information about the Chinars



#### Peerzada Aarif

The authorities in the valley have taken a unique initia-L tive of geo-tagging Chinar trees. The project, spearheaded by the J&K Forest Research Institute (FRI) of the J&K Forest Department, involves geo-tagging and QR coding of Chinar trees to enable their monitoring and management. Under this geotagging process, QR codes are attached to each surveyed tree, recording information about 25 characteristics, including its geographical location, health, age, and growth patterns, enabling conservationists to track changes and address risk factors. This initiative of the government is indeed a good step towards the protection and conservation of this rich heritage tree.

The Chinar tree has remained

a close connection with our past, cultural heritage, environment, as well as literature. The name Chinar is derived from a Persian word which means "What a Fire"; it reflects the impressive orange-red color of the Chinar in autumn. Its leaves acquire varied hues from blood red to mauve, amber, and yellow, depicting the various seasons of Kashmir. The oldest Chinar in Kashmir is said to have been planted in 1374 and is almost 600 years old. It is 14.78 meters tall and is located in Kashmir's Budgam district. The tree was adored by Mughal Emperors such as Akbar, Jahangir, and even Aurangzeb. It has even been dubbed the "royal tree." Following his conquest of Kashmir in 1586, the great Emperor Akbar is supposed to have planted over 1,200 Chinar trees. On Dal Lake, there is a small Chinar

planted on it. Emperor Jahangir erected these four trees in such a way that they would always cast a shadow on the island. They are among Kashmir's most popular tourist destinations. Chinar trees, a symbol of Kashmir's natural heritage, are renowned for their majestic size, vibrant foliage, and cultural significance.

Unfortunately, developmental activities in the name of industrialization, urbanization, commercialization, etc., have caused widespread damage to this highly rich tree over the past years. Ever since the turmoil in the valley of Kashmir, this heritage tree has been badly subjected to destruction and devastation. A large number of Chinar trees were cut down and burned, which resulted in a decline in their numbers. The Chinar tree population in Kashmir has declined, according to a 2021 booklet from Kashmir's Forest Department. Some estimates put the number at 42,000 in the 1970s. Current estimates range from 17,000 to 34,000.

There is an ongoing census, the coordinator of which says there are estimated to be 32,500 Chinars in Kashmir. Better late than never. Now the government seems to be sensitive to this decline. The geo-tagging process will help preserve the remaining Chinar trees and ensure that the trees don't face any kind of disturbance or intervention further. As per the officials, this geo-tagging process will create a database and store all the information about the Chinars. Everyone can scan and log in to access the information. The administration can easily assess which Chinar has dried up and which is dangerous. The authorities are also proposing more surveys on risk assessment. It will be a USG-based risk assessment survey. It will be done through ma-

chines with no human interference. It will provide information about whether the tree is safe or risky. Besides this geo-tagging, there is an immediate need to plant more and more Chinar trees in appropriate places so that the lost glory of this highly rich tree is restored. The tree is no doubt Kashmir's pride, and while developing the infrastructure, it should be ensured that the natural heritage remains unaffected. While the existing trees need to be nurtured and conserved, new ones should be planted on a large scale to conserve this legacy.

The Chinar tree doesn't just amplify the beauty of Kashmir but has immense environmental importance. From an environmental perspective, the Chinar tree plays a pivotal role in maintaining the ecological balance. It helps in moderating the temperature and lowering air and noise pollution. The trees are also known to have some medicinal properties and uses. Chinars are important ecologically, economically, and aesthetically. Chinars, being large ornamental trees, contribute not only to the beauty of the Kashmir valley but also to its resources. They are important sequesters of carbon, vital to the regulation of the climate, and help improve air quality.

Chinars contribute to the protection of biodiversity as they are a favorite shelter for birds, particularly crows and kites, in Kashmir. Both individual and collective efforts will be helpful in the protection and preservation of this natural asset. Taking effective measures will certainly contribute to restoring the lost glory of this precious tree, which has otherwise suffered extensive damage over the past years.

a symbol of great cultural, social, religious, and historical significance in the valley for ages. It has Island called 'Char Chinar.' The island's name comes from the fact that it has four Chinar trees The author is a teacher and a freelancer

## **Radical Act of Rest**

#### Sabzara Ali

I n a world where women are constantly expected to do it all, have you ever wondered what happens when they just stop and take a breath? What if the most radical act of resistance isn't in the struggle but in the stillness? What if real rebellion happens when women take some moments for themselves without any responsibilities or roles?

#### **Gendered Dichotomy**

Throughout history, leisure for men and women has been greatly influenced by gender roles which result in different experiences altogether. Men, often considered tough and adventurous, tend to pursue leisure activities away from home - for example playing sports or engaging in heated political debates.Women, on the other hand, are often viewed as nurturing, private, and inclined to stay within the home. Their "leisure" is typically woven into their responsibilities, like caring for the family or keeping the household running smoothly.

Historically, there isn't much separation between work and relaxation in the lives of women. Their roles blur the lines between labor and leisure, making those quiet moments of rest feel like a rare luxury.

For men, who work outside the home, work and leisure are clearly separated. Of course, economic status influences how people spend their free time but regardless of wealth, men still find ways to carve out time for themselves. For the affluent, it might be a drive or a hobby; for others, it could be as simple as gathering at a local stall for a chat.

## The Unequal Landscape of Leisure

Leisure is when you can just be yourself without worry about your work or anything else that obliges you. Unfortunately, for many women, such as those in rural India, spare time is something they do not have enough of.

The Time-Use Survey 2019-20 for India states that young working women in rural areas spent almost five hours daily on domestic tasks while urban counterparts spent about two hours forty-five minutes each day.

Thus, for many women, leisure isn't a scheduled break; it's something snatched in between daily responsibilities. It might be listening to the radio while cooking or chatting with a friend on the way to work. But for the women of Kashmir, leisure is about more than just choosing how to spend their time. It's about navigating a complex web of societal norms, restrictions, and the shadow of conflict that constantly defines the limits of their freedom.

#### The Confining Norms and Invisible Boundaries The majority of Kashmiri

women live by traditional societal norms that limit them to being caregivers and housewives. With this, they hardly get any time to pursue interests or recreations of their choice. Most public spaces in Kashmir are male dominated, and women's participation in leisure is largely confined to their homes. A survey conducted by students of Lady Shri Ram College revealed that most women in Jammu and Kashmir engage in leisure activities like reading, writing, and painting, all within the safety of their homes. Only a small number of respondents participated in sports, and even then, these activities often came to an abrupt end due to reasons such as harassment or the necessity of being accompanied by a male family member.For instance, one of the respondents spoke of how she had to leave sports because of continuous groping in public transport while another explained that going out in Kashmir often required a series of lies, as she was frequently made to stay at home under the guise of safety concerns.

has only exacerbated this situation, creating both physical and psychological barriers that restrict women's movement and make the idea of leisure fraught with anxiety. Patriarchal norms further limit their freedom, dictating which

The conflict in the region

forms of leisure are acceptable, often tying them to domestic and societal activities. This leaves very little time for a woman to relax, be creative, or express herself authentically, further marginalizing her and thus denying her the liberative power of leisure.

#### Sufi Shrines: Sanctuaries of Solace and Sisterhood for Kashmiri Women

The visit to a Sufi shrine is one of the very few occasions when an elderly woman of Kashmir gets to leave her house and break the tedium of routine. She finds a rare escape in the peaceful courtyards of these shrines. These sacred spaces, deeply woven into the spiritual fabric of Kashmiri life, represent much more than just a place to pray. They are sanctuaries where women come together to breathe, to connect, and to rejuvenate.

Unlike mosques, which are predominantly male spaces, these shrines provide women with a socially acceptable public space where they can gather, socialize, and form emotional and devotional relationships with the saints. Here, they can personalize the relationship with the saints and whisper all their troubles to them, finding solace in the company of people who share similar burdens. Here, it is not very uncommon to find a group of women sitting together in the shade of a

tree, sharing their stories, and drawing strength from one another's stories.

These visits are not just about tradition or seeking blessings. They are about reclaiming a bit of themselves—a space to laugh, cry, and be without the weight of household duties pressing down on them. For many women, these shrines are places where they feel truly at peacewhere the noise of everyday life fades, and they shift their focus to spiritual growth and healing. In a world that offers so few spaces for leisure, these shrines become a vital refuge, a place where they can finally exhale and let their souls rest.

#### Leisure Through a Feminist Lens: Reclaiming Identity and Crafting New Narratives

Leisure, often seen as a simple escape from daily responsibilities, holds a deeper, more transformative potential when viewed through a feminist lens. It's not just about taking a break; it is about reclaiming both time and space for selfdiscovery and self-expression. For most women, leisure is a powerful act of resistance against societal norms that expect them to behave in a certain way or hold specific roles. One inspiring perspective comes from Surabhi Yadav, the founder of the NGO Sanjhe Sapne. Through her work, Surabhi explores how leisure can be a radical tool for women to redefine themselves beyond the traditional roles of mother, wife, or daughter. Her photo project, Basanti: Women at Leisure, was inspired by observing the often-hidden playful side of her mother and women around her. The project captures women and girls in moments of unguarded joy, dancing and relaxing; it captures them being themselves. These images do not depict rest; they celebrate leisure as a personal right and subtle, powerful form of resistance.

Surabhi argues that while much of today's feminist movement focuses on resisting patriarchy-fighting for equal pay, rights, and recognition-this approach often feels reactive, simply responding to the rules set by men. To her, real power in feminism lies in opening up so many new possibilities to women and creating spaces where women have the choice to explore and define their identities. Within these very words, leisure ceases to become a mere break from life's routine but assumes the role of a path toward selfdiscovery and empowerment. Leisure time would afford a space within which women could discover themselves beyond defined roles assigned to them, hence changing this resting time into a powerful tool of creating and reclaiming their own narratives.

If one were to introspect into the life of a Kashmiri woman, it would become evident that these moments of leisure are more than just brief escapes from daily responsibilities they are subtle acts of defiance, quiet rebellions against a world that tries to confine them to narrow roles.

Whether they find peace in the sacred spaces of a Sufi shrine or take a rare moment of rest within their homes, these women are taking back their narratives from just being victims to discovering their own identities, engaging in activities they truly enjoy, and reclaiming their right to prioritize their own well-being.

But as we applaud these acts of quiet defiance before the mountains, we must also remind ourselves: What are we, as a society, doing to make their burdens a little lighter? How do we ensure that the leisure of Kashmiri women is priority and not an afterthought? For too long, our feminist goals have centered on survivalfighting for land, labor, and basic rights. But perhaps true liberation for Kashmiri women means striving for more than just safety and survival. It means reimagining leisure as a fundamental right, a space for self-discovery and liberation.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author is a student at Smith College

## Federal prisons being used to detain people arrested in Trump's immigration crackdown

#### Agenceis

New York, Feb 7: President Donald Trump's administration is using federal prisons to detain some people arrested in its immigration crackdown, the federal Bureau of Prisons said Friday, returning to a strategy that drew allegations of mistreatment during his first term.

In a statement to The Associated Press, the prison agency said it is assisting US Immigration and Customs Enforcement "by housing detainees and will continue to support our law enforcement partners to fulfil the administration's policy objectives."

The Bureau of Prisons declined to say how many immigration detainees it is taking in, or which prison facilities are being used.

"For privacy, safety, and security reasons, we do not comment on the legal status of an individual, nor do we specify the legal status of individuals assigned to any particular facility, including numbers and locations," the agency said.

Three people familiar with the matter told the AP that federal jails in Los Angeles and Miami and a federal prison in Atlanta are being used for immigration detention. The people were not authorised to speak publicly and did so on condition of anonymity.

An influx of immigration detainees could put yet more strain on federal prisons, which AP reporting revealed have been plagued by severe understaffing, violence and other problems. The Bureau of Prisons is the Justice Department's biggest

agency with more than 30,000 122 facilities, employees, 155,000 inmates and an annual budget of about USD 8 billion.

In December, the agency said it was closing one prison and idling six prison camps to address "significant challenges, including a critical staffing shortage, crumbling infrastructure and limited budgetary resources."

A message seeking comment was left for ICE.

Trump has vowed to deport millions of the estimated 11.7 million people in the US illegally. ICE currently has the budget to detain only about 41,000 people and the administration has not said how many detention beds it needs to achieve its goals. Many detainees are taken to ICE processing centres, privately operated detention facilities or local prisons and jails it contracts with.

On Thursday, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said, a second flight of detainees landed at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. Immigrant rights' groups sent a letter demanding access to Friday people who have been sent to Guantanamo Bay, saying the base should not be used as a "legal black hole."

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Wednesday that more than 8,000 people have been arrested in immigration enforcement actions since Trump's January 20 inauguration. Of them, 461 were released for reasons that included medical conditions and lack of detention capacity, she said.

ICE averaged 787 arrests a day from January 23 to January 31, compared to a daily average of 311 during a 12-month period ended September 30 during the Biden administration. ICE has stopped publishing daily arrests totals.

In 2018, during Trump's first term, the Bureau of Prisons reached an agreement with ICE and Customs and Border Protection to detain up to 1,600 immigrants at federal prison facilities in Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington and Texas.

Six immigrants detained under that arrangement at a medium-security federal prison in Victorville, California, sued Trump, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and immigration and prison officials, alleging "punitive and inhumane" treatment.

The men, who were seeking asylum in the US, accused the Bureau of Prisons of providing inedible meals and spoiled milk, infringing on their ability to practice their religious faith, allowing only a few hours a week of recreation in the hot sun, and failing to provide adequate medical care.

Last October, the American Civil Liberties Union sued the Bureau of Prisons and immigration authorities under the Freedom of Information Act for records related to the use of federal prisons to detain immigrants during Trump's first term. A conference in that case is scheduled for Feb. 28.

An ongoing AP investigation has exposed serious issues in the Bureau of Prisons, including rampant misconduct, sexual abuse by staff, dozens of escapes, chronic violence, and employees ill-equipped to respond to emergencies because of staffing limitations.

Last week, El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele offered to put US immigration detainees and other US prisoners in his country's massive CECOT prison – even American citizens and legal residents. In a post on X, Bukele said he was offering the US "the opportunity to outsource part of its prison system" in exchange for a "relatively low" fee.

Trump says he was open to the idea, but acknowledged it could be legally problematic.

"I'm just saying if we had a legal right to do it, I would do it in a heartbeat," Trump told reporters Tuesday in the Oval Office. "I don't know if we do or not, we're looking at that right now."

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### LG's Prior

legislative proposals.

It has also reminded departments that certain Acts require rules and notifications issued under them to be presented before the Legislative Assembly.

"Departments responsible for such laws must ensure these rules and notifications are laid before the House during the Budget Session to comply with legal requirements," it added.

The Department has directed financial commissioners (additional chief secretaries), principal secretaries, commissioners, and secretaries to strictly follow prescribed procedures while handling legislative matters and responding to assembly questions.

"Also, administrative secretaries and heads of departments must be present in the house when matters concerning their departments are discussed," the department said. (KNO)

#### **Cabinet Clears**

the Act concise, clear, and easy to understand, which will reduce disputes, litigations, and provide greater tax certainty to taxpayers. Also, 22 specialised sub-committees have been established to review the various aspects of the Income Tax Act.

Public inputs and suggestions were invited in four categories -- simplification of language, litigation reduction, compliance reduction, and redundant/obsolete provisions.

The income tax department has received 6,500 suggestions from stakeholders on review of the Income Tax Act.

#### Nothing Said

was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of Finance, Social Welfare, Tourism, Industry & Commerce, Youth Services & Sports, Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Reasi districts, and heads of various departments, both in person and virtually.

Public representatives, including District Development Council (DDC) Chairpersons and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Pulwama and Reasi districts, raised concerns regarding electricity supply, drinking water schemes, flood management, staffing of schools and hospitals, upgradation of primary health centers, construction of bridges, and the development of new tourist destinations, parks, and parking facilities. Addressing the participants, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized that these consultations were essential for shaping a budget that truly reflects the aspirations of the people. He acknowledged the pivotal role of public representatives in understanding grassroots-level challenges and assured them that their concerns would be duly considered. The Chief Minister stated that this budget held special significance as it was the first time in many years that Jammu & Kashmir was preparing its own budget in consultation with public representatives. He stressed that these consultations were an effort to ensure inclusivity in the budgeting process. "In the past, it was not possible for the Finance Minister of the country to meet with you all and discuss Jammu & Kashmir's specific needs. But after the elections and the formation of our government, we now have the authority to draft our own budget, making these interactions even more crucial," he said. The Chief Minister noted that over 33 interventions had been made during the session, reflecting the wide range of developmental issues requiring attention. He assured the participants that while it was not possible to address each demand immediately, "nothing that has been said here will be ignored" and that all concerns would be carefully examined during budget formulation. Touching upon economic growth and industrial development, he stressed the need to support manufacturing, trade, and tourism. He noted the expansion of the railway network, highlighting how connectivity had gradually improved from Pathankot to Jammu, then to Udhampur and Katra, with plans for the train to reach Srinagar this year. However, he said that apprehensions over Jammu's economy must be addressed from the adverse effects of shifting trade patterns, ensuring that the region continues to thrive as a commercial hub. On tourism, the Chief Minister emphasized that Jammu had immense potential, particularly in religious and pilgrimage tourism. He said. "If marketed and promoted effectively, Jammu province can become India's top destination for religious tourism." He noted that while most visitors come for Mata Vaishno Devi's pilgrimage, efforts must be made to showcase Jammu's other sacred sites, encouraging pilgrims to extend their stay and explore the region's cultural heritage.

He also stressed the importance of sports tourism, stating that discussions were underway for organizing a major sports event in Jammu, similar to the successful Srinagar Marathon. Plans were also in place for the expansion of Jammu Airport, addressing infrastructural challenges to improve connectivity.

The Chief Minister also expressed his support for private education, stating that Jammu & Kashmir should explore legislative frameworks to encourage the establishment of private universities, providing more opportunities for quality higher education.

Concluding his address, he thanked all participants for their valuable inputs, assuring them that their concerns and suggestions would be incorporated into the government's policies and development agenda. "We will try to ensure that your ideas are reflected in our policies and programs. Your time and efforts in this consultation process are truly appreciated," he said.

In a separate pre-budget consultation session, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met with representatives from various sectors, including industry & trade, tourism, hotel & hospitality, education, social welfare, tribal affairs, youth affairs, and agriculture.

During the session, stakeholders from various sectors, including industry & trade, tourism, hotel & hospitality, education, social welfare, tribal affairs, youth affairs, and agriculture, put forth several key demands. They emphasized the need for developing Jammu as a religious and pilgrimage tourism hub, expanding private education opportunities, enhancing sports infrastructure, and strengthening support for tribal communities. Additionally, discussions were held on boosting tourism, improving trade policies, and fostering industrial growth to drive economic development in the region.

During his interaction, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that the upcoming J&K Budget reflects the aspirations of the people, incorporating their demands into the government's development agenda.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's address to the House.(KNO)

#### **38 Patients Discharged**

#### New Delhi, he said.

A patient from Badhal village being taken to a hospital amid the deaths of at least 17 people belonging to three families, under suspicious circumstances, in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district

'My world has been destroyed': J&K man loses five children, two family members to mysterious disease

Health teams remain stationed in the village to monitor any new symptoms among the residents, who have all been screened by the healthcare providers, Shah added.

Divisional Commissioner (Jammu) Ramesh Kumar said that no food or eatables were being exchanged among the families, who have been placed under continuous surveillance.

"At present, 363 individuals from 60 different families have been quarantined, with 592 animals being tended to by the officials from the animal and sheep husbandry department to safeguard their health," he said.

Assessing the efforts to safeguard lives and identify the cause of deaths, Dulloo emphasised the need for continued vigilance and instructed the sampling of locally used fertilisers, pesticides, and insecticides to determine the root cause.

He also called for enhancing local hospital facilities to handle similar situations in the future, including additional ICU beds, oxygen plants, isolation wards, and availability of specific drugs and specialists.

The chief secretary urged AIIMS Delhi to support the local medical staff in capacity building and suggested sending doctors for specialised training and roping in experts to assist in building hospital capacity in the Union Territory.

Simultaneously, Dulloo directed the law enforcement agencies to expedite investigations based on the test reports received, and those awaited from different institutions.

Officials said that to ensure the safety of the remaining households in Badhaal, the village has been divided into 14 clusters which are being monitored by multi-department teams

Rashid's counsel argued, "I represent the largest constituency of J&K. Don't prevent representation when the process of inclusion has started... Don't stifle the voice of the constituency."

They questioned how Rashid could be considered a security threat now, given he had previously been allowed to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections and take oath of office.

Luthra countered saying there was no substantial purpose for allowing Rashid to attend the session at this time, recalling that his previous request to attend a previous Parliament session was denied.

"What is the purpose today? The budget was presented. Has he done anything except sit on a hunger strike and has been sent to RML (hospital)?" he asked.

The NIA has raised concerns about Rashid's past conduct, alleging he misused telephone privileges while incarcerated in Tihar Jail. prompting restrictions on his communication. The NIA said Rashid was allowed only two

calls in three weeks due to the misuse. The high court is hearing Rashid's petition

which claims he was left without recourse after the NIA court handling his bail application failed to decide his matter following his election to the Lok Sabha last year.

He requested the high court to expedite the processing of his bail plea in the trial court or grant him interim bail.

The high court also addressed concerns regarding the designation of a special MP/MLA court to hear Rashid's bail plea, with the court administration's counsel indicating the matter was set to be discussed in the Supreme Court on February 10.

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

Rashid was arrested in 2019 following allegations of involvement in a money laundering case and for waging war against the country under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. His case is linked to funding separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and has connections to designated terrorist Hafiz Saeed.

The NIA alleged Rashid used public

continued incarceration and deteriorating health of Engineer Rashid is a serious concern. Justice must not only be done but be seen to be done." he added.

The AIP reiterated its belief in the judicial system while urging the authorities to ensure humane treatment for Rashid and a speedy resolution of his case.

The Baramulla MP is on an indefinite hunger strike in Tihar Jail after his bail request to attend Parliament's budget session was denied. **10 Hectares** 

### implemented without further delay. The

Union Minister had acknowledged the concerns raised and assured full cooperation from the central government.

To expedite completion of Jal Jeevan Mission that aims to provide tap water connection to every household, six projects that have been cleared included Water Supply Schemes Chigla Balota, Chakal, Tikri, Kund, Chatrari besides improvement and augmentation of WSS Lalli.

The other schemes for which approval has been granted for use of forest land included WSS Mand, Kaghote, Jadsarkote, Krimchi Deli Chak, Malhar, Katti and Demnote-Radnote in Udhampur Forest Division.

In Doda Forest Division, seven projects that gained clearance included WSSs Hanch Malna, Seel, Tantna, Aul Ugad, Mohalla, Jathali, and Jojote and three projects in Bhaderwah Forest Division including WSS Thalela, Southa and Puneja. The projects that have been cleared in Ramnagar Forest Division included WSS Balandh, Jandrari.

The Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA) 1980, a crucial law to conserve forests and biodiversity in India, requires obtaining prior clearance from the central government for any project or activity that involves clearing forest land. The Act helps in striking a balance between development and environmental protection by ensuring sustainable use of forest resources.

To prevent ecological imbalance and ensure sustainable growth, the government has initiated Compensatory Afforestation (CA) efforts against the forest diversion proposals and more than 21 hectare of degraded forest land will be covered under CA Forest Minister, Javed Rana, while commenting on the development said that the government is committed to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections and the forest clearance is a step in that direction. Emphasizing the importance of these projects in addressing the water needs of the twin districts and other areas, he said "the forest clearance for these projects demonstrate our commitment towards fulfilling our objective of complete implementation of JJM in Jammu and Kashmir. We are dedicated to fostering growth in a way that benefits every section of society.' He directed the authorities to undertake aggressive compensatory afforestation to arrest any ecological imbalance, ensuring sustainable growth and infrastructure development. The Minister highlighted that these projects had been carefully reviewed to ensure compliance with environmental norms, reflecting the government's balanced approach to development and conservation. He also commended the Forest Department and other concerned authorities for their proactive efforts in expediting the clearance process without compromising on environmental conservation. Javed Rana further stressed the need for timely implementation of these projects and assured that the Jal Shakti Department will monitor their progress closely to avoid delays. (ANB)

#### J&K Has Only

dedicated facilities for such children.

Mission Vatsalya, implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, provides financial assistance to states and Union Territories for the care, protection, and rehabilitation of children in difficult circumstances.

The scheme allows CCIs to set up special units for children with special needs, offering facilities such as special educators, therapists, nurses, and assistive equipment.

The government did not specify whether new special needs shelter homes are planned for Ladakh or additional ones for Jammu and Kashmir in the near future. (KNO)

#### **Ensure Priority.**

raised by elected representatives shall be acknowledged and processed on priority and government officers and officials shall engage with them in a professional and respectful manner." the circular said.

It also specified that elected representatives should be invited to all official functions and meetings organized in their jurisdiction, including events involving official visits by dignitaries.

'These instructions are issued for immediate and strict compliance," the circular added.

This directive is particularly significant given the dual power structure in Jammu and Kashmir.

The circular has been issued ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly's Budget Session, which is set to begin on March 3.

#### **Govt To Finalize**

CDF. "The guidelines will ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of the funds for development works identified by MLAs," sources said.

They said the proposed guidelines are likely to be placed before the cabinet for approval, most likely around the time when the budget for 2025-26 would be tabled in the Assembly. According to sources, the announcement regarding the CDF for MLAs is likely to be made in the budget speech by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Minister in-charge of the Finance Department.

"The CDF for MLAs could be somewhere between Rs 3 to Rs 5 crore," they said, adding that MLAs were entitled to a CDF of Rs 3 crore each in the erstwhile state of J&K.

The budget for 2025-26 is likely to be presented between March 04 and March 10 in the Assembly. The budget session of the J&K Assembly will begin on March 03 with

All shops and establishments in the village continue to remain sealed, while ration distribution is being strictly supervised, they said. NEET-UG TO

education and health ministries on whether to conduct the NEET-UG in pen and paper mode or online mode.

In the line of fire over alleged irregularities in NEET and PhD entrance NET, the Centre had in July set up a panel to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by NTA.

According to the high-level panel headed by former ISRO Chief R Radhakrishnan, multistage testing for NEET-UG could be a viable possibility that needs to be followed up.

While NEET was last year plagued by several allegations of irregularities, including paper leaks, and litigation, UGC-NET was cancelled as the ministry received inputs that the integrity of the exam had been compromised. Both matters are being probed by the CBI.

#### **HC Reserves**

have a vested right to attend Parliament and hadn't demonstrated a specific purpose for his request

He highlighted security concerns over Rashid being allowed to enter Parliament, saying custody parole required police escort, posing complications given the restrictions on armed personnel within the premises.

"Custody parole is not a vested right of a parliamentarian," Luthra noted, distinguishing this case from instances where custody parole was granted for personal reasons such as marriage or bereavement.

Luthra argued, "He has to be accompanied by armed personnel. How can you have armed personnel enter Parliament? Nobody with arms can enter. My objection has no meaning. He is subject to the norms of a different body."

"There are security issues beyond the NIA's domain. Custody parole is not a vested right of a parliamentarian," he added.

Justice Mahajan said though there might not be a vested right to attend the session, the court could exercise its discretion.

Senior advocate N Hariharan, along with advocate Vikhyat Oberoi, representing Rashid, said he should be allowed to attend the session as his constituency was not being represented during the budget session when the funds allocated to his state had gone down by Rs 1,000 crore.

He referred to a previous case involving lawmaker Pappu Yadav who was allowed to participate in a Parliament session in 2009.

forms to promote separatist ideology and played a role in inciting violence against security forces in the region. The trial is ongoing, with 21 prosecution witnesses examined out of a total of 248.

According to the FIR by NIA, Rashid's name cropped up during the interrogation of businessman and co-accused Zahoor Watali.

The NIA said Rashid sought to legitimise Pakistan-based United Jehad Coucil which functioned as a common platform for terror groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

The accused is a part of a "well-calibrated" strategy devised by Pakistan to instigate youths and create an environment of unrest, it added.

After being chargesheeted in October 2019, a special NIA court framed charges against him in March. 2022.

Charges were framed in the case against Rashid and others in 2022 under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the government),124A (sedition) of IPC and for offences relating to terrorist acts and terror finding of UAPA.

Rashid's tenure as an MLA was mired in controversies and drama. In October 2015, he was assaulted by BJP MLAs inside the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly for hosting a party where he allegedly served beef in the lawns of the MLA hostel.

The maverick politician was also attacked with black ink in Press Club New Delhi by BJP activists a day after his critical comments regarding the lynching of a Kashmiri truck driver in Udhampur.

#### CM Omar Expresses

It is imperative that authorities take proper care & ensure that his condition does not deteriorate while the court arrives at a considered decision on his bail plea," Abdullah posted on his X handle.

He was reacting to reports about the Lok Sabha member being shifted to Ram Manohar Lohia hospital after his health condition deteriorated.

The politician has been on a hunger strike since January 31 for not being allowed to attend Parliament, which is currently in session. **MP's Health** 

deeply alarming. Despite his critical condition, his voice for justice remains unvielding. We urge the authorities to prioritize his medical care and ensure he receives immediate and comprehensive treatment,"said AIP spokesperson Inam Un Nabi.

The spokesperson further called on the government to address the issue urgently. "The

#### **'Books Only Can**

readers if they want to build their lives."

LG Sinha during his visit to the Fair commended the endeavour of National Book Trust, India, under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for providing an engaging platform to book lovers, publishers and authors.

He has also asked the National Book Trust to regularly organise annual book festivals in Jammu and Srinagar.

After his visit the Lieutenant Governor posted on X: "World Book Fair is the ideal opportunity to promote reading habit, celebrate the contribution of literary communities, keep track of new ideas and invite writers and citizens for cultural exchange and intellectual discourse to expand our horizon."

"A book is the best companion, which offers new ideas and perspectives in our life journey. It is the best medium for thinkers, scientists and spiritualists to preserve and carry forward the wealth of knowledge for the benefit of future generations," he added.

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## **43 Judicial Posts Vacant In** J&K, Govt Informs Parliament

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union government has informed Parliament that Jammu and Kashmir currently has 43 vacant positions in district and subordinate courts.

The figures were presented in response to a query regarding pending cases in courts and judicial vacancies across the country by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal.

According to official data, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers in Jammu and Kashmir stands at 322 as of February 3, 2025. Of these, 43 positions remain unfilled.

Over the past five years, the number of sanctioned positions has increased. In December 2020, the sanctioned strength was 296, with 41 vacancies.

By December 2021, the sanctioned strength rose to 300, while vacancies increased to 59. In December 2022, the sanctioned strength reached 314, with 91 vacancies. By December 2023, the number of sanctioned posts had increased to 317, with 94 vacancies.

The latest data shows that while the sanctioned strength has grown to 322, the number of vacant positions has decreased to 43. The government also provided data for Ladakh, where the sanctioned strength of judicial officers remains at 17, with six vacancies—(KNO)

respiratory illnesses are com-

mon due to the region's climatic

conditions. "Cold and dry air in

winter often worsens symptoms

such as cough, breathlessness,

chest tightness and wheezing,

particularly for individuals with

pre-existing respiratory condi-

tions like asthma, bronchitis, and

chronic obstructive pulmonary

These respiratory issues, Dr

Naveed said, are due to multiple factors, including climatic

conditions, smoking and high

pollen concentrations due to

. Kashmir's greenery. "During the

spring season, pollen levels in

the atmosphere rise significant-

ly, leading to a higher incidence

and spring approaching, Dr Nav-

eed cautioned that allergy-related

issues will likely increase. He ad-

vised patients to follow their doc-

tor's recommendations carefully,

saying that adhering to treatment

protocols can help keep symp-

toms under control and prevent

seeking treatment only when

symptoms appear. However,

those suffering from chronic

follow a continuous treatment

patients

severe complications.

added-(KNO)

"We often see

With winter coming to an end

of allergic diseases," he said.

disease (COPD)," he said.

## **Pulmonologists Calls For Regulating Mobile Phone Usage**

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: Renowned pulmonologist Dr Naveed Nazir Shah has called for regulating mobile phone usage, particularly among children and the elderly, to prevent addiction and mental exhaustion.

Speaking to the media in Srinagar, Dr Naveed acknowledged the importance of the digital revolution, noting that mobile phones and the internet have become essential for official work, studies, and communication. However, he warned that excessive screen time is leading to addiction, affecting not only children but also retired individuals who spend prolonged hours on their devices.

He highlighted the growing influence of artificial intelligence, saying that an overreliance on AI-driven content is contributing to mental fatigue. Urging parents to monitor their children's screen time, he recommended the use of parental controls to track online activities.

Dr Naveed underlined the importance of balanced mobile usage and called for greater awareness of the potential harms of excessive screen exposure, especially among individuals under 18.

Addressing health concerns specific to Jammu and Kashmir, the noted pulmonologist said that

## **CAT To Handle Contempt Proceedings For Transferred Pleas: HC**

## **Kashmir's Gold Market Hit As Prices Soar**

Jewelers Report 90% Decline In Sales

#### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The soaring gold prices have brought the jeweler market in the Kashmir region to a near standstill, with jewelers reporting a drastic decline in sales.

Bashir Ahmad, President of the All Kashmir Gold Dealers and Workers Association said that the market was witnessing a steep 90% drop in business over the past week. Speaking on the current

situation, Ahmad stated, "The market is down. There is no sign of work anywhere. For the past week, sales have plummeted and traders are left waiting for prices to stabilize. Customers are holding back, anticipating a drop in rates, but there is no certainty about when that might happen." He said that currently the

price of 24-carat gold is Rs 86,000 per 10 grams, a sharp increase that has further discouraged buyers. Other variants like 22-carat and 18-carat gold are also witnessing a steep rise in prices.



Ahmad highlighted the The sharp surge in gold pricsevere impact on the Sarafa es has led to concerns among traders and customers alike, market in the region, stating that business activity has with many waiting for a cordwindled to less than 10% of rection before making any purchases. The uncertainty in its usual volume. "Shops that once had a steady flow of custhe market continues to loom tomers now see just a handful. large, impacting the liveli-There is no adjustment in coin hoods of those dependent on the gold trade in the region. rates either, as gold prices rise, According to the jewelers, the so do coin prices," he added. soaring gold prices are pushing

Asked about future trends, the potential customers to re-Ahmad refrained from making predictions, stating that the consider their plans. "Gold has market volatility made it difficult to foresee any changes. "I can't say anything about it. rent prices are pushing people to rethink about the yellow metal The situation remains uncertain," he said.

**"THE MARKET IS DOWN.** There is no sign of work anywhere. For the past week, sales have plummeted and traders are left waiting for prices to stabilize"

## BOTCHED SURGERY CASE After 2 Doctors, Govt Suspends Technician

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: Botched up surgery at Hakeem Sanaullah Hospital in Sopore has led to the suspension of two doctors and a technician and further investigations are underway. An official said that the 45

year old woman was admitted in the private hospital for an ear surgery. However,

respiratory conditions should in the absence of the doctor treating regimen, just like diabetic and her, the procedure hypertensive patients do," he was allegedly conducted by another

doctor, who mistak- e n l y performed a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus). Following public outcry,

authorities acted swiftly and sealed the hospital's operation theatre, citing serious violations of medical protocols Soon after the sealing of the OT the Health and Medical Education Department suspended two doctors, Dr. Anjum Nazir, Consultant Gynaecologist, SDH Sopore, and Dr. Tariq Ahmad Dar, Medical Officer (Diploma in Anesthesia), DH Bandipora and barred them from carrying out private practice anywhere in the Union Territory. On Friday Health and Medical Education Department suspended Ghulam Nabi, theatre technician at Sub District Hospital Sopore."Pending enquiry into the incident that occurred on 03.02.2025 at Hakeem Sonaullah Hospital, Sopore and to ensure a fair and impartial investigation while maintaining the integrity of the healthcare system Mr. Ghulam Nabi, theatre technician, SDH Sopore is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect and shall remain attached with Directorate of

Health Services, Jammu till further orders," reads an order issued by Health and Medical Education Department, a copy of which lies with KNO.

HOW CAN DOCTOR BE SO **NEGLIGENT?** A doctor wishing anonym-

ity while talking to KNO said,

"Mistakenly removing the uterus of a patient who was supposed to undergo ENT procedure is a clear cut case of medical negligence."

"It's possible that they had to operate two ladies, one by ENT rgeon & other by obstetri cian and they may have mixed the two cases," he added.

complications during the procedure/anaesthesia which are expected and documented in medical literature, we'd have defended it but in this case it is not possible," he added.

always been an essential part of

Kashmiri weddings, but the cur-

purchase," jewelers said-(KNO)

Another doctor said that the patient whose uterus was removed is a 45 year old woman, who is

already a mother of two. "Had she been young her entire life would have been ruined. How can a doctor be so

negligent?" he said. People even questioned how a gynecologist was performing an ENT surgery."How can a gynecologist perform ENT surgery and what is the connection between the two," Aabid Hussian a resident of Sopore said

## 'Weak Food Regulations, Poor Hygiene Reasons Behind **Many Diseases'**

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: The weak food regulations and poor hygiene practices can lead to significant public health risks, primarily through the spread of foodborne illnesses, the health experts said.

The health experts said that unsafe food containing harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical substances causes many diseases that can range from diarrhea to cancers

Recently, a shocking video went viral on social media that ignited concerns over food safety in Kashmir. The footage, captured outside the revered Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar showed dead rodents floating in a tin of cooking oil used by a street vendor following which Police booked the vendor, but the incident has raised concerns about unhygienic food practices across the region.

Dr Muzaffar, a Food Safety expert said that foodborne illnesses can range from mild gastrointestinal discomfort to severe, lifethreatening conditions.

"Vulnerable populations, such as infants, young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems, are particularly at risk. Common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and fever," he said.

He said that stricter regulations and greater public awareness in this regard are very essential and personal hygiene such as washing hands before eating is vital, adding that the mutton that has good demand is being sold openly exposing to dust and bacteria leading to many health issues

"Even we are witnessing that there is a good crowd at barbeque stalls where no care of hygiene is being taken and it can easily contribute to the spread of infections and transmit diseases.

Dr Mushtaq, a Physician said that street food vendors and even at hotels and restaurants, excessive salt, Monosodium Glutamate (MSG), banned food dyes like tartrazine

SAKSHAM MISSION

## J&K To Get 338, Ladakh 14 **Upgraded Anganwadis**

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Centre has sanctioned 338 Anganwadi Centres in J&K and 14 in Ladakh for upgradation under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0. According to official data wailable, the upgraded Saksh-

to enhance services for children and mothers.

Under the initiative, aimed at improving nutrition and early childhood care services, 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres across India are being modernized, with

50,000 new centers planned over five years

"Street vendors, hotels and restaurants should adopt comprehensive food safety protocols, such as Hazard **Analysis and Critical Control** Points (HACCP), to identify and manage potential hazards in the food production process,"

they added.

and over use of cooking oil that increase the trans-fat levels thereby raises the risks of heart disease.

He said that lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, fatty liver and high cholesterol are on rise and one of the reasons is the unhealthy diets.

Doctors said that regular and thorough handwashing with soap and water, especially before handling food, can prevent the transfer of pathogens.

They said that store perishable items at appropriate temperatures to inhibit bacterial growth. Refrigerate foods promptly and avoid leaving cooked foods at room temperature for extended periods.

"Use separate cutting boards and utensils for raw and cooked foods. Ensure that raw meats are stored separately from ready-toeat items to prevent the spread of harmful bacteria," they said.

"Street vendors. hotels and restaurants should adopt comprehensive food safety protocols, such as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), to identify and manage potential hazards in the food production process," they added.

As per the official data, there are over 14,000 registered food establishments that operate in Kashmir under J&K Drug and Food Control Organization.

Meanwhile, the authorities at Drug and Food Control Organization maintained that they have fined over 42 lakhs for violations in 2024 for offences that range from adulteration to unsafe hygiene practices. –(KNO)

#### M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said that the contempt proceedings regarding orders passed by it in the petitions which were subsequently transferred to the Central Administrative Tribunal shall be dealt with by CAT only.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar made the observations while dealing with a petition the subject matter of which according to the court fell within the definition of 'service matters' as contained in Section 3(q) of the Administrative Tribunals Act. 1985 which become applicable to the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh after coming into force of the J&K Re-organization Act, 2019 from 31 October 2019.

Section 29 of the Act provided for transfer of all the pending service matter related cases to the CAT upon its establishment.

Through the medium of petition, the petitioner complained about violation of interim order dated 29 December 2020 whereby authorities were directed to entertain his joining report against a particular post. "A Coordinate Bench of this Court.....held that contempt proceedings in relation to orders passed by this Court in the petitions, which subsequently stand transferred to the Tribunal under Section 29 of the Act, shall lie only and only before the Tribunal under Section 17 of the

Act." the court said. Consequently the court held the contempt petition filed before it as not maintainable.

"The same is, accordingly, dismissed with liberty to the petitioners to approach the Central Administrative Tribunal by way of an application under Section 17 of the Act read with Contempt of Courts (CAT) Rules, 1992," the court added.

"The attendants can file a case in the Consumer Court and demand compensation for the loss, ranging from millions to crores from the hospital and the doctor," the medico added.

"Moreover, if there is any threat to the life of the patient, in such a case, said doctor may be jailed for some time along with his/her license being cancelled for some time."

Another doctor said that no one can defend such gross negligence. "This case is not worth defending," he said, adding, "We only defend the cases of alleged medical negligence which are expected complications of procedures/ medicines and where due consent is taken before going for the procedure, for example, if this case was rightly operated for ENT procedure, and patient would have developed

He, however, said that when

your health is their business these things can happen. "When initially the news about the botched up surgery broke we thought it's a prank. How can a doctor remove a uterus instead of performing ENT surgery? No one could believe it," Hussain added.

Several people even questioned the silence of doctors associations who often come in support of medicos whenever there is any allegation of medical negligence. "Whenever there is clear cut negligence, doctors associations must speak. They should accept that their counterparts have committed a mistake," said an observer.

A top official said that an investigation in this regard is going on and strict action will be taken against those found guilty. "We are expecting that probe will be completed by this week and culprits will face the music," he added–(KNO)

## Police Arrest 3 Peddlers In Anantnag, Shopian

#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Friday said to have arrested three drug peddlers in Anantnag and Shopian and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Anantnag, Police Station Mattan received a specific information through reliable sources that one person namely Farooq Ahmad Kumar son of Mohd Subhan Kumar resident of Khul Chohar Mattan has indulged in peddling of narcotic substances and accordingly has hoarded a large quantity of narcotic substance in his residential house, a police spokesman said in a statement.

Accordingly, police said that a case under relevant sections

Station Mattan and investigation was taken up. "On receipt of this information, a police party alongwith Executive Magistrate concerned carried out the search of the said house. During search, about 10 Kgs of Charas Powder and cash of Rs. 2.16.650/- was recovered from the said house besides, the owner of the said house was also arrested. Further

is going on," police said.

of law was registered in Police relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Pahalgam and investigation was initiated, police said.

Similarly in Shopian, a Police Party led by SHO Police Station Heerpora under the supervision of SP Hqrs Shopian Shri Javed Ahmad-JKPS at a checkpoint established at Borihalan, intercepted a suspicious person. During the search, 920 grams of Cannabis powder was investigation in the instant case recovered from his posses-Additionally, Police Party sion. He has been identified as from Police Station Pahalgam Manzoor Ahmad Wanah son of at a checkpoint established Gamah Wanah resident of Devat Langabal Pahalgam, apprepora. Accordingly, a case vide hended one person identified FIR No. 02/2025 under relevant as Shahrukh Ahmad Sheikh sections of law has been regisson of Mohd Ramzan Sheikh tered at Police Station Heerporesident of Sheikh Mohalla Salra. Further investigation is unlar and recovered 120 grams derway to unearth the forward of Charas from his possession. and backward linkages of the arrested individual, police said. In this regard a case under

### 50% Libraries Are Without Books In Govt Schools

#### Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, more than 50 percent of those government-run-schools having library set-up have no textbooks available for the students and teachers.

The official figures reveal that only 49.78 percent government schools were having books available in the libraries across Jammu and Kashmir. The official figures also reveal that 50.22 percent government schools have no books available in the institute libraries.

The figures further reveal that in private schools of Jammu and Kashmir only 73.73 percent institutes were having the library with books facility for the students while 26.27 percent libraries were without books.

The official figures however reveal that there was 100 percent book facility available in the government aided schools.

Pertinent to mention that more than 98 percent of educational institutes in Jammu and Kashmir san digital library services and among all states of India, Jammu and Kashmir education sector has second highest 'Untrained Teachers' at Pre-Primary and Upper Primary levels. Besides, the Union Territory has 4th highest untrained teachers at primary level as well.

The recent official figures reveal that the highest numbers of untrained teachers were reported in Tamil Nadu followed by Jammu and Kashmir wherein only 22.3 percent of teachers at Pre-Primary levels (Kindergartens) were trained to teach the students.

The recent official figures reveal that "Among the total 24,296 government and private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, only 373 institutions that amount to 1.53 percent were having the digital libraries.'

It also reveals that in 5452 private schools of Jammu and Kashmir, more than 12 Lakh students and in the case of 18,785 government schools, over 14 Lakh students were enrolled—(KNO)

am Anganwadis will feature LED screens, water purifiers, Poshan Vatika (nutrition gardens), and learning materials

Also, the government has ordered the upgradation of all mini-Anganwadis to fullfledged centers—(KNO)

## **MLA Chrari Sharif Advocates** For Development Of Yusmarg



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: MLA Chrari Sharif and Speaker of J&K Legislative Assembly Abdul Raheem Rather, in a pre-budget consultation meeting of MLAs with the Chief Minister who holds the Finance portfolio as well advocated for development of Yusmarg as best Tourist Destination being the nearest tourist spot from capital Srinagar. The place has immense tourism potential and is a picturesque destination in the Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir. The discussion focused on strategic initiatives to develop Yousmarg into a premier tourist hub that will boost economic growth and sustainable employment in the region.

During the meeting, Rather highlighted Yousmarg's breathtaking landscapes, lush meadows, and dense forests, emphasizing its appeal to nature lovers, adventure seekers, and those looking for peaceful retreats. He stressed the need to promote Yousmarg as a yearround tourism destination, catering to both summer and winter travelers. He drew the attention of the Chief Minister towards Infrastructure Development improving road connectivity, enhancing accommodation facilities, and improving essential amenities to accommodate an increasing number of visitors.

"Besides creation of a tourist circuit linking it to pilgrimage tourism places like ChrariSharif and Pakherpora. Connecting Yousmarg with Nilnag, Doodhpathri will boost the local trade and economy," he said.

Rather emphasized the need for construction of a ropeway to connect the most beautiful locations adjacent to Yousmarg namely Bargah and Haijan

The Chief Minister acknowledged Yousmarg's significance as a promising tourist destination and assured full support for its development. He directed the concerned authorities to expedite initiatives aimed at enhancing Yousmarg's infrastructure and tourism appeal

# SPORTS

## **Ponting Shocked Iyer Does** Not Have A Spot In India's White-Ball Line-Up

#### **Press Trust Of India**

**CUTTACK:** Australian legend Ricky Ponting finds it incredulous that Shreyas Iyer has not been given a permanent slot in India's white-ball side, given his magnificent form and the ability to dominate spinners on slow subcontinental pitches.

Iyer was one of the vital cogs in India's run to the final of the 50-over World Cup in 2023, with the middle-order batter scoring 530 runs to emerge the seventh-highest run-getter in the global event, and he further validated his prowess in the format with a 36-ball 59 against England in the first ODI at Nagpur on Thursday. In domestic cricket too, the

30-year-old has been in fine what he's done since around fettle this season, scoring two centuries for Mumbai in the (IPL) auction time going for-Vijay Hazare Trophy. ward in domestic cricket, he "I've been a little bit sur-

has been pretty much outstanding," said Ponting about prised that he's been out of India's side in the last couple of the right-hand batter, who years. He had a terrific World guided Kolkata Knight Riders Cup back in India (2023) to their third IPL title last year where he played beautifully after missing the 2023 edition in the middle-order and I acdue to a serious back injury. Ponting feels lyer will tually felt then that he'd althrive in the Champions Tromost cemented that spot and made that his own," opined phy, beginning in Pakistan Ponting on ICC Review. and Dubai on February 19. "He's got the game that will

this year has been brilliant.

"It sort of coincided with

"Then he had those couple of injuries, obviously injured stand up to the white-ball for-

his back and went out of the mats, especially in that part of side, but his domestic season the world," Ponting said.

"On those wickets -- the slower, lower wickets -- he's dynamic on those. We know how good a hitter of spin bowling he is and teams tend not to bowl a lot of spin at India, but at some stage it's going to come."

Ponting, who is Punjab Kings coach, bought lyer for Rs 26.75 crore for the upcoming IPL season, added that he is 'delighted" to see the Mumbai man in PBKS as the franchise look to win their first title.

"If Shreyas is out in the middle, then he's as good as anyone. So, I'm delighted to see him back in the team."

J&K Take On Kerala In Ranji **Trophy Quarter-Final Today** 



#### **Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's cricket team is all set to lock horns with Kerala in 2024-25 Ranji Trophy quarter-final matchup on Saturday at Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune. The game begins at 9:30 AM and will air on Sports18 Network and can be streamed on JioCinema.

J&K topped Elite Group A with 35 points, beating the likes of Mumbai and Baroda, to reach the quarter-final stage

after five years. The team won in their last game. five of its seven games to cap off an impressive group stage second in Elite Group C. Batter performance.

Salman Nizar and bowler Jalaj Shubham Khajuria has been Saxena have been the best perthe standout batter, scoring 663 formers for the team. runs in 12 innings with a top The venue for the quarterscore of 255. Pacer Aquib Nabi final matchup was changed from has taken 38 wickets in 13 in-

Meanwhile, Kerala finished

Jammu to Pune. After checking nings with a best of 6 for 54. the MCA Stadium pitch on Friday Other pacers in the squad, Umar morning, Shubham Khajuria said Nazir and Yudhvir Singh have per The Hindu: "By the looks of also contributed to the team's it. the surface should support excellent run. Off-spinner Sahil our brand of cricket, and having Lotra is in great form, having played in such conditions early, taken 11 wickets against Baroda we have a good chance."

It's A Catch 22 Situation For **Out-Of-Form Rohit: Ashwin** 



**Press Trust of India** 

NEW DELHI: Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin feels it's a "catch-22 situation" for an out-ofform Rohit Sharma, and believes it's high time for the India skipper to silence his critics by letting his bat do the talking ahead of the upcoming Champions Trophy.

Rohit, who had dropped himself from the final Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia owing to poor form, scored just two runs in the first ODI against England in Nagpur on his return to international cricket after a month.

"This is not easy. If you look at it from Rohit's point of view, then obviously, it is frustrating for him. He ries," Ashwin said.

wants to concentrate on the series. He thinks that I've done well in this format and I'd like to continue.

"I'm going into the tournament with a lot of confidence on the back of the One-Day tournaments that I've played," Ashwin said on on his YouTube channel. "But people will ask questions. The ones who are watching will obviously ask. It's a catch-22 situation. You can't stop these questions. When will they stop? When he performs," he added. Rohit has scored just 166 runs in his last 16 innings across formats.

"But as a cricketer, I understand what Rohit is going through. It's not easy. I pray that he does well and scores a century in this se-

28 year of publication

## **Short TAKES**

### **CM Reviews Jammu Half Marathon & Ultra Marathon 2025**

hief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday chaired a review meeting to discuss the preparations for the Jammu Half Marathon & Ultra Marathon 2025, scheduled to be held later this year.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Satosh D. Vaidya, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Director Tourism Jammu, representatives from BISAG-N, marathon experts, and other concerned officials.

Speaking at the meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah appreciated the initiative, emphasizing that the marathon should receive widespread publicity to attract top athletes from across the country. The chief minister highlighted the significance of such events in boosting tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and positioning the region as a prime destination for sports and adventure tourism.

The Jammu Half Marathon 2025 will feature: 21 km Half Marathon, 10 km Fitness Gauge Run and 5 km Fun Run. Discussions were also held on the route planning, prize structure, logo, flag-off timings, T shirts, branding, sponsorships, and digital outreach.

### **Div Com Reviews Preparations** For 5th Khelo India Winter Games

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bid-huri on Friday convened a meeting of officers to review overall preparation for the successful conduct of 5th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games to be held at Gulmarg later this month.

The mega event of national winter games phase 2nd of KIWG shall commence at winter wonderland Gulmarg from February 22 and shall conclude on February 25. Over 1,000 athletes, coaches and officials will participate in the event of national importance.

Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Directer Urban Local Bodies, MD JKTDC, Director Health Services Kashmir, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority, SSP Budgam, SSP Baramulla, SSP Traffic, Secretary J&K Sports Council, officers from various departments including SMC, PHE, KPDCL, R&B, MED, Transport, Airport Authority, Cable Car Corporation, Information, Tourism, H&H, NHIDCL, SDRF, CISF, HAWS and other essential departments attended the meeting.

### **IUST Cricket Team Leaves For North** Zone Inter-University Tourney

The Islamic University of Science and Technology I flagged off its men's cricket team on Friday for participation in the North Zone Inter-University Cricket Tournament 2025. The team was flagged off by IUST Registrar, Prof. Abdul Wahid, in the presence of Finance Officer Mr. Sameer Wazir and Dean of Students Dr. Asifa Baba.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Abdul Wahid expressed pride in the university's athletes competing at such a prestigious platform. He emphasized the role of sports in shaping character, fostering discipline, and promoting teamwork. He conveyed confidence that the team would not only perform well but also uphold the values of IUST with dedication and integrity.

## SFRVF YouTube

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