

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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O Vintage Mall, 2nd floor Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

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

'UNFILTERED, UNVERIFIED, UNACCOUNTABLE'

The Rise Of Untrained Voices In Kashmiri Journalism

Syed Mohammad Burhan

C+91-9797703533

Srinagar: In recent years, social media platforms have witnessed an influx of self-styled journalists, many of whom operate pages that were initially dedicated to cultural content or personal blogs. However, these pages have now rebranded themselves as news outlets, amassing millions of followers and challenging the credibility of traditional journalism.

Among such pages are

and 'Kaeshir Che Balay' on Facebook, both of which have renamed themselves and ventured into the news space. This phenomenon has led to backlash from professional journalists and media consumers alike, who have called out

Media Power

Demands

sanctity of the profession and spreading misleading content under the guise of news. The rapid rise of untrained

these platforms for diluting the

voices in the Kashmiri journalism landscape has sparked concerns among seasoned pro-fessionals in the field.

he Supreme Court has said persons working in key positions in the media must exercise utmost caution and responsibility before **Responsibility: SC** publishing any statements, news, or opinions

and observed the right to freedom of speech and expression was paramount. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan reiterated that the power of the media in shaping public I More on P6

THOSE WITH

VESTED

MANIPULATE SOCIAL

MEDIA to gain access

to power without being

accountable to anyone.'

INTERESTS

Kashmir Speaking to Observer, Peerzada Ashiq, Senior Assistant Editor at The Hindu, highlights the ethical crisis that stems from the lack of accountability in social media journalism.

"There is poor implementa-tion of provisions that already exist, and it creates an ethical crisis. Those with vested interests manipulate social media to gain access to power without being accountable to anyone." he explains. | More on P6

DISPROPORTIONATE ASSETS CASE

CBI Carries Out Searches At 7 Places

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Wednesday conducted searches at seven locations in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a disproportionate assets case against Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, secretary of labour and employment department, officials said.

Ranjan has allegedly amassed assets which he could not satisfactorily account for, they said.

The agency has registered a case against Ranjan after analysing his assets during its investigation into gun license cases, they said.

Sources said that sleuths of the premier central agency today carried out searches at Jammu, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Varanasi and

HC Quashes Majid Hyderi's **PSÁ Detention,**

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday quashed the detention order of journalist Majid Hyderi under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Justice V K Chatterjee quashed the detention of Hyderi under PSA, advocate Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, counsel for the journalist, told PTI.

Hyderi was arrested in September, 2023 on charges of extortion and defamation. He was booked under the PSA and lodged in Kot Bhalwal Iail

Meanwhile, the High Court dismissed a petition filed by advocate Mian Abdul Qayoom challenging his detention under the PSA.

Qayoom was

A shopkeeper carefully crafts money garlands at his shop in Maharaj Gunj market, Srinagar, KO Photo Faisal Khan

'Thank U for Your Fake Luv'

J&K's Parched Future? **Water Crisis**

'Biggest Problem': **CM Warns**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is staring at a water crisis this year due to a massive deficit in rainfall, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday, calling for a more proactive approach and collective efforts towards water management and conservation.

Kashmir has witnessed a dry winter this year with an 80 per cent deficit of rainfall overall this year, raising the possibility of drought in the valley this

Abdullah said in a post on X, I&K is staring at a water crisis this year. It's not a recent phenomenon, actually it's been building up for a few years now. While the government will have to adopt a more proactive approach for water management & conservation, it can't just be a government centric approach. All of us residents of J&K will have to change the way we take water for granted.'

The chief minister said he will review the measures being taken by the concerned department to deal with the crisis.

Experts Recommend

Less Water-Intensive Crops

dry spell, authorities have warned of an impend-

ing drought and urged farmers to shift to crops that require less irrigation. Joint Director (Extension) of

the Agriculture Department, Sartaj Ahmad Shah said if the

dry conditions continue, the valley will face a severe water

crisis, particularly affecting paddy cultivation, | More on P6

"I'll be reviewing the measures the Jal Shakti (PHE) Dept intends to take to deal with the developing crisis & I'll also be talking to the people of J&K over the next few months about what we can do collectively," he added.

According to officials, several water bodies are flowing below the zero level mark at many places while some springs in south Kashmir have dried up completely due to the receding water table.

An official at the Irrigation and Flood Control Department said the water level in Jhelum and several other water bodies was more than a metre below the usual water level for this time of the year.

"If it does not rain or snow in the next fortnight, there is a possibility of a crisis with regards to water for drinking and irrigation purposes," he added.

Social media is flooded with videos and images of driedup water bodies with Achabal springs in south Kashmir having dried up completely.

The river bed of Jhelum is visible at many places, especially upstream in | More on P6

J&K Staring At 29% Forced Load Shedding In A Decade

Agencies

Srinagar: In an awful revelation, authorities have said that Jammu and Kashmir may face 29 percent of 'forced load shedding' of annual power in the year 2034-35.

authorities Besides, the have further projected that in the coming ten years, the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of power demand is likely to increase by more than four percent in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. According to the official doc-

uments, authorities in a report have projected that "Electrical energy demand for the UT of J&K and Ladakh is increasing with a CAGR of 4.2 percent from 2024-25 to 2034-35 as forecasted by 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) of India."

It has further said that the projections of J&K also indicate



that electrical energy demand may increase with a CAGR of 4.07 percent from 2024-25 to 2034-35.

"For satisfying resource adequacy that is meeting the electricity demand reliably and at affordable cost, the UT needs to methodically plan its capacity expansion either by investing or by procuring power," it reads.

The document states that in view of the reduction in cost of solar panels and newer technology options like battery energy storage systems, planning for long term optimal generation capacity mix gains tremendous importance so as the future generation capacity mix is cost effective as well as environment friendly. | More on P6

Omar Abdullah Says, J&K Moving Beyond 'Evil Eye'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir is emerging out of the shadow of the "evil eye" and is on verge of reclaiming its status as one of India's leading tourism destinations, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday.

He also invited people from across the globe to explore the picturesque region popularly known as 'paradise on earth'.

Speaking at the inauguration of the SATTE exhibition at Yashobhumi here, Abdullah highlighted I&K's rich and diverse offerings beyond its famous



Pahalgam or religious pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi and Amarnath shrines. Jammu and Kashmir offers a

lot more to satisfy anyone from holiday makers | More on P6

'Ragging Of **Kashmiri Student** In Karnataka **Unfortunate'**

hief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said he has raised the issue of ragging of a Kashmiri MBBS student at a college in Karnataka with CM Siddaramaiah and was assured of necessary action. | More on P6



Rain, Snow During Next 24 Hours: MeT

he Meteorological Department Srinagar on Wednesday predicted light to moderate rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours. | More on P6

hirteen more people, who were lodged in an isolation centre owing to mysterious deaths in their remote village, returned home in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said. According to officials, with the return of these 13 people, all the 395 people lodged in three town have returned home in the past week after spending more than

6-member SIT To

Investigation Team (SIT) headed by a superintendent of police was constituted Wednesday to probe the recent murder of two men in a remote village in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Bodies of Roshan Lal, 45, and Shamsher, 37, were retrieved from the banks of a stream in Batheri village in Billawar on February 16. The postmortem | More on P6

SC Defers Hearing On

he Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned the pleas against the appointments of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners (EC) under the 2023 law. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh indicated that the matter would be listed after the Holi festival break due to paucity of time. However, no date was fixed for hearing the matter. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, | More on P6

4 Drug Peddlers Arrested: Police

ontinuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police on Wednesday said to have arrested four drug peddlers in Anantnag & Handwara and recovered contraband substance from their possession. Police party from Police Station Aishmugam under the supervision of SDPO Pahalgam at a checkpoint established at Brad Aishmugam and arrested two | More on P6

Case Filed Against Ex-MD JKHCC

he Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday said to have registered a case against the then Managing Director J&K **Cooperative Housing Corporation** and others for illegal allotment of state land. In a statement, the ACB spokesman said that a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) was conducted to look into allegations that the J&K **Cooperative Housing Corporation** Ltd. (JKCHC) purchased 392 kanal of land from private | More on P6

7 houses gutted In **Ramban Fire**

even houses were gutted in a fire that broke out in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said on Wednesday. The fire broke out in a house at Syedpora hamlet of Chamalwas in Banihal area during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday and spread to adjoining houses, they said. Fire and emergency services department rushed several tenders and | More on P6

13 Isolated Villagers **Return Home In Rajouri**

S H O

different isolation centres in Rajouri three weeks there. More on P6

Probe Kathua Murders

six-member Special

CEC, ECs Pleas

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Thursday | 20-02-2025

Study Reveals Genes That May Help Quit Cigarette Smoking Using Anti-Smoking Drug

Press Trust Of India

study has identified genes that could play a role in how the antismoking drug varenicline helps individuals quit the habit.

Varenicline, widely used to aid smoking cessation, mimics nicotine by binding to specific proteins in brain cells, blocking the rewarding effects of smoking and reducing cravings. It is commonly available in India under varied brand names, including Champix.

research-However, ers, including those



of Leicester, UK, said that the drug does not work for everyone. "Our study is the first to scan the entire genome to look for genes

linked to successfully

stopping smoking using varenicline," lead researcher Kayesha Coley, University of Leicester, said. The study, published

looked at health records from databases, such as the UK Biobank, to identify people who quit smoking with varenicline and in the journal Nicotine those who did not. and Tobacco Research, A genetic analysis

-- small changes in one's DNA -- that were related to a person being able to successfully quit cigarettes using vareni-"We provide initial

insights into the bio-

logical underpinnings of varenicline-aided smoking cessation implicating through genes involved in various processes, including gene expression," the authors wrote. The findings help improve understanding of how one responds to varenicline, even as more studies are needed, the authors added. The genes give us

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohmad Amin Sofi, S/o Ghulam Nabi Sofi, R/o Saderbal Palhallan Pattan, hereby inform the

general public that I am applying for a Fertilizers License under the firm name Sofi Fertilizers. If

anybody has any objection, he/she may contact the concerned authority within 7 days. After that, no

some useful insights into the diverse biological processes at play, but the next step is to confirm our findings with even larger studies, Coley said. The partici-pants for the study were a part of the 'Extended Cohort for E-health, Environment and DNA' (EX-CEED) study, based at the University of Leicester.

The genetic analysis was also performed on health records of people from other national and international cohort studies, including those from Estonia, which have also collected genetic data.

Celebrates 10 Years of Transforming Youth Lives Through Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Youth Empowerment Organisation (YEO)







Srinagar, India - February 19, 2025: The Youth Empowerment Organisation (YEO) proudly celebrates its 10th anniversary. marking a decade of dedicated service in empowering unemployed youth across India through skill development and entre-

What began with a mobile repairing program in Khag, Budgam, has evolved into a nationwide initiative spanning 16 states, including Leh, Kargil, and Mokokchung in Nagaland. YEO's journey started with just one Sector Skill Council and now includes partnerships with 14 such councils, as well as collaborations with renowned institutions like the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), IITs, IIMs, NDMA, EPI, SICB, UDAK, Samagra Shiksha, and more.

In addition to its regular programs, YEO is also conducting CSR-linked skill development training programs funded by nationallevel organizations such as the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA), Power Grid Corporation of India (Powergrid), NTPC, and Honda,

Over the past decade, YEO has equipped over 60,000 youth with market-relevant skills, opening doors to sustainable career opportunities and fostering entrepreneurship. These efforts have not only transformed countless lives but have also strengthened local economies and contributed to national job creation and business growth.

"This milestone is a testament to the trust, dedication, and hard work of our youth, trainers, and partners at every level," said Sajjid Hussain Mir, Chairman of YEO. "We are immensely proud of the impact we have made and remain steadfast in our commitment to building a brighter, more inclusive future."

As YEO moves forward, the organization remains committed to expanding its reach, launching innovative training programs, and creating more opportunities for youth empowerment. With continued collaboration and dedication, YEO aims to inspire more success stories and foster a stronger, more empowered society

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.210/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under

Endorsement No: ERB/10316-324

DATED:14-02-2025

-tenaers(in Double cover system)are Invited or red with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and othe

FC GRANTS

and on behalf of The Government of J&K(U/T)e-tenders(in Double co

Doc. (In Rs.)

Rs. 1100/=

29.978/=

Saiiid Hussain Mir Chairman Youth Empowerment Organisation (YEO)

Market Pahalgam B.W.O Electric works of:-

all patch at Bus Adda

parking at Pahalgam

L.Construction of Sitting eck at Bus Adda Pahalga

Pahgam

b.Construction of footpath

Bus stand Pahalgam

c.Construction of MC Vehic

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 10TH Class Marks Card bearing Roll Nol 391207, Regd No: 02BF3141015. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in office of the Govt Girls High School Dawer within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rugava Banoo D/o Ab Aziz Nasiro R/o Markoot Gurez Bandipora

From Office of the Advocate

Ishfaq Rasool And Associates Abdul Rehman Hajam S/o Abdul Aziz Hajam R/o Palhallan

Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap-peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa-rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate

MEWAR UNIVERSITY GANGRAR, **CHITTORGARH, RAJASTHAN**

Result Notification No.:MU/RO/2024/3067 AWARD OF DEGREE-DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

It is notified that Rafaqat Zehra D/o Gh. Hassan Bhat (Father) and Hafiza Akhter (Mother) bearing Registration No. MUR1610056, perused her Research Programme on full time basis and submitted her thesis titled "Anxiety, Trauma and Space in Kamala Das and Habba Khatoon's Poetry: A Comparative Study" under the supervision of Dr. Sarika Varshney, Assistant Professor, Department of English Mewar University, Rajasthan. The candidate is hereby, declared qualified for the award of Ph.D. Degree on December 03, 2024.

Errors & Omissions excepted

IC Controller of Examinations

jma

ازنيابت پلہائن ننوان: _ درخواست منجانب عطيق الله پيطو ولدخالق يطوسا كنه يدى يوره تحصيل پين بمراد INCOME

> DEPENDENT CERTIFICATE اشتهار هرخاص وعام

معامله مندرجة عنوان الصدر ايك درخواست بغرض اتكم ثيبيندنك سرنفكيك موضول بهوئى بيجوكه زير کاروائی ہے اس بارئے میں راقم نے پٹواری حلقہ ہے رپورٹ طلب کی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے سائل پیشہ سے مزدور ہے اورسائل کی ایک بیٹی بنام روبینہ بانو جو کہ طالبہ ہے اور گردے کی بیماری سے جو چیر ہی ہے جسکی وجہ سے اُس کےعلاج ومعالجہ برکافی خرجہ آتا ہے سائل جوکہ پیشہ سے مزدور ہے جسکی سالانہ کمائی 48000 روپیہ ہےجبکی وجہ سے وہ اپنے علیل بیٹی کا علاج نہیں کریا تا ہے اسلئے سائل امدادی مدوسر کارہے حاصل

کرنے کا خوابان ہے جسکے لئے سائل کو Income Dependent Certificate کی ضرورت ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔ تطبيق الثديطو گھر بلوکام حبله بتيكم روقيه بيگم

طاہرہ بانو ساحل احمد يطو ں کےعلاوہ اورکوئی افراد کنہمہ نہیں ہے۔سرٹفییکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کھا گرکسی مخص کو کوئی عزریا ا متراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہراخبارسات دن کے اندرا ندرآ پنے عذر یاعتراض ودالت هذا کو فتری ادقات کے دوران پیش ریں۔بعد گزرےمیعاد کو بی عذریاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

اطلاععام

هرخاص وعام کوبذریعهاشتهارمطلع کیاجا تاہے که مجھےدسویں جماعت کیDischarge certificate زیرایڈمشن نمبر 1249 سیشن 1997 کی ڈیلی کیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔اگر کسی کوکوئی اعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دنوں کے اندرا پنااعتراض پرنسپل PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL چوٹہ بازار کرن نگرسرینگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔میعاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ منظوراحمد يال ولدعبدالاحديال ساكن دهرمونه سوئبك بذكام فون_9596133824

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my adhar card bearing no 8674 6864 4346 from Bitti kour to Bitty kour. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Bitty Kour

objection shall be entertained.

Address:- Singh Pora Pehalgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost document of my motor cycle bearing regd No Reg no. JKO1AH 4556 while While traveling from Nowgam to Sempora. Now i have applied for the duplicateof the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in concerned office within seven days. After that no

Shabir Ahmad Ayaiz Son of: Abdul Ahad Bhat R/o: Nowgam Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE WARDEN GUJJER AND BAKERWAL HOSTEL SHOPIAN

Email Id: wardenshopian2019@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE **ADMISSION** 2025-26

Applications on prescribed Performa are invited from 5th pass students of Gujjar and Bakerwal community of District Shopian for filling up of vacant vacancies/seats of inmates in Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel Shopian. The students must belong to below poverty line. Application can be received and submitted in Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel Shopian upto 13/03/2025.the screening test of eligible students will be held on 15/03/2025 at G&B Hostel Sindoo Shirmal Shopian near army Goodwill School. The selection of students will be made purely on merit basis. The following conditions are required as lay down in Government order no.57s/w of 2015 dated 24/03/2015.

The applicant must be the domicile to District Shopian only. The applicant must belong to Gujjar and Bakerwal community.

Only the student of BPL/Low income shall apply for admission.

03. Applicant's father should not be a Govt, employees and a certificate issued by the concerned Tehsildar or District Employment Officer in this regard must be enclosed with the application form.

Applicant should not be involved in any criminal or anti social activities. 05. 06. Only the meritorious students on the basis of screening test will get admission in the Hos tel.

Age of the applicant should be in between 10 to 12 years.

NO:-BGBH/SPN/ 250 -25 Dated:- 19/02/2025

Javeed Ahmad Warden Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel Shopian

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Agriculture Production & Farmer's **Welfare Department Kashmir** Seed Production Officer

Lalmandi, Srinagar 190008, J&K. Phone: 0194-2312974 | seedprod07@gmail.com

Sale of Vegetable Seedlings.

This office is pleased to announce the availability of Hybrid/Open Pollinated seedlings of Cauliflower, Cabbage, and Knol Khol for sale on 22.02.2025 at Kitchen Garden, Lalmandi, Srinagar. These high-quality seedlings are aimed at enhancing the productivity of local farmers by providing them with the best possible start to their crops.

The availability of these seedlings presents an excellent opportunity for farmers to adopt high-yielding varieties, improving both their crop output and income.

DIPK-12192/24 dated: 19-02-2025

Seed Production Officer, Department of Agriculture. Lalmandi, Srinagar,

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDDUCATION OFFICER D H PORA

Expression of Interest

Application are invited from Supplier's /Booksellers/ Publishers for their empanelment as authorized vendors for supply of books by offering discount percentage. Interested Supplier's /Booksellers/Publishers may submit the application with a security amount of 10000 credited to the account of Zonal Educational Officer, D.H. Pora along with requisite documents upto 24th of Feb., 2025. The terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on all working

Yours faithfully **Zonal Education Officer**

NO: ZEO/DHP/Acctts/36/25 Dated: 19.02.2025

objection shall be entertained

uditorium Pahalgam t Main Market Pahalgan

1 Date of Issue of Tender Notice 3 Bid submission Start Date

26-02-2025 at 02.00 PM in the office of Ev Rajbagh.

6 Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)

To be notified after technical bid evaluation is

terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website WWW.jk Schedule of dates given below:

Note: The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy,

Apper Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil SecretariatFinancedepartmentvideNo. OM No.

A74(2017)-65| dtd.07-06-2019whichnedsasunder.

15-02-2025from 02.00 PM

Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 70% completion of work:

	% age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on	Additional
S. No.	account of Low Rate.	Performancesecuritytobe
		Deposited on quoted bid by
		L1
1.	Upto and including 15%	NIL
2.	Greater than 15% upto& including 20%	<mark>5%</mark>
3.	Greater than 20% upto& including 25%	10%
4.	Greater than 25% upto& including 30%	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

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 <u>same Web Site in the Office of the <mark>Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar</mark> (Tender receiving authority)</u>

- 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 The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submi
- The earnest money may be forfeited if:
 Any bidder/ tendered with draws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms
- and conditions of the bid. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

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 Manual Kit" on website <u>www.jktenders.gov.intoacquaint bid submission process.</u>

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

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

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

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create

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

 $Bidders \ are \ advised \ to \ use \ \underline{\hbox{$"My\ Documents"$}}\ area \ in \ their \ user \ on \ R\&B \ e-Tendering \ portal \ to \ stores \ much$

In case of CRF and any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding document shall be Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract hasbeen 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 besidesthe performance

security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:

Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration/No.certificate

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 (Tender

Scanned copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR /Pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir (Tender Inviting Authority).(dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date). The successful bidder shall submit the scanned copy of Latest renewed JKPWDOMS Contractor card valid for the current

h. The successful bidder has to execute the agreement and subsequently submit the same to this office within same day after issuance of formal allotment order for commencement of work as per the terms and condition laid. No.ERB/10316-324 Executive Engineer, (R&B) DATED:-19-02-2025

Electric Division Kashmi

100 Days TB Intensified Campaign **Admin Organizes TB Awareness Camps At Major Cement Manufacturing Plants**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a team of the District TB Centre(DTC) Srinagar conducted multiple TB Awareness and Screening camps at major Cement Manufacturing Plants and sites a part of the 100 Days TB Intensified Campaign.

The team inspected various Cement Manufacturing Plants including Khyber Factory, Tramboo Cement Factory, and Saifco Cement Factory in the District.

During the TB Awareness and Screening Camps, District TB Officer, Dr Abdul Rouf accompanied by Medical Officer DTC, Dr Maheen Latif, emphasized the importance of early TB detection among vulnerable populations, particularly construction workers, who are at higher risk due to occupational exposure. He highlighted the role of AI-based spot X-ray screening, which enables rapid and accurate diagnosis, ensuring timely intervention and treatment.

SIS, Dr Rubina and Senior Treatment Supervisor HQ DTC Musadiq Rafiq spoke about the community's role in combating TB. They stressed that collective efforts and public awareness are crucial to achieving the goal of a TB-free Srinagar.

On the occasion, the camps provided free TB screenings, AI-based spot X-ray facilities, and expert consultations. Workers were educated on TB symptoms, prevention measures, and the importance of completing the full course of treatment. Suspected cases were immediately referred for further medical evaluation and treatment under the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP).

This initiative aims to strengthen TB elimination efforts by expanding outreach, promoting early detection, and ensuring treatment accessibility for high-risk groups. The District TB Centre Srinagar urges individuals experiencing persistent cough, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, or prolonged fever to come forward for free screening and TB treatment services.



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir has postponed all exams scheduled for February 26 due to the

Maha Shivratri holiday. As per an official notification issued by Assistant Controller of Examinations (Conduct) KU, stated that all exams scheduled on 26th Febru-

ary stands postponed. As per a notification

a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer reads, In view of the above Holiday on account of Maha Shiv Ratri on 26/02/2025. It is notified for the information of all the concerned candidates that the University Examination Scheduled for the said date stands Postponed.

It further reads, Fresh dates for the conduct of Postponed Papers shall be notified separately.

MLA Lal Chowk Visits Gujar Basti Khanmoh

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a public out-Chowk Assembly Ahsan on Wednesday toured several areas in Khanmoh including TCI Chak, Sangri and Gujar Basti.

Marking a historic first, he became the first legislator to set foot in Gujar Basti, where residents received him with deep

appreciation, recognizing his unprecedented engagement with their commuthat there is no proper road connectivity to the hilly area of Gujar basti and one has to walk more than a km to reach out to the area where residents reside.

table development.

Addressing the gathering, Pardesi reaffirmed his commitment to equi-

for cleanliness, uninterrupted power and water supply, smooth traffic management, and other essential facilities. The Augaf was directed to take up these issues with the concerned authorities.

Encouraging youth participation, the Mirwaiz highlighted that contributing to mosque services is an act of worship and carries great

As part of Ramzan arrangents the Jama Masiid i cade lighting project, expected to be completed before the holy month. Special audio-video equipment is being installed in the women's section

The Auqaf urged people to actively participate in these efforts to ensure a spiritually fulfilling and



Ahead of Holy Month Of Ramzan

Food Safety Inspections Intensified In City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the holy month of Ramzan, the Food Safety team of the Drug and Food Control Organisation, on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat intensified the drives across the City to check the sanitary and hygiene conditions of roadside vendors and food business operators dealing with prepared food.

The inspection drives are being conducted to ensure the quality of food, especially dates, dry fruits, ready to eat food items etc as per the guideline of the Food Safety and Standards Act

The Food Safety team headed by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar Yameen Ul Nabi along with Food safety Officers Fayaz Ahmad Bhat and Hakeem

Adil Rashid conducted inspections at Parimpora Market and Fruit Mandi Parimpora. The team found 10 food business operators violating sanitary and hygiene standards and were fined under Section 69.

Meanwhile, the team also conducted an evening inspection at various locations in Srinagar, including Jehangir Chowk, Amirakadal, HSHS, Lal Chowk and other areas. To check the sanitary and hygiene conditions of roadside vendors and food business operators dealing with prepared food.

During the evening inspection drive as many as 8 Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded and two insanitary challans were submitted to the Adjudicating Office in Srinagar.

On the occasion, Street vendors were informed about food safety rules and regulations, and the importance of maintaining high

standards of sanitary and hygiene conditions in their stalls. Vendors were warned against using artificial colors in prepared food and instructed to protect food from environmental hazards.

Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar has asked the Food Safety team to further intensify the inspections across the City to monitor the food items in the market to prevent the sale of unhealthy and expired food stuff. He also urged the food business operators to selfcomply with the rules and regulations laid under the Food Safety and Standards Act. Failure to comply may lead to strict actions, including closure of their business.

In the meantime, the Food Safety Department has also appealed the consumers can contact the Drug and Food Control Organization or report their concerns on the toll-free number 104

Anjuman-E-Auqaf Discusses Ramzan Preparations At Jamia Masjid

Agencies

Aniuman-e-Augaf Jamia Masjid held a preliminary meeting to discuss preparations for the upcoming holy month of Ramzan, with Mirwaiz Umar Faroog chairing the session. The meeting was attended by Auqaf members and volunteers.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq underscored the spiritual significance of Ramzan and the importance of

making proper arrangements at the reward. He urged young volunteers historic Jama Masjid, which sees a to assist in preparations. massive influx of worshippers during the month. He stressed the need

dertaking an illumination and fato enhance the prayer experience.

well-managed Ramzan. (KNT)

Capex Plan To Drive Urban Development In City Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a proactive effort to enhance urban infrastructure and public services, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). Dr. Owais Ahmed chaired a comprehensive review meeting to evaluate the Capital Expenditure (Capex) Plan.

This initiative is a key component of SMC's broader strategy to address urban challenges and ensure the timely execution of projects aimed at significantly improving the quality of life for Srinagar's residents.

The meeting began with the commissioner underlining the critical role of the

iection shall be entertained.

W/o Zahoor Ahmad Bhat

Tanveera Zahoor

R/o Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card

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Capex Plan in transforming urban landscape. "Our Capex Plan is not merely a financial blueprint; it is a commitment to the people of Srinagar. We are dedicated to implementing projects that will elevate their quality of life", said Dr. Owais.

During the meeting, officers from various departments presented detailed progress reports on ongoing projects. Key focus areas included the development of city roads, improvements in waste management systems, upgrades to drainage networks, installation of streetlights, enhancements to public parks, and advancements in water supply infra-

fko

structure. Each department highlighted achievements, identified challenges, and proposed strategies to address bottlenecks, ensuring projects are completed within the stipulated timelines.

Commissioner stressed the importance of accountability and transparency in project execution. "We must ensure that every rupee spent is accounted for and that our projects genuinely reflect the needs and aspirations of our citizens," he said. Dr. Owais urged all SMC departments to foster open communication, enhance collaboration, and streamline processes to minimize delays.

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 5:55 **ZUHR** 12:45 **ASR** 4:39 Magrib 6:21 **ISHA** 7:43

This Day In History

- 1280- Japanese Imperial Court orders all temples and shrines to pray for victory in the impending second Mongol invasion 1525- Swiss and German mercenaries desert the army of French King Francis I 1547- King Edward VI of England crowned following the death of his father Henry VIII 1613-Gerard Reynst appointed Governor-General of Dutch East Indies 1619- Trial against Johan van Oldenbarnevelt begins in The Hague for alleged crimes against the federal government 1653- Defeat of Dutch fleet under Adm Van Tromp by Admiral Blake off Portsmouth 1710-Prince John William Friso becomes Stadtholder of Groningen, Netherlands 1732- Estates of Holland ratifies Treaty of Vienna 1745- Jacobite troops occupy Fort Augustus, Scotland 1768-1st American chartered fire insurance company opens in Pennsylvania 1798- French General Louis Alexandre Berthier forcibly removes Pope Pius VI from Rome during French occupation of Rome (Pope later dies a prisoner in Valence) 1810- Andreas Hofer, Tyrolean patriot and leader of rebellion against Napoleon's forces, executed.
- 1864 Civil War battle of Olustee, Florida 1921 - Riza Khan Pahlevi seizes control of Iran
- 1922 Vilnius, Lithuania, agrees to separate from
- 1932 Japanese troops occupy Tunhua China 1938 - UK Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden resigns
- stating Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain has appeased Nazi Germany 1938 - Adolf Hitler announces his support for Japan
- during the Sino-Japanese War 1941 - Nazi Germany orders Polish Jews barred from
- using public transportation 1952 - Britain's Jeannette Altwegg wins the Olympic women's figure skating gold medal at the Olso
- Winter Games ahead of American Tenley Albright, who goes on to win in Cortina d'Ampezzo (1956) 1952 - American alpine skier Andrea Mead-Lawrence is only multi-gold medallist at the Oslo Winter Olympics when she wins the slalom, after
- taking out the inaugural giant slalom 1953 - US Court of Appeals rules that Organized Baseball is a sport & not a business, affirming the
- 25-year-old Supreme Court ruling 1954 - General Zahedi wins election in Persia 1962 - John Glenn becomes the 1st American to
- orbit the Earth, aboard Friendship 7 1965 - Ranger 8 makes hard landing on the Moon, returns photos, other data
- 1965 Turkish government of Uerguplu forms 1966 - Author Valery Tarsis banished in USSR
- 1975 USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1975 A feud begins between the official Irish Republican Army and the Irish National Liberation
- Army; the two groups assassinate a number of each other's volunteers until the feud ends in June 1975 1978 - Egypt announces it is pulling its diplomats
- out of Cyprus 1983 - Japan launches Tenma satellite to study x-rays (450/570 km)
- 1989 An IRA bomb destroys a section of a British Army barracks in Ternhill, England
- 1998 UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan lands in Baghdad, for peace negotiations 2001 - The United States Supreme Court declines
- to consider an appeal by five major oil companies against Unocal's patent on production of cleaner "reformulated" gasoline sold in California 2003 - During a Great White concert in West Warwick, Rhode Island, a pyrotechnics display sets the club ablaze, killing 100 and injuring over 300
- 2005 Spain becomes the first country to vote in a referendum on ratification of the proposed Constitution of the European Union, passing it by a substantial margin, but on a low turnout.
- 2012 South Korea angers North Korea as it proceeds with live fire drills in disputed Korean sea
- 2012 Scientists successfully regenerate the flowering plant, Silene stenophylla from a 31,800

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📏 KO VIEW

Beyond Government Jobs

overnment jobs in Kashmir have been the gold standard of success for generations. And among them, careers in medicine, engineering, and civil services are preferred as they offer a certain social prestige and lifelong security. But as is now becoming apparent, the job market is changing, and this traditional approach to earning livelihood no longer guarantees employment. This is obvious from the prevailing rampant unemployment in J&K where thousands of educated young people-including PhD holders-are strug-

There are several reasons for this: one is that the government jobs are limited. In fact, the government can only recruit a few hundred unemployed youth annually when there are lakhs who need employment. In the first quarter of 2024 alone, 3.52 lakh youth registered with the J&K Directorate of Employment, with 1.09 lakh of them graduates and postgraduates. There are thousands of others who have not registered with the government and so aren't visible. The situation becomes challenging in the absence of alternative job options for the left-out youth. For one, the private sector in J&K, especially in Kashmir Valley, remains underdeveloped. And for another, rise of technology is also threatening to take over a substantial portion of jobs reserved for humans. In its Future of Jobs Report 2025, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has predicted that the new technology will displace 92 million human jobs by 2030. On a positive note, 170 million new jobs will be created, resulting in 78 million net new jobs.

This has created a tricky situation: In Kashmir, for instance, we have now fewer government jobs and a rudimentary private sector unable to absorb the multitude of the educated unemployed youth. Compounding the situation is the rise of Artificial Intelligence and the related technology taking over human jobs. This has created an urgent need for upskilling for not just the currently educated unemployed youth but also for those already in jobs.

That said, there are many jobs that are still outside the pale of technology. As one article published in this paper has highlighted, agriculture, and handicrafts have sustained Kashmir's economy through centuries. With the use of new technology and sustainable farming techniques, agriculture can be turned around as a profitable venture. Similarly, reviving carpet weaving, pashmina production, and woodworking can create jobs while preserving Kashmir's rich heritage. Ironically, these occupations haven't appealed to our educated youth drawn to the allure of the secure government jobs. But this mindset has to change, if there has to be a sustainable solution to the problem of unemployment.





Did You Know?

Insights for Kashmiri Investors on Tapping Chinese and American Stocks

Irshad Mushtaq

n recent times, the Indian stock market has experienced notable volatil ity, causing concern among investors. However, this presents an oppor tunity for Kashmiri investors, and by extension, all Indian investors, to diversify their portfolios by exploring international markets, including Chinese and American stocks like Facebook, Google, and Netflix. Following the pandemic, international investors poured substantial funds into the Indian market. This influx greatly fueled market growth, but these investors also took profits and redirected funds towards other burgeoning markets notably in China. This shift led to an upswing in Chinese markets by about 20-30%. However, post-2024, the Chinese market's performance plateaued. For Kashmiri investors seeking to expand their investment horizons beyond local boundaries, the good news is that participating in global markets is more feasible than ever. Thanks to advancements in digital technology and regulatory provisions, you can now invest in international stocks withou the cumbersome process of setting up foreign brokerage accounts. You car access global markets using your existing brokerage accounts in India. Many Indian mutual funds and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) provide exposure to global equities. Additionally, several Asset Management Companies (AMCs) in India offer international mutual funds and ETFs that invest in overseas shares, including those in China and the US. Moreover, products like International Funds and Global Mutual Funds are structured for In dian investors looking to benefit from global diversification, helping hedge against domestic market risks. Investors can also use Employee Providen Fund (EPF) linked investments as a means to include these international elements in their portfolios, thanks to the ease of digital access. This shift to global markets provides an excellent opportunity for diversification, al lowing investors to manage their risk more effectively while potentially enhancing returns. With technology aiding seamless investment processes and the regulatory frameworks enabling access, now is an opportune moment for Kashmiri investors to explore these international avenues. In conclusion Kashmiri investors should remain informed and vigilant, leveraging these global opportunities to strengthen their portfolios and achieve robust finan cial growth in a rapidly integrating world market.

Excited to learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect at misecurities@

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How Competitive Exams Like NET and SET are Harming Academia



Nowsheena Mushtag



If we really want to foster bright minds to opt for research, we must have an evaluation system that values creativity, critical thinking, and research aptitude over rote memorization and performance in a single paper. A more rounded approach could happen through evaluating research proposals, taking interviews before a panel of experts, and giving weightage to a candidate's published work rather than depending only on one examination

'n India, competitive exams such as the National Eligibility Test eligibility Test and State Eligibility Test State are considered the gates for aspiring researchers and professors. Assessment of one's ability for lectureship and research-the basic purpose of these examsoften raises the glory of intelligence. However, this is far from the truth. Intelligence encompasses many facets and cannot be drilled down to only standardized testing patterns. Many brilliant minds who carry an ardent desire for research and innovation

are prevented onto this path due

turn, hampers research in India. Higher education ought to be conducive to curiosity and innovation, not a hindrance to those genuinely wanting to contribute. While some form of assessment is required, the present system does not take into account the practical aspects of research capability, independent thinking, and real intellectual profundity. Yet another major flaw of

these exams is that they do not assess a candidate's ability to actually do research. Writing a research paper, conducting a set of experiments, and theorizing are all functions that require critical grounds have no access to expensive coaching institutes and study materials whereas their more fortunate counterparts do. Hence, the exams tend to favor those with financial access over others who show great raw intellectual potential.

The various facets of reforming India's research ecosystem go beyond traditional exambased methods. If we really want to foster bright minds to opt for research, we must have an evaluation system that values creativity, critical thinking, and research aptitude over rote memorization and performance in



where research as a culture is freant to go beyond those sonthese tests act as undry filters rather than facilitators; thereby dismissing candidates with po-

tential for great contributions, simply because their talents are not in the area of conventional test-taking.

Besides, the straitjacket nature of these exams undermines any diversity in research. Most students spend years preparing for NET and SET rather than performing any worthwhile academic work. This is a sheer waste of their potential and, in

where research as a culture is fineant to go beyond those son-fines by exploring new ideas, their realistic bilities. The first these tests act as sundry filters rather than facilitators; thereby damnissing candidates with po-

vious years' papers, and cram rather than indulge in meaningful exploration of their subject.

The next burning concern relates to the socio-economic barrier set by these examinations. During such extreme conditions for preparation with the right environment and support system, lots of very brilliant aspirants belonging to very rural or underprivileged back-

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

The author has completed her Masters in English literature and is currently an educator in Birla Open Minds International School Pampore. She can be reached at nowsheen9051@gmail.com for



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Gender Sensitisation With Law

ENDER inequality is a long term problem in our society even today women are discriminated against in many ways. In India's social context, women are legally entitled to equal rights, but there is a great need to sensitize society on gender issues so that there is no problem. Women have the right to be free from violence, harassment, and discrimination. Removing the barriers of an unsafe environment can help women fulfill their potential as individuals and contributors to work, communities, and economies.

Gender sensitivity can go a long way to ensure this. Gender sensitization is the modification of behavior so that there are greater awareness and empathy to create gender equality. The National Family Health Survey suggests that 30 percent of women in India in the 15-49 age group have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. The report further reveals that about 31 percent of married women have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husbands.

discriminated Women against not only in the womb and childhood but also in every sphere of life. Women are forced to face the day-to-day challenges and limitations in their lives, to ensure their ability for personal development and freedom, and gender equality, to live a better and dignified life, towards an inclusive and secure society. The first step. Gender sensitization will help dispel many assumptions about our being male. Gender sensitization and widespread social change are needed to end gender crimes.

The root cause of gender discrimination is the patriarchal mind prevalent in Indian society. Although this is now changing with urbanization and education, there is still a long way to go. The uneven balance remains due to social conditioning and the incidence of rigid gender constructions. If the child's education is low, they reduce the likelihood of violence. Gender sensitization is a basic requirement for understanding the sensitive needs of a particular gender. It helps to examine our attitudes and beliefs and to question 'realities'.

According to WHO estimates, less than 40 percent of women experiencing violence seek the help of any kind. Women who ask for help go to family and friends and see very few formal institutions and systems, such as police and health services. Less than 10 percent of those women who sought help to experience the violence appealed to the police. The "latest" data indicates that police file charge sheets in 86% of rape cases but trial courts are only able to settle 13% of pending rape cases with a reduced conviction rate of 32%. In cases of child rape, the conviction rate is 34.2% and the pendency is 82.1%.

Parents have a responsibility in the proper upbringing of a male child.

Boys and girls should be raised in an atmosphere of freedom and a culture of mutual respect. It is important to implement and implement and implement policies that promote gender equality by ending discrimination against women in marriage, divorce and custody laws, inheritance laws, and ownership of assets. The focus should be on what can be done, what is currently lacking, and the constant effort to measure the results otherwise this outrage will pass without even meaningful change.

There is a need for comprehensive and systematic research and analysis on crime against women at the central, state, district, and block levels. Overall, issues related to women's safety should be considered more than ever.

> Dr Satywan Saourabh satywansaurabh3333@gmail.com

Is Social Media Helping or Hurting Kashmir?

Zubair Lone

n a cold February afternoon, Mohsin Mir, a 24-year-old content creator from Sopore, sat in a café scrolling through his phone, checking the engagement on his latest Instagram reel.

"Social media has given us a voice," he said. "Earlier, we had to rely on traditional media, but now we can put out our own narratives, our own stories."

For many young Kashmiris like Mir, platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube are more than just sources of entertainment-they are spaces for political expression, cultural revival, and citizen journalism. But even as social media empowers individuals to share their realities, it has also amplified misinformation, turned personal struggles into viral content, and blurred the lines between journalism and digital spectacle.

One of the most troubling examples came a few days ago when a group of self-proclaimed "citizen journalists" filmed a mentally ill man in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, who had made a mini-Kaaba-like structure, asking him provocative questions for engagement. The video spread rapidly across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp, with users sharing and laughing at the man's

Local journalist Faizan Qureshi, who has covered media ethics in Kashmir, called it a "disturbing moment for digital journalism."

"The story was there, but it wasn't reporting. It was exploitation for views," he said. "We have entered a phase where everyone with a smartphone thinks they are a journalist, but few understand the ethics that come with

Jehangir Ali, a senior journalist, took to X to comment on this

"What does it say about the

mental state of the journalists who interview a mentally unstable person about how to perform Hajj and Umrah at his mini-Mecca?

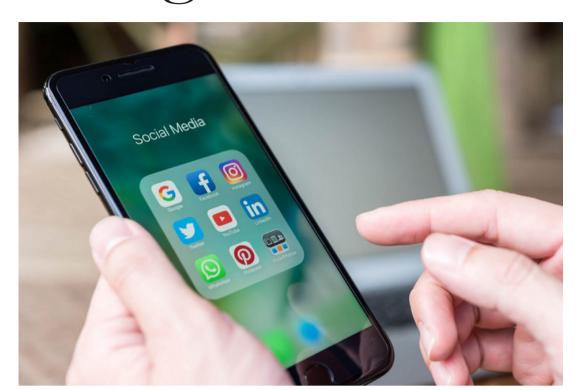
The rise of unregulated digital reporting has coincided with a decline in trust in mainstream media. With growing restrictions on traditional outlets, many young Kashmiris have turned to social media-based news pages for updates on local events. Some of these pages, run anonymously, break stories faster than newspapers or television channels. But speed often comes at the cost of verification.

Social media in Kashmir connects people and spreads information, creating a more informed society. However, it also fuels digital chaos, where trends can overshadow facts. While it mobilizes communities, it also spreads misinformation, posing challenges. Its impact depends on how it is used-either as a tool for awareness or a source of confusion.

"When something goes viral, it spreads fast, shaping opinions before facts are verified. People often accept trending narratives as truth without questioning their accuracy," says journalist

"And if the information is misleading, it can ruin reputations, fuel conflicts, and mislead entire communities. A single false claim, amplified by shares and likes, can outweigh real facts. The question is—do we pause, verify, and think critically, or do we blindly trust what appears on our screens? In an age where perception often matters more than reality, the responsibility to seek the truth lies with us."

But it's not just misinformation that is shaping Kashmir's digital landscape. Social media has also become a powerful tool for cultural expression. Over the past few years, young Kashmiri artists, musicians, and influencers have used Instagram and



↑ t the same time, social media's Ainfluence on Kashmiri culture has brought its own challenges. The obsession with virality has led to a rise in superficial content, with young influencers prioritizing trends over meaningful storytelling. Instagram reels and TikTok-style videos dominate, often overshadowing more serious discussions on issues that matter

YouTube to showcase their work, reaching audiences beyond the valley.

Seerat Hafiz, a content creator from Srinagar, credits social media for giving her a platform she

could never have imagined. "Social media allows me to showcase to the world that a veil doesn't obstruct anything-vou can exist and have fun with it on. On my personal platform, I can be myself and express the voice of nigabis most importantly."

"I record both at home and outdoors-no professional set-

tings at this point. I also do things on a whim, however I feel like, so my content includes both seriousness and absolute fun,' she added.

At the same time, social media's influence on Kashmiri culture has brought its own challenges. The obsession with virality has led to a rise in superficial content, with young influencers prioritizing trends over meaningful storytelling. Instagram reels and TikTok-style videos dominate, often overshadowing more serious discussions on issues that matter.

"It's becoming a race for likes and shares," said journalist Adil Sofi. "There's a difference between creating content and creating noise.'

The political impact of social media in Kashmir is equally significant. With traditional campaigning changing, political parties have also embraced digital platforms to engage with voters,

spread their messages, and counter narratives. During election seasons, Twitter hashtags trend within hours, while Instagram and Facebook are flooded with campaign reels.

However, this digital shift has also created new challenges, particularly in the form of online polarization. Social media algorithms push people into echo chambers, reinforcing their existing beliefs while making constructive debate nearly impossible.

"From one point of view, social media acts as a tool for empowerment, where social realities and issues are being highlighted and given voices. From another perspective, it's distorting realities," states media research scholar Azhar.

"Social media is a public sphere where anyone can share anything. But people with no media literacy accept everything that's being shared. Such people are susceptible to being trapped in propaganda and in believing and sharing rumors."

Despite these complexities, few in Kashmir would argue that social media hasn't been transformative. It has provided a space for independent voices, enabled new business models, and created opportunities for artists and journalists.

But as the digital landscape evolves, the question remains: Is social media truly empowering Kashmir, or is it distorting its realities?

For Mir, who continues to build his audience online, the answer is somewhere in between. "Social media is a tool," he said. "It depends on how we use it. If we don't use it responsibly, we risk turning it into a mirror that reflects only what we want to see, not what actually is."

 $The \ author \ is \ an \ intern \ with$ Kashmir Observer

Decoding Burnout

Kyle Emanuel Brown

₹ver feel like a smartphone ■ stuck at 1 percent battery? ■ Your screen dims, your apps freeze, and even the simplest task takes forever. That's burnout—not just exhaustion, but a full system shutdown. Unlike your phone, though, you can't just plug in and recharge.

Here's the counterintuitive truth: Burnout isn't just stress—it's a signal that something deeper is off. While stress keeps you pushing forward, burnout slams on the brakes, cutting off motivation and making even things you once loved feel draining.

Most solutions focus on managing stress, but stress isn't the real problem. Burnout happens when the reward value of your work disappears-when what once fueled you no longer does. That's why self-care alone doesn't fix it. The solution isn't just rest-it's realignment.

What Burnout Really Is: The Loss of Motivation

Burnout isn't just about working too hard-it's about working hard at something that no longer feels meaningful. While stress floods your body with cortisol, burnout shuts down motivation altogether (McEwen & Gianaros, 2011).

You may still be pushing forward, believing effort will solve the problem, but something in your work-or in you-has changed. You're grinding through, relying on willpower rather than

This is exactly what's happening in medicine today. Many doctors enter the profession to help people, but as the system prioritizes insurance metrics over patient care, they find themselves buried in paperwork instead of deep conversations with patients. The human connection that once fueled them is gone. They're not just stressed-they've lost the reason they loved their work in the first place.



When Willpower Replaces

Enthusiasm Willpower is a finite resource. You can push through for a while, but eventually, you'll hit a wall. Enthusiasm, on the other hand, is self-sustaining—it fuels itself.

Think of it like running a marathon. If you start out energized, connected to why you're running, and excited for the journey, you'll go farther. But if you're running just to prove you can, forcing yourself forward, step by step, on sheer grit alone—you'll eventually collapse.

This is where so many high achievers go wrong. They assume they just need to work harder, push through, and get more disciplined. But grit isn't the answer if you're running in the wrong direction. Instead of asking, how can I push

through? ask, why am I pushing so

Burnout Is a Compass, Not a

hard in the first place?



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Imagine driving with a flashing check engine light. Most people

ignore it until smoke pours from under the hood. Burnout is that warning. It's not trying to ruin your life-it's trying to save you from a breakdown.

What is burnout telling you? Maybe you're pouring energy into things that don't align anymore. Maybe external forces have changed your work in ways that drain you. Maybe you've lost touch with the spark that once drove

This is why stress-reduction techniques alone don't fix burnout. You don't just need rest—you need to reconnect with what energizes you.

Total Self-Trust: The Key to Realignment

The antidote to burnout isn't only less stress—it's total selftrust. This means trusting yourself enough to:

- Recognize when something isn't working.
- Shift course instead of pushing harder.
- Prioritize what energizes you over what drains you.

It means giving yourself permission to stop, reevaluate, and make changes before burnout forces

Step 1: Mindfulness—Your Internal Compass

Mindfulness isn't just meditation—it's awareness. Studies show that mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) significantly lowers burnout symptoms and enhances resilience (Grossman et al., 2004).

Try this: Every morning, ask yourself, What's one thing I need today to feel aligned? Not just productive but aligned. Maybe it's setting a boundary, taking a break, or doing something creative.

Mindfulness helps you catch burnout before it spirals-by noticing where your energy is going.

Step 2: Breathwork—The Body's **Reset Button**

Breathing isn't just automatic it's a tool for stress relief. Slow, intentional breathwork lowers cortisol and shifts the nervous system into recovery mode (Jerath et al.,

Try this: Practice 4-7-8 breathing-inhale for four counts, hold for seven, and exhale for eight. Repeat five times.

This is a physiological resethelping your body feel safe so you can think clearly.

Step 3: Energy Amplification-**Reignite Your Fuel**

Energy isn't just about time management-it's about where you're sourcing your motivation.

Try this: Instead of asking What do I have to do today? ask What do I get to do today? This small shift can reconnect you with gratitude and bring back a sense of meaning

Schedule one thing this week that genuinely excites you. Not something you "should" do—something that lights you up.

The Gift of Burnout:

Realignment

Burnout isn't trying to take you down-it's pointing you toward what truly matters.

Realignment isn't just about reducing stress—it's about adjusting your focus so your energy is going toward what fuels you. It's about shifting from force to flow.

When burnout hits, ask your-

- Am I doing this out of obligation or enthusiasm?
- Has something in me—or my work-changed?
- What would feel truly energizing right now?

Burnout is an invitation to pivot—not give up.

Quick Start Guide: From Burnout to Total Self-Trust

Pause and Reflect: What is burnout trying to tell you?

- Mindfulness Check-In: What do you need today to feel aligned?
- Breathwork Reset: Use the 4-7-8 method to lower stress. Energy Amplification: Do one thing this week that excites
- Shift From Willpower to Enthusiasm: Focus on what fuels you, not just what drives

Closing Thoughts

Burnout isn't a dead end—it's a recalibration point. It's your body's way of saying: This isn't sustainable. Let's find a better way.

You don't need more discipline you need more trust in yourself. By embracing total self-trust, reconnecting with enthusiasm, and making space for realignment, you can break free from burnout and move toward a life that truly energizes you.

Are you ready to listen to what burnout is really telling you?

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

The Rise Of Untrained

The government introduced an online media policy to regulate digital media outlets, requiring a structured team including reporters and editors. However, Peerzada points out that, in reality, most social media pages are run by just a couple of individuals who often repurpose content from established sources without credit.

"Earlier, newspapers would define what should be published, but now all that has changed. Ethical codes are crucial. For instance, when interviewing someone, their consent is required. If it involves a juvenile, their identity must be concealed. Professional journalists adhere to these guidelines, but those on social media do not because they have never been trained in journalism ethics," he adds.

He also warns about the dangers of unfiltered content circulating on social media, leading to the dehumanization and desensitization of society. The only way to counter the influence of these pages, he believes, is to produce high-quality journalism that outperforms them.

"You cannot stop cringe content, but you can protect the integrity of news. In Kashmir, we lack good content, and we must focus on outrunning them in terms of quality journalism.'

Legal Loopholes and Lack of Regulation

Senior journalist Riyaz Masroor emphasizes that the legal framework governing journalism in India is too lenient, allowing virtually anyone to claim the title of a journalist.

"Under current laws, anyone with a matriculation certificate can register a newspaper with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI). No qualifications are required. As a professional journalist, I cannot legally question someone's right to report," he notes.

Masroor also highlights how social media platforms allow users to change their page names gradually, which has enabled many Facebook pages in Kashmir to transition from entertainment or cultural content to so-called news portals.

"We had the Cable TV Act in Jammu and Kashmir, which regulated local TV channels. Right now, we are living in a legal vacuum. There is no law specifying whether someone is authorized to disseminate news. In medicine, a person cannot practice without a degree, but in journalism, anyone can hold a mic and claim to be a journalist.'

The rise of social media journalism has also resulted in a shift in how news is consumed. Previously, media outlets had strict editorial policies enforced by experienced editors, but today, sensationalism drives content creation. Masroor believes that social media reporters prioritize likes, shares, and views over authenticity, compromising the credibility of journalism.

"Old-school journalism maintained gatekeeping to ensure accuracy. Now, it has been reduced to clickbait. If I was a freelance reporter, my editor would verify my sources multiple times. But in the case of social media, there is no accountability. We should recognize these people as content creators rather than journalists. We cannot stop them, as they have a right to use these platforms, but there should be laws distinguishing between content creation and news reporting."

He also argues that news consumers bear some responsibility for this trend.

"Our readers and viewers created icons out of nobodies, and that is the problem. However, platforms like Al Jazeera still exist because they continue to produce credible content. The only way to counter the rise of untrained voices is for professionals to create superior journalism."

The Future of Journalism: Professionalism vs.

Yousuf Jameel, a veteran journalist with over forty years of experience, believes that professionalism will ultimately prevail over untrained

"At the end of the day, quality matters. Social media journalists cannot compete with trained professionals. We have seen similar phases in the past where non-professionals entered the field but eventually disappeared because they couldn't sustain themselves in a professional environment," he asserts.

Jameel also expresses concern about how the sanctity of journalism has been compromised by these self-proclaimed reporters.

"In these times, I don't introduce myself as a journalist unless it is necessary. The profession has lost its sanctity due to the influx of untrained voices.'

However, he remains hopeful that true journalism will withstand these challenges.

"Even for professional journalists, it is crucial to maintain ethical standards, as this will distinguish them from so-called Facebook journalists."

Observers warn that the rise of untrained voices in Kashmiri journalism is a cause for concern, fearing that the lack of ethical standards and accountability is eroding the industry's credibility.

While social media provides a powerful platform for information dissemination, it has also enabled misinformation, sensationalism, and un-

ethical reporting practices. Veteran journalists argue that the only way to counter this trend is to produce high-quality, credible journalism that stands apart from the noise. They emphasize the need for stronger legal frameworks to distinguish between content creators and professional journalists while urging news

consumers to be more discerning in their choices. Ultimately, while the digital age has made news more accessible than ever, it is up to both media professionals and the public to ensure that journalism remains a pillar of truth and accountability rather than a race for likes and shares.

Media Power

opinion was significant and the press possessed the ability to influence public sentiments and alter perceptions, with remarkable speed.

The bench's observation came when it quashed a defamation case against English daily Times of India's editorial director and other journalists, who were accused of publishing alleged defamatory contents over the authenticity of certain paintings to be auctioned by Bid & Hammer - Fine

Art Auctioneers. "We find it necessary to emphasise that right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India is paramount. At the same time, it is reiterated that those working in the media, particularly, individuals in key positions, authors, etc., must exercise utmost caution and responsibility before publishing any statements, news, or opinions," the bench said

in its February 18 judgement.

The top court quoted English writer Bulwer Lytton as saying, "The pen is mightier than the

Given the vast reach, the court said, a single article or report could resonate with millions, shaping their beliefs and judgments.

It has the capability to cause severe damage to the reputation of those concerned, with consequences that may be far-reaching and enduring,

"This highlights the critical need for accuracy and fairness in media reporting, especially when dealing with matters having the potential to impact the integrity of individuals or institutions. Keeping these aspects in mind, publication of the news articles must be done in public interest and with good faith," said the bench.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by the journalists against a Karnataka High Court order, which dismissed their petition challenging the initiation of the criminal proceedings against them.

They were facing charges under Sections 499 (defamation) and 500 (punishment for defamation) of the IPC.

The complainant (art auction house) alleged that the defamatory news item that was printed, published and circulated by all the accused persons had caused readers to view the complainant with suspicion and also fostered an unjustifiable and unfounded public opinion that its works offered for sale through public auctions could be

The top court however observed procedural irregularities in the magistrate's summoning order and said the complainant failed to produce any witness to prima facie establish the alleged imputations had lowered its reputation.

"No material has also been placed before us to suggest that the auction was unsuccessful or that any damage or loss was actually caused, due to the alleged news articles published in the newspapers," it said.

The bench added, "Irrespective of the same, at this stage, remanding the matter for fresh examination of witnesses before issuance of summons would serve no useful purpose, given the remote likelihood of securing witnesses. It would only prolong the litigation yielding little to no benefit especially, since the auction has already concluded and more than a decade has passed." (PTI)

CBI Carries

Patna as part of investigation into the DA case against the IAS officer.

The office chamber of the bureaucrat at the civil secretariat was also searched by the CBI officials, they said, adding that searches were carried out after registration of FIR against the officer.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) had earlier granted prosecution sanction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Kumar in the infamous arms license scam of Jammu and Kashmir.

HC Ouashes

arrested last year in December in connection with the murder of advocate Babar Qadri by terrorists in 2020.

Water Crisis

south Kashmir areas while the water level downstream in north Kashmir is alarmingly low. The situation is similar in other major streams of

As per the data, Jammu and Kashmir received only 29.8 mm of rainfall between January 1 and February 12, compared to the normal 140 mm.

Among the districts, Kathua district is worst affected with a 97 per cent shortage of rains. Jammu recorded a 94 per cent deficit, followed by Udhampur and Samba at 92 per cent. Srinagar vitnessed an 82 per cent rainfall deficit

Shopian, Reasi, Ramban, Kulgam, Doda, Budgam and Anantnag reported a shortfall between 80 per cent and 89 per cent. Pulwama, Kupwara, Bandipora and Baramulla experienced rainfall deficits between 70 per cent and 79 per cent, while Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar and Ganderbal recorded a 60 per cent to 69 percent deficiency.

Earlier while talking to the media, CM Abdullah raised concern over the rainfall deficit and emphasised the urgency of preparing for these shortages.

Asked if he was facing any heat from the central government, Abdullah, who is also the National Conference vice-president, said in a lighter vein that he was more concerned about the weather and water shortage.

"There's too much heat, not from the Centre, not from the lieutenant governor, not from any officer but from the weather," the CM said.

Abdullah added on a serious note, "This heat is actually worrying me. If it continues, we will have a shortage of water during the summer. It is going to be our biggest problem, bigger than any other

problem." He emphasised the urgency of preparing for these shortages and said he had called a meeting with the departments concerned to address the issue. Abdullah also said he was hoping for muchneeded rain or snow in the coming days.

"I pray it rains or snows in the coming days. But at the moment, the day temperature feels like that of March or April. I am really fearful that this heat will have a direct impact on us," he added.

J&K Staring

It further said that a study was carried out considering existing capacity, planned capacity and capacity required to fulfill the Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) for the UT.

"It was observed that the total un-served energy in the year 2034-35 is expected to be about 9928 MU which is about 29 percent of annual energy during the year 2034-35," it reads.

Un-served energy is referred to as the sum of electrical energy demand that cannot be supplied within a region due to a shortage of generation, demandside participation, or interconnector capacity.

The report further said that in order to find out the least cost option for generation capacity expansion for the period 2024-25 to 2034-35 to meet the demand reliably, long-term study for the UT of J&K and Ladakh was carried with an objective to minimize the total system cost of generation including the cost of anticipated future investments while fulfilling all the technical/financial constraints associated with various power generation technologies.

"Additionally, a reliability study has been carried out to determine the probability of unmet demand and hours by implementing the variation

in demand, RE (Solar, Wind) and forced outage of thermal generators (Coal, gas) etc. Thus, the Resource adequacy studies have projected an optimal capacity mix for future years till 2034-35 which would be able to meet anticipated demand reliably at every instance while meeting Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO)," it reads.

Experts Recommend

which requires substantial irrigation.

"Farmers whose fields lie at the farthest end of irrigation canals should reconsider planting paddy this year and opt for crops like maize, pulses and millets that require less water," he said.

Shah said the situation is likely to turn grim in north Kashmir, which has already been facing water shortages. However, this year, south Kashmir is expected to be hit too as major springs and water bodies are drying up.

"Springs such as Achabal in Anantnag, Bulbul Nag in Pulwama and Aripal in Tral-vital sources of irrigation—are witnessing alarming depletion, affecting the entire Kashmir region," he said.

The officer added that a contingency plan is being prepared by the department in coordination with Sher e Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology (SKUAST) and will soon be shared with the media to help mitigate the impact of the water crisis.

The Meteorological Department has already issued a drought warning for Kashmir, raising concerns over the upcoming agricultural season. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recently warned of a looming water crisis, emphasizing the need for urgent intervention.

Locals in various districts have expressed concern over their livelihoods and water supply, urging the government to ensure adequate facilities and alternative support measures as they brace for a challenging year. (KNO)

Omar Abdullah Says,

to adventure sports lovers and influencers to social media enthusiasts, he said at the South Asia's Travel and Tourism Exchange (SATTE)

The chief minister talked about improved connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country, including the direct rail link which is likely to start anytime soon.

"The shadow of evil eye resulted in a difficult time for J&K over the past 30 to 35 years but the region is now emerging out of it and is once again one of India's prominent destinations for domestic tourism.

"International tourism is also picking up in spite of the difficulties that we have with travel advisories issued by various embassies and consulates," Abdullah said, referring to the eruption of terrorism in early 1990.

Quoting famous Persian poet Amir Khusrau who once said "Gar firdaus, bar ruhe zamin ast, hamin asto, hamin asto, hamin ast (If there is paradise on this earth, it is here, it is here, it is here), Abdullah explained the cultural concept of 'nazar' (evil eye), suggesting that the region's beauty has often been overshadowed by challenges.

He reminisced about the significance of J&K in Indian culture, mentioning that no honeymoon was complete without a stay on the houseboats of Dal Lake, and that Bollywood films often featured the region's picturesque landscapes including mustard fields or from the snow-capped mountains of Kashmir.

However, the chief minister said that "Jammu and Kashmir is not resting on its laurels or trying to sell you a sob story...Jammu and Kashmir has something for everyone...Jammu and Kashmir is the right place now for any investment in the tourism industry".

Abdullah asserted that J&K is a year-round destination, suitable for pilgrims, wedding celebrations, adventure seekers, and those looking to unwind in a scenic environme

"Jammu is known as the city of temples, and there is significant potential for heritage and border tourism. Places like Gurez, once relatively unknown, are now among the fastest-growing tourist areas," he said.

"...Kashmir border tourism on the Line of Control with Pakistan, whether we talk about Tangdhar, Machil, Karnah or Keran, these areas are seeing increasing numbers of visitors. J-K is about new meadows like Bangus and Doodhpathri," he

The chief minister also referred to the potential of adventure tourism and said rafting in rivers, skiing in mountains, water skiing in Dal lake and Mansbal lake are yet to be fully explored.

"I have often said J-K is heaven on earth long before Kerala became the God's own country. Please look at I-K as a destination for your next holiday, for your next visit, or for holding your conference or seminar," he said.

Abdullah pointed out the region's increasing focus on wellness and sports tourism, referencing upcoming marathons planned for the area.

"We had the Kashmir marathon and full marathon last year, and this year we intend to start the Jammu half marathon and Jammu ultra marathon while continuing with the Kashmir marathon," he said.

Highlighting improvements in connectivity, Abdullah noted that direct rail links between Kashmir and the rest of the country are expected to be operational soon.

"Travelling to Kashmir has become significantly easier than in the past when there were only a few flights connecting Delhi and Srinagar. Today, there are direct flights from various cities, and soon, rail connectivity will further enhance accessibility." he added. Concluding his speech, he extended an open in-

vitation to the audience, saying, "Please give us a chance to host you. We will ensure you leave with unforgettable memories and experiences." Taking to X after the event, the chief minister

wrote, "Today I took the @OfficialDMRC AirPort Express to get to Yashobhumi for the SATTE 2025 Tourism promotion event. 25 minutes in the train beats 1.5 hours in the car hands down & saves fuel & emissions. I'm not driving to Yashobhumi again."

'Ragging Of Kashmiri

A second-year MBBS student from Kashmir studying at Al Ameen College in Karnataka has alleged that he was beaten up and harassed by a group of senior students.

"I have spoken to @CMofKarnataka @siddaramaiah ji about this unfortunate incident. He has assured me that the police have filed an FIR & necessary action will be taken. The four accused of perpetrating this ragging/thrashing have been identified," Abdullah wrote on X.

He was responding to a post by his party

National Conference's state spokesperson Imran

"The ragging incident at...college in Karnataka where yet another Kashmiri student was brutally thrashed by some goons inside the college hostel is condemnable and unacceptable. We demand an immediate arrest of the perpetrators and a standing directive from @CMofKarnataka," Dar had

Rain, Snow During

It said the weather will generally turn cloudy towards Wednesday evening with the possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at many places during the night to the evening of February 20.

The isolated higher reaches of Jammu division may experience moderate to heavy rain and snowfall on February 20, the MeT office said.

The main activity of weather is expected over Jammu region, Chenab valley and higher reaches of south Kashmir. The plains of Jammu may receive light to moderate rain, thunder with gusty winds at a few places.

The higher reaches of Chenab valley and south

Kashmir may receive moderate snowfall with a depth of 7 to 12 inches while higher reaches of north and Central Kashmir may experience 4 to 8 inches of snowfall during the period. During past 24 hours, night temperature has increased by 1-2°C over scattered parts of Jammu

and Kashmir with lowest minimum temperature recorded during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday in ski resort of Gulmarg -3.4°C, the tourist resort of Pahalgam 1.7°C and Srinagar

In Jammu division Bhaderwah recorded a low of 2.6°C, Banihal 3.5°C.

During Past 24 hours, no Precipitation was ob-

served over Jammu and Kashmir. The day temperature has also risen by 4-6°C in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir with the highest temperature recorded at Kathua 25.6°C and Jammu 26.1°C on the previous day.

The day temperature in Kashmir valley rose by 5-6°C with Srinagar having a maximum of 15.7°C and the frontier Kashmir border district of Kupwara 17.1°C on Tuesday, the MeT office said.

Case Filed Against

persons for establishing a Housing Colony at Village Bain Bajalta, District Jammu and for that purpose, also illegally occupied Kah Charai, Magbuza Sarkar and IDA land.=

"It was alleged that the Board purchased 392 Kanals of land at scattered places. The management of JKCHC in connivance with officers/officials of Revenue Department illegally occupied about 584 Kanal land which includes state land. The JKCHC then allotted the same to different persons by making plots," the statement reads.

During the course of preliminary enquiry. ACb spokesman said that it was found that JKCHC acquired land at village Bain Bajalta for establishment of a housing colony.

"During the process of taking possession of land, the Corporation illegally occupied state land measuring 111 Kanal and 17 Marlas. Apart from this, the Corporation also occupied 100 kanal 15 marla land falling under Khasra No's. 16 min, 17 min, 219 min, 573/34 min from the owners vested with proprietary rights of the land under J&K Agrarian Reforms Act 1976 and Govt. Order No. S-432," the statement added.

During the course of enquiry, it was surfaced that the officers/officials of JKCHC and Revenue Department in furtherance of a well-knit conspiracy hatched among themselves and the beneficiaries, by abuse of their official position, paved way for transfer of rights of the land for establishing a housing colony by the JKCHC in violation to the government provisions dishonestly and fraudulently by misrepresenting facts, thereby conferring undue benefits upon themselves, the corpo ration and the beneficiaries, it reads.

"These omissions and commissions on the part of officers/officials of the JKCHC and the Revenue Department including Bharat Bhushan Sharma the then Managing Director J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation, Shesh Paul Salgotra, the then Tehsildar Jammu, Sanjay Badyal, the then Tehsildar Jammu, Mahesh Chander the then Naib Tehsildar Sidhra, Farooq Hussain the then Patwari Halqa Bain Bajalta Jammu, Nek Mohd then Patwari Halqa Bain Bajalta Jammu, the beneficiaries and others constitute offences punishable under Section 5(1)(d) read with section 5(2)of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Svt. 2006 and U/s 420, 465, 467,468, 471 and 120-B/RPC. Accordingly a case FIR No. 02/2025 has been registered in Police Station ACB Central," the statement reads, adding that further investigation in the case

is going on. 7 houses gutted

doused the flames after hours of intense fire fighting operation, they said, adding that police and local volunteers also extended their help in controlling the blaze and salvaging the belongings of the affected families.

The officials said the cause of the fire was not known immediately.

Police have registered a case and further investigation is on, they said.

13 Isolated Villagers

While around 350 members of 17 families were allowed to return on February 13, the second batch of 32 villagers returned home on February 15, they said.

Seventeen members of three families including 13 children died under mysterious circumstances after falling sick in remote Badhaal village of Kotranka Sub-division between December 7 and January 19.

The last of 13 individuals from Badaal, who were under quarantine at the Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri, were discharged and sent back home on Wednesday.

Though the exact cause of the death remains unidentified so far, despite authorities constituting a special investigation team of police and also roping in experts from primer health institutions of the country, some neurotoxin in the food chain is suspected as the main cause for the deaths.

The GMC Rajouri has been at the forefront of the response efforts, with a team of medical professionals working tirelessly to contain the situation.

6-member SIT To

report of the bodies revealed that they had been strangled to death.

Police have not ruled out terrorist involvement

in the double murder so far. A joint anti-terrorist operation by police, army and paramilitary forces is also underway in the nearby forests over the past couple of days.

However, any breakthrough has eluded the investigators till date, the officials said, expressing confidence that the setting up of the SIT will speed

On February 17, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had expressed his anguish over the tragic death of two persons and said his office is in touch with the local MLA while the concerned officers have been asked to investigate the cause of these deaths.

Last year, several parts of Kathua, including Billawar, witnessed terror activities including an attack on an army patrol that left five soldiers dead.

SC Defers Hearing

appearing for petitioner NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, said it was an important is-

sue which required an urgent consideration. He said the matter involved a short legal question — whether the 2023 Constitution bench verdict should be followed for the appointment of the CEC and ECs through a panel involving the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India or the 2023 law, which excludes the CJI from the panel.

At around 3 pm, Justice Surya Kant told Bhushan that he would be sitting in a special bench and the court had numerous matters listed before the Holi

Bhushan requested the matter to be listed on any day in the coming week and assured the petitioners would not take more than an hour to advance submissions.

Advocate Varun Thakur, appearing for petitioner Jaya Thakur, also mentioned the matter for an urgent hearing saying it was "very important for the survival of democracy".

Justice Surya Kant said, for the court, all matters

were equally important and no single matter was superior to others. Earlier, solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, expressed his inability to ad-

dress the court on the issue saying he was appear-

ing before the Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna on the issue of arbitration. On February 18, the top court said it would take up on "priority basis" the pleas against the appointments of the CEC and ECs under the 2023 law. Bhushan said the government by appointing the new CEC and EC under the 2023 law was making a

"mockery of democracy". On February 17, the government appointed EC

Gyanesh Kumar as the next CEC. Kumar is the first CEC to be appointed under the new law and his term would run till January 26, 2029, days before the EC is expected to announce the schedule of the next Lok Sabha election.

Vivek Joshi, a 1989-batch Haryana-cadre IAS of-

ficer, was appointed as an election commissioner. Born on May 21, 1966, Joshi (58) would serve in the poll panel till 2031. According to the law, a CEC or an EC retires at

On February 12, the top court fixed February 19 to hear pleas against the appointment of the CEC and EC under the 2023 law saying if anything happened in the interregnum, the consequences were

65 or could have a tenure in the poll panel for six

bound to follow. It said the issue would be decided on merit and

finally. Bhushan referred to the 2023 verdict, saying it held that the election commissioners had to be selected for appointment by an independent panel comprising the prime minister, Leader of Opposition and Chief Justice of India.

On March 15, 2024, the top court refused to stay the appointments of the new ECs under the 2023 w which excluded the CII from the selection panel and deferred the hearing on a batch of pleas against the appointments. The apex court told the petitioners that the

March 2, 2023 verdict directed for the three-member panel comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and the CJI to operate till Parliament enacted a law. The apex court's verdict held that leaving the appointment of the ECs and CEC in the hands of the executive would be detrimental to the health

of the country's democracy and the holding of free and fair elections. The NGO challenged the CJI's exclusion and said the election commission should be insulated from "political" and "executive interference" for main-

taining a healthy democracy. ADR's plea alleged the verdict was overruled by the Centre without removing its basis and the composition of the selection committee under the new law which amounted to excessive interference of the executive in the appointments and was detrimental to the independence of the poll panel.

Former IAS officers Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir

Sandhu were recommended to be appointed as

ECs in 2024 by a selection panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the new law. (PTI)

4 Drug Peddlers drug peddlers identified as Farooq Ahmad Lone son in law of Gh Rasool Itoo resident of Paith Nambal A/P Yall and Zafar Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Afzal Bhat resident of Khayar, a police spokesman said in a statement.

During the search, 7.2Kgs of Cannabis Husk and 256 grams of Cannabis Powder-like substance was recovered from their possession, police said.

"Similarly in Handwara, A police team led by IC PP Chogul intercepted a vehicle Swift Dzire bearing registration No. JK09D-5264 with two persons on board. During the search of the vehicle, 8.30 grams of a heroin-like substance from their possession. They have been identified as Faisal Ahmad son of Ab. Jabar Lone resident of Bramri, Kupwara and Tahir Habib son of Habibullah Dar resident of Jaggerpora, Kupwara. They have been arrested besides, vehicles used in the commission of crime has also been seized."

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of the law have been registered in respective Police Stations and further investigation has been initiated.

"We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law," police said.

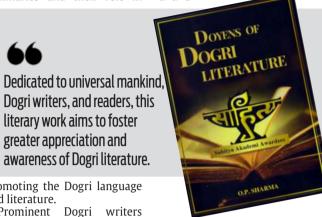
English Book On 'Doyens Of Dogri Literature' Hits Market

Agencies

JAMMU: The first-ever book in English, titled Doyens of Dogri Literature, is steadily capturing the market. This over 200-page book, authored by eminent journalist and writer O.P. Sharma and published by Starline Syndicate Service, Jammu, provides a comprehensive biographical sketch of all 50 Sahitya Akademi Awardees in Dogri. The book highlights the literary contributions of these luminaries and their role in

jeet Kesar, Veena Gupta, Vijay Verma, and several others.

The book is receiving a positive response from readers interested in Dogri language and culture. Dedicated to universal mankind, Dogri writers, and readers, this literary work aims to foster greater appreciation and awareness of Dogri literature. Recognized as one of India's national languages, Dogri enjoys an esteemed status in Jammu and Kashmir. In line with the National



promoting the Dogri language and literature.

Prominent Dogri writers featured in the book include Prof. Ram Nath Shastri. Padma Sachdev, Kehri Singh 'Madhukar,' Dinoo Bhai Pant, Krishen Smailpuri, Kunwar Viyogi, Dr. Jitendra Udhampuri, Ved Rahi, Om Goswami, Mohan Singh, Yash Sharma, Abhishap, Darshan Darshi, Deen Bandhu, Om Vidyarthi, Shiv Nath, Champa Sharma, Lalit Magotra, Shailinder Singh, Shiv Mehta, Inder-

(NEP) 2000, mother tongues like Dogri and Kashmiri have been given due importance, emphasizing the need to promote them at all educational levels and make them more accessible to the people.

Available for Rs. 700/- the book features messages from distinguished personalities, including Dr. Karan Singh.(CNS)

Mental Health Counseling Cell Inaugurated At SKUAST-K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Mental Health Counseling Cell at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K), Shalimar, was inaugurated on Wednesday under the initiative of Happy and Healthy Minds. Attended by faculty, staff, and scholars, this marks a crucial step toward prioritizing mental well-being in academia.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir A. Ganaie commended the col-

laborative efforts of KASHMER and HPVT in establishing this support system, emphasizing the need for expanding mental health services for students.

The event also featured the release of a mental health awareness booklet by KASH-MER and HPVT, addressing psychological disorders and promoting well-being.

The newly launched Counseling Cell will provide professional support, fostering a healthier and more supportive academic environment at SKUAST-K.

Comedian Bashir Kotur Bids Adieu To His Artistic Career



Agencies

SRINAGAR: A renowned Kashmiri comedian, Bashir Ahmad Bhat alias Bashir Kotur has bid adieu to his artistic career in wake of lackadaisical approach by the government and is now earning his livelihood as auto rickshaw driver. He said that no steps have been taken for promotion of art and welfare of artists in the Valley.

Bashir Kotur, a resident of Wathoora in Chadoora hamlet of Central Kashmir's Budgam district, has entertained people of J&K for years together but he has lost interest in it due to various reasons.

Bashir Kotur said that he was associated with the theatre up to 2002 and he has spent his whole childhood in theatre while working as an artist by playing different roles.

He said that people still know him for his work but the promotion of the art and artist wasn't taken up for which both the artists and government are responsible. "Those who were associated with the theatre and trusted upon, used it for their own gains due to which real artists were neglected,"

He said those who were on the forefront in standing theatres have been neglected while new people have been enjoying perks.

Bashir said that he has never visited Doordarshan in the last 10 years and is currently working as an auto driver to man-

age family expenses. He said that the government is aware about the work of artists but they have failed to take steps for their welfare.

"I am still part of one theatre but no longer interested in it as there isn't any benefit in it and sometimes my family members ask me, what you have achieved in spending decades in theatre,"

He said that the government has been claiming that they are taking steps for promotion of art and welfare of artists but the situation on ground is quite contrary, adding that he was doing different government and private programmes on a daily basis but has stopped it now.

In a heartfelt appeal, Kotur, who has received dozens of awards for his work, urged the government to provide more robust support for artists, emphasizing the necessity of financial and institutional backing to sustain cultural and artistic endeavors

He highlighted the potential of social media platforms as valuable tools for artists to showcase their talent and reach wider audiences, especially in the absence of sufficient governmental support.

Bashir Ahmad called for comprehensive policies and initiatives to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of the region. If the government is really interested in keeping art and artist alive, they need to take immediate steps for it, said Kotur-(KNO)

10th Annual Exams

25 Left Out Students Will Be Allowed To Sit In **Exams: Officials**

SRINAGAR: In a major relief for students, the government has directed Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) to allow 25 students who were earlier denied admit cards due to technical errors or other issues to sit in the ongoing Class 10th annual regular examinations.

Joint Secretary in JKBOSE, Suraj Rathore, said that 25 students who were earlier somehow not able to sit in exams will be now allowed to sit in exams as per government directive.

Rathore further said that 25 students will include "Missed out student of GHSS Khanyar (Toiba Yaqoob) and roll number slips will be is-



sued tomorrow."

Earlier, Education Minister Sakina Masood Itoo, in a post on X wrote, "As already assured, the government has directed JKBOSE authorities to issue admit cards to the remaining candidates for appearing in Class 10th, 11th, and 12th board examinations.'

The decision comes as a sigh of relief for affected students and parents, who had expressed anger over the uncertainty surrounding the exams. (JKNS)



"AS ALREADY ASSURED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTED JKBOSE authorities to issue admit cards to the remaining candidates for appearing in Class 10th, 11th, and 12th board examinations."

IGP Jammu Reviews Railway Security

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, conducted a comprehensive security review of strategic locations along Katra-Banihal railway section, which is likely to be thrown open for commercial operations shortly to fulfill the dream of Kashmir's rail connectivity, an official said.

Accompanied by Udham-pur-Reasi Range Deputy In-spector General (DIG) Rayees Mohammad Bhat, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban Range DIG Shridhar Patil and other senor police and railway officers, the IGP visited Railway stations at Katra, Reasi and Sangaldan and the iconic Chenab bridge at Kauri on Tuesday, a police official said.

He said the visit focused on assessing the existing security measures, law enforcement deployment, surveillance systems and anti-sabotage preparedness to counter any po-

The IGP interacted with the officers and personnel on the ground, reviewing security protocols, surveillance systems and coordination mechanisms among different agencies, the official said.

At the Railway stations and the Chenab bridge, he said the IGP reviewed the security arrangements for passengers and the vital infrastructure and directed the officers to enhance security measures and to coordinate effectively with the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel.

Emphasizing the importance of proactive policing and





"Continuous monitoring and enhanced security measures will remain a priority to ensure the safety of passengers, residents, and critical infrastructure", the IGP said.

intelligence gathering, he directed the officials to enhance vigilance, strengthen security coordination between police, railway authorities and other security forces.

monitoring "Continuous and enhanced security measures will remain a priority to ensure the safety of passengers, residents, and critical infrastructure", the IGP said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to flag off the train from Katra, as the commissioner of railway safety has given the green signal for running the service on the Katra-Baramulla section. The date for the flag-off ceremony is yet to be announced.

The railways completed 272

kilometres of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project in December and conducted nearly a dozen trial runs over the past one month on various sections of the track, including crucial milestones such as the country's first cable-stayed rail bridge - the Anji Khad bridge — and the arch bridge over the Chenab river.

The commissioner of railway safety's approval marked a significant step towards completing the USBRL project, which aims at connecting the Kashmir valley to the broader

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

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

CS For Framing Incentive Based Policy For Digitization Of Manuscripts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday chaired a high level meeting to assess and expedite efforts for revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of the rich heritage and architectural legacy of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting focused on key heritage projects besides working out modalities for ensuring promotion and preservation of the region's unique blend of cultural and traditional legacy in the form of exquisite manuscripts.

The Chief Secretary issued several key directives regarding framing of incentive based policy for digitization of valuable manuscripts lying with the public. He emphasized for acknowledging the contributors by returning their original manuscripts postdigitization to encourage wider participation in this heritage preservation initiative.

Observing the current status of different architecture and heritage conservation projects, the Chief Secretary asked the

department of Archaeology & Archives to intensify the restoration efforts, ensuring visible progress on ground. The department was also impressed upon to utilize released funds effectively to meet

In order to promote the region's cultural heritage, the Chief Secretary called for instituting awards recognizing outstanding contributions in preserving J&K's cultural identity. He also suggested holding painting competitions highlighting the lives and contributions of saints like Lalla Ded to educate younger generations and inculcate in them the aesthetic value of our significant heritage and traditions preva-

lent here in the past. The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress made in formulation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for modernization of SPS Museum, Srinagar, and instructed its finalization within 15 days. He emphasized upon taking up this work for execution in the upcoming summer season.

The meeting also included

an assessment of major heritage-related projects including restoration and development of Shergarhi Palace, construction of Tehzeeb Mahal, construction of a 250-meter span flyover bridge connecting Jullaka Mohalla with MMHC at a cost of Rs. 23.50 crore and installation of a vertical lift between the Cable Car Project (Peerkho) and Mubarak Mandi Complex besides creation of exclusive parking for heritage

complex by JMC. The Chief Secretary directed the IT Department to create an online portal for documenting and showcasing activities held across all the districts during celebration of Constitution Day and the 150th Birth Anniversary of SardarVallabhbhai Patel.

In his presentation, Commissioner Secretary, Culture Department, K.Ramesh Kumar, informed the meeting about the pace and progress on projects being executed under different phases of Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ready To Hit The Roads To Fight For Restoration Of Statehood: PCC Chief

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Accusing government of playing with the sentiments of people over the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Tariq Hameed Karra on Wednesday said they are ready to hit the roads to force the Centre to fulfil this demand.

"It is a very serious issue that people are losing faith in the institution of Prime Minister and Home Minister, due to non fulfilment of public commitment (on restoration of statehood),"

"The office of Prime Minister and Home Minister are an institution and any word spoken by them is considered an honest commitment. But the way people's faith is being betrayed is a breach of trust, having far reaching consequences for times to come," Karra said addressing a workers convention at Kishtwar.

He said the assembly elections in J-K were held on the directions of the Supreme Court otherwise the centre was not "sincere to hold elections and restore democracy despite lapse of more than five years".

'There was another direction (from the supreme court) for restoration of statehood as



soon as possible but the centre is not obeying that. Congress is fighting on the issue in all possible manner and shall take it to logical conclusion," he said.

Karra said his party fought the assembly election in coalition with the National Conference and after the results Congress was invited to join the cabinet but "we decided to stay back, on the principled stand of statehood".

"Our leadership took the right decision as we knew that the government will be incomplete without powers of statehood and today we feel we stand vindicated as the elected government is not being allowed to take small decisions in public interest," the Congress leader said.

He said statehood is the right of the people of J&K and "we are not going to beg for restoration of our right, dignity, identity and status but shall fight for it.

"We are ready to take to the streets if required," he said, seeking people's support.

J&K Integral Part Of India: BJP On Pak's Resolution In UN

Agencies

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday dismissed Pakistan's resolution on Kashmir, saying that no resolution, force or propaganda can alter the fact that the Union Territory is an integral part of India.

Addressing a press conference at Jammu, BJP Spokesperson Gourav Gupta referred to a key moment in 1947 when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister and Sheikh Abdullah, the JKNC founder went to the UN and stated that 'the minority wants to live with Hindustan'.

Gupta questioned why the issue continues to be raised despite being repeatedly rejected. He also referred to the resolution passed in Pakistan's Parliament, which raised concerns about the rights of Kashmir, particularly focusing on democratic rights and the situation in the region. He dismissed the resolution as an attempt to revive outdated thinking regarding Kashmir.

He said that no force, propaganda, or baseless resolution could change the reality that Jammu and

Kashmir is and will always remain an integral part of India.

Gupta also highlighted that while Pakistan claimed human rights violations in Kashmir, it overlooked its own internal issues, including significant human rights abuse in regions like Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Sindh.

The spokesperson also responded to Pakistan's claims regarding Article 370 and Article 35A, saying that it was a historic decision made on August 5, 2019, when these articles were abolished.

He stated that significant changes have taken place in Kashmir since then, with improvements in development, democracy and infrastructure, despite Pakistan's continued efforts

to internationalize the issue. Gupta pointed out that the international community had already witnessed the transformation in Jammu and Kashmir during the G20 summit and subsequent visits.

He said that while Pakistan continues to raise the Kashmir issue in international forums, the situation in the region has drastically changed positively—(KNO)

JSCL Honored With SKOCH Award For Good Governance

Agencies

JAMMU: The Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Award for Good Governance at their 100th SKOCH Summit, recognizing its remarkable contributions towards digital governance, citizen services and effi-

cient municipal services delivery. The award was received on behalf of Dr. Devansh Yadav, CEO of Jammu Smart City, by JSCL at a grand ceremony held at Silver Oak Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Later, in a formal event, General Manager (IT), JSCL Rohit Roshan handed over the award to Dr. Devansh Yadav. Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Devansh Yadav stated, "This recognition is a testament to our commitment to transforming Jammu into a modern, smart, and citizen-friendly city.

The relentless efforts of the entire JSCL team have played a crucial role in achieving this milestone."

Instituted in 2003, the SKOCH Award is one of India's highest independent honors, recognizing excellence in governance, services, technology, and inclusive growth. The award follows a rigorous evaluation process, ensuring that only projects with a significant impact on governance and public service delivery receive this prestigious recognition.

Jammu Smart City's achievement in securing this award reinforces its vision for a modern, sustainable, and technologically advanced urban ecosystem. With a strong focus on citizen services, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability, ISCL continues to work towards enhancing the quality of life for residents while positioning Jammu City as a model smart city in India—(KNO)

Training Prog For Haj Pilgrims On Feb 26

Agencies

SRINAGAR: All those selected Haj Pilgrims of Kashmir Division who could not attend first phase of orientation cum training programme held at district headquarters or at Haj House, Bemina, are hereby informed that an orientation cum training camp is being organized at Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar on February 26, 2025.

Accordingly, all the concerned pilgrims are informed to attend the said scheduled orientation programme which shall commence at 11:00 am.

Those Haj Pilgrims who have already participated in training programmes in their respective districts need not to participate in the aforementioned scheduled training camp. (CNS)

Have Always Liked Champions Trophy As A Tournament: Kohli

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Indian superstar Virat Kohli has always liked the format of Champions Trophy as it demands the eight participating teams to be at their best from the

The Champions Trophy is taking place for the first time since 2017 when India lost the final to Pakistan. India open their campaign against Bangladesh here on Thursday.

"The tournament is happening after a long time. I have always liked this tournament. It represents consistency as you have to be in the top 8 of the rankings (to qualify). The level of competition is always good," Kohli told Star Sports.

Kohli, who has played three editions of the 50-over event in 2009, 2013 (when India won) and 2017, likened the tournament to the fastpaced T20 World Cup. "In ODI format, it creates the pressure of a T20 World Cup. There also you have three or four games in the league stage. If you don't start well, you are under pressure. The pressure is from the first game itself and that is why I like it, you have to be at your best from game one," said the

former India captain.
India will play their remaining league games against Pakistan on February 23 and New Zealand

on March 2. While the tournament host is Pakistan, India will be playing all the games in Dubai as part of the event's hybrid model.

Kohli will be aiming for a bagful of runs in the tournament after a tough Test tour of Australia. He was back amongst the runs in the preceding ODI series against England, scoring a half-century in the final game in Ahmedabad.



JKMBA Celebrates Annual Day, Honours Cyclists' Achievements



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Mountain Biking Association (JKMBA) celebrated its Annual Day at Nigeen Club on Tuesday, highlighting the outstanding cycling achievements of 2024. The event was graced by Mehmood Ahmad Shah, MD of KPDCL, as the chief guest.

JKMBA President Riyaz Ahmad Wani presented the group's milestones, including total kilometers covered by members, top individual performances and major cycling challenges conquered throughout the year.

The event recognized the exceptional contributions of various cyclists and also introduced JKMBA's junior wing, aimed at nurturing young cycling talent in the region.

JKMBA also invited prominent sports groups from the Valley, including representatives from JK Mountaineering and Adventure Club (Sayeed Tahir), Kashmir Mountain Biking Association (Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat), Badamwari Athletes (Bilal Ahmad), Kashmir Runners Club (Parvaiz Ahmad Khan), and Flying Machine Cycling Club (Rafiq Ahmad).

Awards & Recognitions

Irfan Mir: Completed a single-day ride of 433.94 km at 24.4 km/h, covered 8,050 km in a year, and secured 3rd place in Jammu

Duathlon 70.3 (Solo, under 40 years).

Sajad Yousuf Chotta: Achieved a 433.94 km single-day ride, was crowned Champion of Jammu Duathlon 70.3 (Solo, 40-59 years), and recorded an annual distance of 8,200+ km.

Dr. Riaz Ahmad Sofi: Covered 8,200+km, organized two pediatric health camps in North Kashmir, and completed four ultra-distance rides over 200 km.

Riyaz Ahmad Wani: Logged 9,001 km across 249 rides, with a total elevation gain of 56,345 meters.

Nazir Ahmad Wani: Rode 270 km in a single day and covered 6,000 km in a year with a 32,032-meter elevation gain.

Yasir Yousuf Makhdoomi: Completed 365.14 km in 18 hours, won Jammu Duathlon 70.3 (Relay), and covered 7,240 km in 2024.

Er. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani: Winner of Jammu Duathlon (Olympic Distance Solo, 60+ age group).

A R Bhat: Created history by cycling 365 km in 18 hours and 37 minutes on an MTB. Abd Al Hanaan: Named Emerging Rider of the Year, covered 4,700 km across 211 rides, with a 263 km ride in 13 hours and

Jaleed ul Mushtaq: Recognized for discovering and promoting new MTB routes in South Kashmir.

Downtown Heroes (R) Win District Police Srinagar Football Tourney



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC (Reserves) emerged victorious in the District Police Srinagar Football Tournament 2024-2025, held under the Civic Action Programme at Polo Ground Srinagar.

The team's remarkable performance and dedication to the sport earned them the top spot in the tournament. The final match saw Downtown Heroes face off against SFA with the intense match ending in a 2:1 victory for the Heroes.

"We are thrilled to have won this prestigious tournament," said Head

Coach of Downtown Heroes. "Our team has worked tirelessly to perfect their game, and this victory is a testament to their hard work and dedication."

"Downtown Heroes FC has been actively promoting football in the region, providing opportunities for young players to develop their skills and promoting social values through the sport," the club said in a statement.

"The team's victory in the District Police Srinagar Football Tournament 2024-2025 marks a significant milestone in their journey, and they look forward to continued success in the world of football.

Sudeva, TV9 To Hold U-13/15/17 Trials In Srinagar & Sopore

TV9 Network, in collaboration with Sudeva Delhi FC and J&K Football Association, has launched the ground-breaking "Tigers & Tigresses" initiative. Under this program, talented boys and girls will be selected and awarded a full scholarship at Sudeva FC and an exclusive international training camp in Austria, Europe.

In Srinagar, the trials will take place on February 27 at TRC Ground. Under-13 boys and U-13, U-15, U-17 girls' trial will be held between 9-10 AM. U-15 and U-17 boys' trial will be held between 12 to 1 PM.

In Sopore, the trials will take place on February 28 at MET School. The timings are same as mentioned above.

Short TAKES

Budgam Girl Wins Gold Medal In Pencak Silat Women's League

Bilqis Maqbool, a resident of Budgam, pursuing Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education and Sports from Guru Nanak Dev University Punjab, won gold medal in 70-75 weight category at Asmita Khelo India Pencak Silat Women's League (North Zone) held in Agra.

Reflecting on this achievement, Bilkis expressed immense joy and honor, emphasizing the significance of this victory after facing multiple setbacks and defeats.

"I am absolutely delighted and honored to have achieved this milestone. Winning the gold medal at the North Zone level is a testament to my hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Beating strong contenders from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh was a thrilling experience, and I am thrilled to have made a successful comeback after a two-year hiatus," she said.

The journey to this victory was not without challenges. A series of defeats had led to a breakdown, making the road to recovery a tough one. However, with unwavering support from family, Coach Mohammad Iqbal, and parents, she has found the strength to regain focus and determination. (KNO)

Gill Dethrones Babar To Become No. 1 Batter In ODI Rankings

India vice-captain Shubman Gill on Wednesday dethroned Babar Azam of Pakistan from the No. 1 spot in the ICC ODI Rankings for batters on the back of his strong show against England in the recent home series.

The ICC issued the latest rankings just ahead of the start of the eight-team Champions Trophy in Karachi with the match between Pakistan and New Zealand.

Gill who scred two fifties and a century in the

Gill, who scored two fifties and a century in the recent three-match ODI series against England at home which India won 3-0, jumped one place to the No. 1 spot. He now has 796 rating points compared to Babar's 773.

India skipper Rohit Sharma is placed at the third spot with 761 points followed by South Africa's Henrich Klaasen and New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell at fourth and fifth respectively.

New Zealand Beat Pakistan By 60 Runs In CT Opener

New Zealand underlined their title aspirations with a 60-run victory against defending champions Pakistan in a Group A match of the Champions Trophy at the National Stadium on Wednesday.

Will Young struck 107 and Tom Latham smashed an unbeaten 118 to help New Zealand overcome a sluggish start and post a commanding 320-5 after being put into bat.

Glenn Phillips chipped in with a brisk 61 as New Zealand breached the 300-mark, which had looked like a distant dream after their wobbly start.

Pakistan were all out for 260 in 47.2 overs with Babar Azam (64) and Khushdil Shah (69) scoring half-centuries but the hosts never looked in the hunt.

KASHMIR STORY OF PUBLICATION CONTROL CONTROL

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