



www.elitepluscentre.com

## ElitePlus

DENTAL & DERMA CENTRE

+91-9797703533 | Vintage Mall, 2nd floor Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

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



BOOK APPOINTMENT

## MeT Issues 'Yellow, Orange' Alerts Till Feb 28



KO Photo | Faisal Khan

### Agencies

Srinagar: The weatherman has predicted a 4-day wet spell from Tuesday and issued yellow and orange alerts for Jammu and Kashmir regions till February 28.

There is a possibility of light to moderate rains and snow for the next four days from tomorrow (Tuesday) evening while the intensity would increase on February 27, the weatherman said.

As per the details, a yellow alert has been issued by the local Meteorological department (MeT) on February 25 and 26 across Jammu and Kashmir. An orange alert has been issued for February 27 for both J&K while one February 28, an orange alert has been issued for Jammu

and yellow alert for Kashmir region.

Isolated heavy rain and snow is expected during the period while the surface traffic may also be witnessed, reads the advisory issued by the MeT.

Generally cloudy weather is expected for the next four days as there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at most places towards February 25th evening and night to February 28 late night with isolated heavy rain and snow over both Kashmir division & Jammu division during the above period, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said.

On March 01 and March 02, the light rain and snow is expected at scattered to fairly widespread places, he said, adding | [More on P6](#)

## Know India Beyond J&K: Shah To Youth Says, 'No Life Should Be Lost to Terrorism'; 'Violence In J&K Down By 80%'

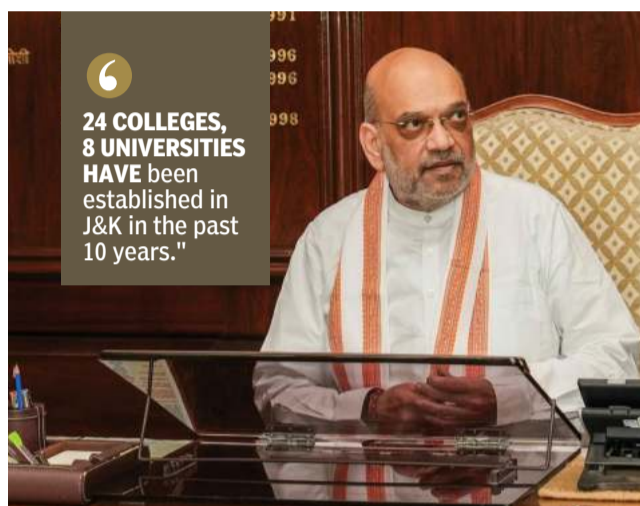
### Observer News Service

New Delhi: There is peace in Jammu and Kashmir and this peace has to be permanent, and the Narendra Modi government's aim is to make a Jammu and Kashmir where no life is lost due to terrorism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Monday.

Interacting with youngsters from Jammu and Kashmir who have come to the national capital under the Watan Ko Jano youth exchange programme, Shah also said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had equal rights over the entire country, like the people of any other state, and the entirety of India looked at the people of the Union Territory with love and respect.

When terrorism comes to an end, there is no need for the deployment of police and that day is not far, he added.

"When there is peace, no police will be required. This message has to be carried by you to your friends, family and villages... When you go home, tell your friends, neighbours that the entire country is living in peace and the people of Jammu and Kashmir should also live in



peace," Shah said.

There is peace in Jammu and Kashmir and this peace has to be permanent and "our aim is to make a Jammu and Kashmir where no life is lost due to terrorism", he added.

Asserting that violence in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced by over 80%, Shah said that the Union Territory has achieved complete stability, and it would last forever.

"Violence brings nothing. Due to the decades of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, 36,000 people lost their lives," the home minister said.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made the country equal for all by abrogating Article 370 and, now, the people of Jammu and Kashmir had equal rights anywhere in India, like the people of Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat or Rajasthan.

"You have rights over Jammu and Kashmir. Is it not good that you also have equal rights over the other 29 states of the country? Like Jammu and Kashmir, the whole country is yours," he said.

## Cabinet Approves LG's Address To Assembly

### Agencies

Srinagar: J&K cabinet on Monday approved Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's address to be delivered by him on the first day of the budget session in the Legislative Assembly, sources disclosed.

Sources said that the cabinet which met at civil secretariat Jammu today under the chairmanship of chief minister Omar Abdullah approved the LG's address to the Assembly on March 03.

"The cabinet met at 7:00 PM and lasted for nearly 80 minutes," they said. The LG's address would outline the policies and roadmap of the Omar Abdullah-led government.

As per Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019, the Lieutenant Governor shall address the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year.

The 43-day long budget session of J&K Assembly would begin on March 03 with the LG's address to

## J&K Panchayat Polls Likely In April-May

### Agencies

Srinagar: The much-anticipated panchayat elections in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to be held in April-May after a gap of seven years.

The State Election Commission (SEC) of the Union Territory has taken a crucial step forward by initiating the procurement of essential election materials, signaling that preparations are in full swing.

The final electoral rolls for these elections were published on January 20, paving the way for the next stages of the election process.

Reports said that the SEC is seeking to procure nearly 40,000 voting compartments and 64 other essential items required for

conducting the elections.

A senior official from the SEC, on the condition of anonymity, said, "We are working diligently to ensure a smooth electoral process. The procurement of election material is a significant milestone, and we are on track to complete it within the stipulated time frame."

The contract for finalizing the procurement process has a deadline of March 11, and the materials are expected to be supplied within a month. This ensures that the administrative machinery is well-equipped before the elections take place.

Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 38,800 polling stations, with 18,700 located in the Jammu division and 20,100 in the Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

## Statehood Restoration Crucial To Address Challenges: CM

### Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reiterated that the restoration of statehood is crucial for addressing various challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters here, Omar said that his government remains committed to fulfilling its promises and urged patience from the public. "Manifesto is not for five days or five months, it's for five years. We have not even presented our first budget yet. Please wait. We know what promises we have made to the people and how to fulfill them," the Chief Minister said.

He asserted that while his administration is making full use of the



6 PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN ME A MANDATE for five years and not five days.

Territory's governance framework, certain issues can only be addressed after the restoration of statehood. "I repeatedly emphasize the need for statehood because I understand that there are many issues troubling the

people. However, their resolution is not possible under Union Territory status; restoring statehood is essential for that."

"Why am I fighting for statehood, why am I stressing on the demand? Because I know that there are many issues due to which people are suffering and such problems cannot be resolved in a Union Territory setup. It is important we need the status of a state for that," he added.

The CM said he was happy to join the campaign against obesity, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Abdullah also nominated 10 people to join the campaign.

"I'm very happy to join the campaign against obesity launched by Prime Minister Narendra | [More on P6](#)

### PM Nominates Omar For Anti-Obesity Campaign

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday nominated 10 persons from different walks of life, including Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, businessman Anand Mahindra and actor Mohanlal, to help fight obesity, a day after he exhorted people to take measures to curb the health | [More on P6](#)

## Premature Publicity Of Notices Against Rules: Speaker

### Observer News Service

Jammu: In response to recent publicity of notices by some members, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather Monday said that as per rules and conventions of house, a notice shall not be given publicity by any member or other person until it has been admitted by the speaker.

The Speaker, while talking on the issue said, "Rule 368 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, provides that notice shall not be given publicity by any member or other person until it has been admitted by the Speaker and circulated to members. Similarly, a notice of a question shall not be given any publicity until the day on which the question is answered in the House".

The Speaker further said, "Rule 334-A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha also provides that notice shall not be given publicity by any member or other person until it has been admitted by the Speaker and circulated to members. Also a notice of a question shall not be given any publicity until the



day on which the question is answered in the House".

While commenting on parliamentary procedure and practice by renowned authorities on the subject, the Speaker said, "As per the commentary on practice and procedure of Parliament by Shri M.N. Kaul and Shri S.L. Shakhder who are renowned authorities on the subject, it is provided that according to the parliamentary practice, usage and convention it is improper to give for any reason premature publicity in the Press to notices of questions, adjournment motions, resolutions, answers to questions and other similar matters connected with the business of the House. If this takes place, the Speaker may express his | [More on P6](#)

## Withholding Material Facts Undermines Justice: HC Imposes Rs 25000 Costs On Ex-SBI Manager For Concealing Facts

### M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that withholding material facts from the Court not only undermines the process of justice but also violates the principle of coming to the Court with clean hands, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has imposed Rs 25000 costs on a former manager of SBI for suppressing facts before it.

The ex-Manager, Madan Lal Gorla, had filed a petition seeking quashing of order dated 01 April 2014, passed by Chief General Manager, Appellate Authority, State Bank of India Chandigarh, whereby penalty of "Compulsory Retirement" in terms of Rule 67(h) of State Bank of India Officers Service Regulations (SBOSR) has been imposed upon him. The



54-year-old Gorla had also sought quashing of order dated 14 March 2018 passed by the Reviewing Authority, rejecting his review plea.

"...due to lack of the territorial jurisdiction and the petitioner's (read Gorla) failure to come to the Court without clean hands, this Court is not inclined to venture into the merits of the case," a single-bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said, adding, "After analyzing all the material facts

on record, coupled with the stand of rival parties and arguments advanced, this Court is of the considered view that the instant petition is misconceived, false, frivolous and liable to be dismissed"

The Court while examining the record supplied by the SBI found that Gorla had previously filed a petition before the High Court of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, which was dismissed vide order dated 1 March 2013, "involving facts and circumstances that are strikingly similar to those in the present case".

However, the Bench said, Gorla has deliberately concealed "this crucial and material fact from this Court".

"After earning dismissal, the petitioner has now again approached this | [More on P6](#)

## 'It Is A Free Market' SC Junks PIL To Regulate Internet Prices

### KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Noting that India's a free market offering multiple options to consumers, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a PIL seeking regulation of internet prices in the country.

"It's a free market. You get LAN, you get wired internet, and there is other internet... BSNL and MTNL are also giving you internet (services)," a Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said, dismissing the PIL filed by one Rajat — a petitioner-in-person.

As the petitioner alleged that the majority of the market share was controlled by Jio and Reliance, the Bench said, "If you are alleging cartelisation, then go to the Competition Commission of India."

The top court, however, clarified that if the petitioner wanted to take any recourse to appropriate statutory remedy, he was at liberty to do so.

"They are giving, but see the market share Your Lordship... 80% of the market share is with Jio (Reliance)," the petitioner submitted.

"No please... then go to the Competition | [More on P6](#)

## Er Rashid's Bail Plea Delhi HC Directs NIA Court To Expedite Hearing

### Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday asked a court hearing cases of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to expeditiously decide the bail plea of jailed J&K MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Engineer Rashid in a terror funding case.

Justice Vikas Mahajan said, "The ASJ-03, Patiala House Court, New Delhi is requested to dispose of the bail application of the petitioner expeditiously."

The court was dealing with Rashid's plea alleging there was no remedy available after the NIA court, dealing with his bail application, left him

in limbo post his election as a member of Parliament (MP).

Justice Mahajan observed a direction was passed by the high court on the administrative side clarifying that the NIA court would continue to hear the case.

In view of the development, Rashid's counsel, senior advocate N Hariharan, sought to withdraw the plea from the high court but prayed for a direction to the NIA court to decide expeditiously as possible the bail application that was pending since August last year.

"Order was reserved (on the bail plea) but it was not passed for want of jurisdiction. Now the power has | [More on P6](#)





**ASF ENTERPRISES**

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K), Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change the name from Shazia Shabir to Naseema in the school records in favour of my ward namely Faraz Hussain Akhooon reading in class 7th at the Legends School of education kanitar saderbal Srinagar. If any body having objection in this regard may file the same to the office of the Legends school with a period of seven days.  
**Shabir Hussain Akhooon**  
 F/O:-Faraz Hussain Akhooon  
 Class:-7th  
 School Name:-The legends School of education

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change the name in the electricity connection bearing consumer ID - 0206050001992 from Syed Noor Ul Din, S/O Ali, R/O Towheeda Colony Chatbugh (B) Gotapota to Syed Ashiq Ali, S/O Syed Amanullah, R/O Towheeda Colony Chatabugh (B) Gotapota, Budgam.  
 Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Sub Division Narbal, Budgam within seven days from the publication of this notice. After which no objection will be entertained.  
**Syed Ashiq Ali**  
 S/O Syed Amanullah  
 R/O Towheeda Colony Chatabugh (B) Gotapota, Budgam

**OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN..**

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..  
**Public Notice....**  
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Munazah Mehraj D/o Mehraj Ud Din wani R/o Hanjiwera Bala Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 10/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
**SD**  
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have Lost my wallet contains, some cash, driving licence, Debit card and credit card etc on 22-2-25 while travelling from Rajbagh to Dalgate. If any body found please return or contact on mobile number.9596888066. Otherwise I have to apply for duplicate documents. In this regard anyone having any objections may report them in concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
**Ms. Fozia Farhana**  
 W/o. Firdous Ahmad  
 R/o. Rajbagh Srinagar

**OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN..**

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..  
**Public Notice..**  
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Anam Bilal S/o Bilal Ahmad Lone R/o Nowpora Kalan sapor with verified date of birth 07/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
**SD**  
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN..**

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..  
**Public Notice...**  
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Dilawar Ali Dar D.o.B 01/12/2022 and Fatima Ashiq D.o.B 09/01/2021 s/D/o Ashiq Hussain Dar R/o Reshipora Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.  
**SD**  
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**'3 In 5 Die After Cancer Diagnosis In India, Women Affected Disproportionately'**

Press Trust Of India

**T**hree in every five people in India succumb to cancer following diagnosis with women bearing a "disproportionate burden" compared to men, an analysis of global cancer data has estimated. The incidence to mortality ratio in the US was found to be about one in four, while in China it was one in two, according to the results published in 'The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia' journal. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study found that India ranked third highest in cancer incidence, after China and the US, and accounted for over 10 per cent of the world's cancer-related deaths, ranking second after China. Researchers also projected that in the coming two decades, India will face a formidable challenge in managing deaths related to cancer incidence, with a yearly increase of two per cent in cases as the population ages. The team examined trends in 36 types of cancer across age groups and genders in India over the past 20 years, using the Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN) 2022 and Global Health



Observatory (GHO) databases. "Approximately three out of five individuals would be expected to succumb to mortality if diagnosed with cancer in India," the authors wrote. The findings also revealed that the five most common cancers affecting both genders collectively account for 44 per cent of cancer burden in India. However, women in India were found to bear a "disproportionate burden", as breast cancer continues to be the most prevalent cancer, contributing to

13.8 per cent of new cases from both genders, and cervical cancer the third most (9.2 per cent). Among women, breast cancer made up for nearly 30 per cent of new cases and over 24 per cent of related deaths, followed by cervical cancer, accounting for over 19 per cent of new cases and almost 20 per cent of deaths. Among men, oral cancer was found to be the most commonly diagnosed cancer, contributing to 16 per cent new cases, followed by respiratory (8.6 per cent)

and oesophagus (6.7 per cent) cancer. The team also detected a shift in cancer prevalence across age groups, with the geriatric age group (aged 70 years and above) exhibiting the highest cancer burden. Those in the reproductive age group (15-49 years) showed the second highest incidence and were related to a fifth of cancer-related deaths. Further, the middle- and old-aged individuals have an 8-10 per cent higher chance of developing cancer with a 5.5-7.7 per cent chance of succumbing to it, the authors said. The findings highlighted the urgency of targeted interventions and strategies to tackle the escalating cancer burden in India, with about 70 per cent of cases and deaths occurring in the middle- and older-age groups, the authors said. The study is the "first comprehensive evaluation of the current and future landscape of cancer in India, focusing on different age groups and gender disparities." The GLOBOCAN database provides estimates of cases, deaths and prevalence for 36 cancer types, including non-melanoma skin cancer, for 185 countries and territories worldwide.

0194-2310283 Government of Jammu & Kashmir exenrajbaghsgr@gmail.com

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR. LAL MANDI, NEAR L.D HOSPITAL SRINAGAR-190008.**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
 E-NIT No.102/R&B/RAJ of issued under Endorsement No.12618-28 Dated: 22.02.2025

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rupees in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor/Agency
3.	Renovation (Disable Friendly Offices) Repairs & Maintenance and allied works in Accountancy Training Institute, Srinagar	5.97	300/-	11940/-	25 Days	M & R	"CEE/DEE"

Position of AAA: 74-ATTIS of 2024 Dated:-10.10.2024  
 Position of TS :- Accorded  
 Position of Funds: Comitted/ Demanded.

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

S.No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.02.2025.
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.02.2025.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22.02.2025 from 04:00 PM
3	Bid Submission Start Date	22.02.2025 from 04:00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	01.03.2025 Up to 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	03.03.2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The Earnest Money/Bid Security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released under rules after successful completion of the DLP. However incase of unbalanced bid, Additional Performance Security is required as detailed below which shall be released after successful completion of work:  
 \*Un Balanced Bid: The Successful bidder LI shall have to deposit an Additional Performance Security in the Shape of CDR/FDR/ BG before award of Contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply there to:-

S.No.	Percentage of Unbalanced Bid Viz-a-Viz Adv. Cost	Additional Performance Security to be deposited on Quoted Bid by LI
01.	Upto and Including 15% Below	Nil
02	>15% Upto and Including 20% below	5%
03	>20% Upto and Including 25% below	10%
04	>25% Upto and Including 30% below	15%
05	>30% below	20%

4. In case of an Un balanced Bid/ Abnormally low bid, the bidder has to submitted a detailed analysis of rates alongwith justifications thereof for each item of work and subject to its acceptance by the competent authority without which the work contract cannot be awarded irrespective of being LI and Additional Performance Security.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.  
 Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer,  
 R&B Rajbagh Division Srinagar. (UBY)

No. 12618-28  
 DIPP-12363/24 Dated : 24.02.2025

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
 e-mail ID: hcphmds@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 e-NIT No: PHE/MECH/e-NIT-66 of 02/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from registered Mechanical /Electrical firms, work-shop/SSI/MSME unit holders (for relevant work), Electric license holders for execution of the following works.

S. No.	Name of the work	Estimate cost (in Rs)	Cost of tender document (in Rs)	EMD in (Rs)	Time of completion	Head Of Account
01	Installation of Mechanical Pump Stations at Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar.	1,68,000.00	150/-	3400/-	30 days	MH 4210 (CAPEX) GMC

A.A. Accorded. order No: 29-MCS of 2( 125 dated: 1 L7-02-2025

S. No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.02.2025
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.02.2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22.02.2025 (06.00 P.M) to 01.03.2025 (upto 4.00 P.M)
3.	Period of submitting of bids (online)	From 22.02.2025 (06.00 P.M) to 01.03.2025 (upto 4.00 P.M)
4.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	03.03.2025 (3.00 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Srinagar.
5.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	After evaluation of technical bid(s)

Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/ bank guarantee from any Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to the Executive Engineer Jalshakti PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar.

Cost of tender document (mentioning NIT No. & Item No.) in the shape of  
 • e-challan in account Account no:- 0365010200000006.  
 Name of the Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank.  
 Branch Name: - Lalmandi Srinagar. Branch Code: - SBOARD IFSC Code: JAKA05BOARD  
 MICR CODE: 190051036 OR  
 - In the shape of treasury challan/ receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar, to be deposited in the account head of 0215-Revenue Miscellaneous. OR  
 - In the shape Demand Draft, Pledge to: - Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar.  
 Note: The Date of cost of tender document fees and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as non-responsive. Exemption for MS/ES shall be allowed as per the standing norms of Government  
 - Exemption for SSI/ MS/ES unit holder in respects of EMD will be as per standing Government norms with latest amendments. However the bidders are required to submit a signed Bid security declaration, as per bid declaration form, accepting that if they withdraw or modify their Bids during the period of validity, or if they are awarded the contract and they fail to sign the contract, or to submit a performance security before the deadline defined in the request for bids document, they will be suspended for the period of 2 years from the date of debarment from being eligible to submit bids for tenders of this division.  
 The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in The Bids Technical bid and financial bid shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website. www.jktenders.gov.in

(a) Cover first shall contain:  
 i. Cost of tender document through Treasury receipt / e- Challan/Treasury receipt/DD  
 ii. Bid Security in the Shape of CDR/FDR/Bank guaranty from Nationalized scheduled bank pledged to Executive Engineer Jalshakti PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar.  
 iii. Scanned Copy of GST Registration /pan card.  
 iv. Latest GSTR -3B returns.  
 v. Terms and conditions duly signed and stamped as per Annexure (A)  
 vi. Valid Phone No / e-mail / full address of the firm on plain paper Annexure (B)  
 v. Bid security declaration in case (MSE) exemption

(b) Cover second shall contain:  
 Price bid as per BOQ uploaded by this department.  
 Note: The hard copies of E-Challan/Treasury Challan /Receipt and other pre requisite documents shall be collected physically only from the bidder emerging as 1st lowest.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process:  
 1. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of Technical bids. Earnest money /Bid security shall be in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG.  
 - CDR/FDR/BG (The Date of Treasury Challan, earnest money/Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.  
 2. The technical Bid of the tender shall be opened online on due date or any other day convenient to the Executive Engineer  
 3. The price bid of qualifying bidders shall be opened on after evaluation of technical bids.  
 4. In case of holidays/Office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the bids will be opened on the next working day or any other day convenient to executive engineer  
 5. The complete bidding process will be on line  
 6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if  
 i. Any bidder/ tendered withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.  
 ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the period of seven days  
 iii. In case Successful bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.  
 iv. Delays the execution of work and fails to execute the work within the stipulated time.  
 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.  
 7. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.  
 8. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.  
 9. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Clause-4.  
 10. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned, copies (Self Attested) of all necessary documents (sought in Cover-1st).  
 11. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.  
 12. Bidders may contact office of the Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.  
 13. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.  
 14. The tender should be addressed to Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar.  
 15. The Executive Engineer has right to cancel the NIT at any time without acting any reason thereof.  
 16. Before quoting, tenderer are requested to visit the site of work.  
 17. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
 Jal Shakti Mechanical Division,  
 Srinagar.

No: JSMDS/CC/5493-96  
 DIPP-12371/24 Dated: 24/02/2025



## CM Omar Attends Live Streaming Of PM's Address On PM-KISAN Scheme

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah attended the live streaming of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from Bhagalpur, Bihar, marking the release of the 19th installment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.

The event was held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K), Shalimar Campus. As Chief Guest, the Chief Minister joined participants, including Minister for Agriculture Production Javaid Ahmad Dar, Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly representing Hazratbal, Sonawar and Chanapora constituencies, as well as progressive, marginal & small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs from various parts of the district.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production, Shalender Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat; and other senior officials were also present at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister

commended the innovative farmers recognized during the event, stating, "Their contributions in adopting progressive techniques, particularly in natural and organic farming would be instrumental in transforming the agricultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir."

He added that the government remains committed to creating a farmer-friendly ecosystem that promotes agricultural sustainability and long-term growth.

Earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the Agri-Tech Exhibition organized by SKUAST-K.

The exhibition featured a wide array of stalls displayed by successful farmers, progressive cultivators, agripreneurs, agri-industrialists, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and various university-led initiatives.

While inspecting over 100 stalls, the Chief Minister observed exhibits highlighting farmers' welfare schemes, advanced agricultural inputs, farm machinery, and organic products.

He also visited start-ups led by SKUAST-K students and faculty, commending their role in driving agricultural innovation.

## Budshah Tomb Faces Neglect Amid Heritage Festival

Agencies

Srinagar: While the administration promotes Kashmir's rich heritage through the 'Soun Meeras' festival, the historic Budshah Tomb in Srinagar continues to deteriorate due to neglect. This has raised concerns among locals.

Residents and shopkeepers near the tomb said that despite being a centuries-old heritage site, Budshah Tomb has received no attention from authorities.

"The Budshah Tomb is one of our oldest and most precious historical landmarks, yet it remains in shambles," said a local. "The government talks about preserving culture, but what about this historic site?"

Another resident blamed the Archaeology Department, saying that officials have been making excuses instead of taking action. "They always claim they lack the authority to repair it. Now that a gov-

ernment has been formed in J&K, we hope they will finally step in and restore the site," he said.

Many locals believe that while grand announcements are made about heritage preservation, actual restoration work remains stalled.

"Festivals like 'Soun Meeras' are great, but what's the point if our real heritage is left to decay?" another resident asked.

An official from the Archaeology Department said that they are unable to carry out repairs due to jurisdictional issues. "The site falls under the Centre's supervision, and we have no authority to restore it," the official said.

Last week, Director of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, K.K. Sidha, spoke about heritage projects, including modernising the SPS Museum in Srinagar, restoration of Shergarhi Palace & Mubarak Mandi complex and upcoming cultural initiatives like 'Tehzeeb Mahal'.



## Fire Guts 9 Houses In Rajbagh, Eidgah

Injures Three Firefighters, Renders Several Families Homeless

Agencies

Srinagar: At least nine residential houses were damaged in two separate fire incidents in Srinagar city on Monday, while three firefighters' sustained injuries during the operations, officials said.

The official said the first incident occurred in Rajbagh Srinagar, while the second took place in Eidgah, Srinagar.

The official further said that five residential houses were damaged in the Kursu Rajbagh that rendered several families homeless.

Later in the afternoon, another massive fire erupted in the Eidgah area, engulfing four residential houses. "During the operation to control the flames, three firefighters, identified as Mohammad Yaqoob Sofi and Fayaz Ahmad, and Aftab Alam sustained injuries," he said.

Meanwhile, firefighters along with local residents collectively douse the flames to prevent spreading of fire.

"An investigation has been initiated to ascertain the cause of both fire incidents," said an official.

Meanwhile, emotional scenes widely spread at both the locations as the victims were watching their properties burning to ashes. "We tried our best to save whatever we could, but the fire spread too fast," said a resident of Rajbagh.

Another resident from Eidgah

## 'Toothless' F&ES Can't Act Against Fire Safety Violators' In Kashmir

Srinagar: Despite hundreds of fire incidents reported annually, the "toothless" Fire & Emergency Services Department remains powerless to act against violators due to the absence of enforcement powers under the pending Fire Safety Model Bill.

According to official data nearly 600 fire incidents were reported in Srinagar in 2023 alone, while Budgam district witnessed 276 incidents. In just the first month of 2024, Kashmir recorded 41 fire incidents, including 9 in Srinagar.

These recurring incidents have raised serious concerns about the lack of fire safety measures in both commercial and residential buildings, especially in the congested areas of the old city.

Deputy Director of Fire & Emergency Services Command Srinagar, Er. Mohamad Arif Mir,

said that the primary reason for the frequent fire incidents is the increased use of heating devices during the harsh winter months. "Structures are already vulnerable, and the use of substandard equipment or failure to follow safety protocols often leads to devastating consequences," Mir said.

The department has been conducting fire safety audits for government buildings, schools, and hospitals through an online portal. A dedicated helpline is also available for reporting fire safety concerns.

However, Mir said that many establishments, particularly in Srinagar's Downtown area, continue to ignore safety norms. "While fines can be imposed, the department lacks the enforcement powers to take strict action against violators," he added.

said that the public came together to help, but the damage was already done. "Many families have lost everything and are left with nothing but faith in God," he said.

A shopkeeper near the Eidgah fire site said fire tenders arrived, but the flames were uncontrollable. "It was heartbreaking to see houses turning to ashes," he said—(KNO)

## Woman Killed In Road Accident

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A woman was killed after being hit by a vehicle in the Tengan Bypass area of Srinagar on Monday evening, officials said.

An official said that a woman from Lasjan Srinagar was killed after being struck by a vehicle in Tengan Bypass. He said the woman has been identified as Afiya Umar, a resident of Lasjan

Srinagar. The official said that the victim was shifted to Hospital, where she was declared dead. Meanwhile, an investigation has been initiated.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200


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

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
26 Shaban  
1446

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	5: 41
ZUHR	12:44
ASR	4: 43
Magrib	6:25
ISHA	7: 45

### This Day In History

- 138 - The Emperor Hadrian adopts Antoninus Pius, effectively making him his successor
- 1497 - Italians troops reconquer Taranto on France
- 1910 - Dalai Lama flees Tibet for British India to escape Chinese troops
- 1916 - Battle of Verdun: German troops conquer Fort Douaumont without firing a shot, the largest and highest fort defending the city of Verdun during World War I
- 1921 - Tbilisi, capital of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, occupied by Bolshevik Russia
- 1921 - The Living Buddha, Hutuktu, is crowned King of Mongolia as the country declares independence from China
- 1925 - Diplomatic relations between Japan and the Soviet Union established
- 1930 - Check photographing device patented
- 1932 - Austrian immigrant Adolf Hitler gets German citizenship
- 1945 - US aircraft carriers attack Tokyo
- 1954 - Abdul Nasser appointed Egyptian premier
- 1956 - Nikita Khrushchev denounces Joseph Stalin at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
- 1962 - India Congress Party wins elections
- 1964 - Muhammad Ali [Cassius Clay] TKOs Sonny Liston in 7 for his first world heavyweight championship title
- 1966 - Syrian military coup under General Hafiz al-Assad
- 1969 - Mariner 6 launched for fly-by of Mars
- 1979 - Soyuz 32 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6 space station is launched
- 1986 - Thousands of Egyptian military police riot, destroy 2 luxury hotel
- 1988 - South Korea adopts constitution
- 1989 - 1st independent blue-collar labor union in Communist Hungary forms
- 1989 - Javed Miandad scores 271 v NZ at Eden Park
- 1990 - Australia beat Pakistan 2-0 to win cricket's World Series Cup
- 1992 - Khojaly massacre: about 613 civilians killed by Armenian armed forces during the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan
- 1994 - Israeli extremist Baruch Goldstein massacres 30 Palestinians in Hebron
- 2009 - BDR massacre in Pikhana, Dhaka, Bangladesh. 74 People are being killed, including more than 50 Army officials, by Bangladeshi Boarder

**SAD DEMISE**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Mrs Late Ali Mohammad Gazi, Nabdi Pora Hawal Srinagar** Who died on Monday 24th Feb.2025. His Rasimi Qul will be hied on Wednesday 26th feb.2025 at Baba Mazar Zadibal on 7.30am after that **Fateh Khani** will be at Home Nabdpipora Hawal Srinagar.

Bereaved  
**Ghulam Rasool Gazi (Brother In Law)**  
**Mohsin Ali Gazi (Son)**

X

**DEMISE**

With profound grief, we inform the demise of **Abdul Gani Tantary** resident of **Main Market Rangreth Old Air Port Road Srinagar**, who passed away on **23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 2025** Sunday evening, (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). He was a gentle soul. May his soul rest in peace (aameen). His **Fateh Khawani** will be observed on **Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025**.  
[Ladies are requested not to bring any fruit with them]

**BEREAVED:**

**Fayaz Ahmad Tantary** (9541460014),  
**Farooq Ahmad Tantary** (9149784949),  
**Nissar Ahmad Tantary** (9596787826),  
**Irshad Ahmad Tantary** (7006327833) (SONS)

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

Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No. : 251-Elect-T-57-2024-25

Name of work : Electrical work in connection with Breakdown Maintenance contract for window/split ACs & CAMC for Water cooler of different makes at various station and service buildings for period of 2 years over Firozpur.

App. Cost. (in ₹) : Rs. 65,18,113.52      Earnest Money (in ₹) : Rs. 1,30,400.00

Completion period : 24 Months      Opening of tender : 17.03.2025 after 15:00 Hrs

Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in

No. 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 49-Elec/2024-25 Dated:- 21.02.2025      601/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**I Ghulam Nabi Bhat S/o Abdul Gaffar Bhat R/o Chanapora Srinagar have Lost my Electrical Licence (card) bearing registration No: 2495-A-2011. Now I want its duplicate issued viz a viz renewal. Regarding This, if anybody is having any objection may file the same in the office of Chief Electrical Inspector (TTIC), Rehari, Jammu within a weeks time, after that no Objection will be entertained.**

**9018159315**

Media Line Ads

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.**

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

**Corrigendum 08 For Date Extension.**

**Name of work :-** SITC & ITC of sprinkler irrigation System including HDPE pipe/LLDPE pipeline /DG Set/Horizontal Pumping unit including allied fittings for Saffron Crop cultivated area at Bore well No. 124 and Bore well No. 109 under implementation of National Mission on Saffron

**Reference:** This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2024-25/83 Date:12-12-2024

- (Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK\_267800\_1)
- (Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK\_267800\_2)

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are hereby extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	Extended Dates
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	22-02-2025 upto 06:55PM	28-02-2025 upto 06:55PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	24-02-2025 at 02:00 PM	01-03-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/  
Technical Officer  
With Executive Engineer  
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

No: MDSK/TS/6386-90      DIPK-12392/24      Date: 24-02-2025.



## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

### KO VIEW

## Indo-Pak Dialogue Freeze

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent statement that there was "no scope" of India initiating a dialogue with Pakistan following a spree of terror attacks has only highlighted the existing geopolitical reality of the subcontinent. The CM, in an interview with the BBC, reasoned that Pakistan has never stopped meddling in J&K's affairs and called on the neighbouring country to take on board some of the Indian government's concerns for a "friendly working relationship."

It wasn't long ago that Omar's party National Conference (NC) echoed the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's line that neighbours can't be changed. The NC has historically stood by this pragmatic approach—dialogue, even with adversaries, was seen as the only real path to peace. But today, that optimism seems to have worn thin. The reasons aren't hard to understand. A surge in terror attacks—122 lives lost in 60 incidents last year alone—has left little room for diplomatic idealism.

Ultimately, Abdullah's change in direction underlines the difficult balancing act facing leaders in Kashmir. His more rigid stance may win support from those calling for stronger action against terrorism, but it also sparks a broader debate. Can a pursuit of lasting peace in the region, let alone in Kashmir, afford to reject dialogue altogether?

The deep distrust and the entrenched animosity between India and Pakistan have ensured that the festering issues between them have remained unresolved. Talks have invariably been followed by the violence and the consequent break-up in the engagement. This has meant that no process of dialogue has been taken to its logical conclusion. This dismal state of affairs has been repeated so often that the people in both countries have grown cynical of any prospect of progress in the relations of the two countries. The current bilateral state of affairs is far from promising, with no direct flights, hardly any visas issued, and no bus or train services between the two countries.

But it is also true that Pakistan wants to only discuss Kashmir and also seeks a reversal of the withdrawal of Article 370 which is not going to happen. The positions of the two countries have thus become too irreconcilable to make it easy for them to re-engage. But it is still possible that the prime minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif will engage and break ice. In the interest of regional peace, the two neighbours need to transcend their differences and talk to each other. This alone will change the situation in the region for the better. But for that to happen, Pakistan has to also observe some ground rules. A true dialogue can only take place in an environment where there is no risk of it being upstaged by violence as has happened in the past.



Did you know?

## Aligning Finance with Islamic Principles

Irshad Mushtaq

Shariah, an Arabic term, represents the Islamic religious law governing daily life, particularly finance. It dictates that any form of interest, whether given or taken, is strictly prohibited. For instance, obtaining a car loan, business loan, home loan paying interest or earning through savings or fixed deposits is not permissible under Islamic law. Instead, Islamic finance models offer alternatives, such as consumers paying rent instead of traditional EMI.

Moreover, Shariah law restricts investments in businesses generating income from alcohol, pork products, gambling, or harmful goods. Conversely, sectors like FMCG, technology, and pharma, which do not intersect with interest-based banking or defense products, align with Shariah principles. This compliance has led to the creation of Shariah-compliant funds.

In India, options like the Tata Ethical Fund, Tarus, and Nippon ETF adhere to these laws. Notably, Quantum Ethical Funds offers a new fund offering at Rs 10 per unit. Historically, these Shariah funds have yielded higher returns compared to fixed deposits, insurance, or gold, making them a compelling choice for investors who are committed to their moral and religious values. Investing in Shariah funds requires a mindset shift, emphasizing long-term growth, especially through systematic investment plans (SIPs). Such investments are seen as an optimal strategy for wealth creation and preservation.

Additionally, entities like AMFI, SEBI, fund managers, AMC, and the financial ministry play pivotal roles in ensuring the safety, security, and transparency of digital holdings in Shariah-compliant investments. This advisory and technological support bolsters investor confidence in aligning financial goals with ethical and religious beliefs.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com)

# The Silent Sufferers

## The Unseen Pain of Domestic Workers



Narayanan Kizhumundayur

“  
Domestic workers are an integral part of many households, yet they remain among the most exploited and oppressed individuals in society. Their silent suffering must end. Governments must take immediate action to provide them with the rights and dignity they deserve

Domestic workers form an essential part of households across the world. From sweeping floors and washing dishes to taking care of children, the elderly, and the disabled, they perform numerous tasks that make daily life easier for their employers. However, despite their indispensable contributions, they remain one of the most vulnerable and neglected groups of workers. Domestic work is often undervalued, unregulated, and even invisible in many societies. Most domestic workers come from impoverished backgrounds and take up such jobs out of necessity rather than choice. They are frequently subjected to low wages, excessive workloads, abuse, and lack of legal protection. What makes their plight worse is that many governments fail to acknowledge their rights as workers, leaving them trapped in a cycle of exploitation. It is essential that governments and societies recognize the sufferings of domestic workers—men, women, and children alike—and take immediate steps to ensure their safety, dignity, and well-being.

Unlike other workers who have defined work shifts, domestic workers are often expected to be available from dawn to midnight—or even round the clock in cases where they live in their employers' homes. There is no concept of "office hours" for them. Some start their day before sunrise, preparing breakfast, cleaning the house, and running errands, and their tasks continue well into the night. Many employers feel entitled to their worker's time, demanding that they be available for all kinds of tasks, from massaging their feet to running last-minute errands at odd hours. This relentless workload leads to severe physical exhaustion, sleep deprivation, and chronic health problems.

Domestic work is among the lowest-paid jobs in many parts of the world. Wages are often determined arbitrarily by employers, who pay whatever they feel is "sufficient." In many cases, domestic workers are paid well below the minimum wage required by labor laws. Some employers refuse to pay wages on time, reducing payments for trivial reasons or withholding them altogether as a form of punishment. Since most domestic workers are employed informally and lack proper contracts, they have no legal recourse to claim their rightful earnings. Women and migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to wage theft. In extreme cases, some domestic workers are not paid at all and are treated like bonded laborers or modern-day slaves.

One of the gravest issues

faced by domestic workers is abuse at the hands of their employers. Many endure verbal insults, belittling remarks, and constant humiliation. They are yelled at, criticized, and treated as inferior human beings simply because of their socio-economic background. Physical abuse is another horrifying reality. Some workers, particularly live-in maids, have been beaten, slapped, and even tortured by their employers. Cases of women being burned with hot water, locked in rooms without food, or being thrown out onto the streets after an argument are not uncommon. Women and young girls are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment and assault. Many have been exploited by male employers or other family members in the household. Fear of losing their jobs, social stigma, and lack of legal support force them to suffer in silence.

One of the darkest aspects of domestic work is child labor. Millions of children worldwide work as domestic servants, often under cruel conditions. These children—sometimes as young as five or six—are deprived of education, proper nutrition, and emotional care. They are forced to carry out heavy tasks such as scrubbing floors, lifting water buckets, washing clothes, and cooking meals. Many work from morning till night, with no time to play, rest, or attend school. They are vulnerable to physical abuse and often receive beatings for making minor mistakes. Child domestic workers lose their innocence and childhood in a world that treats them as mere laborers. Instead of learning and growing in a nurturing environment, they are pushed into a life of hardship and servitude.

Unlike workers in other sectors, domestic workers have no job security. They can be dismissed at any moment without notice or compensation. If they fall sick, take a leave, or ask for a salary raise, they risk being fired immediately. Most domestic workers do not receive health benefits, pensions, or insurance. If they meet with an accident or develop a serious illness, they are left to struggle on their own without medical aid. Older workers who can no longer perform physically demanding tasks are often discarded without any retirement benefits, leaving them to live their remaining years in extreme poverty.

Domestic workers are often treated as second-class citizens. Many employers do not allow them to eat at the same table, use the same utensils, or even sit on the same furniture. In some societies, they are forced to use sepa-

rate washrooms or enter the house through the back door. They are made to feel inferior, as if their existence is only meant to serve others. This discrimination erodes their self-esteem and reinforces a class divide that denies them the basic respect they deserve as human beings.

The injustices faced by domestic workers demand urgent action. Governments across the world must recognize them as formal laborers and extend labor rights to them, including a legally mandated minimum wage, fixed working hours, weekly rest days, annual leave, and compensation for unfair dismissal. Strict laws must be enforced to prohibit child labor in domestic work. Instead of sending children to work, governments should provide financial assistance to poor families so that children can attend school and receive an education. Strong legal action must be taken against employers who physically or sexually abuse domestic workers. Helplines, complaint centers, and women's protection agencies should be established to assist victims. Employers found guilty of mistreatment should face fines, imprisonment, and permanent bans from hiring domestic workers.

Domestic workers must be provided with social security benefits, including health insurance, medical aid, pension schemes, housing, and compensation for workplace injuries. Governments, NGOs, and social organizations must conduct awareness campaigns to educate employers on treating domestic workers with dignity and fairness. People must be made aware that domestic workers are not inferior beings but equal members of society.

Domestic workers are an integral part of many households, yet they remain among the most exploited and oppressed individuals in society. Their silent suffering must end. Governments must take immediate action to provide them with the rights and dignity they deserve. A society that neglects its most vulnerable members is not a civilized one. If we truly wish to progress as a just and fair society, we must ensure that no domestic worker is treated as a slave, that no child is forced into labor, and that every human being is given the dignity, respect, and justice they deserve. It is time to break the silence. It is time to act.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. I am Thrissur (Kerala) based Accountant and a Freelance writer in English & Malayalam



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

### MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

## Perils of Urbanisation

The fast rate of urbanisation is currently posing substantial problems for major cities across India. The enormous population expansion in these cities is one of the biggest and most urgent problems they face. Also, the lack of buildable land has led to skyrocketing costs. High-tech satellite towns have emerged as a possible way to address these issues and promote sus-

tainable urban settings. By decentralising urban growth and spreading people, these cities have the potential to create balanced and equitable urban development across the nation. Another trend that is popular among satellite cities is the development of mixed-use areas. This involves creating areas that have a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational spaces. This allows for a more lively

and vibrant city center that can attract more people and businesses.

While satellite cities offer many advantages over living from the crowded centre of a metropolis, they have their own set of challenges too, like lack of amenities and job opportunities, rendering them as isolated suburbs. Despite these challenges, satellite cities continue to be popular places to live for those who want

to be close to a major metropolitan area but don't want to deal with all the hustle and bustle. Overall, the future of satellite cities is looking very bright. With the continued development of smart city technology and the rise of mixed-use areas, these cities are becoming more sustainable, and attractive places to live and work.

Ranganathan Sivakumar



# Can Men Smoking Cause Miscarriages?

Iram Saba

For years, we've heard about the dangers of smoking—lung disease, cancer, heart problems. But here's something you may not have considered: if you're a man who smokes, you could be increasing your partner's risk of miscarriage.

It's no secret that women are urged to quit smoking during pregnancy, but what about their partners? New research suggests that male smoking isn't just bad for the man—it's bad for the baby, too. And the numbers are alarming. Women whose partners smoke have a 23–30% higher risk of miscarriage than those with non-smoking partners.

So, why does male smoking impact pregnancy? And what can couples do about it?



Recent studies suggest that smoking causes epigenetic changes, meaning it can alter the way genes are expressed in sperm. These changes don't just affect fertility; they can also pass down to the baby, increasing the risk of pregnancy complications and even long-term health issues for the child



How Male Smoking Harms Pregnancy

## 1. Damaged Sperm, Higher Risk

Cigarette smoke isn't just bad for the lungs—it's bad for sperm, too. Smoking introduces thousands of toxic chemicals into the body, damaging sperm at a genetic level.

Even if a man's sperm manages to fertilize an egg, if that sperm carries DNA damage, the embryo may struggle to develop properly, leading to a higher chance

of miscarriage. In other words, even if the pregnancy test is positive, smoking could be working against a healthy pregnancy from the start.

## 2. Lower Sperm Quality = Higher Pregnancy Risk

Smoking doesn't just damage sperm, it also reduces sperm count and motility. Less sperm, weaker sperm, and misshapen sperm all mean lower chances of a successful pregnancy. And if conception does happen, an embryo

formed from unhealthy sperm has a harder time surviving.

## 3. Secondhand Smoke is Just as Dangerous

Even if a woman doesn't smoke, having a partner who does exposes her to secondhand smoke, which is loaded with harmful chemicals. Studies show that secondhand smoke can cause hormonal imbalances, restricted blood flow to the placenta, and increased inflammation all of

which make pregnancy loss more likely.

## 4. Smoking Alters a Man's Genes—And His Baby's

Recent studies suggest that smoking causes epigenetic changes, meaning it can alter the way genes are expressed in sperm. These changes don't just affect fertility; they can also pass down to the baby, increasing the risk of pregnancy complications and even long-term health issues for the child.

## What Can Men Do to Help Protect Their Partner's Pregnancy?

If you're planning to start a family, quitting smoking should be just as important as taking prenatal vitamins or eating healthy. Here's what you can do:

### 1. Quit Before You Try to Conceive

Doctors recommend that men stop smoking at least three months before trying for a baby. Why? Because it takes about 70–90 days for new sperm to develop. Quitting before conception allows the body to produce healthier, stronger sperm that are less likely to contribute to miscarriage.

### 2. Get Support to Quit

Quitting smoking isn't easy, but the good news is, help is available. Whether it's nicotine replacement therapy, counseling, or support groups, men who want to quit can find resources to help them succeed.

### 3. Be Aware of Secondhand Smoke

Even if you're cutting back but not quitting completely, avoid smoking around your partner. Secondhand smoke is still harmful, and even occasional exposure can put a pregnancy at risk.

### The Bottom Line

Men's health matters when it comes to pregnancy. Smoking damages sperm, increases miscarriage risk, and can affect the long-term health of a future child. If you're serious about starting a family, quitting smoking is one of the best gifts you can give your partner—and your baby.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a Tutor, IUST Awantipora*

# Modernity, Technology and the Evolving Society

Abid Hussain Rather

Modernity is both a philosophy of life and a way of living. Technology is one of its manifestations. Their relationship is akin to that between a mother and child. In the world of knowledge, this is not a new subject. Scholars have been discussing it since the 19th century. Now, both influence each other. Modernity has provided new ways of thinking, which gave birth to technology. When the technology matured, it developed the ability to create wonders which resulted in the emergence of new ways of living.

Modernity took the form of a philosophy of life when humans accepted that they are essentially rational beings. Even before modernity, humans were rational, but their reasoning was constrained by various forces. One of these forces was superstition, which in Europe was presented under the guise of religion by the Church. Whenever a person sought to resolve an issue through reason, religious authorities (the church) would intervene. As a result, people could not dispel the darkness in their lives with the light of reason. Some individuals showed courage and tried to dismantle the barriers that stood between humans and reason. They paid a price for their efforts but ultimately succeeded.

The result of this success was that humans accepted reason as the authority for solving social, economic, and political problems. This marked the beginning of modernity. Humanity continued to accept the rulings issued by the court of reason. There were two main sources of reason: observation and experience. To be precise, let's refrain here from addressing the question of whether the absolute authority of reason is right or wrong. It suffices to know here that humans accepted the rule of reason. Now, if religion or any other force wished to survive, it had to submit to the authority of reason; otherwise, it would be exiled from society.

The most significant outcome of the authority of reason was the re-

jection of the divinity of natural phenomena—in simple terms, liberation from polytheism. Humans refused to believe that diseases were caused by the displeasure of a deity. They no longer regarded the sun and the moon as gods and instead focused on conquering natural phenomena. It was the reason that pointed them in this direction. Reason not only transformed human thinking about the universe but

the struggle for survival. Men, being physically stronger than women, were considered more significant, and having male offspring was highly valued. A larger number of people symbolized greater strength, which reinforced the joint family system.

Humans listened to reason and began thinking about improving the means of production. They invented the steam engine, marking a transi-

tion from the agrarian age to the "industrial era." Technology transformed their way of life, replacing villages with cities—a necessary consequence of this major shift. This leap, guided by reason, led to the recognition of the mind's superiority over the body. During this time, it became evident that while women might be physically weaker than men, they were intellectually equal. In the industrial age, women could play a valuable role in the progress of society, just like men. As a result, the social status of women began to change, and the desire for male offspring gradually diminished. Urban life completely transformed human thinking and lifestyle.



also altered concepts and perceptions about humans and humanity. As the perception changed, the structure of society also began to transform. Ways of living evolved. The means of production changed as well, and humans transitioned from an agrarian society to an industrial one. The change in the means of production meant a change in technology. This new technology influenced social structures and forced man to adapt to a new way of life.

In an agrarian society, human life depended on farming. The way of life was tribal. During that era, physical strength was the most crucial factor in the means of production and for protection. Societies with stronger, more capable arms would prevail in

the universe were uncovered, new concepts about it emerged, and the desire to conquer it became difficult to restrain. Technology created not just one but many marvels. Humans began flying in the skies and exploring the depths of the oceans. Technology started shaping society, and women now stood side by side with men. Just as humans have always been rational beings, they have also possessed an aesthetic nature. Additionally, they have a moral existence. Under the authority of reason, when they sought to satisfy their aesthetic sensibilities, the fine arts transformed. Technology showcased its potential, and from painting to music, the tools of every art form changed.

The wonders of reason did not re-

main confined to just one area. With the help of reason, humans began solving their various political, economic, and social problems. Old social, political, and economic institutions were replaced by new ones. The world transitioned from monarchy to democracy. Knowledge, once a unified field, began moving towards specialization and was divided into multiple disciplines. As the hidden secrets of

Calligraphy, once the marvel of the human hand, is now often produced with the aid of computers. Even the treatment of physical ailments is now facilitated by technology. In this journey, modernity and technology walk hand in hand. Both men and women have contributed to human success. There is no field of life in which women lag behind men. Women make up approximately fifty percent of every society. It defies common sense to think that the journey of progress can continue while keeping half of the population away from the functioning of society. If women are not educated, every task will depend solely on men. If only men are physicians, then men will treat women as well, altering traditional concepts of gender segregation. Otherwise, women would be left to die, disrupting gender balance in society. Such an imbalance would prevent society from surviving under the laws of nature.

A society that wants to accompany humanity on the journey of civilization must accept the progress made thus far and join it. It can not proceed on its own terms but must follow material advancement as a learner. In this journey, modernity and technology support each other and cannot be separated. However, there is a gap in this civilizational journey—one that is spiritual and moral. If someone has a remedy for this gap, they can make the journey more pleasant, though they cannot change the path of this caravan. Those unwilling to accept this must continue on a separate path, embarking on a different experiment. There is no guarantee that their caravan will not reach its destination. However, the destination of both caravans will not be the same.

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

*The author teaches Geography at GDC Kulgam and can be reached at: rather1294@gmail.com*



If someone has a remedy for this gap, they can make the journey more pleasant, though they cannot change the path of this caravan. Those unwilling to accept this must continue on a separate path, embarking on a different experiment



# NIT Srinagar inks MoU with NIELIT Srinagar to launch 6 month drone technology programs

Partnership to Establish DGCA-Certified Drone Training Center in Srinagar

Empowering students for the evolving drone Industry: Registrar

Srinagar, February 24, 2024: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and NIELIT Srinagar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on February 22, 2024, to launch a six-month certificate course in drone technology and a DGCA-certified drone training center.

The signing ceremony took place in Srinagar with Ms. Tulika Pandey, Group Coordinator and Scientist-G of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Dr. M.M. Tripathi, Director General of NIELIT and Vice Chancellor of NIELIT Deemed-to-be University, in attendance.

The MoU was signed in presence of representatives from both institutions. NIT Srinagar was represented by Prof. Atikur Rehman (Registrar), Prof. Sheikh Nazir Ahmed (Mechanical Engineering), Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran (Incharge Drone Lab-Mechanical Engineering), and Mr. Mohammad Hazik (Assistant Registrar, Director's Office | Legal).

NIELIT Srinagar was represented by Mr. Ahsaq Hussain Dar, Director Incharge of NIELIT J&K, and Dr. Ummer Iqbal, Scientist-D.

The partnership will establish a six-month certification program in drone technology and a joint DGCA-certified drone pilot training center. This



center will provide industry-standard training compliant with DGCA guidelines, ensuring comprehensive and recognized certification for aspiring drone pilots.

A collaborative six-month certificate course on UAV/Drone technology will also be launched under MeitY's national level initiative "Capacity Building for Human Resource Development in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drone & Related Technology)" titled

SwaYaan. SwaYaan aims to develop and strengthen India's UAS/Drone ecosystem.

The six-month certificate course will focus on artificial intelligence and security in drone technology, offering an integrated curriculum designed to equip participants with advanced skills in these critical areas. The program will combine theoretical knowledge and practical training to bridge the gap between academia and industry, enhancing the

employability of students in the region.

Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman said that the Department of Mechanical Engineering at NIT Srinagar will offer the six-month certification course for people across the globe to enroll and that electives will be available to B.Tech students from any discipline as an open elective.

"The course's industrial component will be integrated with student internships, further

enhancing job opportunities for local youth. The future is with drones, so it is our responsibility to engage the youth with this leading technology," he said.

Prof. Rehman said that this partnership with NIT Srinagar marks a significant step in our commitment to providing students with cutting-edge skills and preparing them for the future of technology. The drone industry is rapidly evolving, and we are proud to offer this comprehensive program, including DGCA certification, to empower our students and contribute to the growth of this vital sector, he said.

Meanwhile Director General of NIELIT Dr. M.M. Tripathi emphasized that this initiative sets a new benchmark in drone training and that the collaboration with NIT Srinagar will empower the next generation of drone professionals to meet rigorous industry standards.

"We believe this initiative will not only enhance their employability but also position them as leaders in the field of unmanned aerial systems," he added.

Meanwhile Ms. Tulika Pandey, Scientist-G at MeitY, praised the collaboration between two institutions.

She highlighted its potential to not only provide advanced training in drone technology but also pave the way for technological growth and opportunity in the region.

# Asia's First Global Hyperloop Competition-2025

Railway Minister Highlights Spirit Of Innovation



Observer News Service

New Delhi: Asia's first Global Hyperloop Competition 2025, hosted by IIT Madras, successfully concluded, celebrating breakthrough advancements in futuristic transportation. Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics, and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, virtually joined the closing ceremony, where he emphasised the government's commitment to fostering innovation through collaboration between Indian Railways and academic institutions.

During the event, IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti, speaking from Rail Bhawan, welcomed participants and highlighted the objectives of the competition. In his address, the Railway Minister reaffirmed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of propelling the nation forward through technological advancements and partnerships with educational institutions.

The competition recognised outstanding teams with prestigious awards such as the Best Demonstration Team Award, Demonstration of Braking & Traction System, and Best in

Sub-System (Mechanical). Vaishnaw lauded these young innovators, stating that their achievements reflect India's world-class capabilities in science and engineering and will accelerate the country's journey toward next-generation transportation.

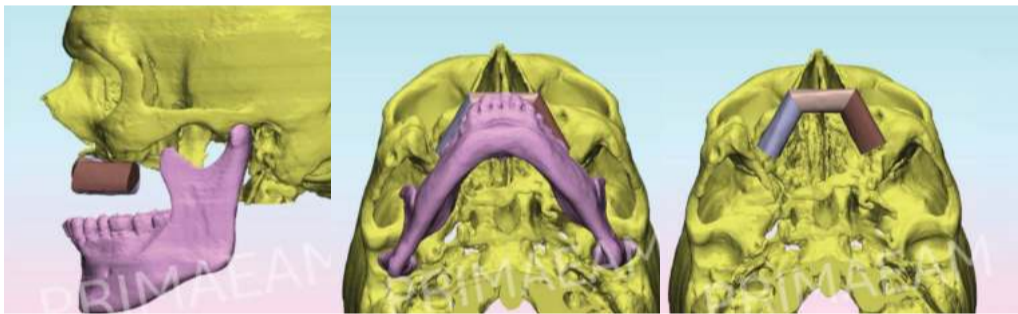
Highlighting India's technological strides, Vaishnaw noted that IIT Madras played a pivotal role in the success of India's 5G rollout—the fastest in the world. Building on this legacy, Indian Railways and IIT Madras will now collaborate on a Vertical Take-Off & Landing (VTOL) Vehicle project, funded by Indian Railways. This initiative aims to drive modern advancements in mobility and transportation.

Dignitaries, including Railway Board Chairman & CEO Satish Kumar, were present at the event. The 422-meter-long Hyperloop test track at IIT Madras, Chennai, stands as a testament to the strong partnership between Indian Railways and the education sector, paving the way for groundbreaking railway innovations and futuristic travel solutions.

# 30-year-old Man's Upper Jaw Reconstructed Using Advanced 3D Technology at Paras Health Srinagar

Srinagar, 24th February 2025: In a remarkable medical achievement, Paras Health Srinagar has successfully performed an advanced 3D Rapid Prototyping-based free flap reconstruction on a 30-year-old man diagnosed with residual sarcoma of the upper jaw. The patient had previously undergone treatment, but some of the disease remained, requiring a complex, multidisciplinary surgical approach to ensure complete excision and functional restoration.

The case was thoroughly discussed in the multidisciplinary tumor board at Paras Health Srinagar, where a team of oncologists, reconstructive surgeons, radiologists, and pathologists



collaborated to determine the best course of action. Given the extensive involvement of the central upper jaw, the team planned a cutting-edge 3D-printed fibula-free flap reconstruction to restore the jaw's structure and function. This

technique, which is performed in select centers in India, including at Paras Health Srinagar, allowed for precise preoperative planning, accurate anatomical modeling, and significantly reduced surgical time.

The team of reconstructive

surgeons, which was led by Dr. Azhar Jan Battoo, included Dr. Abid Saleem, Sr. Oncoplastic surgeon, and Dr. Waseem Bhat-Onco Prosthodontist.

Commenting on the success of the case, Dr. Azhar Jan Battoo, Associate Director of Surgical

Oncology at Paras Health, Srinagar, stated, "This case marks a significant milestone in surgical oncology and reconstruction. The use of 3D rapid prototyping allowed us to plan and execute the surgery with exceptional precision. We were able to shape the graft before harvesting it, ensuring a perfect fit for the patient's jaw. While fibula-free flap reconstruction is performed at several centers, what makes this case unique is the preoperative 3D modeling, which significantly enhances accuracy and efficiency. The patient was discharged on the fifth day in excellent condition, and we expect him to lead a completely normal life once

his final dental rehabilitation is completed."

The surgical process involves multiple steps to ensure the best possible outcome for the patient. High-resolution CT and MRI scans were used to generate a detailed 3D model of the affected area, which was then 3D printed to guide the surgical excision and reconstruction. The fibula bone from the patient's leg, which is non-essential for daily movement, was used to reconstruct the jaw. With the help of the 3D-printed templates and cutting guides, the fibula bone was shaped to precisely match the patient's original jaw structure before being transplanted. The team meticulously joined

the veins and arteries from the newly reconstructed jaw to the patient's neck, ensuring proper blood supply and viability of the flap. A temporary jaw prosthesis was made and permanent dental implants will be integrated within the next 5-6 months, restoring the patient's full oral function and appearance.

This groundbreaking procedure at Paras Health Srinagar underscores the hospital's commitment to integrating advanced medical technology with expert clinical care. The successful outcome not only highlights the expertise of the multidisciplinary surgical team but also sets a new benchmark in head and neck cancer reconstruction in the region.

## CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

### MeT Issues

that an active Western Disturbance is affecting Jammu and Kashmir from tomorrow.

"There are expectations that the next four days would witness the major snowfall of this season. The major intensity is expected between February 27 and 28," he said.

Furthermore, an Independent Weather Forecaster, Aadil Maqbool, said that as per current indications, very heavy snowfall is expected over higher reaches like Sinthan Top, Peer ki Gali, Razdan Top, Zojila Pass, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Baltal Pahalgam and other upper reaches along with heavy rainfall over plains of Jammu and Kashmir.

Snowfall is also possible over plains of Kashmir, he said. (KNO)

### Know India Beyond

stone pelting have come to an end, and schools are opening regularly, the home minister noted.

Shah said there was no theatre earlier and no one could go to watch a film.

There was no 'tazia' procession but, now, all these are happening, he said.

Elections were held for local bodies and 36,000 people elected as panch, sarpanch. All these have happened in the past 10 years, he added.

"When the country will progress, you will progress too. As much as the country progresses, becomes modern, you will also become prosperous. This is what Prime Minister Modi is doing," he said.

The world's tallest railway bridge is now located in Jammu and Kashmir, Asia's longest tunnel is located in the Union Territory. It is the only place with two AIIMS and two IIMS, Shah said.

Twenty-four colleges, eight universities have been established in Jammu and Kashmir in the past 10 years, he said.

### Cabinet Approves

the Assembly. This would be the second address of the LG to the Assembly in the past four months.

On November 04, 2024, LG Manoj Sinha had made a detailed address to the House, outlining the agenda and priorities of the government.

Sources said that several agenda items of different departments were also discussed during the meeting.

"The cabinet gave its go-ahead to the proposals of the Housing & Urban Development Department, Health and Rural Development Department," they said. (KNO)

### Statehood Restoration

Modi ji," he said in a post on X. "Obesity causes a number of lifestyle-related health issues like heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, strokes and breathing problems, not to mention mental health conditions like anxiety and depression. Today I'm nominating these 10 people to join the prime minister campaign against obesity and requesting them to nominate a further 10 people each to take this fight forward," he added.

Among those nominated by Abdullah for the campaign are Biocon Limited founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, businessman Sajjan Jindal, actor Deepika Padukone, former tennis player Sania Mirza, former cricketer Irfan Pathan, NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) MP Supriya Sule and former Wushu star Kuldeep Handoo.

Making a strong pitch for fighting obesity, Modi had in his "Mann Ki Baat" broadcast on Sunday urged people to use less oil in food and also pass on the challenge of reducing oil intake by 10 per cent to 10 others.

Abdullah later told reporters that Modi started the campaign to raise awareness.

"The prime minister nominated me through a tweet (X post), and I also took an initiative and nominated 10 more people. It is hoped that this will spread awareness. The more we take care of our health, the more we can work efficiently, the more our children can study, it will decrease pressure on our hospitals and increase our life expectancy," he said.

The National Conference vice-president said people should make attempts to remain healthy.

"It is understood that obesity is a sort of disease, a lifestyle illness, and is increasing. Obesity can be controlled if we take precautions, exercise and eat healthy," he added.

### PM Nominates

menace. "I would like to nominate the following people to help strengthen the fight against obesity and spread awareness on reducing edible oil consumption in food. I also request them to nominate 10 people each so that our

movement gets bigger," He posted on X.

Bhojpuri singer-actor Nirahua, shooting champion Manu Bhaker, weightlifter Nilekani Chanu, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, actor R Madhavan, singer Shreya Ghoshal and philanthropist and MP Sudha Murty are the other personalities nominated by him.

Making a strong pitch for fighting obesity, PM Modi had in his "Mann Ki Baat" broadcast on Sunday urged people to use less oil in food and also pass on the challenge of reducing oil intake by 10 per cent to 10 others.

### Premature Publicity

displeasure against the person responsible for it".

Referring to comments made by PDP Leader Mehbooba Mufti, Rather said "I am sorry to say that she had not been properly advised and her statement is against the Rules position".

The Speaker also highlighted some instances of such improprieties and breaches of conventions as:

"Publication of questions before they are admitted by the Speaker and before their answers are given in the House or laid on the Table. Publication of answers to questions before they are given in the House or laid on the Table. Publication of notices of adjournment motions or resolutions before they are admitted by the Speaker or mentioned in the House".

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather further said, "This is the first time that the Members have done so and I have conveyed my displeasure. But if they insist on this I shall have to take action against them, as per Rules".

Regarding Budget Session, the Speaker said that it will start from 3rd March till 25th March and then there is a break due to holidays and it will again start from 7 April to 11 April.

He also said that before the budget session there will be an all party meeting.

### J&K Panchayat Polls

division. Political parties and local representatives have welcomed the move, emphasizing the importance of grassroots democracy in the region.

National Conference leaders remarked, "Panchayat elections are crucial for strengthening democracy at the grassroots. We hope that the administration ensures a free and fair electoral process." Meanwhile, BJP's J&K unit welcomed the decision, with a spokesperson stating, "The panchayat elections will empower people at the village level and foster

development in rural areas."

The previous panchayat elections in J&K were held in 2018, months before the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. With this year's elections on the horizon, political analysts view them as a significant step in consolidating democratic institutions in the Union Territory.

While security arrangements are yet to be officially announced, officials indicate that an elaborate security plan will be put in place, given the sensitivity of the region.

As Jammu and Kashmir braces for this important electoral exercise, all eyes will be on the SEC and the government's ability to conduct the elections efficiently, ensuring participation from all corners of the Union Territory. (KINS)

### Withholding Material

Court through the medium of instant petition to avail the efficacious remedy on equitable grounds."

The Bench said that the Apex Court has time and again addressed the issue of concealing material facts in petition, emphasising the importance of full disclosure of the material facts and the potential consequences of suppression.

"When a party suppresses material facts, it renders the proceedings a nullity. It is the duty of every litigant to disclose all material facts, as withholding material facts from the Court not only undermines the process of justice but is also a violation of the principle of coming to the Court with clean hands," the Bench said.

The Apex Court has further observed that failure to disclose material facts could lead to the dismissal of the petition, even if it has merit otherwise, the Bench said.

"Thus the imposition of costs for concealment of material facts has been used as a remedy to deter such fraudulent practices."

### SC Junks PIL

Commission of India," the Bench said and went on to dismiss the petition.

"We are not inclined to entertain the present petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, petition is dismissed. We however clarify that in case the petitioner wants to take any recourse to appropriate statutory remedy he is at liberty to do so, we make no comments in this regard," the top court said.

According to the 'Internet in India Report

2024', active Internet users in the country reached 886 million in 2024, reflecting an 8% year-on-year growth. Internet prices in India are one of the cheapest in the world. Driven by increased usage of Indic languages in digital content, India's Internet-user base is expected to exceed 900 million by 2025, a report by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) said. With 488 million users, rural India accounts for 55% of the total Internet population as 98% of users accessed content in Indic languages, including Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam.

### Delhi HC Directs

come," he said. The NIA counsel said the trial court gave six dates for placing on record the prosecution evidence.

The counsel representing the high court administration said in view of the Supreme Court's order passed on February 10 -- clarifying that the NIA court could also deal with a case against a lawmaker -- an appropriate direction was issued on February 17.

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

As an interim relief in the matter, Rashid was on February 10 allowed a two-day custody parole to attend the Parliament session on February 11 and 13.

On December 24 last year, additional sessions judge Chanderjit Singh, who had requested the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers, dismissed Rashid's plea asking for an order on the pending bail application in the NIA case.

With the matter sent back to him by the district judge, the trial judge said he could only decide the miscellaneous application and not the bail plea.

The Baramulla MP is facing trial in a terror funding case with the allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

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

His case is linked to funding separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and connections to designated terrorist Hafeez Saeed.



## 'J&K, Ladakh Likely To Share 230-740 MW Power By 2027-28'

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities have projected that by 2027-28, J&K and Ladakh may share 230-740 MW of power to other states keeping in view possible surplus capacity available from April to September in the years to come.

The official documents available, read, "Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to have surplus capacity available from April to September in the range of 230-740 MW for 2027-28

higher absorption of higher renewable energy," it reads.

It also said that in the alternate resilient scenario, coal requirement increases by around 287 MW compared to the base case in terminal year 2034-35. "The Short Term Open Access (STOA) requirement in 2024-25 increases by around 144

“

Besides, the documents further state that coal capacity Plant Load Factor (PLF) is expected to remain in the range of 46 percent to 81 percent for the years till 2035.

which can be shared with other states."

Besides, the documents further state that coal capacity Plant Load Factor (PLF) is expected to remain in the range of 46 percent to 81 percent for the years till 2035.

"The coal capacity PLF is expected to remain in the range of 46 percent to 81 percent for the years till 2035—reducing from 81 percent in 2024-25 to 46 percent in 2034-35—thus ensuring

MW in case of Alternate Resilient scenario in comparison to the base case."

"Jammu and Kashmir is surplus in fulfillment of its Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) and need not contract renewable capacities for fulfilling them. The projected capacity and generation mix fulfils the RPO till 2029-30 as per the Ministry of Power nonfiction issued in 2023," it reads—(KNO)



## International Conference On Indigenous Knowledge Systems Concludes At Ahmedabad

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A three day International Conference on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practice -IKS with special focus on climate change and water concluded at Anant National University Ahmedabad on Sunday. The conference titled "Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices: Designing Sustainable Futures" brought together global thought leaders, policymakers and scholars to explore the role of Indigenous knowledge in addressing today's pressing environmental, social and economic challenges.

Among the key dignitaries actively participating in the conference were Dr Bashir Ahmad Veeri, a Member of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, and Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, a social and environmental activist and an Anant Climate Action Fellow. Both Dr Veeri and Dr Bhat contributed with their expertise and knowledge, reinforcing the conference's focus on integrating Indigenous knowledge with contemporary sustainability practices. They advocated the involvement of Indigenous wisdom keepers in shaping sustainability-driven policies and initiatives and ensuring their wisdom is passed on to the next generation.

Led by Dr Anunaya Chaubey, Provost, Anant National Univer-

sity, and Dr Rajendra Singh, Professor of Practice at Anant, the conference featured keynote addresses by Prof Sonajharia Minz and Prof Rishi Narain Singh, providing a platform for thought leaders, policymakers and scholars to engage in meaningful discussions on sustainable solutions in response to escalating environmental challenges, social inequalities and economic instability.

Talking about the conference, Dr Anunaya Chaubey, Provost, Anant National University, shared, "At Anant, we believe that Indigenous knowledge holds timeless wisdom for building a sustainable future. Hosting such events allows us to bring global voices together, fostering dialogue between tradition and contemporary innovation. These events give young minds a deeper understanding of sustainability, culture and design, inspiring them to explore solutions rooted in traditions while embracing modern advancements."

The conference offered immersive learning opportunities for Anant students as the participating artists and experts engaged with them through workshops, discussions and interactive sessions, taking Anant's Design X philosophy for ward and reinforcing Anant's commitment to preparing and empowering the next generation of problem solvers.

## Speaker Reviews Security Arrangements For Assembly Budget Session

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, today convened a meeting to review security and other related arrangements for the ensuing Budget Session of current JKUT Legislature to be held at Jammu from 3rd March, 2025.

Present in the meeting were the officers from different departments including Commission Secretary, GAD, M. Raju; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; JGP Jammu, B S Tuti; Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi; DC Jammu, Sachin Vaishya; Commissioner, JMC, Dr Devansh Yadav; Director, Information, Nitish Rajora; SSP Traffic, CMO Jammu; SSP Security Secretariat besides Secretary, JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit and other senior officers of concerned departments.

The Speaker issued specific directions to the concerned departments for ensuring that all requisite arrangements are put in place for smooth and seamless conduct

of the upcoming budget session. Threadbare discussion was held on security arrangements, traffic regulation, fire services, uninterrupted power supply, provision of sufficient and regular supply of water to the Legislative Complex, health facilities and media arrangements among other things.

Regarding the security arrangements, the Speaker directed the concerned officers for deployment of adequate staff well versed with Parliamentary traditions within the premises of J&K Legislative Assembly at Jammu. He asked them to ensure adequate security arrangements for safety and security of the Legislators within the MLAs Hostel, Jammu as well as outside.

To ensure proper regulation of traffic on roads leading to J&K Legislative Assembly Complex/Civil Secretariat Jammu and MLAs Hostel Jammu, the Speaker called for putting in place necessary measures for avoiding inconvenience to the general public on this account.

## Div Com Reviews Arrangements For Holy Month Of Ramzan, Mahashivratri

Directs DCs To Ensure Adequate Arrangements To Facilitate Public

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri took a comprehensive review of arrangements chalked for the celebration of Mahashivratri and observance of the ensuing Holy Month of Ramzan.

On the occasion, Div Com reviewed the availability of essential items in the market including flowers, walnuts, fish & lotus stem for the celebration of the festival by the Kashmiri Pandit Community. Div Com also directed Deputy Commissioners to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity & water at the pandit colonies and prominent temples. Besides, he reviewed security arrangements and transport facilities for smooth celebration of religious festivals.

While reviewing the arrangements for the observance of the Holy Month of Ramzan—the month of fasting, Div Com reviewed all the arrangements to facilitate the public.

He directed CE KPDCCL for



uninterrupted power supply at peak hours of Sehri & Iftar.

He also directed for regular water supply to the public during the month & instructed PHE Department to provide drinking water through tankers wherever need is felt.

Further, he directed concerned to ensure availability of adequate quantities of quality meat and poultry birds in the market. Besides, he directed all DCs for extensive market checks to ensure

quality essential items are available for consumption.

He also directed concerned officers to conduct sanitation drives of prominent Mosques & Shrines to ensure hygienic ambience & surroundings.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs; Divisional and District officers of PDD, R&B, PHE, Transport, and FCS&CA departments besides officers from Traffic Police.

**HE DIRECTED CE KPDCCL FOR UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY AT PEAK HOURS OF SEHRI & IFTAR. He also directed for regular water supply to the public during the month & instructed PHE Department to provide drinking water through tankers wherever need is felt.**



## DSEK Inspects Examination Centers In Baramulla, Budgam, Srinagar

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Director School Education Kashmir (DESK), Dr G N Itoo conducted extensive visits to Baramulla, Budgam & Srinagar to review the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of board examinations.

He visited several examination centers of class 10th and 12th to inspect discipline and adherence to the protocol of sanctity of examinations.

Dr GN Itoo went to Fazil Kashmiri Memorial Higher Secondary School, Chandilora Tangmarg; Model Higher Secondary School, Kunzer Tangmarg; Boys Higher Secondary School Wadwan Budgam; Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam; Girls Higher Secondary School Budgam; and Girls Higher Secondary School Ra-



jbah Srinagar.

On the occasion, he interacted with the students and enquired about various facilities.

He instructed the examination staff to ensure that all facilities are personally inspected before the exam begins

and ensure proper discipline within examination halls.

During his visit to Budgam, Dr GN Itoo instructed concerned for strengthening the infrastructure at the Higher Secondary School, Wadwan Budgam.

## Civil Society Calls For Action To Combat Declining Water Levels In Rivers

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The prolonged dry spell and climate change have led to a worrying decline in water levels across Kashmir's water bodies, which has sparked concerns among civil society members and locals. They fear that if the rain deficit continues, the situation may worsen and directly affect agriculture, horticulture and daily livelihoods.

Citizens and civil society members called for collective responsibility rather than waiting for the government or other authorities to act.

"Everyone is looking at others for action, but real change starts at an individual level. Climate change has triggered a prolonged dry spell, and we must take steps to minimize its impact," said Tahir Ahmad, a DDC member from Shopian. Tahir said that once-pristine canals, springs, and streams that were sources of drinking water are now polluted and unsafe. He criticised unsustainable development practices that have worsened environmental degradation.

"The so-called development that destroys our environment is not progress—it is a step toward destruction for both current and future generations," he added.

Ghulam Hassan, a civil society member from Pulwama, said the water shortage was

due to deficit snowfall and rainfall over the past few years. The lack of snowfall has

“

"The shortage of water directly impacts agriculture and horticulture. If the situation does not improve, people may be forced to sell their land just to survive,"

led to the incomplete recharge of glaciers, which are Kashmir's primary water source.

"The shortage of water directly impacts agriculture and horticulture. If the situation does not improve, people may be forced to sell their land just to survive," he said. Hassan also expressed concerns about the global impact of water scarcity, saying, "If the crisis continues, nations will eventually fight wars over water resources."

Abdul Majeed Bhat, a well-known orchardist from Shopian, said there is a declining water level in major canals like Veshow Nallah and Rambiar. "The livelihood of Shopian's people is heavily dependent on horticulture. Without a stable water supply, the industry will collapse, affecting thousands

of families," he said.

Zaid Ahmad, a social activist from south Kashmir, blamed illegal and unregulated mining for further depleting and polluting the region's water bodies. "Even the mining operations auctioned by the government are not being conducted as per guidelines. These activities have disturbed aquatic life and harmed indigenous fish species like Schizothorax, which was once found in abundance in Veshow and Rambiar but is now rarely seen," he said.

Ahmad and other civil society members said pollution in water bodies has made the crisis worse. "Most canals and tributaries are filled with garbage, including sanitary waste, household trash, and horticulture by-products. We, the people, are responsible for this mess," they said.

The civil society members urged the government to take concrete steps to preserve Kashmir's natural water resources before it's too late.

The key demands include regular cleaning of canals, streams, springs and rivulets across all districts; strict penalties for individuals and businesses polluting water bodies; enforcement of mining regulations to protect aquatic biodiversity; and formation of village-level committees to monitor and clean local water sources.—(KNO)

## Gulmarg Gets Year-Round Heli Adventure

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** With the launch of year-round helicopter services for skiing and adventure rides, the famous ski resort in 'Gulmarg' has added a new feather to its cap.

The service was inaugurated by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday—aiming to transform Gulmarg into a premier destination for Heli adventures.

Speaking at the launch event, CM Omar Abdullah has stated, "Soon, Gulmarg will be recognized as a top-tier destination for Heli adventures. This helicopter service will not only promote Heli-skiing but also provide tourists with a unique aerial sightseeing experience."

The Heli-skiing service being operated by Billa Majeed Bakshi was initially introduced in

ing summers for trekking and hiking can now be reached in winter as well.

"With a carrying capacity of five passengers per trip, the chopper service will ferry upto 60 passengers per hour and can accommodate over 200 tourists daily. The service is supported by a team of 25 employees, including two pilots, engineers, ground staff, and guides to ensure smooth operations," he said.

Meanwhile, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Gulmarg Farooq Ahmed Shah lauded the initiative, saying that it would significantly enhance the region's tourism sector.

"This Heli service adds another feather to Gulmarg's cap and it will attract more domestic and international visitors," Shah said.

There has long been a demand for Heli-skiing, which is



2024 for 'advanced foreign skiers and snowboarders'.

However, the service has now been thrown open to all visitors, offering them an opportunity to explore the breathtaking snow-covered alpine peaks of the ski resort throughout the year.

"The service will introduce new and less crowded destinations like the sunshine mountain that earlier used to be accessible in summers only. Heli adventure allows them to reach mountain peaks at 4,300 meters within minutes and spend hours exploring the beauty of Apharwat and other locations," Bakshi explained.

He further mentioned that the peaks accessible only dur-

considered one of the highest forms of adventure tourism, particularly drawing enthusiasts from foreign countries.

"As Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that Gulmarg is the winter capital of India, we want to make it a reality. There is still more to do, and in the next five years, infrastructure for skiing, the Gondola, and other adventure sports will be significantly enhanced," the MLA said.

"The upgraded infrastructure will make people forget the tourist destinations in Europe after visiting the Gulmarg. This destination will surely compete with Switzerland," he said—(KNO)

## 'First Female' Truck Driver Of Kashmir Breaks Stereotypes

### Agencies

**PULWAMA:** A woman from South Kashmir's Pulwama district has become the first truck driver of Kashmir—thus rejecting the stereotypes in conventional culture subjugated by men.

Rabiya Yaseen, a resident of Wakharwan area of Pulwama district has broken the stereo-

Shehnaza Begum said that when they found that she was interested in driving, she was supported by all her family members and husband. "Rabiya is driving her truck to every corner of India and with the support of the family."

The struggles of fitting in this profession that is a male dominated in the region, Rabiya nev-



types as truck driving in the region has been the job of male folk only.

37-year old Rabiya is married to Mohammad Imtiyaz. She says that she started learning and driving light motor vehicles a few years ago and later drove heavy motor vehicles.

After getting a valid driving license, she started driving her own vehicle—covering long distances pan-India.

Family members of Rabiya said that she had a passion for driving vehicles from the very beginning and they have unconditionally supported her. "From a span of time she has been earning her livelihood through truck driving."

Rabiya's mother-in-law,

er budge to the stereotyping. "It was a tough job to accomplish, but we all backed her to overcome the obstacles," Shehnaza shared.

For the past three years, Rabiya has been traveling across India, defying traditional gender norms with every mile she covers. Her journey showcases the immense potential women have when provided with the right support and opportunities, serving as an inspiration for many in Kashmir and beyond.

Shehnaza said women have been showcasing their talent in every field and with each passing day women in Kashmir have been diversifying their fields—(KNO)

## JCB Operator Dies After Vehicle Overtakes In Budgam

### Agencies

**BUDGAM:** A JCB operator from Qazigund lost his life after his vehicle overturned at Banderpora area of Central Kashmir Budgam district on Monday.

Officials said that a JCB vehicle overturned in Budgam in which a driver was injured.

Driver was critically injured

in the accident and was immediately taken to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

He was identified as Shahnawaz Ahmad Shan, son of Bashir Ahmad Shan, a resident of Nipora, Qazigund, they said.

Cognizance of the incident has been taken, further investigations taken up. (JKNS)



# Champions Trophy: Australia, South Africa Promise Run Fest In Rawalpindi

Press Trust of India

**RAWALPINDI:** Australia and South Africa, two teams possessing plenty of batting firepower, will look to outmuscle each other here on Tuesday and put one foot in the semifinals of the Champions Trophy.

Not many were giving a depleted Australia a chance in the tournament but their record-breaking chase against England in Lahore has once again shown their penchant for rising to the occasion in ICC events.

The dew played its part the other night in Lahore and could once again aid the chasing team in Rawalpindi.

Australia are bound to miss



the pace trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood in the tournament but at

least in the opener, the audacious batting display compensated for their absence.

Josh Inglis' confidence must be sky high after playing the innings of his life with runs also coming from the bat of Matthew Short, Marnus Labuschagne, Alex Carey and Glenn Maxwell.

That leaves out only skipper Steve Smith and opener Travis Head in the batting department and they could score a big one against the Proteas.

A better bowling effort would be expected from left-arm pacer Spencer Johnson and Maxwell too was on the expensive side against England. The sixth bowler's role is likely to be shared by Labuschagne and Short.

Like Inglis, Ryan Rickleton

in the South African dressing room would be beaming with confidence after an attacking hundred against Afghanistan. Number three, four, five striking half-centuries augurs well for the Temba Bavuma-led side.

Heinrich Klaasen missed out on the last game due to injury and his participation in Tuesday's game is not certain.

South Africa's pace attack is certainly stronger than their opponents with Kagiso Rabada leading the charge.

With first choice players not available, South Africa did not have the best of build ups for Champions Trophy but are backing themselves to go all the way. Match starts 2.30 IST.

## Short TAKES

### Pakistan Coach, Others Face Axe After CT Show: PCB Source

The backlash due to the poor show in the Champions Trophy, including the humiliating defeat to India, hit the Pakistan team hard and its support staff led by former fast bowler Aaqib Javed is set to be overhauled, according to a cricket Board source.

Pakistan lost to arch-rivals India by six wickets in Dubai on Sunday, after their 60-run defeat to New Zealand in the Champions Trophy opener in Karachi on February 19.

A well-informed source in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that Aaqib will be relieved of his duties as interim head coach after the Champions Trophy.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi had appointed Aaqib as interim head coach first of the white ball team late last year after the resignation of Gary Kirsten.

With Pakistan is due to tour New Zealand from March 16 to April 5 for five T20 Internationals and three ODIs, the Board has decided to finalise new permanent coach or coaches.

### Vidarbha Retain Squad For Ranji Trophy Final Against Kerala

Vidarbha on Monday retained their 17-member squad to take on Kerala in the final of the Ranji Trophy which will be played at the VCA Stadium here in Jamtha from Wednesday.

Vidarbha, who have remained unbeaten in the premier domestic competition this season, qualified for the summit clash after a commanding 80-run win over defending champions Mumbai.

It was a repeat of last year's final in which Mumbai had clinched their 42nd title after defeating the two-time winners Vidarbha.

Kerala, on the other hand, will make their maiden appearance in the Ranji Trophy final.

After pipping Jammu and Kashmir in the quarter-final on the basis of first-innings lead of a mere one run, Kerala edged out Gujarat in the semifinal with a slender two-run lead.

Vidarbha, who will make their fourth appearance in the Ranji final after winning the title in 2017-18 and 2018-19, will bank on their stars such as Yash Rathod (933 runs) and Harsh Dubey (66 wickets) to come good again.

### Manchester United Set To Lay Off Another 150-200 Staff

Manchester United said on Monday it will cut about 150 to 200 jobs as part of additional measures to reverse financial losses at the Premier League soccer club.

The plan to "transform" its corporate structure is in addition to 250 jobs removed last year, the club said.

"We have lost money for the past five consecutive years. This cannot continue," CEO Omar Berrada said in a statement.

The club has been aggressively restructuring and cutting costs since British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe took a 25% stake and took charge of their soccer operations to try to revive its fortunes on the pitch.

## YSS Skiing Courses Running At Three Venues Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports launched its fourth consecutive skiing training course at Gulmarg for students from various educational institutions. The 15-day course began with the Assistant Director of Tourism, Gulmarg, inaugurating the event.

This course features 50 enthusiastic female students from all districts of the Kashmir division. A team of highly skilled trainers is providing comprehensive training in the basics of skiing, ensuring that the participants gain a strong foundation in the sport.

Hilal Ahmed, Incharge of Hutments YSS Gulmarg, shared details about the course, emphasizing the Department's commitment to providing top-notch training facilities.

"The Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, is committed to offering the best possible training to



these students. We are ensuring proper accommodation and nutritional food for all participants throughout the course that too free of any charges," he said.

In addition to Gulmarg, YSS has also initiated its annual skiing training at Gurez Valley and Sonamarg. The 10-day course, which began on Sunday at Darthani Nallah Badwan, Gurez, was inaugurated by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Gurez and the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) of Gurez.

Under the guidance of the Director General YSS, the Gurez program includes 50 boys and girls. The course is being conducted under the

supervision of the District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO), Bandipora, along with the dedicated physical education staff of Zone Gurez.

By popularizing skiing in Gurez, the Department is not only fostering a new generation of athletes but also positioning Gurez as an attractive winter tourism destination.

The SDM of Gurez, speaking at the inauguration, highlighted the transformative impact of the program. "This skiing course is not just about sports; it's about empowering our youth and putting Gurez on the map as a winter destination," he said.

## Rajasthan Give Real Kashmir A Reality Check In Jaipur

Press Trust of India

**JAIPUR:** Rajasthan United kept up their upward charge through the I-League table with a 4-0 win over Real Kashmir in an emphatic performance at the Vidyaadhar Nagar Stadium here on Monday.

The game was decided in the first 32 minutes in which the Desert Warriors scored three goals.

Alain Oyarzun (13'), Maicol Cabrera (14', 32'), and Gautam Virwani (90+4') were on target for the home team.

Rajasthan United took their tally to 24 points and rose to fourth place, their highest so far in the season.

Meanwhile, Real Kashmir suffered a blow to their title chances as they remained on 26 points and slipped to third place, three points behind leaders Churchill Brothers.

It was the Snow Leopards' heaviest I-League defeat since March 2022 when they were beaten 1-5 by Gokulam Kerala FC.

In an utterly dominant first half performance, Rajasthan United pressured Real Kashmir's defence from the outset.

Playing out from the back, they constantly drew Kashmir's players forward before exploiting the gaps and hitting them at pace. When the first goal did arrive, it wasn't a surprise, even if the visitors would've been disappointed with the defending.



The Snow Leopards were rattled, and Rajasthan could have easily added many more if not for some brave goalkeeping by Syed Zahid Hussain Bukhari.

However, even the goalkeeper could do nothing about Rajasthan's third — a sure-shot contender for one of the goals of the season.

With his back to goal, Cabrera chested a lobbed cross from the right, up before unleashing a perfect bicycle kick into the bottom corner of the goal.

The visitors put up a braver rearguard action in the second half, restricting Rajasthan to pot shots from distance and even going to the extent of turning the game into a bruising encounter.

While they did little going forward, at least the leaks had stopped.

That was until injury time, when Muhammad Hammad's weak clearance from a low cross was smashed in by substitute Gauram Virwani.

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

# KASHMIR OBSERVER®



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

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

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

VISIT

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

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR