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BOOK
APPOINTMENT

Rains, Snow Drench Valley



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir continued to receive snow and rainfall for the third consecutive

day on Thursday with multiple places experiencing a snow depth of 3 to 4 feet during the period. As per the reports, Sadhna Top and Gurez valley | [More on P6](#)

Major Roads, Highways Closed

All the major roads and highways have been closed by the authorities in view of slippery conditions triggered by the fresh snowfall. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been closed to vehicular movement from both sides due to mud slush and shooting stones at Mehad, Ramban, amid continuous | [More on P6](#)

Bandipora Village Hit By Snow Avalanche

A snow avalanche occurred in the Khandyal village of Gurez valley in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday afternoon. This affected many residential houses in the region. According to the officials, two houses were damaged by the avalanche, but there was no immediate report of injuries or casualties. The officials further stated that teams of revenue | [More on P6](#)

2 Killed Amid Rains in Jammu

Two persons, including a boy, were killed in separate rain-related incidents as the higher reaches of Jammu witnessed snowfall, while the plains were lashed by rains for the second day on Thursday, officials said. The traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar highway was suspended in the evening following shooting of stones at several places, while a couple of avalanches also hit the upper | [More on P6](#)

JKP Nabs Terrorist In Covert Delhi Op

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's counter intelligence wing on Thursday arrested a suspected terrorist, allegedly involved in terror funding, during a covert operation in Delhi.

The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), in a covert operation, arrested a terrorist from Delhi who was involved in terror funding and had links

with terrorists of proscribed terror organisation(s) across the Line of Control (LoC), an official said.

The case is connected to providing logistics support to terrorists of proscribed terror organisation(s) active in Jammu and Kashmir by a variety of means, including providing or passing on funds for conducting terror activities, he added.

"This money was being routed through | [More on P6](#)

Need To Bridge Rural-Urban Divide In J&K: LG

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that there is a need to build a Jammu and Kashmir where the rural and urban divide is completely bridged, and it is equally important to continue working for those sections of society who have been left behind due to discriminatory laws.

Sinha proudly mentioned that in the past four and a half years, his administration has



ensured the development of social sectors to complement economic growth and achieve the ultimate goal | [More on P6](#)

Rule Of Law Established In J&K: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the rule of law has been firmly established in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for progress and development. Addressing a function here the Lieutenant Governor stressed on the need for collective efforts to transform J&K into an educational, research, and technological hub of the | [More on P6](#)

J&K Assembly's Budget Session Private Members' Bills to Take Center Stage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly gears up for its Budget Session starting March 3, several private member bills are set to be tabled. Among the most debated proposals is the call for declaring Jammu and Kashmir a dry state, with at least three legislators advocating for a complete ban on alcohol in the Union Territory.

People's Democratic Party (PDP) MLA from Kupwara Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) legislator from Langate Sheikh Khurshed Ahmad and ruling National Conference (NC) MLA from Lal Chowk Ahsan Pardeesi have submitted separate private members' bills for a ban on alcohol in Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, PDP



legislators have also pushed for bills seeking the regularisation of property rights for residents on public land and the absorption of ad hoc, daily wagers, and other temporary workers.

MLA Pulwama Waheedur-Rehman Parra moved a private member bill titled "The Jammu and Kashmir (Regularization and Recognition of Property

Rights of Residents in Public Land) Bill, 2025".

The bill seeks to confer the ownership rights on the people who have been living on the state land for the last two decades.

The other two bills pertain to the regularization of daily wagers and liquor ban. "During my tenure, I had introduced an SRO for the regularization of

Prohibition of Alcohol Bill

Regularization & Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Public Land Bill

Regularization of Ad Hoc, Daily Wagers, Need-Based, & Other Temporary Workers

Rationalization of Reservation Bill

Protection of Karewas Bill

thousands of daily wagers, but we could not move ahead as the government collapsed. We have now moved a bill to ensure their regularization", Mehbooba Mufti said. Regarding | [More on P6](#)

Will Not Allow Any Anti-National, Unconstitutional Bill: LOP

As the nearly month-long Jammu and Kashmir budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is scheduled to begin from March 3, Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Sunil Sharma on Thursday said that they will not

allow any anti-national or unconstitutional bill to be tabled in the House. "Our stand is clear in the upcoming assembly session. We will not allow any unconstitutional and anti-national bill to be | [More on P6](#)

J&K's Normalcy Is Forced, Not Organic: CM Says Assembly In UT Is Hybrid System

Agencies

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that having an assembly in the Union Territory is a hybrid system and that the country should either have only states or only UTs.

He also said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not organic, but driven out of fear.

In a programme, 'Ummedu Ka Jammu Kashmir' by THE RED MIKE DIALOGUES with Omar Abdullah, the Chief Minister said that he wishes to have a J&K with peace, and communal harmony.

About the statehood restoration with half powers, he said, "There is no model in India where you have a full state without all powers. So unless you are envisaging a situation where J&K would be treated uniquely, I don't see how this will work, if you plan to treat JK uniquely then please explain what August 5, 2019 was about. If I am not mistaken, all of those were saying that JK has been brought at par with the rest of



the country."

"The whole idea was that you can't have two systems in one country, if it is one country with one system then how can you now propose a new system just of JK. You have to treat us at par."

"If what is happening today in JK today is organic nothing like it, if it is driven out of fear then you have a problem, because you can only control a situation out of fear for a limited time, if it is organic then it will remain forever. But I will hazard that the forces and the people who you talk to in JK, even if they don't believe

it is organic, they wouldn't have closed Jama Masjid for Mirwaiz to offer his father-in-law's funeral prayers," he said.

"Law and order doesn't break out when normalcy is organic, but it happens when it is forced. It is not organic normalcy in JK but it is forced and this is because you are trying to run JK through the second model you are proposing where governance would not have a role in law and order and security. I will hazard that there are limitations to the second model that you are proposing because you will never be able to carry the population as the partners for normalcy unless the elected government is part of the paradigm," the Chief Minister said.

About his statement on Article 370 judgement, he said that he has made it clear that the top court has already given the decision in favour of Article 370 in the past and now that the verdict has been given against it, then there are expectations for a favourable decision again.

He added | [More on P6](#)

Speaker Urges Cooperation for Smooth Budget Session

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, today urged the representatives of all political parties and independent Legislators for cooperation during the ensuing Budget session to ensure productivity of the house.

Chairing an All Party Meeting (APM) ahead of the Budget session, scheduled to commence on March 3, 2025, the Speaker underscored the need for dialogue, coordination and consensus building to facilitate smooth legislative proceedings.

Leader of Opposition (LoP), Sunil Sharma and Surjeet Singh Sialthia, represented BJP; Mubarak Gul represented



National Conference; Ghulam Ahmad Mir, represented Indian National Congress; Mohd Yousuf Tariqami represented CPI(M); Advocate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan as independent legislator while Waheed ur Rehman Parra represented Peoples Democratic Party during the meeting. In his opening | [More on P6](#)

Assembly Should Be Forum For Open Debates: PDP

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) said on Thursday that the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly should be a forum for open debates and not a setting where someone dictates "acceptable topics". "Quite surprising to see a BJP legislator attempting to influence the Speaker of the assembly about what should | [More on P6](#)

Local Body Reservations J&K OBC Commission Submits Final Report

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant development, the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission submitted its final recommendations to the Chief Secretary, J&K, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday.

The report, presented in presence of Secretary RDD&PR, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, is expected to highlight the objectives laid down at the time of its constitution.

Director Panchayati Raj, J&K, Sham Lal; Secretary in OBC Commission, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; Deputy Secretary in OBC Commission, Mohinder Sharma and others were also present on the occasion. The Commission, headed

by Justice (Retired) Janak Raj Kotwal, a former Judge of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, with former IAS Officer, RK Bhagat and former Dean of SKUAST Jammu, Dr. Mohinder Singh Badwal as members, was constituted with determining OBC reservation quotas. The Commission's term officially ended on December 31, 2024, however, its tenure was extended till February 28, 2025 for accomplishment of the complete work.

Pertinent to mention that the Commission was constituted for the purpose of conducting empirical studies on OBC representation, engaging with stakeholders and recommending proportional reservations in urban | [More on P6](#)

Appointment Lacking Basic Qualification Nullity In Law: HC

Quashes Anganwari Helper's Engagement After 15 Years

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Appointment of a candidate to an office, post or position would be a nullity in the eye of law, if the person appointed or engaged against such post lacks the basic eligibility qualification prescribed for the post, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh said on Thursday as it quashed engagement of an Anganwari Helper after 15 years.

"An appointment, which is a nullity in the eye of law, cannot be validated only on the ground that the person so appointed has continued on the post/position for a pretty long time, more particularly when the continuation of such candidate in service is in pursuance of the



interim orders passed by the Court/Tribunal or some other competent authority," said a division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Puneet Gupta while quashing engagement of an Anganwari Helper after 15 years for lacking basic qualification of 8th pass.

The authorities concerned had in 2010 invited applications for engagement of Anganwadi Helpers in Block

Lar. The advertisement notification prescribed a minimum qualification of 8th Pass for the post of Anganwadi Helper. It was also provided in the advertisement notification that in case no Middle Pass candidate was available, the candidate with lesser qualification was to be considered. However, the candidate (Appellant), as also the Respondent No.6 (selected candidate) responded to the advertisement notification. On the recommendations of the concerned Sarpanch and, having regard to the fact that the Respondent No.6 (selected candidate) was a widow and belonged to a BPL family, she came to be engaged as Anganwadi Helper | [More on P6](#)



Giant Glaciers Pulverised Earth's Ancient Rocks, Setting The Stage For Complex Life

The Conversation

Imagine floating in space, gazing on a frozen white orb. The ball hangs in the void, lonely and gleaming in the light from its star. From pole to equator, the sphere is covered in a thick crust of ice. In orbit around the white planet is a single cratered moon.

You are gazing on Earth in the Cryogenian period, 700 million years ago. This is about three times as long ago as the earliest dinosaurs roamed - but still not long in the scheme of Earth's mind-bending 4.5 billion years of history.

During the Cryogenian, our planet was plunged into a series of deep freezes when enormous glaciers flowed across the globe.

In new research published in *Geology*, we show that these crushing rivers of ice, sometimes kilometres deep, pulverised the planet's rocky surface like enormous bulldozers. When the ice eventually thawed, the ground-up minerals washed into the oceans where they may have provided the nutrients needed for the evolution of complex life.

Into the fridge

According to the Snowball Earth hypothesis, Earth underwent at least two extreme global glaciations during the Cryogenian. Traces of these events can be seen across the globe in sedimentary rocks formed under glacial conditions, strongly suggesting that ice spread from the poles to reach the equatorial region.

Nobody is sure exactly what triggered these deep-freeze events, though scientists have proposed a range of possibilities. One key may have been a significant decline in atmospheric greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂). The CO₂ levels in the atmosphere



may have fallen because of increased weathering of rocks situated on a large tropical continent that existed at the time. When continents are positioned in tropical regions, warm, moist conditions accelerate chemical weathering, pulling CO₂ out of the atmosphere, locking it away in carbonate minerals. Tectonic activity during the breakup of continents that happened during this period may have also played a part. It could have created conditions such as shallow seas, leading to more removal of CO₂ from the air. As ice sheets advanced toward the tropics, they reflected more sunlight back into space, leading to further cooling. These processes together caused ice to spread rapidly until the planet was almost entirely frozen.

How did Snowball Earth end?

Volcanic activity may have played a crucial role in ending these ice ages. As glaciers covered the planet, interactions between Earth's crust, oceans and atmosphere slowed dramatically. As a result, when volcanic eruptions injected CO₂ into the atmosphere, it would not have been re-absorbed but rather

accumulated over millions of years. These high levels of CO₂ created a runaway greenhouse effect, warming the planet and eventually melting the ice. The resulting thaw caused rapid sea level rise and an influx of nutrients into the oceans.

Distinct rock formations were created during this abrupt climate change, as the chemistry of the oceans responded to the new conditions. The surge of nutrients may have contributed to a cascade of biological changes, possibly setting the stage for the rise of complex life.

Many scientists have considered the idea that changing atmospheric conditions on the thawing of Snowball Earth led to changes in ocean chemistry. In our new research, we found that material scraped off the continents during the thaw may also have played a role. Snowball to slushball, glacial bulldozer to planetary power hose. We studied sections of rock, from older to younger, through the snowball period to melt down. By doing this, we built up a picture of what the glaciers and the subsequent river systems were doing to the crust of our planet. We explored minerals with these sequences of rock and found consistent

distinctive changes during periods of time when snowball events started and also when thawing occurred. Snowball Earth events were associated with a pronounced increase in older, deeper crust being exposed and ground down under kilometres of ice. As the glaciers retreated during thaw periods, massive outflows of melt water transported mineral grains that had been trapped and stabilised under the ice. Once exposed to liquid water, fragile minerals dissolved, releasing chemicals. This process - like the changes in the atmosphere - would have changed the chemistry of the oceans. The glacial retreat help shaped the distribution of elements critical to ocean ecosystems.

Lessons from the past

The timescales of Earth's natural processes are important to keep in mind. Over thousands, millions and billions of years, processes such as plate tectonics, erosion, and atmospheric cycles will continue to shape the planet's future.

On shorter timescales, however, human activities have become the dominant force driving climate change.

While Earth itself will endure, the survival of complex human societies depends on our actions today. We are passengers on an extraordinary "spaceship Earth", a planet that recycles its chemical building blocks through dynamic geochemical cycles, using matter originally forged in ancient stars.

These processes regulate Earth's surface and sustain life, even as our planet's fate is tied to the evolution of the Sun and the cosmos. Humanity, uniquely among Earth's species, has developed the tools and systems to mitigate existential threats such as climate change, famine, war and even asteroid impacts, yet the effective use of these capabilities remains in our hands.

Mixing Food Waste In Concrete Can Increase Strength Of Construction: IIT Indore Research

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore have found a unique way to use food waste, by mixing it along with a non-pathogenic bacteria in concrete which can double its construction strength and reduce carbon emissions. When the food waste rots, it releases carbon dioxide. If the bacteria and food waste are mixed in concrete, then carbon dioxide reacts with calcium ions present in concrete to form calcium carbonate crystals, Professor Sandeep Chaudhary, who is part of the research

stops growing as soon as the holes and cracks are filled, due to which there is no damage to the construction later, he added.

"In our research we have focused on domestic food discards (cauliflower stalk, potato peel, fenugreek stem and orange peel) and spoil fruit wastes (rotten papaya pulp)," Chaudhary said. The usage in concrete was defined based on the available water content in the waste. Low moisture waste were processed as powder, then mixed with water to create a consistent liquid, while high moisture waste was processed as pulp to create a consistent liquid, he said. Professor Hemchandra Jha, of the IIT



team, told PTI on Wednesday. These crystals fill the holes and cracks present in the concrete and make the concrete solid without having any significant effect on the weight, the professor of the institute's Department of Civil Engineering said. "We mixed non-pathogenic bacteria (a variety of E. Coli) in food waste like rotten fruit pulp and their peels and mixed it in concrete. This doubled the strength of concrete," Chaudhary said. The speciality of this bacteria is that it

Indore's Department of Biosciences and Biomedical Engineering, who was also involved in the research, said in the old applications of mixing bacteria in concrete, synthetic chemicals were used which made this process expensive and less sustainable.

In the research at the IIT Indore, food waste was used instead of synthetic chemicals, to reduce the cost of this process. The food waste dissolves in water along with the bacteria and easily gets mixed in concrete, Jha said.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public school
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Azhan Rather s/o Nazir Ahmad Rather R/o Margipora Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 08/05/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 03 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 SD fko 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 Zain ul Bideen Lone s/o Abdul Hameed Lone R/o Goushugh Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 11/09/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 03 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 fko SD/- Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR
 (Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)
 Subject: - Rate contract for SITC of Inverter Series Hot and cold Air Conditioning Units at vital locations of Govt. CD Hospital , LD, Children Hospital & B&J Srinagar
 Ref :- This office e- NIT no: M&HDS/TS/2024-25/151/e-tendering Dated 25.02.2025
CORRIGENDUM RETENDER
 Due to error in creation of BOQ the new BOQ is uploaded with changes. All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.
 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division, Srinagar
 No: M&HDS/TS/ 8923-26 DIPK-12478/24 Dated: 27.02.2025

Public Notice
 I have changed my son's name from (old name) Farzan Bin Parveez to (New Name) Farzan Bin Parveez Naqash in future he will be known as Farzan Bin Parveez Naqash. If anybody is having any objection they may contact Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 Sub... Application of Gulshan Ara W/o Muzaffar Ahmad Wagay R/o pattan for obtaining legal hair certificate of her husband..
PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is inform to general public that applicants husband legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that the applicant husband namely Muzaffar Ahmad Wagay S/o Abdul Hamid Wagay R/o Pattan died on 06/01/2023, the deceased was Govt. Employ and left following legal hairs..
 1 Gulshan Ara Wife Of Deceased 52Y H/Work
 2 Abdul Hamid Wagay Father Of Deceased 85Y Pensioner
 3 Misra Begum Mother Of Deceased 84 Y Old Aged
 Prop. : BILAL AHMAD BHAT. S/O.: BASHIR AHMAD BHAT. R/O.: PALHALLAN, PATTAN, BARAMULLA.
 FKO SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, KASHMIR
Message for Farmers
 All the farming community in the valley are advised not to purchase or use the below mentioned batch No of fertilizer products in their fields, which has been declared as Non Standard by the QCL Lalmandi Srinagar
 The details of Non Standard Fertilizer products as under:-

S.No	Name of the Product	Batch No	Date of Manufacture	Date of expiry	Manufactured/ Marketed by
1	PROM (Shakti)	RG 360	Feb. 2025	NA	Royal Green Agro Chemicals

 All Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above-mentioned fertilizer product under Batch No: RG 360 and proceed further as per the provisions of the The FCO 1985
 DIPK-12470/24 dated: 27-02-2025
 Sd/- Deputy Director Law Enforcement Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is informed to the General public that my name and parantage in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 5595 6141 2260 has been wrongly mentioned as Mohammad Shafi Lone . S/O:- Ghulam Mohammad Lone instead of Mohd Shafi Lone S/O:- Gh Mohd Lone.Now I am applying for its Correction as per school & Board of school Education record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.
 Mohd Shafi Lone S/O. Gh Mohd Lone R/O:- Langate .Tehsil :- Langate Distt :- Kupwara .Pin Code 193302.
 fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDEBAL
 Address: Mini Secretariat Ganderbal TelNo.0194-2416058
Subject:- Procurement of GYM equipment's & Children's Playing equipment for Open Air Gym and Children's Park at Beehama.
Reference: This Office NIT No. 105 of 2024-25 issued under endorsement No. 9936-41 Dated: 17-02-2025.
Extension Notice
 The Bid submission end date for the subject work floated for tenders vide this office NIT No. referred to above which were scheduled to be on 27-02-2025 upto 4:00 PM is hereby extended and the details where of are given as under:-

1	Date of issue of Tender	17-02-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17-02-2025
3	Bid submission start date	18-02-2025 from 12:00 PM
4	Bid submission End date	04-03-2025 upto 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening	04-03-2025 at 04.05PM in the office Of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

 The other terms and conditions of the aforesaid NIT shall remain unaltered.
 No.: 10341-46
 Date: 27-02-2025
 SD/- Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal
 DIPK-12491/24 dated: 27-2-2025

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Deputy Director Law Enforcement Kashmir
Message for Farmers
 All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/ use the below mentioned batch No of pesticide product in their fields, which has been declared as Misbranded by the Quality Control Laboratory Lalmandi Srinagar.
 The details of Misbranded Pesticide products is as under:-

S. No	Name of the Active Ingredient	Batch No	Date of Manufacture	Date of expiry	Manufactured/ Marketed by
1	Cyclone Chloropyriphos 50% + Cypermethrin 5% EC	FIL/CLE1736	17.01.2025	16.01.2027	FIL industries
2	Docket Chloropyriphos 50% + Cypermethrin 5% EC	DT-01	06.01.2025	04.01.2027	Nath sagar pvt ltd

 All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide product under Batch No: FIL/CLE1736, DT-01 and proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.
 DIPK-12466/24 dated: 27-2-2025
 Deputy Director Law Enforcement Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name in her Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 7960 2148 7674 . has been wrongly mentioned as Zoya Mushtaq instead of Zohra Mushtaq . Now I am applying for its Correction . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.
 Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh F/O. Zohra Mushtaq R/O :- Tulwari .Tehsil :- Langate Distt :- Kupwara . Pin Code 193302 .
 fko

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
 This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 598476916355 while her actual name is MAHNOOR FATIMA. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
 MONEER AHMAD ALAI F/o MAHNOOR FATIMA R/o SUNDIPORA BUDGAM CELL. 9858813926
 mcb

Mirwaiz's Father-In-Law Passes Away

Authorities Disallow Funeral Prayers At Jamia Masjid, Mirwaiz Leads Funeral At Barzulla

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Dr. Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi, father-in-law of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq passed away after a prolonged illness at Baghat Barzulla. He was also the brother of NC MLA Hasnain Masoodi.

He was 80. Dr. Masoodi, a doctor by profession, had left Kashmir in 1974 for further studies in the US and returned 28 years later.

Earlier, Mirwaiz Manzil had announced that his funeral would be offered at Jamia Masjid Srinagar. However, the authorities imposed restrictions on offering funeral prayers at the historic mosque.

Later, Dr Masoodi's funeral was offered at Masjid Wazir Mohammad Khan in Baghat Barzulla which was led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

The funeral prayers were attended by hundreds of people including NC President Dr Farooq Abdullah, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, former Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu, PDP leader Aga Syed Muntazir and others.

He was buried at his ancestral graveyard in Khrew in Pulwama district.

Meanwhile, JKNC termed the decision of not allowing the funeral prayers of Dr. Sibtain Masoodi at Jama Masjid, Srinagar, as deeply



regrettable and wrong.

JKNC on their official social media handle—X wrote, "The decision to disallow the Namaz-Janaza of Dr. Sibtain Masoodi at Jama Masjid, Srinagar is deeply regrettable and wrong. Such actions are not only regressive but also demonstrate the hollowness of claims of normalcy in the region. It is precisely these kinds of steps that reveal the lack of trust the authorities have in their own assertions of peace and stability. The police, in their short-sighted approach, fail to realize that restricting such basic

rights only further erodes the trust and goodwill of the people."

DEMISE WIDELY CONDOLED

Dr Masoodi's demise was widely condoled by political leaders, religious scholars and civil society members.

Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, expressed his condolences over the passing of Dr. Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi. In a post on X, Omar wrote,

"Inna Lillahi wa innailayhi raji'un. Sorry to hear about the demise of Dr. Sibtain Masoodi Sb,

father-in-law of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. May Allah grant the highest place in Jannat to Dr. Masoodi. My condolences to Mirwaiz and his loved ones."

NC president Farooq Abdullah, chief minister Omar Abdullah, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, and other political leaders including Sajad Lone, Tanvir Sadiq, Salman Sagar, Altaf Bukhari, and Muzaffar Shah expressed their condolences and sympathies with the bereaved family.

Jammu & Kashmir Grand Mufti, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, extended

his condolences and prayers for the departed soul.

Former Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti also condoled the demise, stating in a post on X,

"Deeply saddened to hear about the passing away of Mirwaiz Sahab's father-in-law, Dr. Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi Sahab. Condolences to the bereaved family at this difficult hour."

Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Lone expressed his sympathies, saying,

"Heartfelt condolences to Mirwaiz Kashmir on the demise of his father-in-law. May Allah grant him Jannat."

Chairman of Pairwan-e-Wilayat Jammu and Kashmir, Maulana Sibti Mohammad Shabir Qumi also expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing of Dr. Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi, the father-in-law of esteemed religious leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

In his message, Maulana Sibti Mohammad Shabir Qumi said, "I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Sahab's father-in-law, Dr. Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi, who departed for his heavenly abode on Wednesday night after a prolonged illness. May Allah grant his noble soul the highest place in Jannah and give his loved ones the strength to bear the pain of this irreparable loss."

- 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: +919484100200

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 - (Closed)
- Mughal Road - (Closed)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

HIJRI CALENDAR

29 Shaban
1446

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 38
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4: 45
Magrib	6:29
ISHA	7: 49

This Day In History

- 1826 Biela's Comet rediscovered by Austrian astronomer Wilhelm von Biela (originally discovered 1772)
- 1908- Failed assassination attempt on Shah Mohammed Ali in Tehran
- 1915- WWI: After the French try to drive the Germans forces back into the Champagne region, they gain a few hundred yards - at the cost of 50,000 casualties
- 1920 Austria adopts a new constitution and becomes a kingdom again
- 1922- Great Britain issues the Unilateral Declaration of Egyptian Independence, ending its protectorate over Egypt, and granting the country nominal independence, while reserving control of military and diplomatic matters
- 1933- After the Reichstag Fire Decree, the German Communist Party (KPD) is essentially outlawed (though not formally banned) after the German government blames the Communists for burning down the Reichstag building
- 1933- On Adolf Hitler's advice, German President Paul von Hindenburg signs the Reichstag Fire Decree after the building is destroyed by fire in Berlin; this eliminates many civil liberties in Germany
- 1942- World War II: German submarine U-578 torpedoes US Navy destroyer USS Jacob Jones (DD130) off Cape May, New Jersey, killing all but 11 of 113 man crew
- 1947- February 28 Massacre: Anti-government uprising in Taiwan is violently put down by Chiang Kai-shek and his Kuomintang-led Republic of China government with the loss of 18,000-28,000 lives. Marks the beginning of the White Terror.
- 1951- French government of Plevin dissolves
- 1952- Vincent Massey is sworn in as the first Canadian-born Governor General of Canada
- 1953- Francis Crick and James Watson discover the chemical structure of DNA-molecule (double-helix polymer) using studies of x-ray diffraction developed by Rosalind Franklin and Maurice Wilkins
- 1961- US President John F. Kennedy names Henry Kissinger special advisor
- 1972- US President Richard Nixon ends historic week-long visit to China
- 1973- Iraq and Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) reach an agreement on compensation for nationalization
- 1974- US & Egypt re-form diplomatic relations after 7 years
- 1976- Spain withdraws from Western Sahara, leaving Ceuta & Melilla (Spanish Morocco) as the last European possessions in Africa
- 1981- People's Republic of China throws out the Netherlands ambassador due to Dutch sales of submarines to Taiwan
- 1986- European Economic Community signs "Special Act" for Europe free trade
- 1990- US 65th manned space mission STS 36 (Atlantis 6) launches into orbit
- 1991- Gulf War ends after Iraq accepts a ceasefire following their retreat from Kuwait
- 1997- Earthquake in Pakistan kills 45
- 1998 - First flight of RQ-4 Global Hawk, the first unmanned aerial vehicle certified to file its own flight plans and fly regularly in U.S. civilian airspace.
- 2001 - The US Environmental Protection Agency announces that it intends to proceed with implementation of tighter restrictions on sulfur content in diesel fuel; the rule is opposed by many in the refining industry
- 2004 - Over 1 million Taiwanese participating in the 228 Hand-in-Hand Rally form a 500-kilometre (300-mile) long human chain to commemorate the 228 Incident in 1947
- 2005 - Lebanon's pro-Syrian prime minister, Omar Karami, resigns amid large anti-Syria street demonstrations in Beirut.
- 2005 - A suicide bombing at a police recruiting centre in Al Hillah, Iraq kills 127.
- 2007 - Jupiter flyby of the New Horizons Pluto-observer spacecraft.
- 2013 - 35 people are killed in violent demonstrations across Bangladesh
- 2013 - 28 people are killed and 60 are injured after a series of bombings across Baghdad, Iraq

DC Finalizes Arrangements For Holy Month Of Ramazan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the wake of forthcoming holy month of Ramazan, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Thursday chaired a meeting at DC Office Complex here in order to take review of the preparations/ arrangements being made by the line departments for ensuring all basic amenities and essential supplies during the blessed month.

At the outset, the DC sought a detailed action plan from concerned departments regarding the arrangements being put in place during the holy month of Ramazan related to availability of essential commodities, supply of electricity & water, sanitation & cleanliness measures, transport facilities, etc.

On the occasion, the DC directed KPDCL to ensure scheduled power supply in the month, particularly during Sehri and Iftari times. He asked the PHE Department to make proactive arrangements for adequate supply of drinking water in all areas of the district.

Similarly, the Department of FCS&CA was asked to ensure adequate supply of essentials including Ration, LPG and distribute monthly

On the occasion, the DC directed KPDCL to ensure scheduled power supply in the month, particularly during Sehri and Iftari times

ration to the consumers well in advance.

He also stressed on deploying joint market checking teams under the supervision of SDM, East and SDM West from tomorrow to carry out market checking in order to curb profiteering, hoarding of essentials in the market, in addition to maintaining quality and standard of the food items.

The DC also directed Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, AD FCS&CA/ Food Safety Officer/ Tehsildars/ BDOs to check quality of chicken/ meat and other daily consumable food items so that no adulteration exists in the markets of Srinagar.

The SMC authorities were directed to conduct sanitation and cleanliness drives in all areas to ensure proper cleanliness, besides instructions were given that all defunct street lights be restored on war footing in all areas.

SMC Intensifies Public Awareness Events On River Conservation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant effort to promote river conservation and environmental sustainability, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), in collaboration with the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, organized a series of public awareness programs across the city.

The events included a Walkathon, Plog Run, Plantation Drive, Cleanliness Drives for Water Bodies, Quiz Competition, Essay Writing and Slogan Competition, all aimed at educating and engaging the public in the preservation of water resources.

The activities witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, environmentalists, volunteers, and local citizens, underscoring the collective responsibility to protect the region's vital water bodies.

Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed actively participated in the Plog Run, Plan-

tation Drive, and Walkathon, setting an example for citizens and emphasizing the importance of collective action.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Owais highlighted the critical role of sustainable water management and urged citizens to adopt eco-friendly practices.

"Rivers are the lifelines of our ecosystem, and it is our duty to conserve them for future generations. Through these awareness programs, we aim to instill a sense of responsibility among the public. I urge everyone to join hands in protecting our water bodies and ensuring a greener, cleaner environment," Dr. Owais said.

The Plog Run combined fitness with environmental action, as participants collected plastic waste along riverbanks. The Plantation Drive focused on enhancing green cover along water bodies to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality.

Meanwhile, the Cleanliness Drive targeted the removal of pollutants and the restoration of the natural flow of water channels.

SKIE CLASSES Inaugurates Rajbagh Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: SKIE CLASSES, with the grand Educational initiative for the aspirants of Competitive Exams in Medical and Engineering Exams like NEET, JEE inaugurated its Raj Bagh Centre with Online and Offline Coaching Programs on Thursday.

The event was graced by the Deputy CM Surinder Kumar Choudhary, MLA's of Srinagar and Gulmarg Constituencies, noted religious scholar and motivational speaker, the founder of Umeed Global School, Mr Wali Rehmani, Mathematician Dr Safdar Qudoos (Washington University) besides many Educational luminaries, Teachers and students.

The Chairman of SKIE classes, Dr Sadaam with the SKIE team hailed the guests. The speakers praised the contribution of Dr Sadaam in championing the cause of Education across the length and breadth of the Kashmir valley and appreciated the efforts of SKIE classes



for the social and Educational transformation.

The Deputy CM addressed the students as the pride of Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized upon their role to pursue academic excellence to live the dreams of their parents and take the name of Jammu Kashmir to sky heights.

Wali Rehmani, in his address, inspired the student community to excel as per the

contemporary paradigms of Education and seek a higher purpose of Education beyond employment. Dr Safdar Qudoos addressed the students and laid onus on the research and critical analysis for productive coaching. Dr Sadaam thanked the dignitaries and guests and resolved to carry on with the Educational legacy for the children in SKIE classes.

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmiroserver.net

KO VIEW

Welcome Snowfall

The fresh snowfall has brought much-needed relief to Kashmir Valley, marking a welcome end to a prolonged dry spell that adversely affected the tourism industry and boded ill for affected farmers, fruit and vegetable growers during the year ahead. The snow turnaround has changed all this and brought glad tidings for both tourism and agriculture - albeit, not to the desired extent.

The tourism sector, a vital component of Kashmir's economy, has been languishing due to lack of snow. But snowfall and precipitation in the plains is expected to breathe new life back into this industry, with key resorts like Gulmarg and Pahalgam likely to experience a tourist rush again. One benefit of snowfall is that it brings foreign tourists to the Valley. Last year, 43,000 international visitors arrived in the Valley compared to 37,000 in 2023. According to the official data, the total tourist footfall in 2024 stood at 2.95 million, a conspicuous rise from the 2.71 million visitors in 2023 and 2.67 million in 2022.

Despite the challenges posed by the soaring airfares, the snowfall has kindled hopes for a revival in business. Hoteliers across the Valley, buoyed by the prospect of increased tourist footfall, are optimistic about better occupancy rates in the days ahead.

To think that a few days ago, the situation in the Valley looked quite bleak: Kashmir experienced a largely snowless December, January, and February including the 40-day period of chilla kalan. The period witnessed bright blue skies and sun-soaked days. While the warmth may have been welcome, the absence of the desired snowfall has threatened to cast a long shadow over the upcoming summer. It has raised alarm for the local economy, as depleted glaciers can lead to diminished river flows, impacting, in turn, farming activities and power generation.

Heavy snow in winter helps in the glacier formation which in turn charges up the Valley's water bodies through summer. So a dry winter signals trouble. More so, at a time when the Valley's major glaciers have shown marked signs of depletion in recent decades. Biggest of them is the Kolahai glacier, whose area, according to a study, has retreated to 11.24 square kilometers from 13.87 sq kms since 1976.

As they say, all's well that ends well. Snowfall in late February will hopefully go some way to plug the shortfall in December and January. We can optimistically look forward to a prospect of a bountiful tourism season and a bumper agricultural output during spring and summer.



Did You Know?

Why Many Beginners Lose Money

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing in the stock market can be an appealing way to grow wealth, but many beginners, particularly in regions like Kashmir, often find themselves facing significant losses. This article aims to explain key reasons why this happens, using straightforward language and relatable concepts.

The Allure of Quick Wealth

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

Emotional Trading

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

Lack of Knowledge

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

Read the full article on our website: <https://kashmiroserver.net>

Disclaimer: This article is for information only and doesn't offer investment advice. It's not an endorsement or an offer to buy or sell any financial products. If you decide to act on the information here, you do so at your own risk

The Struggles and Triumphs of Private School Teachers



Ikkz Ikbal

“Most importantly, as a society, we need to change our perspective on teaching as a profession. Education is not just about classrooms and textbooks; it is about mentorship, personal growth, and lifelong learning. Private school teachers embody all these aspects, making them an indispensable part of our education system. Their contribution may not always be visible, but its impact lasts a lifetime”

Education is often considered the foundation of a bright future, yet the silent architects of this future—private school teachers—rarely receive the recognition they deserve. While government school teachers work under the structured support of state systems, private school teachers often navigate their profession with fewer benefits, lower job security, and higher expectations. Despite these challenges, they remain committed to their mission: shaping young minds, fostering curiosity, and building the leaders of tomorrow.

In every private school classroom, behind every well-prepared lesson, and in the countless hours spent mentoring students, there exists an untold story of dedication and sacrifice. Yet, their efforts often go unnoticed, overshadowed by the larger narrative of education policies, infrastructure challenges, and student achievements. It is high time we acknowledge the relentless dedication of private school teachers and recognize their indispensable contribution to society.

A teacher's role is not just to deliver lessons but to inspire, mentor, and nurture. Private school teachers, in particular, wear multiple hats. They not only impart academic knowledge but also instill values, discipline, and confidence in their students. Unlike government school teachers, who often benefit from structured training programs and standardized workloads, private school teachers are expected to adapt to dynamic environments, catering to a diverse range of students with varying learning capabilities.

They must tailor their teaching styles to suit different students, ensuring that no child is left behind. In many cases, they go beyond textbooks, incorporating innovative teaching techniques such as interactive activities, project-based learning, and digital tools to make lessons engaging. With increasing competition among private schools, teachers face immense pressure to maintain high academic standards while also fostering a holistic learning experience.

Moreover, private school teachers play a crucial role in students' emotional well-being. They are often the first to no-

tice when a child is struggling—whether academically or personally. In a world where students face increasing stress due to academic pressure and societal expectations, these teachers serve as mentors, offering guidance and reassurance.

What many fail to recognize is the immense effort private school teachers put into their work beyond classroom hours. Teaching is not just about standing in front of a blackboard; it involves lesson planning, grading assignments, preparing assessments, and staying updated with curriculum changes. Unlike their government school counterparts, who often have fixed working hours and structured professional development programs, private school teachers frequently take their work home, dedicating evenings and weekends to ensure their students receive the best education possible.

They are also expected to participate in extracurricular activities, organize events, and sometimes even manage administrative tasks—all while being paid significantly less than government school teachers. Many private school educators work under contracts with limited job security, no pension benefits, and minimal professional growth opportunities. Yet, despite these challenges, their passion for teaching keeps them going.

Another crucial responsibility of private school teachers is maintaining strong communication with parents. Unlike in government schools, where parent-teacher interaction may be limited, private schools emphasize regular updates on student progress. Teachers are expected to provide detailed feedback, address concerns, and even offer personalized guidance to ensure that students receive adequate support both in school and at home.

This responsibility often extends beyond academics. Teachers must help parents understand their child's strengths and weaknesses, suggest learning strategies, and sometimes even mediate conflicts between parents and students. In doing so, they act as a bridge between home and school, ensuring a well-rounded education.

Despite their invaluable contributions, private school teachers rarely receive the apprecia-

tion they deserve. Their work is often taken for granted, and society tends to overlook their struggles. While government school teachers benefit from stable salaries, job security, and pension schemes, private school teachers frequently work under financial uncertainty, with salaries that do not reflect their efforts.

Moreover, private schools often prioritize business interests over teachers' well-being, expecting them to work long hours with minimal additional benefits. In many cases, teachers hesitate to demand better pay or working conditions due to fear of job loss. This lack of recognition and support can lead to burnout, forcing many talented educators to leave the profession.

It is time for society to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifices of private school teachers. Schools must take steps to provide fair salaries, job security, and professional development opportunities. Governments can also play a role by introducing policies that protect private school teachers' rights, ensuring they receive the benefits and recognition they deserve.

Parents, too, must understand the challenges these teachers face. Expressing gratitude, supporting school initiatives, and advocating for better working conditions can go a long way in motivating teachers.

Most importantly, as a society, we need to change our perspective on teaching as a profession. Education is not just about classrooms and textbooks; it is about mentorship, personal growth, and lifelong learning. Private school teachers embody all these aspects, making them an indispensable part of our education system. Their contribution may not always be visible, but its impact lasts a lifetime.

Next time you see a child excelling in school, remember that behind their success, there is an unseen, uncelebrated private school teacher—shaping young minds.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author has a PG in Biotechnology and is Principal Maryam Memorial Institute Pandithpora Qaziabad. He X's @ IkkzIkbal



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email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

The Importance of Having a Psychologist in Schools

I am writing to highlight the crucial need for psychologists in schools. In today's fast-paced and competitive world, students face immense academic pressure, social challenges, and emotional struggles that can affect their mental well-being and academic performance. A school psychologist plays a

vital role in identifying and addressing students' mental health concerns, providing counseling, and offering support to those experiencing stress, anxiety, or personal difficulties. They also help create a positive learning environment by assisting teachers and parents in understanding students' psycho-

logical needs. Early intervention by a trained professional can prevent minor issues from escalating into serious mental health conditions, ensuring that students receive the support they need to succeed both academically and emotionally.

Incorporating psychologists into the school system would not only

benefit individual students but also foster a more compassionate and supportive educational environment. I urge educational authorities to prioritize mental health services in schools for the well-being of our future generations.

Irtika Khan
Srinagar

Ramazan and Mental Health

A Month of Spiritual, Psychological, and Physical Revolution

Nasir Gilani

“O you who have believed, fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you that you may attain Taqwa (God-consciousness).” Surah Al Baqarah 2: 185

Once the new crescent moon signals the start of Ramazan, Muslims around the world start fasting alongside prayer, and reflection on holy Quran more deeply through reading and listening reciting in tarawih. While basically a religious obligation that Muslims at to fulfil, this sacred month offers profound benefits that extend beyond spiritual growth—it develops psychological resilience, enhances emotional well-being, and also improves physical health.

At its core, Ramazan is a spiritual training ground, a time when believers minimise the distractions of daily life and realign themselves with faith and resolve. But what is often missed by us is the immense psychological revolution that occurs during this period. The discipline of fasting fosters delayed gratification, emotional regulation, and mental clarity, making Ramazan not just a religious compliance but also a powerful exercise in self-mastery.

The Spiritual Benefits: A Journey of the Soul

For Muslims, Ramazan is a time of heightened spirituality. The hunger and thirst experienced the entire day are reminders of human beings' utmost dependence on Allah SWT, enriching humility and gratitude. The daily prayers (Salah), recitation of the Quran, and moments of deep reflection create a sense of inner peace, helping believers to develop skills to disconnect from material concerns and focus on their spiritual well-being which is more lasting and everlasting.

Fasting is also an act of distillation—not just of the body, but of the soul. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasized that fasting is not merely about abstaining from food and drink but also from bad habits which are detrimental for life of soul such as gossip, anger, dishonesty and lust to name but a few. This self-restraint fosters a sense of moral and ethical integrity, fostering qualities like patience, kindness, empathy some of the best spiritual qualities leading to TAQWA.

One of the most noteworthy spiritual benefits of Ramazan is **Taqwa** (God-consciousness). The discipline required to fast from dawn until sunset strengthens the believer's consciousness of Allah's presence in their daily life. This heightened mindfulness extends beyond Ramazan, encouraging a lifestyle centred around self-control, gratitude, and ethical behaviour.

Ramazan also strengthens the bonds of community at large. The shared experience of fasting, the collective prayers in mosques, and the increased acts of charity foster a sense of unity. It serves as a reminder that faith is not

just an individual quest but a collective experience that binds people together in worship and compassion.

Psychological Benefits: The Mental Discipline of Fasting

Beyond the spiritual realm, Ramazan is an unmatched exercise in psychological strength. In a world where instant gratification has become the norm, fasting teaches the unique virtue and habit of **delayed gratification**—the ability to resist immediate temptations for a greater reward. *On a lighter note, for example, eating an ice cream is a superficial pleasure not eating an ice cream is a deep pleasure.*

1. Developing Delayed Gratification

Fasting forces individuals to tolerate discomfort for a higher purpose. In a society driven by quick fixes—fast food, social media dopamine hits, and impulsive /compulsive spending—Ramazan instils the ability to **wait for greater good**. The structured routine of fasting creates an awareness that hunger, thirst, and cravings are temporary, emphasizing the concept that **self-restraint leads to greater fulfilment which is ultimately JANAH**.

Research in psychology proposes that individuals who practice delayed gratification tend to be more successful in life. Like The famous **Stanford Marshmallow Experiment** demonstrated and correlated that children who could resist an immediate treat for a larger reward later performed better in various life outcomes like getting higher grades, good jobs and quality relationships. Ramazan offers an annual opportunity to refine this essential skill, training the brain to battle impulsive desires in Favor of long-term well-being.

2. Strengthening Distress Tolerance

Fasting as an act of endurance tests patience, willpower, and the ability to tolerate discomfort. When hunger cramps strike or fatigue sets in, individuals are faced with two choices: yield to irritation or **embrace the challenge with acceptance and greater good**. This builds **distress tolerance**, the ability to endure negative emotions without reacting impulsively.

For people who struggle with frustration, anxiety, or emotional instability, Ramazan gives a structured environment to practice **emotional regulation**. It strengthens the idea that discomfort is not catastrophic and that **one can endure temporary difficulties without losing composure and it too shall pass at the time of breaking fast**.

3. Cultivating Mindfulness and Focus

Ramazan nurtures a heightened sense of awareness in a person who fast mindfully just as in prophetic tradition worship like you see Allah or at least remember and focus He sees you. Since eating, drinking, and other distractions are needed to be stopped during fasting hours, individuals become more **mind-**

ful of their thoughts, actions, and emotions. This mindfulness is further enhanced through prayer and Quranic recitation, which needs deep focus and reflection.

Fasting also slows down the typical rush of daily life. Once energy levels fluctuate and drop during fasting hours, we tend to become more introspective, choosing **stillness over chaos, acceptance over resistance**. This leads to **increased mental clarity and the ability to focus on what truly matters**. The absence of external distractions allows the mind to reset to what is needed for living basically, fostering a sense of inner peace and self-awareness.

4. Managing Impulsivity and Withholding Desires

Modern society survives and thrives on instant gratification—whether it's mindless eating, compulsive shopping, or seeking constant digital stimulation through sophisticated devices where digital footprints take their own life and follow us where we are even when we don't want to walk anymore those trodden paths. Ramazan disrupts this cycle by forcing individuals to **pause, reflect, and act with intention as Allah is always watching**.

During fasting hours, the moment temptations arise, one must actively resist the urge to indulge as taught to Muslims. This repeated exercise in **self-control strengthens the prefrontal cortex**, the brain area responsible for **impulse control and decision-making**. Over time, this leads to better regulation of emotions, behaviors, and desires, encompassing beyond Ramazan into everyday life.

5. Increasing Tolerance for Boredom and Routine

In the present world and era that constantly demands excitement, many people struggle with **boredom tolerance**. The inability to sit with stillness often leads to unhealthy coping mechanisms—mindless scrolling, emotional eating, or engaging in unproductive

RAMADAN AND MENTAL HEALTH



In conjunction with its spiritual and psychological rewards, fasting has numerous health benefits also (though additionally or as a bonus since our primary aim is to accept the commandment of Allah swt)

activities and habits even reading which is largely important can sometimes be a distraction away from our inner world. Ramazan forces individuals to become comfortable with **routine and delayed pleasure**, fostering **mental discipline and patience**.

The Typical day in Ramazan follows a structured schedule—Suhoor, fasting, prayer, Iftar, and Taraweeh—there is **less room for impulsive decision-making and distractions**. This structured lifestyle creates a **sense of stabil-**

ity, dropping anxiety and promoting emotional regulation.

6. Practicing Acceptance and Letting Go

Ramazan teaches **radical acceptance**—basically the psychological idea that one can endure hardship without resistance. Whether it's hunger, thirst, or fatigue, fasting encourages individuals to **accept discomfort rather than fight it**. This practice is deeply aligned with psychological principles of **acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT)**, which emphasize that **suffering is not caused by pain itself but by our resistance to it**.

By embracing the natural struggles of fasting, individuals develop a **greater capacity to handle life's uncertainties**. We learn that discomfort is temporary and that **accepting reality with patience leads to inner peace**.

Physical Benefits: A Natural Reset for the Body

In conjunction with its spiritual and psychological rewards, fasting has numerous health benefits also (though additionally or as a bonus since our primary aim is to accept the commandment of Allah swt). **Intermittent fasting**, which has gained popularity in modern health science, mirrors Ramadan's structure and has been linked to:

- **Enhanced metabolism:** Fasting helps regulate blood sugar levels and improves insulin sensitivity.
- **Autophagy:** The body removes damaged cells and regenerates new ones, reducing inflammation.
- **Improved digestion:** The digestive system gets a break, allowing for better gut health.
- **Weight management:** With mindful eating during Iftar and Suhoor, fasting can help regulate weight.

However, these benefits depend on **balanced eating habits**. Overindulging in fried and sugary foods at Iftar

can negate the positive effects. When approached with moderation, Ramazan becomes a powerful detoxification process for both body and mind.

Beyond Ramadan: Carrying the Lessons and benefits Forward

The real test of Ramazan is whether its lessons endure beyond the month. Spirituality, self-control, and mindfulness should not be temporary; they should become a way of life as a goal and.

The habits cultivated—**delayed gratification, emotional regulation, mindfulness, and resilience**—should extend into daily routines, shaping a life of **discipline, gratitude, and balance**.

As we move beyond Ramazan, let us ask ourselves:

- Can we continue practicing self-restraint in our daily choices?
- Can we remain mindful in our actions and words?
- Can we embrace discomfort with patience and acceptance?
- What matters in long Run?
- Ramadan is not just a yearly ritual or a metaphorical cage for some of us who struggle with even basic tents more basic than Ramdhan—it is essentially a lifelong lesson in self-mastery. Let us carry forward its essence beyond the holy month and integrate its teachings into our daily lives, striving for both spiritual and psychological excellence.

To conclude I want to add this Powerful way of Seeking forgiveness in the month of Ramdhan (as it is also month of forgiveness) and on blessed night the Laylatul Qadr.

Sayyidul Istighfar (The Chief of Seeking Forgiveness) Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

“The best supplication for seeking forgiveness is (Sayyidul Istighfar), and whoever recites it with firm faith in the morning and dies before evening, he will be among the people of Paradise. And whoever recites it with firm faith in the evening and dies before morning, he will be among the people of Paradise.” - (Sahih Al-Bukhari 6306)

Allāhumma anta rabbī, lā ilāha illā anta, khalāqtāni wa-anā ‘abduka, wa-anā ‘alā ‘ahdika wa-wa’dika mastāta’tu, a’ūdhu bika min sharri mā sana’tu, abū’u laka bini’matika ‘alayya, wa-abū’u bidhanbī, faghfir li. fa-innahu lā yaghfiru al-dhunūba illā anta.

“O Allah! You are my Lord! There is no deity worthy of worship except You. You created me, and I am Your servant, and I will remain faithful to my covenant and promise to You as much as I can. I seek refuge with You from the evil of what I have done. I acknowledge Your blessings upon me, and I confess my sins. So, forgive me, for none can forgive sins except You.”

The author is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and can be reached at Nasir.gelani@gmail.com

Five Tips To Find What Really Brings You Joy Outside Of Work

Alison Bishop

Not long ago I attended a concert. It was a band that I had been waiting a while to see and so I was excited to be there in the crowd. Part way through, they played my favourite song and I noticed that I felt something different.

It felt like a pinnacle moment where the emotion of joy felt expansive and unstoppable. In that moment, I felt more alive with all my senses of my surroundings heightened and yet so much more connected to the core of who I know myself to be.

I first set out to write about finding joy, as if joy was out there in the world waiting for us to find it. However, the story of the concert shows us that this is not the case.

Not everyone likes the band that I saw and not everyone in the concert had the same experience as me. This tells us that joy is more personal, an inside job, rather than something to find outside ourselves.

The psychologist Chris Meadows suggests that joy is a feeling that comes from viewing an event in our lives as being meaningful to us or good for us.

Joy is not just a singular experience, there are different types of joy, according to Meadows. In his study of joy he writes about the muted experience of “serene joy”,

which aims at restoring or maintaining equilibrium in the body. Then there is “excited joy”, which is linked to pursuing goals.

“Individualized joy” is felt while alone while “affiliative joy” is shared with others. Meadows’ study into the phenomenon of

the fulfilment of a goal is imminent and then “consummatory joy” happens when the goal has been achieved. There is also an element of feeling blessed or that what has been achieved has exceeded expectations.

In addition to the thought

Playfulness that’s aimless but results in fairly predictable outcomes, allows us to switch off our inner critic and focus on the good feelings of being in the moment with joy. This brings a sense of ease in that whatever happens, requires very little ef-

need to be there to experience it. This might mean that sometimes we need to ditch the phone and not video something to post or watch later as doing that prevents us becoming immersed in the here and now. This is about making our own experience more important than the “likes” of others.

that we are clear about what we want to achieve.

I love the theme tune for The Pirates of the Caribbean and want to be able to play it on the piano. To make this goal specific, I need to decide what my success criteria is. It might be,

clearly know when that goal fulfilment is either imminent or achieved. So, the more specific we are the better. The same goes for looking at the experiences that have brought us joy in the past. By reflecting on these experiences, we can learn things about ourselves that lead to us being able to create more joy.

3. Don’t listen to your inner critic
It helps to switch off your inner critic, or at least turn the volume on this down.

It is not possible to be playful and feel safe and free, while we constantly are censoring ourselves. So, tell the inner critic that it is OK for you to be you.

4. Find your tribe
These are people who enjoy the same things as you. Being with other people who are like us enables us to feel freer to express ourselves in ways that are congruent with who we are.

5. Tune into the little things
Finally, pay attention to the little things, as they actually are the big things. Joy comes from the most unexpected places. By noticing when we feel joy we can create more of those experiences in our lives so that we can truly experience that joie de vivre (the joy of living).

By arrangements with the Conversation



“Anticipatory joy” occurs when the fulfilment of a goal is imminent and then “consummatory joy” happens when the goal has been achieved. There is also an element of feeling blessed or that what has been achieved has exceeded expectations

joy suggests that social experiences of joy occur more often than solo ones and result in what we know as bonding experiences. “Anticipatory joy” occurs when



processes that lead to joy, there are many other elements that need to be in place. Safe, familiar surroundings are key in enabling us to be present in the moment to support relaxed equilibrium. When we feel safe and relaxed, we are more able to laugh and play and explore new ideas.

fort on our part.
Here are five tips on how to find what brings you joy in its many forms:

1. Be present
“Be in the moment” is easy to say but harder to do. Joy exists in the present, therefore, we

2. Listen to your inner voice
Next, turn up the volume on your inner voice.
As joy is unique to each of us, we need to hear our own voice to find out what will bring us joy. To do this, it helps to create specificity around the goals that we aspire to in the future so

I want to play to the end without stopping, or I want to get to the end without stopping and to play all of the notes on the sheet music without mistakes. Only I can know whether I would feel more joyful by achieving the second goal over the first.
Being specific means we will

Rains, Snow

received 4 feet snowfall while Sinthan Top, Z Gali and Zojila pass recorded a snow depth of 3 feet till this evening.

Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Doodhpatri, Peer ki Gali have recorded a snow depth of 2 to 2.5 ft while DK Marg saw a snow depth of 1 feet and Aherbal 8 inches and Shopian 5 inches.

The fresh snowfall has also been witnessed at multiple other places including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir where the intermittent rainfall was occurring in the last two days.

Meanwhile, as per the forecast, there would be a slight improvement in the prevailing weather conditions from tomorrow afternoon.

However, the Director Meteorological department (MeT) has stated that generally cloudy weather is expected from March 01 to March 2 with the possibility of light rain and snow at isolated to scattered places.

On 3rd March, he said light to moderate rain and snow is expected at many places while from March 4 to 8, the weather would remain generally dry.

Major Roads, Highways

heavy rainfall. Officials said that all types of traffic have been halted between Nashri and the Navyug Tunnel as inclement weather continues to trigger shooting stones at multiple locations.

"Men and machinery have been deployed to clear the debris and restore traffic. However, relentless rainfall and fresh shooting stones are hampering the process," officials said. Traffic has been stopped at Jakhani (Udhampur) and Qazigund as a precautionary measure due to worsening weather conditions.

"People are advised to avoid traveling on the highway at night. A decision on reopening will be taken tomorrow if the weather improves," officials added.

Bandipora Village

officials have been sent to assess the damages and have advised the residents to remain alert until the snowfall in the region continues.

A press release said the Gurez Valley has received 4 to 5 feet of fresh snowfall, while the Tulail region has received six inches.

Other than the avalanche in the valley, the other regions of Jammu and Kashmir are experiencing constant rains and snowfalls. There has been constant rain in the Udhampur district over the past two days and as per the India Meteorological Department, the same situation is expected to continue until February 28.

Apart from Udhampur, Srinagar received a fresh spell of constant snowfall, and as seen in the visuals, the locals carried umbrellas to protect themselves from the snow.

The plain areas of the Kupwara district, such as Muqamishahwali and Drugmulla received fresh snowfall on Thursday, just like Srinagar.

The IMD issued an orange alert in the four districts of Himachal Pradesh on February 27 and as per senior scientist of the Shimla-based IMD, Sandeep Kumar Sharma, the 'western disturbance' has caused an increase in snow and rain activity in the state.

On February 27, the India Meteorological Department issued an orange alert of heavy rain and snowfall in the Chamba, Kangra, Kullu and Mandi districts

2 Killed Amid

reaches of Kishtwar district but caused no damage, the officials said.

A boulder hit a sports utility vehicle (SUV) near Dherian Ziyarat in the Surankote area on the Jammu-Poonch national highway in the evening, resulting in the death of the driver, the officials said.

They said a 14-year-old boy drowned while attempting to cross a swollen stream near his home at Sangore-Tuli in Reasi district.

A traffic department official said all types of vehicular movement were stopped at 7 pm from both ends on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in view of continuous heavy rain and shooting stones at many places between Nashri and Banihal in Ramban district.

Avalanches hit Beighpura-Kamsui village in the Inderwal area and Pinjari near Dachhan in Kishtwar district but there was no report of any damage, the officials said, adding that the higher reaches of Kishtwar, Ramban and Doda districts experienced moderate snowfall.

Private Members'

the property rights bill, Mehbooba said, "The poor who live on Kahcharai land, as well as the schools built on such land, should be granted ownership rights", she said.

In a separate legislative move, National Conference MLA from Bijbehara, Dr. B.A. Veeri, has proposed a bill to rationalize reservation, capping quotas at 40% for reserved categories and 60% for open merit. The proposal, closely aligned with demands from the Open Merit Students Association (OMSA), has already gained traction on social media.

In a separate legislative move, National Conference MLA from Bijbehara has proposed a bill for the upcoming session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to rationalize reservation, capping quotas at 40% for reserved categories and 60% for open merit.

MLA Veeri reposted a social media post on X that read, "We are highly thankful to @DrVeeri for this approach! Need all members' support for this Bill #reservationjk."

Reacting to this development, the Open Merit Students Association J&K stated in a social media post, "Our bill has been taken to the floor by some MLAs from both the ruling and opposition parties, despite stiff resistance from their high commands. We are grateful to them for taking a stand. We urge the legislators to stand firmly behind and support the people's bill by raising their voices on this crucial governance issue—or be prepared to face the people's wrath in any future electoral exercise."

Veeri was quoted by several media organizations as saying that the bill was intended to safeguard merit.

In addition to the reservation bill, the NC MLA has also proposed legislation to protect the Karewas from rampant soil extraction and to prohibit mining in Karewa zones, which are "ecologically, geologically, and archaeologically significant."

Notably, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday wrote to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, seeking his support for three private member bills to be tabled by legislators from her party in the upcoming Budget Session of the assembly.

Mehbooba wrote identical letters to Leader

of Opposition Sunil Sharma of the BJP, Congress state chief Tariq Hameed Karra, CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami and People's Conference chairman Sajjad Gani Lone, a PDP leader said.

On February 23, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said it was improper to give unwarranted publicity to the notices of questions, bills, resolutions and other similar matters connected with the business of the House and asked members to desist from breach of privilege.

In her one-page letter to the chief minister, Mehbooba said, "I write to you at a time when the people of Jammu and Kashmir continue to face unprecedented challenges, particularly since the developments of 2019. The last few years have been immensely difficult for our people, who have had to endure political uncertainty, economic stagnation, and social distress."

"Unfortunately, these hardships persist, and the collective voice of our people demands attention and meaningful action. While we may differ in political ideology and approach, I firmly believe that there are issues of common interest that transcend partisan lines," she added.

A former chief minister of the erstwhile state, Mehbooba said the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the preservation of their rights and the protection of their unique identity were matters that concerned everyone.

"In such testing times, it is imperative that we rise above our differences and come together for the greater good," she said, inviting Abdullah's attention to the three "crucial bills".

"These bills seek to address urgent concerns affecting the daily lives of our people and uphold their aspirations. The details of these legislative proposals have been shared with the office of the speaker," Mehbooba said.

The PDP supremo expressed hope that Abdullah would consider these bills not merely as initiatives of one party but steps towards addressing the people's collective grievances.

"I assure you that our party would extend full political and legislative support to the government in any of its initiatives on these subjects of common and immediate concern, should it introduce such legislation," she said, expressing hope for a "positive response" to move forward together.

"Our political paths may differ but the challenges faced by our people are shared, and so must be our resolve to address them," she added.

Will Not Allow

introduced in the budget session," Sunil Sharma told reporters before attending the All Party Meeting called by the Speaker J&K Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather here at the Civil Secretariat.

The budget session will be held in two phases from March 3 to 25 and April 7 to 11.

Sunil Kumar Sharma and Surjit Singh Salathia from BJP, Ali Mohammad Sagar and Mubarak Gul from the ruling National Conference, CPI (M) MLA Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, Congress MLA Ghulam Ahmed Mir, People's Conference's Sajjad Gani Lone, PDP's Wahidul Rehman Parra and Independent MLA Muzaffar Khan attended the meeting.

"We have also objected to the way some MLAs have brought the private member bills into the public domain before bringing them to the notice of the Speaker," said the LoP.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir said that all party meetings strengthen mutual relations, leading to coordination among the political parties.

CPI (M) MLA Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, said, "Opposition parties were invited to attend the meeting and as far as the concerns of the common people who have elected their representatives, have hopes that their issues will be raised and addressed by the government in an upcoming Assembly session."

The first session of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was held in November last year in Srinagar while the second assembly and first budget session of the first assembly of the Union Territory will begin on March 3 in Jammu.

The last budget of Rs 80,313 crore for the financial year 2018-19 in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was presented by the then Finance Minister Dr. Haseeb Drabu on January 11, 2018.

In June 2018, the PDP-BJP coalition government led by Mehbooba Mufti collapsed after the BJP withdrew support from the alliance, and the assembly was dissolved in November 2018.

The then State Administrative Council (SAC) headed by the then Governor Satya Pal Malik adopted a budget of Rs 88,911 crore for 2019-2020 on December 15, 2018.

Subsequently, the budgets of the Union Territory including 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 were presented and passed by the Parliament in the absence of the Legislative Assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.

The budget of Rs 1,18,728 crore of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the current financial year 2024-25 was presented in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23, 2024.

The budget of Jammu and Kashmir for 2023-24 was Rs 1,18,500 crore.

Govt Likely

government on December-06 had announced winter vacation for all public and recognised private educational institutions in the Kashmir division as well as in the winter zones of Jammu division in two phases starting from December 10.

Winter vacations for Classes upto 5th primary were announced from December-10-2024 to February 28, 2025.

Similarly for the 6th standard to 12th standard, the vacations were announced from December 16 to February 28, 2025.

Earlier, the Meteorological Department Srinagar had forecasted four-day wet weather with light to moderate rain and snow at most places from February 25 over Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K's Normalcy

that the removal of Article 370 has not made any visible changes in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the situation is not normal as the terrorist incidents are still there.

He added that he is not disagreeing with the statistics as during his tenure, the trend of militancy related incidents, recruitment and other related things had also gone down in the past. "The progress has not been made due to the removal of Article 370. It is because the Centre took measures which J&K government would have never taken," he said, adding, "Removal of Article 370 has had no impact on improvement on the security situations. That is because of the territory under President's rule and it

is how you handled the security forces."

"The officers I am working with have not been appointed by me. They will listen to those who have the right to remove or appoint them," he said when asked whether the officers are listening to the elected government. "There should be either UTs or States only. If it is UT then there should be no assembly, don't make the hybrid system," he said.

He also said that he does not have a nature to make excuses; they (officers) are not doing and listening to us.

He also said that Amit Shah is the Union Home Minister and meeting him was nothing unusual. "When I met Chidambaram and other HMs in the past, nobody talked about it, you cannot work without the support of the Centre."

He also said that the Centre has not kept any way for the confrontation, they are supporting the elected government in any way, they have promised the restoration of statehood restoration, "but if they change their stance, then we will also change our approach."

About the Prime Minister Narendra Modi nominating him for his obesity campaign, he said had there been a chief minister, who has completed a half marathon then he would have stated that there was injustice with him. "Obesity is not a political problem. It is a social problem," he said.

About INDIA block, he said, "We have been fighting against each other very much. INDIA bloc should decide its role. If it is for the Lok Sabha polls only then we should wind it up and form it again in the next parliamentary polls. But there is a need to fight joint assembly polls too. In J&K we barely managed to save the alliance and till the end, it was not showing any signs of going for the polls jointly. When we were discussing the seat sharing with Congress, we were not ready to reduce our numbers as we were sure that we would manage to secure this number of seats."

He also said that the Congress has willingly decided to stay away from the cabinet as JKPC Chief had told him during the swearing-in ceremony that they will not be a part of the government till the statehood is restored. However, he said that a space in the cabinet has been kept for them.

Asked whether the INDIA bloc is dead, he said, "No, we still have a sizeable number in parliament. Whether we are able to deliver or not is a different question, but this government depends on alliance. Therefore, as long as the INDIA bloc is able to deliver, it is not dead."

About the restoration of statehood, he said that he is not waiting for five years, but expecting the restoration for statehood this year only. The discussion is going on, he said. He said they have plan B and plan C. "But, I am not going to sit here and say we will do this and that if we don't get statehood by this date. I am assuming that the government has said that it is committed to restore it, SC has also asked for the complete statehood restoration a year ago. I think as soon as possible and at earliest qualify for some time in the next few months."

Omar also reacted to the query over the expectations of the people on his first budget, saying that from this budget, whatever they have promised, they will start delivering it.

He also said that the government led by him in Jammu and Kashmir has started providing employment to the people and said that they will discuss the number of employment in detail and that they will raise this issue during the time of elections. "I have provided appointment letters to the doctors and panchayat secretaries," he said when asked about the PM providing job letters to youth.

He also reacted to the question on direct train services and people's apprehensions, highlighting the public grievances from Jammu in this regard, who feared that the Katra station would neglect Jammu.

"It is for the first time after his grandfather that there is no coalition pressure and the CM his Dy are from the same party. My government has been addressing the concerns of people by ensuring the cabinet members from different divisions and communities"

About Ladakh, Omar said, "I am sorry, but Ladakh has been betrayed. We were asking people there to think before raising the demand of becoming UT. We were telling them that the resolution of their grievances would not come by making Ladakh UT."

Replying to a query about alcohol ban and signature campaign by PDP leaders, he said they will remind PDP about what they did on alcohol ban during their tenure. "At present, the Speaker has directed not to talk about the bills that have not been admitted yet. We will talk in the assembly," he said

However, he said that if they had to talk about it then they could have mentioned it in their manifesto. "Let it be brought to the assembly, we will discuss it there."

Asked whether his government is taking measures for the return of Kashmiri Pandits, he asked how many have been brought back to the Valley after the removal of Article 370. "We have seen targeted attacks against minorities. We can only expect to do something about their return as a state. We will do everything to get their sense of security back for their return," he added.

About one nation, one-election, he said that it can save money, but he doesn't see how practically it is possible. He added that after the parliamentary elections were held, only one meeting of the INDIA bloc was held since then. We should at least discuss these issues.

Asked about the rigging of elections in Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "If I am elected through robbery then what is the reason for me to sit on the chair of CM. Show me one single person, who has said that there was rigging. Compared to other places, J&K has not seen even a single re-poll. I have never complained of rigging and fault in machines even if I lost."

Speaker Urges

remarks, the Speaker emphasized on the importance of dialogue, cooperation and consensus building for effective proceedings and productivity of the house. He urged the representatives of all parties to contribute actively in discussions and debates as MLAs are vital for highlighting issues of public welfare during the session of house.

"The Budget Session is a crucial time for policy deliberations and financial planning. I urge all of you and your members to engage in meaningful debates, uphold house decorum and work towards the collective good of our people as well as the entire Jammu and Kashmir," maintained the Speaker.

Highlighting the significance of Question Hour, Speaker Rather encouraged the legislators to make the most of this opportunity to hold the government accountable.

"Question Hour is a key tool that ensures

government accountability. Legislators must utilize this time effectively to raise public concerns and seek concrete responses," emphasized the Speaker.

The Speaker further called upon all the political parties for effective coordination during the entire session of the house. He underlined that productivity of the house is possible only after there is coordination between opposition and the government in highlighting peoples issues and addressing them respectively.

Speaking during the meeting, LoP, Sunil Sharma, said that the public issues need to be highlighted during the assembly session which is possible only when no disruptions occur. He highlighted that the credibility of MLAs is at stake during the proceedings of house and members need to be responsive towards public issues and make the government accountable on that rather than indulging in disruptions. He assured the Speaker that the legislators of his party will ensure smooth business of the house.

In his remarks during the meeting, Ghulam Ahmad Mir of INC said that question hour, being an important tool for making government accountable, should not be disrupted.

CPI (M) Legislator, M.Y. Tarigami, underlined that accountability of the government is possible only through smooth conduct of house proceedings. He also called for coordination between government and the opposition to make house proceedings productive and fruitful.

During the meeting, NC Legislator Mubarak Gul, said that the public issues need to be highlighted during the assembly proceedings as legislators are the face of the people during the session of the house.

Waheed ur Rehman Parra of PDP and Independent Legislator, Advocate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan sought proportionate time for all MLAs while raising public issues during the business of house.

The Speaker assured all parties that their concerns and suggestions would be duly considered for fair and impartial proceedings of the house. He highlighted that the road for a productive budget session has been laid with this fruitful meeting.

Assembly Should

or shouldn't be permitted in the House. The Speaker's role is to maintain fairness and order, not to cater to any single party's agenda," PDP chief and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said in a post on X.

She was referring to reports on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator Sunil Sharma's remarks that his party has requested Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather not to allow "anti-national and unconstitutional" resolutions, bills or questions in the House.

"The question arises who determines what qualifies as anti national or unconstitutional. The Jammu and Kashmir assembly should be a forum for open debate, not a setting where anyone dictates a list of acceptable topics," Mufti said.

The speaker chaired an all-party meeting at Jammu on Thursday, ahead of the budget session of the Assembly.

Need To Bridge

of social equity.

The Lt Governor was addressing a gathering after felicitating the recipients of the 'Maharaja Hari Singh Dogra Samman Award 2025', organised by the women's club 'Meri Pehchan' here.

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale also attended the function. He congratulated the awardees and urged them to work towards transforming the youth into enlightened citizens.

"In the current era of unprecedented technological advancement, where AI is reshaping our work environment, we need to prepare human resources capable of driving change," he said. He added that in the journey of a developed J&K, the support of valiant soldiers, leaders from social sectors, farmers, entrepreneurs, youth, and women is necessary.

"We need to identify the sections of the population who have been left behind due to discriminatory laws and continue working for their upliftment. We need to build a J&K where the rural and urban divide is completely bridged; a J&K where there is social equity, and which runs on the principles of rule of law and equal opportunity. A J&K where tourism, handicrafts, agriculture, horticulture, industry, and the service sector work together," he said. The Lt Governor reiterated that the J&K Administration is working towards inclusive growth with sincerity and commitment. "I can proudly say that in the past four and a half years, we have ensured the development of social sectors to complement our economic growth and achieve the ultimate goal of social equity," he added. Sinha highlighted that, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has implemented a framework of policies and programmes for the benefit of the underprivileged and those who have been discriminated against. "I also want great personalities and intellectuals to act as a monitoring system for the proper implementation of programmes and policies designed for the upliftment of the weaker sections of society," he said. He stated that this goal can be achieved with the collective effort of the administration, civil society organisations like Women Club Meri Pehchan, and leaders like them.

"Your active participation, in fact, holds the key to the success of all the projects for socio-economic change," he remarked. The Lt Governor also paid tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh and recalled his visionary policies and reforms dedicated to public welfare. He emphasised that every person must discharge their duties and responsibilities to bring about a positive change in society.

Rule Of Law

country.

"We have to try to transform J&K, and for that, everyone must contribute. We have achieved many successes, with the rule of law being given paramount importance. An attempt has been made to ensure that J&K is governed strictly according to legal principles," he said.

Highlighting the region's rapid development, the Lieutenant Governor revealed that 92,000 projects were completed in the last financial year.

He said that J&K has emerged as a leading technological Union Territory, with maximum online services available to the public.

During his address, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the importance of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for greater efforts in empowering women beyond welfare measures, ensuring their active participation in the region's development. "We must ensure that women enjoy the same rights as men. Over the past four and a half years, every effort has been made to guarantee women's

rights and integrate them into the development process. A new team of women entrepreneurs must be created, and their numbers should match those of men," he asserted.

Highlighting the achievements of women in J&K, he stated that 70% of gold medals in universities are bagged by female students.

He also pointed out that government schemes like Tejaswini and self-help groups have played a crucial role in uplifting women. Currently, 300 startups in J&K are being led by women, further showcasing their growing influence in the entrepreneurial landscape.

"In big industries, the perspective must change to allow women to take leadership roles. Women must not only participate but also lead from the front in economic and social sectors," he said.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha underscored the significance of skill development among young people to drive J&K's progress. He stressed that every individual possesses talent, and it is essential to nurture these skills for national development.

"There is no individual who lacks ability. We need to hone the skills of our young people and empower them to lead J&K's transformation. Work empowerment is the key to giving a new direction to progress," he remarked.

The Lieutenant Governor also acknowledged the vital role of women's clubs in J&K's transformation, stating that such platforms could serve as catalysts for change.

"Women's clubs can play an essential role in shaping J&K's future. We have strived to establish J&K as a place where governance is rooted in the rule of law and where equal opportunities are available to all," he said. (KNO)

J&K OBC

and rural local bodies. Accordingly, during its tenure, the Commission analyzed records, surveys and census data to determine the OBC population share and their representation in the local bodies governance structure.

The panel sought data inputs from the government departments, institutions and experts; held consultations with researchers and conducted field visits across J&K to ensure a comprehensive assessment before submitting its report to the government.

The J&K Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission was established on June 11, 2023, in compliance with Supreme Court Ruling in the K. Krishnamurthy Vs Union of India (2010) and Vikas Krishna Rao Gawli v. Maharashtra (2021) case.

Currently, Municipal Bodies, Panchayats and Block Development Councils in J&K are without elected representatives for a period of more than a year. The term of Municipalities ended in October-November 2023, while Panchayats and Block Development Councils completed their five year term on January 9, 2024.

In the recent electoral history of J&K, the three phases of panchayat elections including the Halqa Panchayat Elections (November 2018), Block Development Council Elections (October 2019) and District Development Council Elections (November-December 2020) were successfully conducted leading to significant devolution of Power in terms of Funds, Functions and Functionaries strengthening the grassroots democracy.

Appointment Lacking

in January, 2011. The High Court's Single Bench came to the conclusion that the Respondent No.6 (selected candidate), being a widow, belonging to the BPL category, fulfilled the eligibility criteria and, therefore, had been rightly engaged as Anganwadi Helper by the authorities. Feeling aggrieved, the appellant challenged it before the Division Bench.

The Division Bench underlined that the issue of preference can only be applied once the candidates belonging to the preferred category hold the basic eligibility.

"This aspect of the matter has not been considered by the Writ Court (Single bench). We are at a loss to find any material on record, on the basis whereof, the Writ Court could have come to the conclusion that even the Appellant was not eligible," the Division Bench said, observing that appellant, "as it appears, has been held ineligible by the Deputy Commissioner and by the Writ Court on the ground that he does not belong to the BPL category."

"...we are of the view that, while invoking equity in favour of Respondent No.6, we need to look to the plight of a candidate, Appellant herein, who had been fighting her battle in the Courts of law for the last more than 15 years," the Court said, adding, "The Appellant herein, who was entitled to be engaged as Anganwadi Helper, was denied the engagement, so as to confer wrongful benefit upon the Respondent No.6. She immediately protested and took to legal recourse."

The Court said that it was a different matter that a litigation launched by the Appellant to enforce her right took almost 15 years to attain finality before the Court.

"It would be totally unfair and highly inequitable to tell the Appellant that, though, she has succeeded in the litigation and is found entitled to engagement, yet she will not be given such engagement, for the reason that under the Court orders, the Respondent No.6 has continued for 15 years," the Court said, adding, "Equities are not only meant for one party. The Court needs to balance the equities and to ensure that justice is meted out to both the parties."

Subsequently the Division Bench accepted the appeal and set aside the Judgment and Order passed by the Single bench.

"Consequently, the engagement of the Respondent No.6 as Anganwadi Helper is quashed. The official Respondents shall proceed to select and engage the next meritorious and eligible candidate in the panel within two months from the date a copy of this Judgment is served upon them."

The Court however, left it to the Government to adjust the Respondent No.6 against an available post of Anganwadi Helper in some Anganwadi Centre, provided there is no candidate with 8th Pass qualification available in the concerned hamlet.

JKP Nabs Terrorist

various means from across the LoC, then pushed into India through their couriers, which included arrested accused Parvez Ahmad Khan alias PK alias Sheikh Tajamul Islam alias Khalid, a resident of Bemina, Srinagar," the official said.

Khan was arrested in Delhi by a CIK investigating team in collaboration with the Delhi Police.

The operation was planned at the CIK headquarters a few days ago and the accused was put under surveillance, the official said.

Khan had been evading arrest and planned to abscond from Delhi, he added.

J&K Has Lost Its 'Pride & Honour', Says Deputy CM

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary on Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir has lost its pride and honour due to the revocation of its special status and statehood.

Talking to reporters here, Chaudhary said, "This is a democratically elected government, and it has been hardly 3.5 months since we assumed power. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inherited a broken state to govern. However, with the blessings of the people, no one will be able to defame our government. The results will be visible soon. By next year in February, we will be in a different position."

Expressing optimism about the restoration of statehood,



he reminded the Centre of its commitment. "The Centre had promised that statehood would be restored, and I hope Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will keep their promise."

"We are unable to deliver fully in the current Union Territory setup, and we believe that statehood must be restored soon," he said.

He also raised serious concerns over the increasing drug menace in J&K, claiming it to be a deliberate conspiracy to destroy youth. "Drugs are being peddled into J&K as part of a conspiracy to ruin our younger generation."

Chaudhary reiterated his party's stance against all forms of addiction, including liquor consumption—(KNO)

Article 370 Revocation Ended Terrorism In J&K: Athawale

Agencies

JAMMU: Stating that the revocation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories had a positive impact on the region, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Thursday said that move ended terrorism in the region.

Athawale while talking to reporters, here said, "Scrapping of the Article 370 led to significant improvements. It ended terrorism and led to an increase in development, peace, and economic growth."

"Before August 5, 2019 (when J&K's special status was revoked) there was widespread fear among tourists about visiting the region but the situation



has improved since then. It can be gauged from the fact that over 2.5 million tourists visited J&K last year, a significant increase compared to the past," he said.

Revocation of Article 370, he said, created a more peaceful environment, fostered development, and opened up new employment opportunities in the region. "The tourism getting a boost has contributed to economic growth," said Athawale.

He asserted that J&K would get its statehood back at an appropriate time.

Athawale also pointed out the record voter turnout in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections held last year, which he viewed as a positive sign of increasing democratic participation in the region—(KNO)

Sagar Vows To Boost Education In Khanyar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior Leader NC and MLA Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar on Thursday visited the Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Nowpora, Khanyar, which is set to open its doors on 1st of March after winter vacations.

Sagar's visit comes as part of his ongoing efforts to assess the educational infrastructure, address the concerns in the region and take stock of all the preparations for upcoming academic activities.

During his visit, Sagar interacted with school administrators, and the teachers, to gain firsthand insights into the challenges faced by the institution.

He emphasized the importance of quality education and assured the school community of his commitment to improving facilities and ensuring a conducive learning environment.

A grant of Rs 7 lakh was also allocated for the enhancement of the school's infrastructural and educational advancements.

Sagar also reviewed the school's infrastructure, including classrooms, laboratories, and other amenities as well. He highlighted the need for timely interventions to address any gaps in resources and promised to raise these issues in the appropriate forums for swift resolution.

Principal of the Institute, Dr Masrat Parveen thanked Sagar for his visit.

Kangan Residents Decry Non-Functional Streetlights

Agencies

KANGAN: Despite claims from authorities that numerous streetlights have been restored and installed in Kangan Subdivision, residents from several areas are voicing their concerns about the ongoing issues with these installations. According to locals, many of the newly installed streetlights have been non-functional for over a year.

In Prang Village, residents specifically complained that the streetlights set up under the Rural Development scheme have been completely useless, providing no illumination to the area.

Locals further alleged that the lights were reinstalled just recently, but almost immediately after installation, they stopped working again. They argue that the scheme, which was intended to improve the area's infrastructure, has ul-

timately failed to deliver any meaningful results.

The community has expressed growing frustration over what they perceive as mismanagement and an ineffective response from local authorities. Despite repeated complaints, the issue remains unresolved, leaving the affected areas in the dark.

Local resident Irshad said, "Even with Ramadan approaching, we face many difficulties during Sehri time. Last year, we requested the authorities to check these lights, which have not been functioning, but despite our numerous requests, they did not bother to address the issue."

Residents have appealed to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Ganderbal and the Assistant Commissioner for Development (ACD) of Ganderbal to look into the matter and take the necessary steps to resolve the issue—(KNO)

Ramazan Rush Keeps Kashmir Markets Abuzz

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With Ramazan around the corner, fruit and vegetable markets in Kashmir are already stocked with fresh arrivals, ensuring a smooth supply for the holy month.

Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Association (KVFGDU) Chairman Bashir Ahmad Basheer on Thursday said the Valley has sufficient stock to meet the growing demand.

"Every day, around 5,000 to 6,000 fruit boxes reach Kashmir, with 400-500 boxes per vehicle. As temperatures rise, the demand for fruits like watermelons and melons, especially during Ramazan, will increase, and supply from outside will also go up," Basheer said.

He said vegetables are also available in good quantities, and prices will remain stable. "Even if the weather



plays spoilsport and the highway gets blocked, we have enough stock to keep the markets running," he added.

Meanwhile, data on daily vegetable stocks in the Kashmir Valley reveals a steady supply of fruits, ensuring markets remain well-stocked.

The latest arrivals include dates of various varieties in 10-15 trolleys, oranges in 10-15 trolleys, grapes (Nasik) in

10-12 trolleys, grapes (Solapuri) in 8-10 trolleys, grapes (Sangli) in 5-8 trolleys daily, bananas in 20-25 Tata Mobiles and 10-15, 407 vehicles, along with watermelons in 7-8 trolleys and melons in 8-10 trolleys.

Notably, with traders gearing up for bulk business and markets abuzz with pre-Ramadan shopping, officials have reassured that supplies will remain uninterrupted—(KNO)

"EVEN IF THE WEATHER PLAYS SPOILSPORT AND THE HIGHWAY gets blocked, we have enough stock to keep the markets running,"

Fresh Snowfall, Rain Bring Relief To Farmers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The fresh snowfall in the upper reaches, along with incessant rainfall, has brought much-needed relief to thousands of fruit growers and farmers across Kashmir. The precipitation has ended the prolonged dry spell in the region, raising hopes for a productive agricultural season ahead.

Experts had previously warned that the extended dry weather, with no rain or snow, was a cause for concern among fruit growers and farmers. The lack of soil moisture was expected to negatively impact both the quality and yield of fruits, particularly apples, in the upcoming season.

The dry conditions had also delayed the germination of Rabi crops, which could have led to reduced production.

Experts said the lack of rain over an extended period dries up soil moisture, affecting flowering and fruit-setting, which directly impacts both the quantity and quality of crops. However, they said the fresh snowfall and rainfall have brought much-needed relief to the region's agricultural community.

Mohammad Maqbool, a well-known fruit trader and expert from Shopian, said, "We received very little rain or snow over the last six months. Had this situation continued, the horticulture and agriculture sectors would have suffered immensely."

He said that most orchards rely on rainwater for irrigation, and the prolonged dryness had left them struggling for water. "With abundant snow in the upper reaches and rainfall in the plains, we no longer have to worry about irrigation issues," Maqbool added.



"With abundant snow in the upper reaches and rainfall in the plains, we no longer have to worry about irrigation issues,"

The dry spell had also heightened the risk of pest infestations, as a lack of moisture makes fruit trees more vulnerable.

Farmers, particularly those dependent on crops like Apple, paddy, and vegetables, expressed their relief, saying the timely precipitation has helped ensure a better harvest season.

Abdul Rahman, a vegetable farmer from Qaimoh, Kulgam, said, "We had almost lost hope, but the rain and snowfall in the upper reaches have revived our fields. Now, we can expect a good harvest."

He said that timely rainfall is crucial for sustaining agriculture in the valley, especially after an extended dry spell that had left farmers anxious about their crops.

Bashir Ahmad, an apple orchard owner from Shopian, said, "Without water, farming is impossible. This snowfall will ensure our streams and canals don't dry up in summer. We were worried about a drought-like situation, but nature has finally come to our rescue."

He said that the snowfall is particularly beneficial for apple orchards, as it helps maintain soil moisture and ensures a steady water supply for irrigation in the coming months.

Mohammad Yousuf, a vegetable farmer from Budgam, pointed out that this precipitation was much needed. "The dry spell had left our lands parched, and many crops were on the verge of wilting. Thankfully, this rain and snow have replenished the moisture in the soil, giving us hope for a better yield."

Nazir Khan Criticizes "Wastage Of Public Money" At Beerwah Bridge Foundation Ceremony

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Chairman DDC Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan criticized what he called "wastage of public money" at Beerwah Bridge foundation ceremony. The foundation ceremony of the Chewdara Beerwah Bridge was organized by the R&B (PWD) Department in Beerwah, with the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary, along with MLAs from Beerwah, Khansahib, and Chadoora. However, Chairman DDC Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Khan, has strongly condemned the event, calling it a blatant misuse of public funds and a deliberate breach of protocol.

Expressing his displeasure, Chairman Nazir Ahmad Khan stated that the construction work on the bridge had already

commenced in December 2024 and has now reached a significant stage. He criticized the unnecessary ceremony, calling it a wasteful expenditure of public money. "Instead of utilizing funds efficiently for developmental projects, such extravagant events are being organized, which serve no purpose other than political optics," he remarked.

Nazir Ahmad Khan also highlighted the glaring disregard for democratic institutions, as he, being the elected representative and the key proponent of this and several other projects in the Beerwah segment, was not invited to the ceremony. Shockingly, MLAs from far-off constituencies like Khansahib and Chadoora were invited, while the local representative was deliberately ignored.

Taking strong exception to this breach of protocol, Nazir Ahmad Khan has written a formal letter to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, demanding immediate action against the officials responsible. He has also urged that the public money wasted on this event be recovered from the salaries of the government officials who organized it.

"The development projects in Beerwah, including the Chewdara Beerwah Bridge, have been designed and approved due to my consistent advocacy and recommendations as the Chairman DDC Budgam. Not inviting me to such an event is not just an insult to me personally but a disrespect to the democratic institutions and the people of this region," Khan asserted.

Sonamarg Turns Into Winter Wonderland With Fresh Snowfall



Agencies

SONAMARG: After a prolonged dry spell, the popular tourist destination of Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district was graced with a stunning one-foot layer of fresh snowfall on Saturday, marking the season's first snowfall. The sudden arrival of snow transformed Sonamarg into a mesmerizing winter wonderland, drawing delighted tourists from Kashmir and beyond.

With the snow-covered landscape offering a perfect winter backdrop, visitors were seen enjoying in snow play, enjoying thrilling sled rides, and capturing beautiful moments amidst the white-capped mountains. Tourists expressed their excitement as they soaked in the serene beauty of the region, with some even remarking that it felt like stepping into a dream.

A family from Hyderabad, visiting Sonamarg for the first time, said, "It feels like a dream come true for us, arriving in Sonamarg today and witnessing the enchanting mountains adorned with a fresh layer of snow."

In addition to the snowfall, the inauguration of the

Sonamarg Tunnel marked another milestone for the region. The tunnel's opening has significantly eased access to Sonamarg, allowing tourists to reach the area more easily and enjoy the fresh snowfall.

The Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) has been working tirelessly to ensure that the influx of tourists is met with adequate facilities. Local authorities have been on their toes, setting up arrangements to accommodate visitors and enhance their experience in the region.

"All roads now lead to Sonamarg, as visitors from across the country flock to the area, eager to enjoy the winter charm of the place. The combination of snowfall and improved access through the new tunnel has made Sonamarg an even more attractive destination for winter tourists," said an official.

As Sonamarg continues to receive a surge in tourism, the local administration remains focused on ensuring smooth travel and optimal facilities for visitors, helping Sonamarg reclaim its spot as one of Kashmir's most cherished winter retreats—(KNO)

Cracks Appear In Buildings After Road Collapse In Hajin



Agencies

HAJIN: A day after a portion of the road along the Jhelum River collapsed due to expanding cracks, fresh fissures have emerged in nearby buildings and shops, causing further panic among residents on Thursday in the Hajin area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

The road collapse on Wednesday followed weeks of deterioration, with severe cracks forming on the road, which had already prompted authorities to restrict traffic movement.

Today, new cracks appeared in homes and shops close to the affected stretch, raising serious concerns about the structural stability of these buildings.

Local residents said that the cracks in their homes are worsening, with some walls shaking. "We have been living in deep fear for the past few days, with some areas also facing damage to electricity and water supply.

The unfortunate part is that the administration has not taken the issue seriously, and no official has visited us so far," said Ali Mohammad, a local resident.

Another resident, Mohammad Saleem, urged the administration to address the issue seriously and find concrete solutions. "If the administration doesn't take this issue seriously, it could lead to a disaster in the coming days. More and more cracks are developing in the area, and the situation is worsening," he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Qadri stated that the administration is taking the issue seriously. He mentioned that families living in the affected area will be relocated, and some buildings have already been identified for their rehabilitation. He also added that the Flood and Irrigation Department has been directed to initiate the necessary work—(KNO)

Incessant Rains Trigger Waterlogging, Landslides In Kashmir Parts

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Continuous rainfall and fresh snowfall across various parts of Kashmir have led to severe waterlogging and landslides, causing significant difficulties for residents. Authorities have issued helpline numbers to address emergencies.

According to details, heavy rains have caused waterlogging in several areas, including Baramulla, Sopore, Handwara, and Bandipora. Landslides were reported in Boniyar and Delina in Baramulla district.

In Boniyar, two residential houses were damaged due to a landslide. However, the affected families were promptly evacuated to safer locations, ensuring their safety. Residents of the affected areas have urged the administration to take preventive measures to avoid such incidents in the future.

Similarly, residents in Sopore,

Baramulla, and Handwara expressed frustration over severe waterlogging, which disrupted daily life. In response, authorities initiated dewatering efforts in the affected localities.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, S.A. Raina, visited the impacted areas within the subdivision and directed officials to expedite the dewatering process. He also instructed them to take immediate remedial measures, stating that if necessary, roads could be temporarily cut to facilitate water drainage and provide relief to the public.

In light of the ongoing inclement weather, the administration has issued emergency helpline numbers for the public to ensure prompt assistance in case of further distress.

Meanwhile, residents have urged the government to devise long-term solutions to prevent recurrent flooding and landslides—(KNO)

CT: With Semifinal Berth At Stake, Australia Take On Afghanistan

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Eyeing a semifinal spot, Australia's historic pedigree in cricket's biggest tournaments will count for nothing when they run into an Afghanistan side that is fast cementing its place in the game's top table, in the Champions Trophy here on Friday.

Basking in the afterglow of their memorable win over England at the Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday, Afghanistan have a realistic chance of making their second successive semifinals of a global event, less than a year after their entry into the last four stage of the T20 World Cup in the Americas.



On the other hand, a win for Australia will secure their passage to the semifinals of the tournament while eliminating Afghanistan with a game to spare.

However, it is easier said than done. For one, for all their firepower in batting, Australia are without their three leading fast bowlers in Mitchell Starc, Pat

Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. The trio's absence was felt as England racked up a 350-plus total in their tournament opener before the Aussies rode on Josh Inglis's counterattacking hundred to emerge victorious by five wickets and 15 balls to spare.

Two-time winners Australia are seeking to regain the Champions Trophy title after a gap of 15 years. They had won back-to-back titles in 2006 and 2009 but have failed to reach the finals in the 2013 and 2017 editions, after which the event was discontinued.

In the absence of their big fast bowlers, Australia know that their strength lies in batting with

the likes of Travis Head, Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne and Glenn Maxwell capable of inflicting plenty of damage on the opposition bowling attack.

As far as Afghanistan are concerned, their batting will be spearheaded by swashbuckling opener Ibrahim Zadran, whose 177 against England is now the highest individual score in the Champions Trophy.

Having lost to the Afghans in the T20 World Cup last year, Australia will not take their upcoming opponents lightly, and Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott acknowledged that in the press conference after the victory over England.

Match starts at 2.30 PM.

Short TAKES

DG YSS Reviews Sports Infra Development In Budgam

In a move to assess and enhance sports infrastructure in the region, Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara, conducted a surprise visit to the Zonal Physical Education Office (ZPEO) Chrar-i-Sharief. Accompanying him were Assistant Director YSS Balbir Singh Sodhi and District Youth Services & Sports Officer Srinagar (Adl charge District Budgam) Ghulam Hassan Lone.

During the visit, the DG YSS reviewed the existing infrastructure, focusing on the development of playfields and the upgradation of the zonal office building. He emphasized the need for quality facilities to nurture young sporting talent and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening grassroots sports infrastructure.

Assistant Director YSS Balbir Singh Sodhi and DYSSO Ghulam Hassan Lone assured full cooperation in implementing necessary improvements. The visit underscored the department's proactive approach to fostering sports culture and providing better amenities for student-athletes in the region.

Asia Cup Likely In September

Asia Cup, which will serve as a preparatory event for the 2026 T20 World Cup, is likely to be held in September this year at a neutral venue though the hosting rights are with India.

The last Asia Cup was held in the ODI format ahead of the 2023 50-over World Cup in India.

"The tournament will be held in September. India has the hosting rights but it will be played in UAE or Sri Lanka," said a source in the Asian Cricket Council.

The highlight of the event will be the India-Pakistan contest and if they reach the final, both teams could play each other as many as three times.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, UAE, Oman and Hong Kong will be the eight participating teams. Though BCCI has the hosting rights, it could go for a neutral venue with Pakistan unlikely to travel to India given what transpired in the ongoing Champions Trophy.

The next T20 World Cup is in India and Sri Lanka with the arch-rivals expected to play the marquee game in the island nation.

IPL 2025: Delhi Capitals Appoint Pietersen As Team Mentor

Former England captain Kevin Pietersen was on Thursday appointed mentor of Delhi Capitals ahead of IPL 2025. The 44-year-old thus returns to the side he captained in 2014. This marks Pietersen's first coaching assignment in the IPL, where he featured as a player from 2009 to 2016.

"I'm so excited to come home to Delhi! I have the fondest memories of my time with Delhi. I love the city, I love the fans and I'll do everything I can to support the franchise in our quest for the title in 2025," Pietersen said on X.

A veteran of 200 T20s with 5695 runs, Pietersen appeared in 36 IPL matches scoring 1001 runs across his stints with Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and the Pune franchise.

U-20 Football Trials For National Championship From March 10

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Sports Council on Thursday announced that it will conduct open selection trials for the J&K men's football team for the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship 2025. The trials will be held in Jammu and Srinagar.

The schedule is as follows:

March 3, 4 & 5, 2025

Venue: Mini Stadium Synthetic Turf Parade Ground, Jammu

For: All Jammu Division players

March 10, 11 & 12, 2025

Venue: Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC, Srinagar

For: All Kashmir Division players

March 17, 18 & 19, 2025

Venue: Synthetic Turf Football Stadium, TRC, Srinagar

For: Final Selection Trials (For selected players from both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions)

Eligibility Criteria:

- Date of Birth: 01-01-2006 to 31-12-2008
- Reporting Time: 2:00 PM

Required Documents:

- Original Date of Birth

Certificate

- Aadhar Card

The selected players will undergo a coaching camp before departing for the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship, which will be held in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh, from April to May 2025.

For any queries, interested players can contact:

- Mr. Satpal Singh, Chief Coach
- Mr. Javaid Ahmad Soft, Football Coach

Contact Numbers:

7006693441 & 7006037351.

Pakistan End Home CT Without Win After Rawalpindi Washout



Agencies

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan ended their campaign in the home Champions Trophy without a win after rain washed out their dead rubber against Bangladesh at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

The Group A match between the two eliminated sides was of little consequence and steady drizzle poured cold water on defending champions Pakistan's hopes of a consolation victory.

Tuesday's Group B fixture between Australia and South Africa at the same venue was also abandoned without a ball being bowled because of rain.

It has been a forgettable campaign for Mohammad Rizwan-led Pakistan in the first global tournament to be staged in the country since 1996 and their six-wicket defeat by arch-rivals India will particularly hurt.

"The expectations are very high. We didn't perform well and it is disappointing for us," Rizwan said.

"We made mistakes in the last few games. Hopefully, we can learn from these. We are next going to New Zealand and hopefully we can perform there."

Bangladesh also finished their winless campaign with a point.

"We really wanted to play this match, but can't do anything about the weather," Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said.

He drew positives from the display of their pace trio Nahid Rana, Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman.

"We have always struggled with our fast bowling unit, but in the last few years a lot of fast bowlers are coming through," Shanto said.

"The likes of Taskin and Rana coming in and 'Fizz' is there. We have a very good bowling attack."

Downtown Heroes Academy Trials Postponed Due To Inclement Weather

Downtown Heroes FC on Thursday announced that their Academy trials for boys (2009, 2010, and 2011 born) and girls (2006 and above born), scheduled for today, Friday, February 28, have been postponed.

"Due to heavy rainfall, the football tri-

als scheduled for tomorrow have been postponed. Your safety and well-being are our top priorities. We will announce the new dates for the trials soon," the club said.

The trials were set to take place at Polo Ground, Main Field.

28th year OF PUBLICATION

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