

## Amarnath Yatra To Start From July 3

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The 38-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,880 metres high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir will commence on July 3, an official spokesperson said on Wednesday.

The decision to this effect was taken at the 48th board meeting of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) under the chairmanship of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, he said.

"This year, the yatra will commence on July 3, simultaneously from both the routes – the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district, and it will culminate on August 9 on Raksha Bandhan," the spokesperson said.

He said the meeting was attended by members of the shrine board which proposed various measures and interventions to further improve the facilities and services for the devotees.

Considering the likely increased inflow of pilgrims for the Amarnath Yatra, the meeting discussed measures for the enhancement of lodgement capacity at centres in Jammu, Srinagar and other locations, operationalization of yatri facilitation centres for e-KYC, issuance of RFID cards, on-spot registration of pilgrims at number of locations including Nowgam and Katra railway stations, the spokesperson said.

He said it was further discussed that these facilities must also be suitably enhanced at Baltal, Pahalgam, Nunwan, and Pantha Chowk Srinagar, as per the requirement.

Reviewing the progress achieved on various ongoing works undertaken by the line departments, the LG stressed on the need for ensuring adequate arrangements and requisite amenities at various locations enroute the yatra. | More on P6



Day 2 Of J&K Budget Session

From 'Martyrs To Traitors'

## Chaos In J&K Assembly Over July 13 Remarks

BJP Members Stage Walkout

Observer News Service

Jammu: The BJP on Wednesday walked out of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly here after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather announced expunging of "degradatory remarks" of the leader of opposition about the July 13, 1931 "martyrs" amid pandemonium in the House.

BJP leader and LoP Sunil Sharma made the remarks on the 1931 "martyrs" after PDP legislator Waheed-ur-Rehman Para demanded restoration of the public holiday on July 13 besides the December 5 holiday to mark the birth anniversary of National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Both the holidays were scrapped by the Lieutenant Governor-led



administration following abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union territories in August 2019.

Taking part in a debate on the motion of thanks to LG's address at a time when NC president Farooq Abdullah reached the visitors' gallery to watch

the proceedings, Para sought restoration of the two holidays and highlighted the importance of the July 13, 1931 when 22 men fell to the bullets of Dogra Maharaja's soldiers outside Srinagar central jail and the contribution of the NC founder. "They have sacrificed their lives against | More on P6

## NC's Silence on Critical Issues Will Cost J&K Dearly: Para

- ◆ Says J&K Turned Into Municipality
- ◆ Demands Reservation Rationalisation

Observer News Service

Jammu: In a fiery speech during the ongoing Assembly session, People's Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para took a sharp dig at the ruling party's leadership, warning that their silence on key issues would come at a heavy cost for Jammu and Kashmir. The lawmaker questioned the government's approach to governance, arguing that the region has been reduced to a



"municipality" and stripped of its political agency.

Para also demanded rationalization of reservation in government recruitment in accordance with the population. "I am not against reservation to any community but it should not | More on P6

## Govt Amends Passport Rules For Indians

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a significant policy update, the central government has revised passport application rules, bringing in stricter documentation requirements and procedural changes.

An official note issued last week formalised the amendment to the Passport Rules, 1980.

The changes aim to enhance security and efficiency and provide a seamless experience for passport applicants.

Birth Certificate

Under the new norms, birth certificates issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths, the Municipal Corporation, or any other authority empowered under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, will be accepted as proof of date of birth for individuals born on or after October 1, 2023, in accordance with the new passport regulations that were announced earlier this week.

However, those born prior to October 1, 2023, are exempt from the new regulations. These individuals may present their birth certificate, transfer, school leaving, or matriculation certificate from a recognised educational institution or their recent school, or their Permanent Account Number Card, which bears their birthrate and is issued by the Income Tax Department. Other documents, such as a copy of the applicant's driving license or a copy from their service record, may also be submitted.

Residential Address To Be Embedded Digitally

The residential address mentioned on the last page of the passport, which was the norm until now, will no longer be printed on the passport. Instead, a barcode will | More on P6

## J&K Eyes Self-Reliance In Power By 2035: CM

Jammu and Kashmir, in consultation with the central government, has developed a Resource Adequacy (RA) plan till 2035, as a major step towards making the region self-reliant in the energy sector, chief minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday.

In a written | More on P6



## Lawmakers Cry Foul Over JJM 'Irregularities'

Several members of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Wednesday alleged bungling in the Jal Jeevan Mission and demanded a House committee be set up to investigate the matter. Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Rana assured the House that action would be taken against officials who provided incorrect answers. He also announced an inquiry into the alleged | More on P6

## MLAs Questions Govt's Anti-Drug Strategy

Cutting across party lines, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly members on Wednesday expressed grave concern over the rising drug addiction in the region, prompting Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to order a discussion to seek suggestions from the House on anti-drug measures. Several MLAs questioned the effectiveness of existing mechanisms to | More on P6



Ramazan Reflections: A young girl washes her face at a fountain inside Srinagar's historic Jamia Masjid. KO Photo By Faisal Khan

## Omar-Led Cabinet Approves Business Rules Changes

Agencies

Jammu: In a significant development, the cabinet headed by chief minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday gave its go-ahead to amendments in the business rules of Jammu & Kashmir Government.

Sources said that the cabinet met here at 8:00 PM to give its nod to changes in the business rules of the J&K government.

"The proposal would now be sent to the Lieutenant Governor who has the authority to notify them," they said.

Under Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019, the Lieutenant Governor shall make rules on the advice of the council of ministers for the allocation of business to the ministers; and for the more convenient transaction of business with the | More on P6

## J&K Records 30% Excess Rainfall In 5 days

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 30 per cent above the average precipitation in the past five days, thereby increasing the water level in the river Jhelum and other streams.

As per the data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), against the average rainfall of 25.4mm, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a rainfall of 33mm from March 1 to 5.

The highest precipitation was recorded in Bandipora with details revealing that the station recorded 68% rainfall above than the average precipitation.

As per the data, nine stations including Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, Budgam, Baramulla, Doda, Kupwara, Pulwama, Rajouri, Shopian and Udhampur recorded excess rainfall, which varies from 20% to 59% above than the normal rainfall. Reasi, Samba | More on P6

## 'Not A Security Threat': Er Rashid To Delhi Court

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP Engineer Rashid on Wednesday sought custody parole to attend the upcoming Parliament session, claiming he was not a security threat.

Rashid's counsel made the submission before additional sessions judge Chanderjit

Singh, who reserved the verdict for March 7 after hearing arguments on the plea.

The plea seeking Rashid's interim bail or custody parole was filed by advocate Vikhyat Oberoi on February 27, following which the court sought the National Investigation Agency's (NIAs) response on March 3. The counsel | More on P6




# NOOR-E-RAMZAN

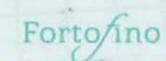
## قصہ نور

Naa dil mein bugz, naa maathe pe shikann  
Har shakhs ko kar de insaan  
Yeh Mah-e-Ramzan

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OUR PARTNERS











**Salman Raises Concerns Over Healthcare In Assembly**

Agencies

Srinagar: MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar highlighted two key public interest issues in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, focusing on healthcare accessibility and pending contractor payments under MPLADS (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme). Demand for Better Ambulance Services in Zakoora, Faqir Gujri & Khimber Raising concerns over emergency healthcare accessibility, Sagar questioned the government on the availability of ambulance services in the remote areas of Zakoora, Faqir Gujri, and Khimber. In response, the government provided the following assurances: Zakoora & Khimber will soon receive ambulances under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV). Faqir Gujri already has an ambulance, with an additional Critical Care 4x4 ambulance expected soon.

**Substandard Food Items Seized In Rawalpura Drive**

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a major crackdown on substandard food products, the Food Safety Wing of the Drug and Food Control Organisation conducted an inspection at Chinar Chowk, Rawalpura, where several substandard food items were seized and destroyed on the spot. The drive was led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, Yameen Ul Nabi, along with other officials, and was also accompanied by noted activist Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat. During the inspection, the team found and seized unhealthy chicken, as well as rotten animal fat, both of which posed serious health risks to consumers. These items were immediately disposed of to prevent their circulation in the market. Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, Yameen



Ul Nabi, stressed the importance of consumer awareness and vigilance in ensuring food safety. "Consumers should inform us on the helpline number 104 in case of any complaints. It is essential to check the manufacturing and expiry date before purchasing any packaged food product," he said. He further advised consumers to use their sensory observations while purchasing raw food items. "If someone is buying fish, they should check its freshness. Similarly, when purchasing snacks, they should ensure no harmful coloring agents are used. People must trust their sense of smell and taste to detect if a product is substandard," he added. Yameen Ul Nabi also urged consumers to retain any suspected substandard product and immediately report it to the department for action. "If a consumer finds a product not up to the standard marks, they should

keep it with themselves and notify the authorities," he said. The local residents of Rawalpura lauded the efforts of the Food Safety Wing and emphasized the need for regular checks to prevent the sale of unhealthy and substandard food. "This drive is a welcome step in ensuring that the food we consume is safe. We urge the department to conduct such inspections frequently to keep unscrupulous vendors in check," said a local shopkeeper. With increasing concerns over food adulteration and substandard products in the market, locals say such inspections are crucial in maintaining food safety standards and protecting public health. The Food Safety Wing has assured that more surprise checks will be conducted in various parts of Srinagar in the coming weeks to curb the sale of unhygienic and harmful food products.

**FALCON GARDEN TOOLS PVT LTD**

**SAD DEMISE**

With profound grief and pain G M AGRO EQUIPMENTS SRINAGAR condoles the demise of Mrs Parvinder Kaur W/O S.S.P. SINGH Dua has left for heavenly abode on 03/3/25.

May her soul rest in peace

We pray for the solace of the departed soul and express our deepest sympathies/ prayers with the family of the deceased during the difficult time to bear this irreparable loss.

On Behalf Of G M Agro Equipments Srinagar

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SHEEP HUSBANDRY OFFICER BARAMULLA NOORBAGH BARAMULLA**  
Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir  
E-mail:dsho.bla@gmail.com

In response to this office's advertisement vide above quoted reference, the following Beneficiaries have been provisionally selected through a draw of lots for the establishment of sheep units (Participatory mode) and Shearing units under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme in Model Border Villages of the district for the year 2024-25:

1. Model Village: Maidanan

Sr.No	Name of the beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohd Fareed Chouhan	Junda Chouhan	Maidanan
2	Jalal Din Jander	Shamus Ud Din Jander	Maidanan
3	Mehraj Din Jendar	Mohd Sulman Jendar	Maidanan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohd Fareed Chouhan	Junda Chouhan	Maidanan
2	Jalal Din Jander	Shamus Ud Din Jander	Maidanan
3	Mehraj Din Jendar	Mohd Sulman Jendar	Maidanan

Provisional Waiting List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Ghulam Hassan bajar	Lal din bajar	Maidanan
2	Leyaqat Ali Jindar	Mohammad Ismail Jindar	Maidanan
3	Mohammad Yousuf jinder	Sawaria jinder	Maidanan
4	Hasham Ali Sood	Noor Din Sood	Maidanan
5	Ghulam Hassan Sood	Noor Din Sood	Maidanan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohd Ismail chouhan	Mohd Akbar chouhan	Maidanan
2	Kalu Jinder	Nasar din jinder	Maidanan

Provisional Waiting List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mehraj din jinder	Mohd Ismail jinder	Maidanan
2	Mohammad Ismail bajar	Peer baksh bajar	Maidanan
3	Nazir Ahmad Jander	Mangata Jander	Maidanan

2. Model Village: Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Akbar Din	Taj Mohammad	Gohallan
2	Ahmad Din	Mohd Ashrad	Gohallan
3	Mohd Javid	Aziz Din	Gohallan
4	Mushtaq Ahmad	Mohammad Rafiq	Gohallan
5	Gulzar Ahmad	Bashir Ahmad	Gohallan

Provisional Waiting List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mehraj din jinder	Mohd Ismail jinder	Maidanan
2	Mohammad Ismail bajar	Peer baksh bajar	Maidanan
3	Nazir Ahmad Jander	Mangata Jander	Maidanan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohammad Haneef	Mohammad Akbar	Gohallan
2	Mushtaq Ahmad	Mohammad Isariel	Gohallan
3	Manzoor Ahmad	Mohammad Sharif	Gohallan
4	Mohammad Arif	Anwar Hussain	Gohallan
5	Liyaqat Hussain	Shabir Hussain	Gohallan
6	Ab Rashid	Bashir Ahmad	Gohallan
7	Shabir Ahmad	Kaloo	Gohallan
8	Showkat Ali	Mohd Younis	Gohallan
9	Sajad Hussain	Tasaduq Hussain	Gohallan
10	Nazir Hussain	Faqir Ahmad	Gohallan
11	Mohammad Ajaz	Mohammad Hanif	Gohallan
12	Ab Aziz	Mir Mohammad	Gohallan
13	Shah Mohammad	Gh Hussain	Gohallan
14	Khurshaed Ahmad	Mohammad Haneef	Gohallan
15	Mohd Arif	Manzoor Ahmad	Gohallan

Provisional Waiting List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Akbar Din	Taj Mohammad	Gohallan
2	Ahmad Din	Mohd Ashrad	Gohallan
3	Mohd Javid	Aziz Din	Gohallan
4	Mushtaq Ahmad	Mohammad Rafiq	Gohallan
5	Gulzar Ahmad	Bashir Ahmad	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Sagir Ahmad	Gulab Ahmad Khan	Uroosa
2	Ab Qayoom	Mohammad Yousuf	Uroosa
3	Faisal Zaman	Kamar Zaman	Uroosa
4	Mohd Naseem	Mohd Saleem	Uroosa
5	Azad Khan	Mohammad Khan	Uroosa

Provisional Waiting List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Shabir Ahmad	Gulab Khan	Uroosa
2	Shafiq Ahmad Khan	Mir Zaman	Uroosa
3	Shafiqat Ahmad	Mohd Shareef	Uroosa
4	Parvaiz Ahmad Mir	Ab Aziz	Uroosa
5	Sajad Ahmad	Mohd Sadiq	Uroosa
6	Mushtaq Ahmad	Ab Rehman	Uroosa

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Shabir Ahmad	Gulab Khan	Uroosa
2	Shafiq Ahmad Khan	Mir Zaman	Uroosa
3	Shafiqat Ahmad	Mohd Shareef	Uroosa
4	Parvaiz Ahmad Mir	Ab Aziz	Uroosa
5	Sajad Ahmad	Mohd Sadiq	Uroosa
6	Mushtaq Ahmad	Ab Rehman	Uroosa

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Shameema Akhter	Tasaduq Hussain	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Shameema Akhter	Tasaduq Hussain	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Shameema Akhter	Tasaduq Hussain	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Shameema Akhter	Tasaduq Hussain	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	W/o,D/o.	Address
1	Shameema Akhter	Tasaduq Hussain	Gohallan

Provisional Waiting List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	W/o,D/o.	Address
1	Shareefa Be	Noor Mohammad	Gohallan
2	Raziya Fatima	Iqbal Hussain	Gohallan
3	Shahnaz Begum	Qadeer Ahmad	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Abdul Aziz	Ab Rashid	Gohallan
2	Mohd Irshad	Ahmad Din	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Mohammad Alyas	Gayas ud din	Gohallan
2	Muneer Hussain	Ali Akbar	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Mohammad Alyas	Gayas ud din	Gohallan
2	Muneer Hussain	Ali Akbar	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Mohammad Alyas	Gayas ud din	Gohallan
2	Muneer Hussain	Ali Akbar	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Mohammad Alyas	Gayas ud din	Gohallan
2	Muneer Hussain	Ali Akbar	Gohallan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Mohammad Alyas	Gayas ud din	Gohallan
2	Muneer Hussain	Ali Akbar	Gohallan

3. Model Village: Uroosa

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohd Naseer	Alif Din	Shahdara
2	Mohd munir	Babu Gujar	Shahdara
3	Mohd Mazkoor	Ab Aziz	Shahdara
4	Mohammad Azeem	Qayim Uddin	Shahdara
5	Shakir Hussain	Ashiq Hussain	Shahdara
6	Saif uddin	Manga	Shahdara
7	Rashid Khan	Mohd Sadiq	Shahdara
8	Rashid Khan	Rasheed Khan	Shahdara
9	Gulzar Hussain	Dildar Hussain	Shahdara

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohd Naseer	Alif Din	Shahdara
2	Mohd munir	Babu Gujar	Shahdara
3	Mohd Mazkoor	Ab Aziz	Shahdara
4	Mohammad Azeem	Qayim Uddin	Shahdara
5	Shakir Hussain	Ashiq Hussain	Shahdara
6	Saif uddin	Manga	Shahdara
7	Rashid Khan	Mohd Sadiq	Shahdara
8	Rashid Khan	Rasheed Khan	Shahdara
9	Gulzar Hussain	Dildar Hussain	Shahdara

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohd Naseer	Alif Din	Shahdara
2	Mohd munir	Babu Gujar	Shahdara
3	Mohd Mazkoor	Ab Aziz	Shahdara
4	Mohammad Azeem	Qayim Uddin	Shahdara
5	Shakir Hussain	Ashiq Hussain	Shahdara
6	Saif uddin	Manga	Shahdara
7	Rashid Khan	Mohd Sadiq	Shahdara
8	Rashid Khan	Rasheed Khan	Shahdara
9	Gulzar Hussain	Dildar Hussain	Shahdara

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	W/o	Address
1	Shamima Bano	Shukurdin	Shahdara

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Ab Hamid	Ab Kareem	Shahdara

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Aaqib Iqbal	Mohd Iqbal	Shahdara

5. Model Village: Choolan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Rayaz Ahmad Budoo	Mohammad Rashid	choolan
2	Farooq Ahmad Hajam	Mahboob Hajam	choolan
3	Zahid Hassan	Hazim Hussain	choolan
4	Tufail Hussin	Shabir Hussain	choolan
5	Shafayat Hussain	Shabir Hussain	choolan

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Safeeya Begum	Mohammad Muneer	Uroosa

Provisional Waiting List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: Women

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Shaheena Begum	Jameel Ahmad	Uroosa

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Wajid ul Islam	Mohd Aslam	Uroosa

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Shakoor Ahmad	Mohammad Yousuf	Uroosa
2	Ishtiyag Ahmad Beigh	Ab Aziz	Uroosa

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of Shearing Unit (100% Subsidy)  
Category: ST

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary	Parentage	Address
1	Amir Khan	Mohd Afzal	Uroosa

4. Village: Shahdara

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Kabir Ahmad	Anayat ullah	Shahdara
2	Jawahar Hussain	Khadim Hussain	Shahdara
3	Jamil Ahmad	Bashir Ahmad	Shahdara
4	Radasir Hussain	Sain Nasadar	Shahdara
5	Mohd safeer	mohd Asriel	Shahdara
6	Itassaduq Hussain	Farid Hussain	Shahdara

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohd Naseer	Alif Din	Shahdara
2	Mohd munir	Babu Gujar	Shahdara
3	Mohd Mazkoor	Ab Aziz	Shahdara
4	Mohammad Azeem	Qayim Uddin	Shahdara
5	Shakir Hussain	Ashiq Hussain	Shahdara
6	Saif uddin	Manga	Shahdara
7	Rashid Khan	Mohd Sadiq	Shahdara
8	Rashid Khan	Rasheed Khan	Shahdara
9	Gulzar Hussain	Dildar Hussain	Shahdara

Provisional Selection List  
Establishment of 10 Ewes/Does Units  
Category: General

Sr.No	Name of the selected beneficiary (ies)	Parentage	Address
1	Mohd Naseer		

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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### KO VIEW

## Congress' Caste Pitch

In a sign that the Congress wants to pursue a more caste-centered political line on Jammu and Kashmir, its Legislature Party leader Ghulam Ahmed Mir on Tuesday made a strong case for conducting a caste census in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking in the J&K Assembly, Mir said that the J&K should also carry out caste-based surveys as several other states had already done so. He stressed that while multiple caste-based categories exist, there was no clear data on the actual numbers of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and other groups, making the current reservation system ineffective in addressing social inequalities.

Congress leader rightly highlighted discrepancies in the present system, where individuals obtained multiple caste certificates—such as OBC, Scheduled Tribe (ST), and other reserved category documents—allowing them to claim benefits under different quotas whenever convenient. He urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to initiate a comprehensive caste census as a long-term policy measure to remove ambiguity and streamline welfare programs.

By raising the issue in the Assembly, the Congress may be trying to tap into the grievance among several caste groups about being denied their due share in the government jobs. This grievance is endemic in the country, so the Congress has homed in on this as its main political issue to take on the BJP. The issue did resonate for it somewhat in the general election last year but since then it has received little support as the party's successive losses in state elections prove.

But this doesn't mean that the issue won't strike a chord in the upcoming elections. More so, in a society rife with a deep caste-based injustice and the consequent resentment and grievance. Many blame the Congress and the wider opposition for its inability to articulate caste-based discrimination in an idiom that makes the concerned groups relate to it. As the things stand, the opposition is still struggling with a proper articulation of what has emerged as one of its main talking points over the last two years.

At the same time, while reservations for the weaker sections of the society are good, the temptation to use this for politics should be restrained. Reservations should serve the purpose they were essentially envisaged for in the first place: the social upliftment of the communities who have suffered discrimination and injustice over centuries. In J&K too, there's a case for the various ethnic and caste groups being treated justly by the system. But it's an end that should be pursued for its own sake, not to score political mileage over rivals.



## A Simple Guide for Kashmiri Investors Using Cost Averaging with ETFs

Irshad Mushtaq

Instead of putting all your money into a single stock, consider spreading it out. Investing in a variety of assets like ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds), REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts), and both global and Indian ETFs can give your portfolio a stable foundation. Diversification means not putting all your eggs in one basket, which helps in managing risks better.

### Balance Your Portfolio Wisely:

Consider pairing your ETFs with other investments like gold and silver. This mix not only spreads risk but also offers stability during market downturns. Remember, the goal is to balance your portfolio—not clutter it with too many different things.

### Don't Put All Your Money in One Stock:

It's crucial to avoid investing all your funds in a single stock, especially when markets are falling. This can be risky if the market continues to drop. Instead, focus on spreading your investments and managing risks sensibly.

### Make Informed Decisions:

Rely on logic and common sense when investing. The market is full of opportunities, especially with the help of technology. Use these tools wisely to make calculated investment decisions.

### Prioritize Quality Investments:

Always choose quality over quantity when investing, even if prices seem attractive. A well-diversified and thoroughly researched portfolio will stand the test of time much better than one filled with subpar options.

In conclusion, approach the market with a clear mind and logical strategies. Investing isn't about chasing trends or making hasty decisions based on emotions. It's about creating a stable and diversified portfolio that can withstand economic shifts. Whether you are new to investing or an experienced investor in Kashmir, following these guidelines can help you navigate a falling market more effectively.

Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at [misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com](mailto:misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com)  
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# If Everyone's a Journalist, Where's Journalism?



Gowher Bhat

“  
Social media isn't going away. It's part of how we get news now. But it shouldn't replace journalism. It shouldn't lower the standards. Journalists need to adapt. Be faster. Be more transparent. But not at the cost of truth

Journalism is about truth. Or it should be. Get the facts. Report them. That's the job. Always has been.

But now? Anyone with a phone can be a journalist. They film. They write. They post. No training. No rules. No one to check if they got it right. They call it news. But is it?

### The Role of Ethics in Journalism

Journalism runs on ethics. Accuracy. Fairness. Accountability. A real journalist checks sources. Cross-checks facts. If they get something wrong, they fix it. That's the system. It keeps things straight.

Without ethics, news is just noise. It becomes opinion disguised as fact. It bends to emotion. A professional journalist knows better. They don't take sides. They don't shape stories to fit their beliefs. They report facts. But social media doesn't work like that. It rewards what gets attention. What gets shared. And what gets shared isn't always the truth.

On social media, a claim is enough. No fact-checking. No second opinion. Just a post, a video, a rumor. It spreads fast. Once it's out there, it's truth to some people. Even if it's not.

A journalist is supposed to be impartial. They aren't supposed to let bias creep in. But social media reporting is different. People post what they want to believe. They report through their own lens. They highlight what they want. They shape the story. And that's how things go wrong.

### The Danger of Misinformation

Misinformation isn't just noise. It changes minds. It shifts moods. A half-truth, a rumor, a headline taken the wrong way—it all adds up. People act on it. They believe it. They react. Sometimes, they panic. Sometimes, they get angry.

Social media runs on engagement. More likes, more shares, more reach. That's the goal. And how do you get attention? Sensation. Drama. Not truth.

In real journalism, mistakes get fixed. A newspaper prints a correction. A journalist who misreports a story faces consequences. But on social media? They move on. No responsibility. No price to pay. That's dangerous.

The Need for Responsible Jour-

nalism, so what's the answer?

First, journalists need to do their job. Stick to the ethics. Report the truth. Don't chase clicks. Chase facts. Be accountable. If they get something wrong, admit it. Fix it. That's how trust is built.

Second, readers need to be smarter. Think before sharing. Ask questions. Who wrote this? Where's the proof? What's the source? If it seems too easy, too extreme—it probably isn't true.

Third, platforms need to step up. They allow content to spread. They should care about what gets posted. Algorithms shouldn't push lies just because they get engagement. There has to be balance.

Journalism isn't just about reporting events. It's about context. It's about showing the full picture. Social media blurs that line. It's time to sharpen it.

### The Public's Role

It's not just about journalists. People have a role, too. Learn media literacy. Know the difference between real news and noise. Question what you see.

Schools should teach it. Universities should focus on it. Newsrooms should talk about it. If people can spot misinformation, they won't fall for it.

Journalists should help. Show the process. Be open. Let people see how real news is made. Transparency builds trust.

### The Cost of Unchecked Journalism

Imagine a world with no ethics in journalism. No standards. No accountability. Just stories. Opinions dressed as facts. That's a dangerous world.

We've seen glimpses. Fake news spreading. Rumors turning into "truth." Reputations ruined overnight. Real harm done. All because people couldn't tell the difference.

Truth is fragile. Once lost, it is hard to get back. People lose faith in journalism. They don't know what to believe. They trust the wrong sources. They doubt the real ones. And when that happens, the damage is lasting.

History is full of moments where misinformation led to real consequences. Panic. Fear. Violence. All from stories that weren't true, but spread like they were.

A single post can ruin a life. A rumor can start a movement.

A lie, repeated enough times, can become a fact to those who hear it often enough. That's how misinformation works. It doesn't have to be a complete lie. It just has to be misleading. Just enough to make people believe it.

### Journalism in the Age of Social Media

Social media isn't going away. It's part of how we get news now. But it shouldn't replace journalism. It shouldn't lower the standards.

Journalists need to adapt. Be faster. Be more transparent. But not at the cost of truth. Being first doesn't matter if you're wrong. Being popular doesn't matter if you're misleading people. The goal has to stay the same—truth, above all else.

News should be verified. Reporters should be held accountable. Platforms should play a role in controlling the spread of misinformation. And readers should be more critical of what they consume.

It's easy to share. Easy to spread something without thinking. But people need to ask themselves: Is this true? Is this fair? Where did this come from? If more people did that, misinformation wouldn't spread so fast. Lies wouldn't travel so far.

### The Future of Journalism

The world moves fast. News moves faster. But truth can't be sacrificed for speed. Ethics can't be lost for clicks.

Journalism matters. Ethics matter. Truth matters. Without them, everything falls apart.

A journalist's job is simple. Report the truth. Not what people want to hear. Not what gets the most shares. Just the truth.

Social media isn't going away. That's reality. But misinformation doesn't have to be the norm. The answer isn't to silence people. It's to raise the bar. Demand better journalism.

Because when journalism is done right, it informs. It educates. It holds power accountable. It tells the truth.

And that's the kind of journalism we need.

The author is an English language instructor based in Pulwama. Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer



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

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## Perils of Urbanisation

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

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

While satellite cities offer many advantages over living from the crowded centre of a metropolis, they have their own set of challenges too, like lack of amenities and job opportunities, rendering them as isolated suburbs. Despite these challenges, satellite cities continue to be popular places to live for those who want to be close to a major metropolitan area but don't want to deal with all the hustle and bustle. Overall, the fu-

ture of satellite cities is looking very bright. With the continued development of smart city technology and the rise of mixed-use areas, these cities are becoming more sustainable, and attractive places to live and work.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

# Here's How You Can Have a Productive Ramazan

Sarah Koul

**R**AMAZAN is the most precious month in the Islamic calendar. The gates of hell are shut and gates of heaven are thrown open and every believer is showered with a multitude of blessings for each of their good deeds. At the core, it is the opportunity for each muslim to connect to their spiritual sense by giving up all scripturally forbidden and restricted desires of the world.

When we fast, we do not only refrain from eating but from all forms of materialistic consumption, and what is spirituality if not the lack of desire for worldly ease? We may give up feeding our bodies but we start feeding our soul which relies and thrives upon the remembrance of our creator. This month of barakah which satiates the quench of our soul, must be lived exceptionally by drowning oneself in ibadah and engaging in good deeds to benefit in this world and the hereafter.

It is the month of spiritual cleansing and purification for us. We should try to increase our worship, good deeds and acts of charity so that we are able to benefit from the



immense blessings of Ramazan and seek salvation. Here are some ways



you can make your Ramazan more productive and engage more with your deen than duniya.

Make a journal consisting of goals and aims you want to achieve on a daily basis. For example, list out a few duas you want to repeat throughout the day, or set a goal of how many pages of the Quran you ought to complete. You can list your tasks you want to perform throughout the day and keep a check on your progress through your journal.

#### Meal Prep in Advance

Women mostly have to spend more of their time in the kitchen preparing meals for iftaar and suhoor. You should help or prepare the meals in advance during the morning hours so that you can spend the rest of your day engaged in worship.

#### Completing the Quran with Translation

The main purpose of the Quran is to guide us through every aspect

of life. It is not just a book meant to be recited on a daily basis, it preaches us about almost every-

#### Pondering Over Hadith and Memorising

Hadiths are the valuable say-



thing encompassing life and hereafter. The Quran is meant to teach how we ought to spend our lives preparing for the hereafter, it is filled with guidance and knowledge and must not only be recited but also understood.

ings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which teach us the noble way of life. They are a major source of religious law and moral guidance, second only to the authority of the Quran, the holy book of Islam. You can spare

a few minutes of your time remembering hadiths that shape our lives.

#### Start Reading Seerah of Prophet (Peace be Upon Him)

The biography of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which contains the history, events, wars, prayers and sayings of the last messenger of Allah and the struggle he has endured to spread Islam across the globe and to our households. The Prophet (PBUH)'s character is an excellent example for us to follow, and we can learn this example by studying the seerah. Mohammed (PBUH) was a perfect model as a human being in each and every aspect of his life. Loving the Prophet (pbuh) is a necessity for every Muslim. Learning and reflecting upon his life will definitely increase your love for him. Love of the Prophet is what differentiates the believers in the perfection of belief. You can read about resources available on Prophet's Seerah on Kashmir Observer's article, "Indulge in Milad Spirit"

#### Tajweed Courses

Get enrolled in a tajweed program – so that you inculcate a better understanding of the Arabic language and read the Quran flawlessly without any doubts.

#### Connect at Tahajjud

Pray tahajjud everyday – Praying tahajjud provides us with inner strength and mental peace. "Be vigilant in standing up [in prayer] at night, for it was the practice of the pious before you. It is a means of gaining proximity to Allah Ta'ala, expiation for transgressions and a barrier from sins." (Tirmidhi) Ramazan is the most convenient time to offer your tahajjud prayers, you can wake up minutes prior to suhoor to pray and beg to Allah for this part of the night guarantees almighty's mercy and blessings upon you.



Make a journal consisting of goals and aims you want to achieve on a daily basis. For example, list out a few duas you want to repeat throughout the day, or set a goal of how many pages of the Quran you ought to complete

## The Wailing of Parachinar

Syed Eesar Mehdi

**P**arachinar, a small town in Pakistan's Kurram Valley, has been the silent witness to countless tragedies, and yet, its cry for help often goes unanswered. For years, the Shia Muslim population in Parachinar has suffered under the weight of sectarian violence, targeted attacks, and systemic neglect by the state. What has happened here is not an isolated incident but a testament to how Pakistan has failed its Shia citizens, particularly in Parachinar. The year 2024 and the early months of 2025 have exposed, even more starkly, how Pakistan as a state has turned its back on its religious minorities, allowing the Shia community in Parachinar to become an easy target for sectarian violence. It is as though the state has been operating with its eyes closed, unable—or unwilling—to protect its citizens. Parachinar's history has always been marked by its religious diversity, but in recent decades, that diversity has become a source of conflict rather than unity. Parachinar's Shia community has long found itself at odds with Sunni extremist groups who view them as "other." The most disturbing part of this story is not just the violence itself but the government's continued apathy toward the Shia community, allowing them to live in constant fear. The stark reality that has emerged from the violence in Parachinar is that Pakistan, a country that prides itself on being an Islamic republic, has failed its Shia citizens—shattering the myth of equality for all in the process. The attack on Parachinar in June 2017, where twin suicide bombings took the lives of 70 people, was devastating. But it was not the last. The year 2024 brought another tragedy to the region when a bomb blast in Parachinar's market

claimed the lives of 25 people, most of them Shia Muslims. That attack was a cruel reminder of the failure of Pakistan's security forces to contain the rising tide of sectarian violence in the region. The blast, carried out by a group with clear sectarian motives, sent shockwaves through the community. It was a sharp reminder that, despite years of violence and unrest, Parachinar's Shia population continues to live under the constant shadow of death and destruction. And yet, the response from the Pakistani state has been one of indifference, leaving the community to fend for itself.

Even as the people of Parachinar grieve, there has been little action from Islamabad to put an end to the violence. In fact, as 2025 dawned, another attack in January added fuel to the fire. A targeted gun attack left several Shia Muslims dead, exacerbating the already tense atmosphere in Parachinar. Once again, the victims were not just numbers in a news report but human beings with families, dreams, and futures. Yet, in the face of this growing violence, the response from the state has been shockingly muted.

Pakistan, as a country, has long struggled with sectarianism. The roots of this violence stretch back to the 1980s, when the country became embroiled in the Afghan conflict and the military began fostering sectarian Sunni militias to fight in Afghanistan. These groups, bolstered by state support, gained significant power, and their influence soon spread into Pakistan, particularly in areas like Parachinar. The rise of these groups has left the Shia population of Parachinar vulnerable to extremist violence, and the state has been slow—if not outright complicit—in addressing the root causes of this sectarian divide. But the state's failure to act isn't just about historical



Representative Image (Source: X/@naitainayat)



**The Shia community of Parachinar continues to live in fear, hoping against hope that the state will finally rise to its responsibility. But history has shown them otherwise. Until Pakistan confronts its majoritarian bias, the people of Parachinar will continue to bear the brunt of sectarian violence—unprotected, unheard, and forgotten**

factors or distant geopolitical maneuvers. It's about a deep-seated neglect of the Shia minority. The Sunni-majority state has repeatedly failed to protect the rights of the Shia community. In fact, it has often turned a blind eye to the suffering of these citizens. Even when Shia leaders have raised their voices, calling for justice, their appeals have fallen on deaf ears. The Shia people of Parachinar are forced to live with the knowledge that their government, the institution that should be their protector, is not there to shield them from the storm of violence that constantly hangs over their heads. The Pakistani government, while often quick to act in response to violence in other parts of the country, has demonstrated little urgency in protecting Parachinar's Shia population. The military, which has a heavy presence in the region, seems

more interested in controlling the area than providing protection for its citizens. Despite the heavy presence of the military in the Kurram Valley, attacks continue to occur with disturbing regularity. The sheer contradiction between the presence of the military and the rise of violence is a chilling testament to how deeply sectarian divides have embedded themselves within the security forces. The role of the intelligence agencies, particularly the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), also cannot be ignored. There is mounting evidence that, at times, elements within the ISI have been accused of supporting Sunni extremist groups, not just in Afghanistan but also within Pakistan's borders. These groups, which include some that target Shia Muslims, have been allowed to grow in strength and influence—despite

the supposed neutrality of the Pakistani state. This failure to act decisively against these groups has directly contributed to the climate of fear in Parachinar. When the state appears to either implicitly support or turn a blind eye to these groups, it is not just an issue of poor governance—it is an outright betrayal of the Shia community's right to safety. The lack of media coverage also plays a significant role in this neglect. While major attacks and tragedies may garner some attention, the ongoing suffering of the Shia community in Parachinar often remains in the shadows. The media, for the most part, fails to give consistent coverage to the systematic violence that the Shia face. This silence allows the government to sweep these issues under the rug, perpetuating the cycle of violence and neglect. It also prevents the international community from recognizing the severity of the situation in Parachinar, keeping the Shia community's plight confined to the shadows.

What makes this situation even more heartbreaking is the indifference from the political class. Pakistani politicians, particularly those in power, often make hollow statements of solidarity after each attack. Yet, their actions never align with their words. The lack of a long-term strategy to address the root causes of sectarian violence and provide security to the Shia population speaks volumes about where the Shia of Parachinar stand in Pakistan's political landscape. They are, at best, an afterthought, their cries for justice ignored by those who hold the power to bring about real change.

It's not just that the Pakistani state has failed to protect the Shia; it's that it has systematically ignored their suffering. The people of Parachinar, like many other religious minorities in Pakistan, are caught in a cruel

cycle where their very identity makes them targets for violence. They live under the constant threat of death, and when tragedy strikes, they find themselves abandoned by the very state that should be their protector.

What Parachinar reveals about Pakistan is the ugly truth that the state favors the majority while leaving its minorities to fend for themselves. The government's failure to act is not just an issue of mismanagement; it's a reflection of the deep-seated sectarianism within the state apparatus itself. It's not just a case of negligence—it's the selective protection of certain groups over others. The state's indifference to the Shia community in Parachinar shows how deeply entrenched the biases are within Pakistan's power structures.

As 2025 unfolds, Parachinar remains a symbol of a country failing to protect its most vulnerable citizens. The Shia community of Parachinar continues to live in fear, hoping against hope that the state will finally rise to its responsibility. But history has shown them otherwise. Until Pakistan confronts its majoritarian bias, the people of Parachinar will continue to bear the brunt of sectarian violence—unprotected, unheard, and forgotten. The blood of the innocent continues to be shed in Parachinar, and it is time for the state to answer for the suffering it has allowed to persist for far too long.

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

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## CUKashmir celebrates 'World Wildlife Day'

Ganderbal, Mar 5: The Department of Animal Sciences (Zoology), Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) conducted a one-day event to commemorate the "World Wildlife Day" on 3rd of March.

The programme started by highlighting the genesis and importance of the day by Dr. Lateef who also conducted its proceedings.

In his remarks, Head, Dept of Zoology, Prof. Mohammad



Yousuf highlighted the importance of wildlife to humankind and ecology.

Prof. Abid Hamid, Dean School of Life Sciences, in his special remarks, gave a brief introduction about Wildlife and its components. He deliberated on the role of floral and faunal elements in sustaining the ecosystem.

Later, an Expert talk was delivered by Dr. Khurshid Ahmad, Head, Division of Wildlife Sciences, SKUAST-K, wherein

he highlighted the importance of various endemic species of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. He emphasized the importance and need of identifying the grey areas of research from Wildlife of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition to this, Dr. Khurshid suggested measures to safeguard the local wildlife species.

The programme was organised by Dr. Mohammad Lateef (Sr. Assistant Prof. and Nodal Officer for Students Champions

for Wildlife) and Dr. Hameem Mushtaq.

Later, various students participated in a walkathon and painting competition. Ms. Munazah Fayaz and Ms. Aeeba Irshad were adjudged 1st and 2nd in the painting competition. However, for 3rd position there was a tie between Ms. Ayesha Tariq, Ms. Mehreen Rashid and Ms. Fatima Kar. Dr. Hameem Mushtaq proposed the vote of thanks.

### CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

#### Chaos In J&K

autocracy and for democracy and the House, irrespective of party affiliation and ideology, should come together to restore the July 13 holiday and also Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's holiday given his political stature and the contribution," Para said.

The PDP MLA also demanded passing of a resolution in the House for shifting of prisoners from outside jails to J&K and requested Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take the issue of property attachment and other strong arm tactics with the Centre.

He also criticized the BJP for turning J&K into a "glorified municipality" and said the speech of the LG is talking more of "BJP's agenda" rather than reflecting the people's aspirations and sentiments, and the election promises of NC.

"When you choke and suffocate the people, it will result in separatism, boost Jamaat-e-Islami and strengthen the Pakistani agenda. There is an illusion of peace in Kashmir but the reality is that you have a foot on the spring and once it is lifted, the situation will be much worse than the 2010, 2014 and 2016 unrest. This is not a warning but a reality," he said.

BJP's Sharma reacted angrily to Para's statement and opposed the restoration of holiday on July 13.

"I can feel the pain of Para after his party's performance (in assembly elections). You are enjoying the state of Maharaja (Hari Singh)...," he said, triggering protests by treasury benches led by NC, PDP and several independent members and slogan shouting from both sides.

CPI(M) member M Y Tarigami and Congress leader Nizamuddin Bhat also joined the chorus and demanded expunging of the remarks against the 1931 martyrs and an apology from the LoP.

Later, the speaker announced the expunging of the "derogatory remarks" following which all 28 members of the BJP staged a walkout.

"This is their wrong notion that the peace in Kashmir is hollow. The terrorism is taking its last breath, while separatism and Jamaat are buried. The foot is not on the spring but at a smooth surface and Indian security forces have promised to restore peace in J&K," Sharma told reporters outside the assembly.

He said the BJP did not consider those killed in 1931 uprising against Maharaja as "martyrs". "The Maharaja was a justice loving king and anyone who rose up in rebellion is a traitor and we are proud of him. Why are they not shedding tears for those killed in their rule in 2010 and 2016."

Talking to reporters outside the House, Para also defended his speech and said, "July 13 is not the day against Jammu or anyone. This is the day to celebrate democracy and the democratic awakening of the people of J&K. It should be respected in that spirit and the way it was respected in the last seven decades."

He alleged that the BJP is not looking beyond the prism of religion and it is agitating because all of them were Kashmiri Muslims.

#### NC's Silence on

be at the cost of meritorious students."

He argued that peace in Kashmir has come through force rather than reconciliation. "Yes, Kashmir is peaceful, but at what cost? If stability is being maintained through stringent laws, mass arrests, and fear, then what kind of peace is this?"

The speech, delivered during the debate on the Governor's Address, also took aim at the document, calling it a reflection of the BJP's policies rather than those of the ruling NC-led coalition. "Many BJP leaders have praised this document, which tells us everything about whose vision it represents," he remarked.

"This Assembly is weaker than before, but it remains the last platform for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We must decide whether we turn it into a mere municipality or restore its dignity," Para said.

The PDP leader also said he is not asking for the release of the prisoners who were booked under Public Safety Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and lodged in jails outside in 2019 but their shifting to J&K.

"They are suffering in 50 degrees Celsius in Jodhpur and other jails (during summer) and their families are also unable to meet them," he said, adding he also underwent the same suffering after being slapped with two cases under UAPA before becoming the MLA.

The lawmaker also pressed for the reinstatement of Martyrs' Day (July 13) and Sheikh Abdullah's birth anniversary as public holidays, calling it a necessary step to uphold Jammu and Kashmir's political history. "July 13 is not a communal day—it is a day for democracy, marking the end of monarchy in Jammu and Kashmir," he asserted.

"Environmental Assessment For All Development Activities" Para emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir requires periodic environmental assessments for all activities carried out in the name of development.

Para highlighted that a significant mafia in Jammu and Kashmir is exploiting the region's natural resources.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Legislative Assembly Budget Session 2025, Para stated, "Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed the highest level of soil, sand, and stone mining in recent years, and there is a huge mafia behind it."

"Due to mining and large-scale development, extensive destruction is occurring in J&K, particularly in the ecologically fragile Kashmir region," he added.

Para further noted that Jammu and Kashmir's fragile ecology is already under strain, citing the recent dry winter spell that has significantly lowered the water table.

"We have sought answers from the government on whether it assesses and measures the environmental hazards caused by projects, be it roads, railways, or tunnels," he said.

Para continued, "We are inviting environmental troubles in the future. Therefore, we have sought an explanation from the environment minister regarding the environmental assessment of all ongoing projects in Jammu and Kashmir. These projects, carried out in the name of development, are causing large-scale destruction of our resources and environment."

"The point is, there should be a proper mechanism to assess the feasible footfall of pilgrims and tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that glaciers and the ecology are not eroded. The Yatra in Kashmir can only be sustained if there is water, ice, and glaciers," he explained.

The MLA further remarked, "As we can see, our brooks, wells, and streams have dried up. The Jhelum River is witnessing extensive sand mining. There is a mafia in Jammu and Kashmir that is extracting our resources. There should be an environmental assessment of everything happening in the name of development."

#### J&K Eyes Self-Reliance

reply to an unstarred question of National Conference MLA Shamim Firdous in the assembly here, he also responded in affirmative about his government's plan to provide 200 units of free electricity to the consumers as promised in the party manifesto.

"As a major step towards self-reliance, J&K, in consultation with the Government of India, has developed a RA Plan till 2035. This plan outlines the steps needed to increase generation capacity, both through the development of local generating stations and by securing power from external sources," Abdullah said.

As part of this plan, the chief minister said J&K has already signed Power Purchase Agreements for 393 MW of thermal power from six power generators.

"Moving forward, we will continue to implement measures in line with the RA plan to ensure energy security and create a surplus power supply year-round by securing power from diverse generators at affordable prices," he said.

To become self-reliant in power generation and provide uninterrupted electricity to consumers, he said Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) is prioritizing the development of hydroelectric power projects.

In collaboration with NHPC, Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited (JKSPDC) has formed joint ventures such as Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited (CVPP) and Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (RHPC) to implement various new projects in the Union Territory.

These projects include 1000 MW Pakal Dul HEP, 624 MW Kiru HEP, 540 MW Kwar HEP and 850 MW Ratle HEP on the Chenab at Kishtwar. With a combined capacity of 3014 MW and these projects are expected to be commissioned by 2027, the chief minister said.

Additionally, JKSPDC is implementing 37.5 MW Parnai HEP in Poonch district and 12 MW Karnah HEP in Kupwara district.

"This brings the total capacity addition to 3063 MW by 2027-28. Moreover, the 48 MW Lower Kalnai HEP in Kishtwar and the 93 MW New Ganderbal HEP in Ganderbal have already been tendered," he said.

Abdullah said the mega projects - 390 MW Kirthai-I, 258 MW Dulhasti-II, 800 MW Bursar, 1856 MW Sawalkote, 240 MW Uri-I Stage-II, 89 MW Ujh and 930 MW Kirthai-II are also planned to be developed in the coming years.

Although the projects on completion would significantly boost J&K's generation capacity upon their commissioning, the hydro power plants typically experience reduced generation during the winter months, he said.

To achieve self-reliance in power generation, he said it is essential to have a balanced mix of power sources, including thermal and nuclear power. "This will involve securing power from external generators outside J&K."

"Renewable energy sources are also being prioritized as a viable option to meet growing demand and fulfil our international climate change commitments," he said.

On the steps being taken to provide 200

units of free electricity to consumers, the chief minister said necessary steps shall be spelt out during the demand for grants for the sector.

#### Lawmakers Cry

nexus between contractors and the department in a specific constituency.

During the Question Hour, in response to a query by Dr Mohammad Shafi Wani, the minister said 38 schemes had been approved for the Beerwah constituency at an estimated cost of Rs 113.19 crore.

He further informed the House that 24 of these schemes had been completed at a cost of Rs 64.29 crore, while work was in progress on the remaining 14. He also gave detailed information about the schemes, expenditures and areas where water supply had been provided.

However, Wani expressed dissatisfaction with the minister's response.

Several other legislators, including Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, National Conference's Ali Mohammad Dar, AAP's Mehraj Malik, BJP's Baldev Raj and Congress' Legislative Party leader G A Mir, raised supplementary questions, accusing the government of "inefficiency and mismanagement" in implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission.

They alleged that many areas still lacked water supply, particularly in rural regions.

The minister attempted to pacify them, saying that recent rains had helped recharge water sources and that the government was working on a war-footing to complete the pending schemes.

Dar, who had also raised a separate question on the issue, challenged the minister's response. "If this answer is correct, I will resign from my position. It is completely wrong. Action must be taken against those misleading the House," he said.

Dar was supported by various members seeking action against the officials.

The minister said that action would be taken against those responsible for preparing misleading replies.

Congress leader G A Mir termed the Jal Jeevan Mission a "major scam" in Jammu and Kashmir and insisted on a thorough probe. "Even a BJP legislator has now raised concerns. A House committee must be formed," he said.

Nizamuddin Bhat said that even a former secretary of the department had alleged irregularities in the mission. "A House committee should be set up to investigate these claims," he demanded.

AAP MLA Mehraj Malik also echoed similar concerns, alleging "massive corruption" in the mission and calling for an inquiry. "Officials are misleading the House by providing incorrect information," he said.

Addressing the demand for a House committee, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather advised the members to raise the issue during the department's grant discussions.

#### MLAs Questions

combat the drug menace. They called for the establishment of an expert panel and a House committee to examine the issue in depth.

Minister for Health Sakina Itoo acknowledged the severity of the problem but highlighted the impact of the 'Nasha Mukht Abhiyan' launched in September 2022.

"There has been an alarming increase in drug addiction among the youth of J&K. However, after the launch of 'Nasha Mukht Abhiyan', records indicate a slight decline in new registrations," Itoo said in the House while responding to a question by National Conference (NC) MLA Mubarak Gul during the Question Hour.

She informed the House that 25,402 drug addicts have been receiving treatment at various centers in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three years. This includes 9,775 in 2022, 8,702 in 2023 and 6,925 in 2024.

The minister said while outpatient (OPD) drug addiction cases have shown a declining trend over the past three years, inpatient (IPD) cases have significantly increased. She attributed this rise to the expansion of inpatient services in de-addiction centers, leading to better access to care.

CPI (M) MLA M Y Tarigami, Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, AAP MLA Mehraj Malik, BJP MLAs Arvind Gupta and Yudhvir Sethi, and NC MLA Justice Hasnain Masoodi raised supplementary questions, demanding answers on the alleged failure of agencies tackling the crisis.

"It is a very important issue. Over the last several years, drug addiction has drastically increased. Who ruled this region for the past ten years? They must answer for this rise. What measures have they taken to address it?" asked Tarigami.

Calling for a review of the current mechanisms, he urged the formation of an expert team and a House committee to assess and respond to the crisis effectively.

BJP MLAs Yudhvir Sethi and Arvind Gupta also sought details from the government on its efforts to combat drug addiction and called for a full discussion on the matter.

AAP MLA Mehraj Malik criticized the administration for its "utter failure" in handling

the menace and said "there has been a large-scale increase in drug addiction in the region and the government has completely failed to address it".

Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat supported the demand for a House committee, while NC's Justice Hasnain Masoodi called for enhanced infrastructure to strengthen the de-addiction framework.

Despite the minister's initial opposition to further discussion citing her detailed response, Speaker Rather insisted on a half-hour debate to allow members to present their suggestions.

The minister outlined various initiatives taken to curb drug addiction, including adoption of a drug de-addiction policy, formation of a state-level policy, Implementation Committee and massive awareness campaign - 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan'.

She informed the House that 11 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) are functional in Kashmir and 9 in Jammu.

"OPD services are operational in all 20 districts, while inpatient services are available in all nine Government Medical Colleges (GMCs), catering to both male and female patients. Psychiatrists are available in all GMCs in J&K," she said.

She said that 25 medical officers (12 from Jammu and 13 from Kashmir) have been trained at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and deployed to de-addiction centers across the UT.

To enhance monitoring and intervention, real-time surveillance using Google Sheets has been introduced to track trends and measure the effectiveness of interventions, she added.

The minister highlighted the ongoing awareness efforts, including seminars, workshops and programs in schools, colleges and universities, in collaboration with district administrations, NGOs and volunteers.

She also emphasized the TeleMANAS initiative, a helpline set up across all 20 districts to provide mental health support and addiction counseling.

Under 'Project Najaath', launched in November 2023 in Jammu and Pulwama, the government has partnered with J&K Bank to combat drug abuse. The initiative aims to educate communities on the dangers of drug addiction and promote prevention, treatment and support services.

She said the government's proactive approach, including policy reforms, treatment facilities, real-time monitoring and community engagement, aims to tackle the drug menace effectively.

#### Govt Amends

now be printed on the passport, which immigration officials will scan to retrieve information.

Colour-coding system A colour-coding system is being introduced to make it easier to identify the passports of different citizens. White passports for government officials, Red passports for diplomats and Blue passports will continue to be issued to ordinary citizens.

#### Removal Of Parents' Name

The names of the passport holder's parents will no longer be printed on the passport. The purpose of this regulation is to benefit children of divorced or estranged families.

#### Passport Seva Kendra

The Passport Seva Kendra, where passport holders' application and verification process is carried out, will be expanded. In the next five years, there will be 600 "Passport Seva Kendras" operating, up from the current 442.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts extended their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a further 5 years in order to ensure that passport services would continue to be available through the Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs).

#### Amarnath Yatra

He also called for increasing capacity at Yatri Niwas, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar, the spokesperson said.

The meeting also discussed ongoing projects; dissemination of yatra-related information; insurance cover to yatri, service providers; ponies; extension of online services by the shrine board; and widening and maintenance of yatra tracks, he said.

The spokesperson said decongestion measures at holy cave and lower holy cave area, disaster preparedness and mitigation measures, adequate provisioning of Heli services, medical care facilities, weather forecasting infrastructure, and security among others were also deliberated in detail in the meeting.

The LG felicitated the board members and expressed gratitude for their valuable contribution and continuous guidance in successful conduct of the yatra.

#### Omar-Led Cabinet

Ministers including the procedure to be adopted in case of a difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and the Council of Ministers or a Minister.

After reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir,

the Union Home Ministry notified the business rule for J&K UT on August 27, 2020.

The business rules were issued by MHA in exercise of the powers conferred by section 55 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, read with the Proclamation, dated 31st October, 2019 issued under section 73 of the said Act.(KNO)

#### 'Not A Security

previously argued that Rashid was seeking custody parole being a parliamentarian and needed to attend the upcoming session to fulfil his public duty.

Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the place of visit.

Obero said the Delhi High Court had granted custody parole for two days enabling Rashid to attend the parliamentary sessions.

Referring to Rashid's submission of questions on the functioning of J&K departments in Parliament, the lawyer said, "I have put in questions for all those departments. And I am therefore requesting debates on all those questions. I completely abide by the ruling of the high court (that its order of custody parole will not be treated as a precedent)...I am only trying to argue that in the face of the evidence, I am not a security threat."

He argued Rashid as a parliamentarian represented 45 per cent of Kashmir and so he could be allowed to represent his constituency.

"I am only requesting that he (Rashid) needs to go to Parliament for the people. It is not my contention that it is the fundamental right of my client to attend Parliament. It is my summation that it is a fundamental duty to attend it," the counsel said.

The NIA counsel opposed the submission and said being a parliamentarian, did not entitle a person exceptions from the effect of detention.

"Today, he is a person who is an MP (seeking custody parole on grounds of fulfilling his duty). Tomorrow, a doctor may be saying that I am accused of an offence, but I need to conduct surgery to save the lives of people and that my patients are waiting? Can he conduct surgery?... So any person may say that I have to perform my duty, I have to discharge my function...." the NIA's counsel argued.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, known as Engineer Rashid, defeated Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla.

Rashid's regular bail application is currently pending before the court.

The second part of Parliament's budget session would begin on March 10 and end on April 4.

The judge on September 10 granted interim bail to Rashid to enable him to campaign for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rashid surrendered in Tihar jail on October 27. He has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a 2017 terror funding case.

The Delhi High Court on February 24 directed the sessions judge to expeditiously decide the bail plea of Rashid in the case.

The high court passed the directions in view of a December 24, 2024 order, by which the sessions court requested the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers.

Rashid's name cropped up during the investigation of Kashmiri businessman Zahoar Watali, who was arrested by the NIA for allegedly funding terrorist groups and separatists in the Kashmir Valley.

The NIA filed a chargesheet against several persons, including Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, in the case.

Malik was sentenced to life imprisonment by a trial court in 2022 after he pleaded guilty to the charges.

#### J&K Records

and Kathua stations however, recorded the deficit rainfall during the period, the data reads, adding that some of the stations including Ramban, Kishtwar and Bandipora have recorded large excess rainfall in the last five days.

Anantnag, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kulgam and Poonch have recorded normal precipitation during the period.

The recent wet spell has recharged the water bodies in Kashmir.

As per the data, river Jhelum at Ram Munshi Bagh was flowing at 4.47 feet this evening, showing a rise in the water level.

The other streams too witnessed a rise in the water level following the recent back-to-back wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, the weatherman here has predicted another wet spell from March 10 in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow (higher reaches) at many places on March 10 and 11, adding that the cloudy weather conditions are expected on March 12 while a spell of rain and snow is expected on March 13 and 14.(KNO)

## Power Demand Increases By Nearly '80 MWs' in Ramazan

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** In Kashmir valley, the power demand has increased by nearly 80 Megawatts (MWs) of power in the ongoing holy month of Ramazan during peak hours.

A top official of Power Development Department (PDD) said that the power demand has increased from the past four days by nearly 80 MWs in comparison to previous month.

The official said, "As of now in Ramazan, the power supply and demand is touching at least 1900 MWs. Yesterday, we delivered over 1900 MWs of power."

"On an average, there used to be a peak power demand of 1800 MWs in the previous month, but in ongoing Ramad-han the power demand is much higher," the official said.

The official further added, "Currently, the power demand in Kashmir valley has increased by nearly 80 MWs. The power demand however fluctuates and

is not below the 1900 MWs."

On asking about the power generation, the official said, "Power generation has slightly increased due to the recent rainfall."

"As of now, the lower Jhelum power plant in Kashmir region is producing 90 MWs on an average," the official said.

Officials of PDD department had claimed that local hydro power generation from the local power plants have reduced by nearly 90 percent.

An official had informed that "At present Jammu and Kashmir is 85-90 percent dependent on coal and solar energy that is being procured from the other states because as of now we don't have a local power generation."

"In winters the local hydro power generation of Jammu and Kashmir power plants has reduced by almost 90 percent and in order to cater the requisite power demand, we need to have a base power availability that we procure from outside states. The energy is coal based energy," the official had said—(KNO)

## Walkway, Jetties To Enhance Eco-Tourism At Wular Lake: Govt

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said it is taking a major conservation and eco-tourism development initiative for Wular Lake with Rs 18.73 crore being spent on restoration efforts including dredging and walkway construction.

In the next financial year, an additional Rs 22.09 crore has been allocated for new projects, including eco-tourism, cycling tracks and others, Minister in charge of Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department said in a written reply to queries by MLA Irshad Rasool Kar.

The minister said that the Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) has been actively implementing a Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP) since its establishment in 2012.

He highlighted the completion of lake boundary demarcation with the installation of 1,159 geo-referenced concrete pillars using GPS and remote sensing technology, while the total revenue area of Wular Lake stands at 130 sq km. He also mentioned the restoration of 5 sq km of critically silted lake area by dredging 78.43 lakh cubic metres of silt, which increased the lake's water-holding capacity.

On Eco-Tourism development, the minister said the government is taking several key projects including the construction of a Non-Motorable Walkway (Phase-I, 2.5 km) with cycling tracks, lookout points, and jetties at Banyari and S.K. Payeen, being executed by R&B at a cost of Rs 18.73 crore.

Plans for Phase-II of the walkway, with a Rs 9.99 crore investment, are set for the next

financial year and cycling tracks from Watlab, Adipora, and Ninglee under DPR development, to be executed by R&B Sopore, the minister said, adding that ecotourism parks at Banyari, Garoora, and Ninglee have been tendered for execution at a total cost of Rs 12.10 crore.

Impact On Aquatic Life & Corrective Measures

The minister clarified that all restoration and development works follow guidelines set by Wetlands International South Asia (WISA) under CMAP, ensuring no adverse effects on aquatic life or biodiversity.

He said an impact study is being conducted by the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, to scientifically assess major interventions and recommend corrective measures where necessary.

The minister also stated that Wular Lake contributes 60% of Kashmir's total fish production, directly supporting 5,200 registered fishermen. While fisheries fall under the Fisheries Department's jurisdiction, WUCMA has initiated several scientific studies, including a SKUAST-Kashmir study on ichthyofaunal biodiversity and catch-per-unit effort, providing crucial data for sustainable fishery management, and a livelihood study by IIM, aimed at identifying additional economic engagement opportunities for local fishermen and surrounding communities.—(KNO)

## Mirwaiz Attacks BJP Leader For 'Outrageous' Remarks Against 'Martyrs'

### Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Wednesday hit out at BJP leader Sunil Sharma for making "outrageous" remarks against the "martyrs" of July 13, 1931.

More than 20 unarmed protesters were killed by the soldiers of the Dogra army on July 13, 1931 during an uprising against Maharaja Hari Singh.

Leader of Opposition in JK Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma on Wednesday made some "objectionable" comments in the House about the 1931 "martyrs". Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather later expunged the remarks.

"Strongly condemn the outrageous remarks by a BJP member in the Assembly with regard to the martyrs of 13th July, 1931 who were killed in cold blood for standing up for the rights and dignity of the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir," Mirwaiz posted on his X handle.

He said the 1931 martyrs are revered by everyone in J-K and any attempt to malign them will be resisted.

"These martyrs revered by one and all in J&K are part

of our collective memory of the great sacrifices rendered by the people of Kashmir for their rights, and any attempt to malign them will be firmly resisted," he added.

July 13 used to be a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir with the governor or the chief minister paying tributes at an official function in the Nowhatta area of the city to those who were killed.

The holiday was scrapped and official functions are not held anymore following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

## Gurez Valley Emerging As Tourist Destination: CM Omar

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The picturesque Gurez Valley near the Line of Control (LoC) in Bandipora district is emerging as a new tourist destination and the Jammu and Kashmir government would approach the Union tourism ministry for its further development, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday.

Responding to a question raised by National Conference member Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi in the legislative assembly, Abdullah said the Gurez Valley recently gained significant recognition as a tourist destination, and the tourism department would assess the need to establish a tourism development authority (TDA) for the valley.

"In 2022, Gurez Valley received the 'best offbeat destination' award, emphasising its appeal as a unique and emerging



tourist spot," Abdullah said.

The chief minister, who also holds the tourism portfolio, said that in September 2023, Dawar village in Gurez was honoured with the 'best tourism village' award in the gold category by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

"This accolade highlights the village's cultural richness and tourism potential," he said.

To promote Gurez as a new tourist destination, Abdullah said the tourism department has taken several initiatives, including commercial rafting which was started there for the first time in 2024.

Besides, during the current fi-

nancial year, the tourism department projected the upgradation of Gurez as an offbeat destination under the capex budget (2024-25), the chief minister said.

Responding to a supplementary question, Abdullah said his government will approach the Union tourism ministry for further development of Gurez Valley.

Replying to another query by National Conference member Ali Mohammad Sagar during Question Hour, Abdullah said the assistance scale for victims of fire incidents is as per the revised norms of assistance of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) issued by the disaster management division under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Abdullah, who is also the minister for disaster management, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, said these norms are reviewed every five years.

## Govt Trying To Do All Pending Works Of Past 10-Years: Dy CM

### Agencies

**JAMMU:** Calling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) a "frustrated" party, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary on Wednesday said it is not necessary to respond to every statement of the PDP.

Talking to the reporters here, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "PDP has become irrelevant as the people have rejected it. We can't keep on responding to their statements on a daily basis. It just wants to

remain in the news."

He said, "At present J&K is trying to resolve the issues confronting it. The government is putting in every possible effort to make lives easy for the people." "The Omar Abdullah led dispensation is trying to do all the work that were not done in the past 10 years. We have just completed 3.5 months in the office and there is still a long way to go."

Moreover, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the unparliamentary language used against

the martyrs of July 13 doesn't suit at all. He added that the martyrs, no matter which community they belong to, should be respected as they have sacrificed their lives for safeguarding the constitution and the wellbeing of the people.

He also questioned the abrogation of Article 370 and snatching the statehood from J&K. "I want to ask the BJP leaders that if they respected Maharajah then why did they snatch all the safeguards framed by them."—(KNO)

**The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education**  
NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR  
**ATTENTION PLEASE**

The candidate whose photograph is published here claimed to have lost his qualification certificate has the following description:  
Roll No: 72173 Class: 10th  
Year & Session: 2013/ Oct/Nov Reg  
Registration No: N12381710011  
Name: Sajad Ahmad Rather  
Father's Name: Manzoor Ahmad Rather  
Mother's Name: Dilshada Akhter  
Date of Birth: 25-03-1999  
Residence: Chrawani Budgam

Now the candidate has applied for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody has any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.

(Besides, the "Qualification certificate" bearing Serial No/s \_\_\_\_\_ is/are be treated as cancelled.  
No./F(Certs-KD-DQC)/B/KD/22  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
FKO Deputy Secretary  
Certificates, KD

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Aarifa Nabi (Krishi Udyamis) D/O Gh Nabi Bhat R/o prichoo pulwama is going to open pesticides, fertilizers and seeds retail at KKG Gangoo Pulwama, if anybody is having any objection kindly file it to the chief agriculture office Pulwama within 7 days positively, No objection will be entertained after 7 days.

PHW

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want change my name in school records from old name MURTAZA AIJAZ S/O AIJAZ AHMAD MAGRAY to new name MURTAZA AJAZ S/o AJAZ AHMAD MAGRAY. In future I will be known as MURTAZA AJAZ S/o AJAZ AHMAD MAGRAY. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

MURTAZA AJAZ  
S/o AJAZ AHMAD MAGRAY PD

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 9121 6938 7222 from Adiba Shabir (old name) to Areeba Shabir (New name).

Areeba Shabir  
R/o: Wara sangam Budgam JVD

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 4748 8588 8493 from Khatija (old name) to Khajamal (New name).

Khajamal  
R/o: Mughal Mohalla, Chattabal Srinagar JVD

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Showkat Ahmad Dar want to change my daughters name in her aadhar card bearing no 5280 7104 7004 from Zainab Binti Showkat (old name) to Zainab jan (new name).

Showkat Ahmad Dar  
R/o: Ladhoo Khrew Pulwama JVD

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Showkat Ahmad Dar want to change my Sons name in her aadhar card bearing no 2759 3299 0305 from Anas Ibrni Showkat (old name) to Mohammad Anas Dar (new name).

Showkat Ahmad Dar  
R/o: Ladhoo Khrew Pulwama JVD

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-AUCTION NOTICE**

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-OH25-8	18-03-25 at 11:00 बजे	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through: 1) Static media at Madhopur Punjab & Bhogpur Sirwal Railway Station. 2) Static media/overhead of water tank at Samba Railway Station. 3) Exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Sujapur, Bari Brahmna, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot, Baramulla Sopur, Budgam, Srinagar, Anantnag, Qazigund & Banihal Railway Station. 4) Static media at Level crossings adjoining to China, Railway Station.
EAFZR-CTG25-7	18-03-25 at 11:00 hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Beas/2 & Kotkapura Railway Station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
No. MC/38015/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date : 05/03/2025 713/2025

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**E-Tender Notice for Repair and Supply of Parts of Audio Conferencing System in Associated Hospital, GMC Baramulla**  
**E-Tender Notice No: 27-GMGB of 2024-25 Dated: - 21-02-2025**

On behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, e tenders are invited through Principal, Government Medical College Baramulla for Repair and Supply of Parts of Audio Conferencing System in Associated Hospital, GMC Baramulla as per the Annexure "A" to this tender notice from Firms/Companies/Related Dealers for Government Medical College & its Associated Hospital. The tender document can be downloaded from the website [www.gmcbaramulla.com](http://www.gmcbaramulla.com) and [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) w.e.f. 21-02-2025 to 10-03-2025

The tender details and schedules as per following.

Item Description	Tender Fee	EMD
Repair and Supply of Parts of Audio Conferencing System	1000	10,000/-

Date & Time of release of bid	21/02/2025 (04:00 PM)
Last date for entertaining any clarification/representation	23/02/2025 (09:00 AM)
Online bid submission start date	23/02/2025 (09:00 AM)
Last date for submission of online bids	10/03/2025 (11:00 AM)
Opening of Technical bids	12/03/2025 (03:30 PM)

- Any query to clear can be done through email id on [principalmedicalcollegebaramulla@gmail.com](mailto:principalmedicalcollegebaramulla@gmail.com).
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received or cancel the whole tendering process without assigning any reason thereof.

**Annexure "A"**  
E-Tender Notice No: 27-GMGB of 2024-25 Dated: 21-02-2025

**DETAILS OF THE WORK TO BE DONE**

S. No.	Description	Quantity	Rate to be filled by the bidder including all taxes
1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of SMF Battery 42 AH for 2 Kva UPS with buy back option	06 No's	
2	Repair of Audio Conferencing controller with replacement of necessary parts	01 No.	
3	Re commissioning of Audio conferencing system at site	01 Job	

NO: GMGB/PO/2024-25/1512/3618-24  
Dated: 12-02-2025  
DIPK-12657-24  
DT: 05/03/2025

SD/-  
Principal/Dean  
Govt. Medical College  
Baramulla

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION KASHMIR,**  
**ENGINEERING COMPLEX SRINAGAR RAJBAGH.**  
**NEAR SILK FACTORY SRINAGAR- 190008.**

(SHORT TERM) NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
E-NIT No.225/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/11345-53 DATED:03-03-2025.  
For and on behalf of The Government of J&K(U/T)-tenders (in Double cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimate- ed. Cost (In. Lacs)	Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Construction of Niyabat with Pathwar Khana and Tehsil Supply Office at path Dailgam (Electric Part)	Rs. 0.451/- Lacs	Rs. 200/=	Rs. 905/=	07 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	District Capex Budget (Sector PRI 2024-25_)	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by District Development Commissioner Anantnag vide order No.231DDCA of 2024 Dated:- 31-10-2024
02	Construction of sub centre at Wanihama (Electric Part)	Rs. 0.301/- Lacs	Rs. 200/=	Rs. 605/=	07 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	District Capex Budget (Sector PRI 2024-25)	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by District Development Commissioner Anantnag vide order No.231 DDCA of 2024 Dated:- 31-10-2024
03	Construction of Govt Health and Welfare Centre Building Naidpora (Electric Part)	Rs. 0.328/- Lacs	Rs. 200/=	Rs. 660/=	Linked with progress of civil work	"AAY" Class Electrical	District Capex Budget (Sector PRI 2024-25_)	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by District Development Commissioner Anantnag vide order No.231 DDCA of 2024 Dated:- 31-10-2024-2024

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-03-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-03-2025 from 06.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	03-03-2025 from 06.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	10-03-2025 upto 04.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-03-2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:  
Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy.  
As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat/Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dt.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-  
a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.  
1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).  
23 All other terms & conditions shall be as are as per the SBD/ Contract Agreement.Engineerin

SD/-  
Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir  
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## Govt's Stance On Playing Pakistan Very Clear: BCCI VP In Lahore

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: BCCI vice president Rajeev Shukla on Wednesday said it is "very categorical and clear" that resumption of bilateral cricket between India and Pakistan is subjected to Indian government's clearance.

The senior BCCI official, who is here on the invitation of the Pakistan Cricket Board to watch the Champions Trophy semifinal between New Zealand and South Africa, also said India team doesn't depend on favourable pitches to excel.

"As far as you are asking about (cricket) between the two countries, it is very categorical and clear that it is the (Indian) government's decision. Whatever the government of India says, we will go as per them," Shukla told the Pakistan media on Wednesday.

"Pakistan is hosting an international tournament after a long time and it is a good thing. They have organised it well," he added.



While Shukla agreed the fans from both countries want bilateral ties to be resumed, he did not sound positive on the idea of playing at a neutral venue.

"It is true that fans from both the countries want the teams to play but the

BCCI policy has been, and PCB would too have such a policy, that bilateral matches should be held on each other's soil and not at a third (or) neutral venue," he said. "This has been BCCI's consistent policy. There is also a provision in the ICC

which is about the government's consent. It is a big provision, so it happens according to the point of view of government's consent."

"Every other country would offer to host India-Pakistan, who would not?" the veteran administrator added.

"We (BCCI) keep our point in front of the government but they decide after their deliberations. When the government takes a decision, it is after considering a lot of aspects. It is their internal matter," he continued.

Shukla refuted the argument that Indian team, which has qualified for the Champions Trophy final, has enjoyed the benefit of playing at only one venue in this eight-team tournament.

The quick-witted Shukla was asked if it would not have been better if the final had been held in Lahore, to which he responded: "For that, Australia should have won yesterday (Tuesday). But since they lost, the final would have to be played in Dubai."

### Short TAKES

#### NZ Beat SA By 50 Runs, To Face India In CT Final

New Zealand beat South Africa by 50 runs in Champions Trophy semifinal to set up a summit clash against India, here on Wednesday.

New Zealand scored a mammoth 362 for six after electing to bat, courtesy Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson's fluent centuries, and then restricted South Africa to 312 for 9 in 50 overs.

South Africa seemed to be on course in the initial part of their run chase but they stumbled later on, losing wickets in the middle overs, to eventually lose their way.

David Miller remained not out on 100 while captain Temba Bavuma (56) and Rassie van der Dussen (69) struck half centuries but those were not enough while chasing a tall target.

Mitchell Santner (3/43) was the most successful bowler for New Zealand with three wickets, while Glenn Phillips and Matt Henry also chipped in with two each. Earlier, Ravindra produced a 101-ball 108-run knock that was laced with 13 fours and a six, while Williamson smashed 102 off 94 balls with 10 fours and two maximums.

Daryl Mitchell (49) and Glenn Phillips (49 not out) provided the fireworks in the slog overs.

#### Playing All Matches In Dubai Helped India, Says Mohammed Shami

Mohammed Shami has conceded that operating as India's lone front-line pacer after coming back from a lengthy injury layoff is a heavy "responsibility", even as he tries to regain his "rhythm" to suit the team's needs in the ongoing Champions Trophy. Shami has so far picked eight wickets in the tournament.

Shami said it is an advantage for him that all of India's Champions Trophy matches are being played in Dubai.

"It has definitely helped us because we know the conditions and the behaviour of the pitch. It is a plus point that you are playing all the matches at one venue."

"The main thing is to gauge the conditions and know how the pitch behaves because you are playing at one venue and you can get to know it well," he said.

#### Lamine Yamal Will Renew Contract With Barcelona, Says Agent

Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal will extend his contract with the LaLiga club beyond 2026, his agent Jorge Mendes said on Wednesday.

The 17-year-old Spain international, who won the 2024 Golden Boy award to cap off a year in which he helped his country win the European Championship, has scored 11 goals and provided 16 assists in 35 appearances in all competitions this season for Barca.

A product of the Barca academy, Yamal has played 86 times for the Catalan club since making his senior debut in April 2023.

"Lamine is going to continue at Barca, the important thing now is to think about sporting matters," Mendes told Spanish media after a meeting with Barca president Joan Laporta in Lisbon. Barcelona visit Portuguese side Benfica for the Champions League round of 16 first-leg tie later on Wednesday.

## Virat Kohli Moves Up To No. 4 In ODI Rankings; Axar, Shami Also Make Gains

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India batting superstar Virat Kohli on Wednesday moved up a spot to reach fourth place in the ICC ODI rankings for batters after his match-winning 84 against Australia in Champions Trophy semifinal.

Kohli's rise, however, coincided with skipper Rohit Sharma dropping down two positions to fifth as South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen also moved up one spot to take the third.

India vice-captain and opener Shubman Gill continues to hold the top spot followed by Pakistan's Babar Azam at second.

Among other Indians, spin bowling all-rounder Axar Patel and pacer Mohammed Shami also moved up in the rankings for all-rounders and bowlers respectively.

Patel moved up to 13th spot with career-high 194 rating points in the latest release as per the ICC among all-rounders, which saw Afghanistan's



Azmatullah Omarzai replacing compatriot Mohammad Nabi in the process.

Omarzai now has a total of 296 rating points and moved up two positions to claimed the No 1 ranking.

With eight wickets so far in the Champions Trophy, Shami, meanwhile, moved up

three positions to reach 11th with 609 rating points.

New Zealand's Matt Henry (649) claimed the third spot after moving up three positions among bowlers behind Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana at the top spot and South Africa's Keshav Maharaj at second.

## Steve Smith Bids Adieu To ODIs After Australia's CT Exit

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Australia's stand-in skipper Steve Smith on Wednesday announced his retirement from ODI cricket following his team's four-wicket loss to India in the Champions Trophy semifinal here but the star batter will continue to play Tests and T20 Internationals.

The 35-year-old, who was leading the world champion side in the absence of an injured Pat Cummins, informed his teammates after the match that he would be stepping away from the 50-over format with immediate effect.

Reflecting on his decision, Smith said it was the right time to step aside as Australia builds itself for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

"It has been a great ride, and I have loved every minute of it," Smith said. "There have been so many amazing times and wonderful memories. Winning two World Cups was a great highlight along with the many fantastic team-mates who shared the journey," he added in a media release shared by Cricket Australia.

A key member of Australia's victorious 2015 and 2023 ICC World Cup-winning teams, Smith was named



Australia's men's ODI Player of the Year in 2015 and 2021 and earned a place in the ICC men's ODI Team of the Year in 2015.

He took over the ODI captaincy in 2015 and, fittingly, led the side one last time in his final match.

"Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup so it feels like the right time to make way," he said.

The veteran of 170 ODIs said Test cricket remains a priority and he is looking forward to the World Test Championship Final in June.

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

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