

# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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## J&K BUDGET SESSION DAY 4

**ALL MEMBERS OF** 

**WOULD** support a

resolution in favor of

THE ASSEMBLY

## **CM To Present Budget In Assembly Today**

**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: After a gap of seven years, Jammu & Kashmir's annual budget for 2025-26 will be presented in the Legislative Assembly on Friday by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also serving as finance minister of the Union Territory.

J&K's annual financial statement of expenditure for 2025-26 and the supplementary statement of expenditure for 2024-25 will be presented in the House by Omar Abdullah tomorrow after the conclusion of question hour.

This will be for the first time since 2018 that the budget of J&K will be presented in the Assembly. After imposition of

central rule in Jammu & Kashmir in 2018, the budget documents of the UT were tabled annually in the Parliament by the Union Finance Minister. It is for the first time in history that the CM would unveil the budget in the Assembly.

As already reported, the cabinet gave its go-ahead to the budget during its meeting on March 02.

As per the calendar issued by the Legislative Assembly secretariat, there will be general discussions on the budget on March 8, 10, and 11. The Finance Minister, who is also the Chief Minister, will conclude discussion on the budget on March 11 with his reply.

All eyes are on the budget given commitments made by the National | More on P6

#### J&K Economy Projected To Grow At 7.06% In 2024-25

Domestic Product (GSDP) is expected to rise by 11.19 per cent in 2024-25, according to the Economic Survey Report (ESR) for 2025. The report said that J&K has shown | More on P6

#### **Business Rules Sent To LG For Approval**

hief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said business rules for the government have been framed and sent to the Lieutenant Governor for approval to facilitate smooth governance without confusion. "Until we receive statehood, it is necessary to establish business rules for clarity. It took some time, but | More on P6

## Name One Project That Needed Art 370's Removal: CM To BJP

Criticizes Use Of PSA To Detain Individuals Without Trial | 'July 13 Martyrs' Sacrifices Can't Be Erased'

**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah launched a strong attack on the BJP, questioning its claims that the removal of Article 370 was essential for development.

Speaking during the Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant Governor's address in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister demanded that the BJP name a single project that could not have been executed before 2019.

He challenged the opposition to name one development project that could not have been implemented without the removal of Article 370. "Most of the projects you listed were started before 2019. But I won't get into that debate. I am asking you to name one development-related project that was not possible before the removal of Article 370.," he said.

Omar also refuted claims that Article 370 was

#### 'Govt Will Fulfil All **Election Promises'**

hief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday assured people that the National Conference-led government will fulfil all its poll promises including those related to prisoners and "arbitrary" termination of | More on P6

responsible for corruption, nepotism, and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that terrorism has not ceased after the abrogation of Article 370,

particularly in Jammu. "If

statehood if brought to the floor. **PREVENTIVE DETENTION** is needed when you cannot build a case against

Article 370 alone someone.

of Thanks on the Lieutenant was responsible for terror- $\mathbf{G}$ ism in Jammu and Kashmir, **WHETHER JULY 13** then it should **AND DECEMBER** have stopped 5 are declared moval. But it did holidays or not, not. So, it will not matter because the people respect them from

> Governor's address in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said, "The sacrifices of the martyrs and the contributions of Sher-e-Kashmir remain indelible in the hearts of the people, regardless of political | More on P6

their hearts."

there is more to it," he said.

fices of "July 13 Martyrs"

cannot be erased, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

on Thursday, said that late Sheikh Mohammad

Abdullah's stature was not

tied to December 5 holiday.

Speaking during the Motion

Asserting that sacri-

**'Not Just** PoK, Reclaim China-Held J&K Too'

mar Abdullah on Thursday said they would be grateful to the BJP-led government if alongside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) it also retrieves the part of the Union Territory | More on P6

## **Some People Trying** To Silence Us: CM

sserting that nobody can snatch a right from citizens to discuss Article 370, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said some people are trying to "intimidate, threaten and silence us" but his party will continue its fight for the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Winding up the discussion on motion of thanks to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's address, Abdullah said the dignity of J&K has gone with the downgrading of the erstwhile state into the Union Territory.

...I am not fighting for statehood for my own self, this fight is in the interest of J&K. The things which we want to do can be given the practical shape only when we get back to statehood. The things which we want back and the things which need to be changed," the chief minister said.

Referring to Peoples Conference legislator Sajad Gani Lone's demand that a resolution should have been passed in the House for restoration of statehood instead of passing the resolution in the cabinet meeting, he said such a resolution was not deliberately moved in the House considering that every member is supportive of the demand.

Our dignity has gone with the downgrading of the state (to Union Territory). If you wish to move a resolution on it, please go ahead and we will support you," he said.

He said the fight for statehood is based on "truth, justice and law" and its restoration | More on P6



Masjid. KO Photo By Faisal Khan

## **J&K Council Of Ministers Capped At 10%**

Agencies

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Thursday said that the council of ministers in Iammu & Kashmir shouldn't consist of more than 10 percent of the total members in the Legislative Assembly.

In a written reply to question of MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who happens to be minister in-charge of the General Administration Department, said that strength of the council of ministers shouldn't be more than 10 percent of the total members of the Assembly as per Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019.

To a question | More on P6

## Tarigami Bats For Job, Land **Rights For J&K Residents**

Slams BJP For Undermining Dogra Legacy

**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: During the ongoing Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Committee Member and MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, called for the restoration of job and land rights for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, as originally guaranteed by Maharaja Hari Singh.

Tarigami also demanded that the region be restored to its original constitutional status, emphasizing the need to protect the core interests of its people.

discussion took place during the Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant



Tarigami strongly rebutted remarks made by BJP's Leader of Opposition (LOP) Sunil Sharma regarding the July 13, 1931 martyrs.

Tarigami expressed disappointment over the comments made by senior BJP members, stating, "It is unfortunate that senior | More on P6

## **LG's Address A Love Letter From NC To BJP: Lone**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar- Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone on Thursday described LG's address as a "love letter" from the National Conference (NC) the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from the J&K Assembly.

During discussions on the Motion of Thanks on the LG's address, Lone stated that the LG's address appears to be a love letter from the NC to the BIP.

"You have sent many love letters to the BJP, and this one is from the Assembly," Lone remarked.

Reading out from NC's manifesto, Lone heavily criticized the ruling party for not mentioning Article 370, Article 35A, the Public | More on P6

## **Fight Against Drugs, Terrorism** On Same Pedestal: DGP

**Press Trust Of India** 

Jammu: Accusing Pakistan's and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of controlling narcotics smuggling through terror groups and pushing drugs into the Indian side, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat said on Thursday that the fight against drugs and terrorism will be fought "on the same pedestal"

He also called for a crackdown on public consumption of liquor in vehicles in the

"The fight against drugs will be on an equal pedestal as combating terrorism," Prabhat said during an interaction at the Thana Diwas programme here. The Director General of

emphasised that the drug menace is a reality and efforts to combat it are inadequate.

"No matter how much we fight, it is still inadequate. The police are fighting it. The law is fighting it. It is an organised crime network," he said while accusing agencies from Pakistan of pushing the contraband



"from our western borders". "It is being controlled by Pakistan's army and ISI through their terror outfits to engineer smuggling into our territory... This is a challenge, and the police will continue to fight it until the end," he said.

"We are fighting it, but society has to come forward," he said and suggested monitoring the activities of children at the family level.

He lamented lack of parental oversight and noted that even schoolchildren, in uniform, are found selling small bags of drugs and other contraband substances. "There needs to be a focus on this," he said.

"There is a lack | More on P6



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

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

## KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Friday | 07-03-2025

#### OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application Mr. Assadullah Chopan S/o Mohd Ramzan Chopan R/o Saloosa in favour of Mohd Aslam . Faisal Ahmad. Ashmat . Ishrat for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his/her/their favor.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC. In this connection, a report of the Patwari Halqa concerned has been sought, which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Salosa, Tehsil Kreeri, and belongs to the Chopan community, having an annual income of Rs. 1,80,000. The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S.No	Name of the Fam-	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Annual
	ily Member	with the Ap-			Income
		plicant			
01	M. Assadullah	Father	59	Labour	-
02	Naseema Begum	Mother	55	H.W. (Housewife)	-
03	M. Aslam Chopin	Brother	80	Student	-
04	Ishrat Assadullah	Sister	24	-	-
05	Asmat	-	29	-	-
ns.	Faical Ab		22		

Therefore, through this Public Notice, objections are being sought from the public. If any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

On the horizon for residents of Magam! A new tour and travel agency, aptly named "Walnut Tree Holidays ", extend an invitation to all residents to voice any objections or concerns they may have regarding the establishment of the agency. Individuals are encouraged to reach out within a one-week period and approach to concern authority

Regards: Shuja Abbas Wani . Cell no. 9149574693

bmg

mcb

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificates of my sons 1- KIYAN ALI 2- MOHAMMAD HASHIM BHAT fathers name is entered as IDREES HUSSAIN BHAT while actual name is IDRIS HUSSAIN BHAT. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EX-ECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that. **IDRIS HUSSAIN BHAT** F/o 1- KIYAN ALI

2- MOHAMMAD HASHIM BHAT

R/o WAHADATPORA BUDGAM CELL. 6005507740

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that the Birth Certificates of my Children 1. MATLOOB RIYAZ 2.FATIMA BINTI RIYAZ has been lost. Now i want duplicates, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact SRINAGAR MUNICPAL CORPORATION SRINAGAR with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

RIYAZ AHMAD PAUL F/o 1. MATLOOB RIYAZ

R/O OMPORA BUDGAM CELL. 7006260933

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

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420190001644 issued in favour of IMTI-YAZ AHMED RATHER Parentage GHULAM HASSAN RATHER Whereas an application has been recieved by one IMTIYAZ AHMED RATHER Parentage GHULAM HASSAN RATHER wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as IMTIYAZ AHMAD RATHER Which needs to be changed as IMTIYAZ AHMED RATHER.

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

**Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir** 

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificates of my daughter the name is entered as NOORAIN ZEHRA while her actual name is MEHREEN FATIMA. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

ALTAF HUSSAIN GANAIE

F/o MEHREEN FATIMA mcb R/o RESHIPORA BUDGAM CELL. 7006797819

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in my Adhar card bearing No 648346048107 the name is entered as GHULAM ALI GANIE while my actual name is GULZAR AHMAD GANAIEE. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

**GULZAR AHMAD GANAIEE** S/O GHULAM HASSAN GANAIEE R/o BUDINA BUDGAM CELL.9596422691

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Junaid Ashraf Rather, residing at Baghat-i- Kani Pora Nowgam, applying for the Date of Birth Certificate of my daughter, AJWA Junaid. If anyone has any objection in this regard they may contact S.H.O **Police Station Nowgam within 7 days** from the date of this notice.

**Public Notice** 

I, Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat, father of Aabiroo Muzaffar, resident of Batamaran Wanpora, Tehsil Keller, District Shopian, want to correct my ward's name and date of birth in the Aadhaar record bearing Aadhaar No. 3222 2600 2304, which has been wrongly entered as Aabro Jan instead of Aabiroo Muzaffar, and the date of birth wrongly entered as 14-03-2008 instead of 05-06-2011. If anyone has any objections regarding this correction, they are requested to contact the concerned Aadhaar Centre, Jammu/Srinagar, or the concerned authorities within 7 days.

## HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH AT JAMMU

(Chief Justice's Secretariat)

**NOTICE** 

No: 734 of 2025/PSY

Dated: 05-03-2025

Subject: Admit cards for the OMR Based Written Examination for the post of Junior Assistant, Adv. vide Notification No. 06 of 2024/Psy dated 28.08.2024.

It is hereby notified for the information of the candidates appearing in the OMR Based written Examination for the post of Junior Assistant on 16.03.2025 at Srinagar & 23.03.2025 at Jammu, that their Admit cards shall be available on the official website of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, as per the dates given below:

1. For Kashmir Division:	06.03.2025	(Evening)
2. For Jammu Division :	13.03.2025	(Evening)

Additionally, candidates appearing for the OMR Based Written Exam at Srinagar on 16.03.2025, are informed that their exam centres may be located within Srinagar City and adjoining area of Srinagar in Budgam District, whereas for the Jammu Division, Exam Centres may be located within Jammu District, Exact venue & timing of examination shall be mentioned on their admit cards.

Candidates are advised to check the Official website of High Court (https://jkhighcourt.nic.in/) for important undates/notifications

> (M.K. Sharma) Principal secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice

DIPK-12700/24 DATED: 06-03-2025 NO: 312-19/PSY-671

#### **GVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. **Ground Water Division Srinagar** 

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail: - phegwd@yahoo.com,

Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS** FRESH GIST of e-NIT No: -71 of JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for "registered experienced Contractors of Production Tube wells" as per details given below The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders. gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed

(Refer Table - I)

S. Name of work Rs. in Lacs Cost of Tender Document tion  1. Construction of Production Tube Wells by ODEX/DTH method at Shungli Nasserpora, Hard Sureh Shopian.    Name of work Rs. in Lacs Rs. in Lacs Rs. in Lacs Rs. 2000/- 45 Days GWDS/ NRDWP 04 of Con- 02/2025, Dt: 25-02-2025 tion Tube Wells Wells Rs. 2000/- 45 Days Rs. 2000/- 45 Da
1. Construction of Production Tube Wells by ODEX/DTH method at Shungli Nasserpora, Hard Sureh
1. Construction of Production Tube Wells by ODEX/DTH method at Shungli Nasserpora, Hard Sureh

Position of Funds: - Available

AAA No: Chief Engineer Kashmir (Jal Shakti) PHE Deptt. Srinagar's vide order No: CE/PHE/DB/55 OF 01/2015, issued vide endorsement No: CE/PHE/DB/27091-94, Dated: 06-01-2015.

Note: The above-mentioned work (Refer Table - I) S. No. 01 were earlier advertised vide this office e-NIT No: 18 Of 08/2020, Dated: 22- 08-2020. Followed by corrigendum-I for extensions of dates vide issued endorsement No:PHE/GWD/1870-76, dated: 01-09- 2020, Retender e-NIT No. 18 of 08/2020, Dated: 10.09.2020, followed by extensions of dates vide issued endorsement No: GWD/2331-37, dated: 19-09- 2020 & Retender e-NIT No. 18 of 08/2020, Dated: 30.09.2020 &18 of 08/2020, dated:16.10.2020, followed by extensions of dates vide issued endorsement No:PHE/ GWD/3046-52, dated: 30-10-2020 & 3162-67, Dated: 31-10- 2020, further cancellation Notice

No: 10253-68, dated: 15-02-2024 & Fresh e-NIT No. 58/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24, Dated: 15.02.2024, followed by extensions Notice 4th vide issued dated: 16-03-2024, further cancellation Corrigendum Notice vide issued endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs/12981-91, dated: 27-

The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: https://www. jktenders.gov.in From 06.03.2025 (10:00 a.m.) UPTO 13.03.2025 (11:00 a.m)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: https://www.jktenders.gov.in

As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below

1.	Publishing Date	06-03-2025 (10:00 AM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	06-03-2025 (10:00 AM) upto
		13-03-2025 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	06-03-2025 (10:00 AM)upto
		13-03-2025 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	14-03-2025 (11:00 AM)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Ja	l Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar
	Kashmir-190011	
6.	Cost of Tender Document : Non-Refundable should	be in form of DD /TR/e-challan depos-

ited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)

NOTE: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD/e-challan, the hard copies shall have be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT.

Bid Validity Period: 180 Days The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR and (The date of CDR/FDR etc must not be prior to 03 months from the date of issuance of this e-Nit and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 14.03.2025 at 11:00 AM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** Jal Shakti PHE (Deptt.) Ground Water Division, Srinagar

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub ... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth...

PUBLIC NOTICE...

The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Shah Abdul Manan D.o.B 28/05/2014 ,Shah Hinan D.o.B 24/03/2011 ,Shah Hayan D.o.B 19/10/2017 s/d/o Khursheed Ahmad Shah R/o Mamoosa occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION KASHMIR, J& K SPORTS COUNCIL, SRINAGAR

Tender Notice: E-NIT No:39 of 2024-25 DAT ED:04.03.2025

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible bidders registered eligible Electric Contractors registrated with J&K Govt CPWD. Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:

S.	Name of work	Adv cost	Earnest	Class of	Administrative	Cost of	Time of
No		(Rs. in	Money	Contract	Approval No.&	Tender	Completion
		lacs)	Deposit		date	documents	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of of	Rs.15.30	Rs 30600/-	CEE Class or	Sports Council	Rs. 600/-	90 days
	Gymnastic Hall at	lacs		above	order No: 626		
	Gindun Rajbagh,				of 2024 dat-		
	Srinagar(Kashmir)				ed: 23.07.2024		
	(electric Part)						

**Position of Funds** Position of TS

Under Capex 2024-25 Accorded

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

2. Cri	tical Dates Table	
1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice.	04.03.2025
<u>1.</u> 2.	Period of downloading of bid- ding documents	04.03.2025 from 2.00PM to 15.03.2025 upto 4.00PM.
3.	Bid Submission Start Date.	08.03.2025 from 10.00 PM
4.	Bid submission End Date.	15.03.2025 upto 4.00 PM
3. 4. 5.	Date&Time of opening of Bids(online)	17.03.2025 at 10.00 AM in the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council at Administrative Block,BakhshiStadium,Srinagar. (or any convenient date)

The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder .(No Demand Draft shall be entertained).

[	1) Name of Bank	=	J&K Bank Ltd.
	2)Account Title	=	Executive Engineer, Construction Div. Kmr, JKSC
[	3)Account No	=	CDG-0365010200000842
[	4)Branch	=	LalMandi
	5)IFSC Code	=	JAKAOSBOARD
_			

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip. Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.

No.: SC/CDK/e-01/2525-30 DIPK-NB-3655/24 dated: 06.03.2025

**Construction Division Kashmir** 

**Executive Engineer** 

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS** Single Cover System

E-NIT No: 150/EEA/RNB of 2024-25/10751-61

DATED: 05/03/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-S Name of Adv. Cost Cost of T/ Earnest Time of M.H OF Account AAA No &

No	Work	(incl. GST)	Doc (In	Monov	comple-		Dated	Contac-
INO	WOLK	,					Dateu	Contac-
		(Rs. In	Rupees}	(In Ru-	tion			tor
		Lacs)		pees}	(days)			
1.	Upgrada-	99.30	1600/-	2% of Adv	180 work-	MH: CAPEX Bud-	74-DTK/PLN	AAY
	tion of Z/S			cost	ing days	get 2024-2025	of 2024 Dat-	
	Sheikhul-					Component-	ed: 15.10.2024	
	Alam					Development of	and CE(R&B)	
	Ladhoo					infrastructure at	SK/TS/95 of	
	Pulwama.					Religious Tourist/	2024-25 dt:	
						Sufi Circuit.	03/03/2025.	

Position of AAA: Accorded-Position of funds: committed Project Authority: DTK.

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

	dates given below.							
ı	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05/03/2025						
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	05/03/2025						
3	Bid submission Start Date	05/03/2025						
4	Bid Submission End Date	25 /03/2025 upto 3.00 PM.						
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	26/03/2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of						
		Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora.						

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora\_ (tender receiving authority).

Note:- (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (As per format) and The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee(bid security) should be valid for 45 days beyond

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Alloted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.

All Bidders shall to quote the rates in BOQ including GST. GST @ 18% or as admissible will be added separately at the time of issuance of Allotment by the allotting authority.

DIPK-12713/24 dated: 06-03-2025

Draftsman

sd/sd/-**Technical Officer** Executive Engineer **R&B Division Awantipora** 

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DIPK-12689/24

No:- JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./12836-47

dated: 06-03-2025

## **City Getting Sufficient Portable Water Supply: Javed Rana**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana on Thursday informed the House that all areas in Srinagar have been covered and the people are being supplied scheduled portable water supply by the department.

The Minister was responding to a question from legislator Shamima Firdous.

The Minister said that the government is committed to facilitate supply of essential services to the people and ensure timely repairing of defunct water supply schemes.

He maintained that no water supply pipeline is defunct in Srinagar city and whenever any distribution line gets damaged, the same is restored under stage contracts and the damaged pipelines beyond repair are replaced by new pipelines properly.

The Minister said that the department is providing sufficient potable water supply as per schedule of existing water treatment plants and currently there is no area as uncovered.

MLA, Mubarak Gul, also raised supplementary questions on the question.

Replying to another question raised by MLA Reyaz Ahmad Khan, the Minister said that, PHE works are being executed by PHE Division Bijbehara while as irrigation works are being looked after by Irrigation Division Anantnag and flood related works are being executed by the Flood Control Division Anantnag for Shangus.

The Minister said that there is no requirement for creating these facilities separately for Shangus as of now. He assured that the government is committed to provide all basic facilities to the people in all far flung areas

## **Seminar On 'Integrating Digital Learning In Teacher Education' Held**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Govt. College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, organised a two-day National Seminar, sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), North Western Regional Centre, P.U. Chandigarh.

The event was organized under the leadership of Principal GCOE Srinagar, Prof Seema Naz

The seminar, themed 'Integrating Digital Learning and Technology in Teacher Education,' attracted a plethora of distinguished intellectuals and luminaries across India, including Prof Renu Nanda from the PG Department of Education, University of Jammu; Dr. Deepak Bishla, Head Department of IT, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University; Prof Khursheed Ahmad Mir, Dean Academics and Controller of Exam Cluster University inagar: Dr. Sameer Babu M. Associate Professor in Educa-

tional Administration, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi and Dr. Kajal Kalsi, Assistant Professor Department of Sociology University of Jammu.

A host of faculty members from diverse universities, colleges, and research scholars across the nation attended the seminar both online/offline.

Prof. Mohammad Mobin, the Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University Srinagar was the chief guest in the Inaugural session. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest, Prof. Mobin asserted that technology possesses the transformative potential to profoundly alter the landscape of teaching and learning. However, he emphasized that this potential can only be actualized through deliberate, thoughtful implementation, sustained professional development for educators, and a comprehensive understanding of how to leverage technology in ways that foster student centered, inclusive, and dynamic learning experiences.

## **Public Notice**

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 5829 8588 4772 from Ng Hannan Mushtaque to NG Hannan Mushtaque. 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. N G Hannan Mushtaque

R/O:- Panthachowk Lasjan ivd

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my Name from (Old Name) Bilal Ahmad Wagay to (New Name) Bilal Ahmad Shergoiri in future I will be known as (New Name) Bilal Ahmad Shergojri. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 (Seven) days after 7 days no objection will be accepted. Bilal Ahmad Shergoir

INA7780878931

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

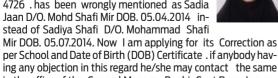
Public Notice..

The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Gh. Mohd Dar s/o Mohada Dar R/o Shirpora pattan with verified date of birth 01/03/1979 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is informed to the General public that my daughtor's name parantage and DOB in her Aadher Card bearing Aadhar No:- 7619 5895 4726 . has been wrongly mentioned as Sadia Jaan D/O. Mohd Shafi Mir DOB. 05.04.2014 in-

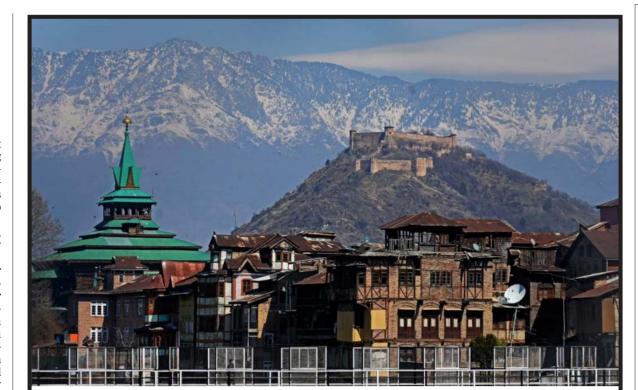


per School and Date of Birth (DOB) Certificate . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Mohammad Shafi Mir

F/O. Sadiva Shafi

R/O :- Unisoo .Tehsil :- Langate Distt : Kupwara .Pin Code 193302



A beautiful view of Khanqah-e-Moula shrine in downtown Srinagar on a sunny day. Ko Photo Faisal Khan

## **Burzahama Hospital To Be Constructed At Alternate Site: Sakeena Itoo**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Thursday informed the House that the Burzahama Hospital will be constructed at an alternate site and appropriate provision of funding will be kept for timely execution of the project.

The Minister made these remarks while replying to a starred question raised by Salman Sagar in the Legislative Assembly.

She informed that the con-

struction work on Burzahama Hospital building was stopped on the objections of the Archaeological Survey of India, Union Ministry for Culture.

"During the year 2013-14, the construction of PHC Burzahama was taken up in hand under State Sector Capex Budget at an estimated cost of 179 lakh through JK-PHC, against which 17 lakh were released. However, the construction work could not be carried out due to objections raised by the Archaeological Survey of India as the construction site comes under their jurisdiction thereby, causing the work on the project to halt", apprised the Minister.

The Minister further said that the Intezamia Committee Burzahama offered a piece of Augaf land for construction of the Health Centre at an alternate site but the Revenue Authority (Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar) has not vet transferred the land to the department for execution of this vital project.

"The department shall explore the possibility for construction of this health project at an alternate site and make appropriate provision of funding for timely execution", the Minister informed.

## Srinagar Police Designates Grievance Redressal Officers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a bid to strengthen transparency and accountability in policing, Srinagar Police has appointed Complaint and Grievance Redressal Officers in all police stations across the city. The move aims to ensure prompt and effective resolution of public concerns, reinforcing public trust in law enforcement.

According to officials, these designated officers will be responsible for addressing grievances and ensuring that every complaint is heard and acted upon as per the law. The initiative is part of the police department's commitment to responsive and accountable policing.

Citizens have been encouraged to approach their respective police stations for assistance regarding any issues they may face.

Srinagar Police has reiterated its dedication to serving the public with fairness, efficiency, and integrity, emphasizing that such measures will improve community-police relations.

Authorities believe that the establishment of grievance redressal officers will enhance transparency in policing and create a more accessible mechanism for people to seek redressal for their concerns.

## **Public Notice**

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no: 7017 7799 0907 as Tanveer Oavoom while my correct name is Tanveera Zahoor which needs to be corrected. 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. Tanveera Zahoor

W/o Zahoor Ahmad Bhat R/o Pattan Tehsil Pattan

fko

## **Public Notice**

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no: 2002 4809 8007 as Shagufta Bano while my correct name is Shugufta Akhter which needs to be corrected. 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 enter-

Shugufta Akhter D/o Ab Khaliq Bhat R/o Sheerabad Khore Tehsil Pattan

fko

## ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR. Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

NOTICE

#### Students desirous of seeking admission in the below mentioned **UG programmes** at IUST for the Academic session 2025 are hereby informed in their own interest to register and appear in the CUET-UG 2025 in the papers as shown below

Degree	Programme/	CUET-UG 2025	Degree	Programme/	CUET-UG 2025
Degree	Course offered	Test Paper (Code)	Degree	Course offered	Test Paper (Code)
B. A. (FYUGP)	Arabic Language & Literature	General Aptitude Test (501)	B. Tech.	Food Technology	Biology/ Biological Studies/ Biotechnology/ Biochemistry (304)     Mathematics / Applied Mathematics (319)
B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Artificial Intelligence	General Aptitude Test (501)	B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Geospatial Technologies	General Aptitude Test (501)
B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Chemistry	Chemistry (306)	B. A. (FYUGP)	Islamic Studies	General Aptitude Test (501)
B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Computer Science	<ol> <li>Computer Science / Informatics Practices (308)</li> <li>General Aptitude Test (501)</li> </ol>	B. A. (FYUGP)	Journalism & Mass Communication	Mass Media/ Mass     Communication (318)     General Aptitude Test (501)
B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Data Science	General Aptitude Test (501)	B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Mathematical Sciences	Mathematics / Applied Mathematics (319)
BS (FYUGP)	Design your Degree (DYD)	General Aptitude Test (501)	INTEGRATED BBA-MBA	MBA (5-Year Integrated)	General Aptitude Test (501)
B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Economics	<ol> <li>Economics / Business</li> <li>Economics (309)</li> <li>General Aptitude Test (501)</li> </ol>	B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Physics	Physics (322)
B. A. (FYUGP)	English	English (101)	B. A. (FYUGP)	Political Science	Political Science (323)     General Aptitude Test (501)
B. Sc. (FYUGP)	Environmental Science	Environmental Studies / Environmental Science (307)			

Candidates need to submit the online application form on https://cuet.nta.nic.in to appear in the test conducted by NTA. IMPORTANT NOTES:

Online Submission of Application Form 01st March 2025 to 22nd March 2025 (up to 11.50 PM)

- Mere appearance in test will not confer any right on the candidate who shall have to apply in response to the Advertisement Notice as and when issued by IUST.
- If and wherever the programme requirements demand, IUST may in addition to above prescribe other modes as preferential and/or otherwise conducting own test, qualifying exam etc.

For detailed information, the candidates may visit the website https://cuet.nta.nic.in

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### **RAILWAYS**



#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



#### **PRAYERS FAJR** 5:30 **ZUHR** 12:43 **ASR** 4:51 6:34 Magrib **ISHA** 7:55

## This Day In History

- 1964 Cassius Clay converts to Islam, and is renamed Muhammad Ali
- 1965 US begins regular bombing & strafing of N Vietnam
- 1967 A fire at a restaurant in Montgomery, Alabama kills 25 people.
- 1969 Al-Fatah-leader Yasser Arafat becomes president of PLO
- 1971 Switzerland votes for national women's suffrage in a referendum

1974 - Grenada gains independence from Britain

- (National Day) 1976 - World's largest telescope (600 cm) begins
- operation (USSR).
- 1977 Soyuz 24 launches with 2 cosmonauts 1978 - Ethiopian offensive in Ogaden desert
- 1986 Haiti's President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier flees to France Henri Namphy becomes leader of Haiti
- 1986 Corazon Aquino defeats incumbent Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos but fraudulent returns gave the election to Marcos.
- 1987 Police in South Korea make hundreds of arrests during protest demonstrations, the country's biggest for 6 years, after a student died in custody.
- 1990 Karachi police kill 22 anti-nationalistic demonstrators

## From KO Archives

# People Line Up For Historic Bus Travel

**Observer News Service** 

rinagar - Hundreds of enthusiastic people lined up at Regional Passport Office in Srinagar on Friday for application forms for travel on the first bus in 57 years to other part of Kashmir separated by a military Control Line.

New Delhi and Islamabad agreed in February to start (lie bus service between two capitals of Srinagar and Muzaffarabad on either side of the divide. Significantly both rivals dropped their rigid stances

and agreed demands by Kashmiris to use simple permits instead of passports of either country for traveling from one part to another of the divided state which people here regard as a single entity. Kashmiris will use special permits, issued by both

sides, to cross the Line of Control, instead of passports and visas. On the first day the Passport Office, designated as issuing authority, provided 100 application forms to people wishing to travel on April 7 and 14.

"We have issued 100 application forms to people wishing to travel on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus on April 7 and 14." said passport officer John Silshi. Sixty people will be allowed to make the trip on those dates after security and intelligence agencies check their applications.

"It's a great day. I heard an announcement on radio and came rushing. Thank God I got the form! Now I hope that I will get a permit as well." said Mohammad Shafi as he clutched the document. However, many others were disappointed. Omar Imti-

yaz from Baramulla said he could not apply for the permit. It wasn't immediately clear why. "They should have issued more application forms." he

said. "I have been waiting for this day since the service was announced. I am sad." The 105-mile bus route culling through the scenic Kashmir valley along the river Jehlum was a major all-weather

trade route till 1948. Recent heavy snowfall which blocked Kashmir's only road link with India created severe shortages of essentials in the Kashmir valley besides stranding thousands for the weeks together leading to deaths of scores of passengers. The road has been since come to be known as a killer highway. The reopening of new road is being viewed as a major development ever since Kashmir conflict began nearly six

decades ago.

(Kashmir Observer, 07 March, 2005)

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#### 📏 KO VIEW

## **Winter's Last Gift**

n a pleasant turnaround. Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed 30% above-average rainfall over the past five days, leading to a rise in water levels in the Jhelum River and other streams. Except for Srinagar, Kashmir Valley has received significant snowfall with higher accumulation in upper reaches. This comes in the wake of a largely snowless winter and should therefore go some way to replenish glaciers and recharge the water table.

One positive fallout of this has been that the government has given a go ahead for the Khelo India Winter Games, earlier deferred due to lack of adequate snow cover. The postponement, as the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, proved fortuitous. The games will now be held between March 9-12. The now snowbound slopes of Gulmarg will provide the perfect setting for the games, ensuring that athletes from across India experience the thrill of winter sports in one of the world's most scenic locations.

Beyond the sporting arena, the snowfall is a boon for tourism in the Valley. A largely dry winter led to a spate of cancellations of bookings. Snow, it goes without saying, is a novelty for most Indians, drawing them to Kashmir in winter in the first place. But late winter snow will certainly make a redeeming difference. The new snowfall, however, has reversed the trend, bringing a surge of last-minute reservations in Gulmarg and Pahalgam. Hoteliers and tour operators, who had braced for a lackluster season, now anticipate a strong finish.

However, the early March snowfall is the winter's last hurrah. It is now the onset of spring. A winter capped with a heavy precipitation makes for a brighter spring, so we can expect more tourist arrivals in the season. There's every expectation that this year's arrivals will break last year's record. One benefit of snowfall-heavy winter is that it brings foreign tourists to the Valley. Other three seasons aren't any less appealing in drawing visitors to the Valley from far and wide. Last year, 43,000 international visitors arrived in the Valley compared to 37,000 in 2023. According to the official data, the total tourist footfall in 2024 stood at 2.95 million, a conspicuous rise from the 2.71 million visitors in 2023 and 2.67 million in 2022.

This has generated substantial employment in the union territory. The tourism sector forms 6.8 percent of Kashmir's GDP and employs two million people. The sector has the potential to shore up the Valley's beleaguered economy. The waning militancy in recent years has created conditions for unhindered tourism in the Valley. Here's hoping that the Valley continues to enjoy peace this year also.



Did you know?

## How to Handle a Falling Market

Irshad Mushtaq

nstead 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 port folio 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 you vith too many different things.



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

# **How Justified Is The Demand** For A Liquor Ban In Kashmir

Dr. Fiaz Magbool Fazili

he demand for a liquor ban in Kashmir, a Muslim-majority region and a popular tourist destination, is a complex issue that involves balancing religious, cultural, social, and economic considerations. Crafting the best argument for a liquor ban requires addressing these dimensions while also considering the political motivations behind such campaigns. Below is a breakdown of the strongest arguments and the political dynamics at play.

#### Best Arguments to Justify a Liquor Ban in Kashmir

#### Religious and Cultural Alignment

Argument: Kashmir is a Muslim-majority region, and Islam prohibits the consumption of alcohol. A liquor ban would align with the religious and cultural values of the majority population, promoting social harmony and respect for local traditions.

Supporting Point: Respecting the religious sentiments of the majority fosters a sense of inclusivity and strengthens the moral fabric of society.

### 2. Public Health and Social Welfare

Argument: Alcoholism is a major public health issue, leading to addiction, mental health problems, and chronic diseases like liver cirrhosis. A ban would reduce these health risks and alleviate the burden on healthcare systems.

Supporting Point: Studies show that regions with alcohol restrictions often experience lower rates of alcohol-related diseases and accidents.

#### 3. Social Stability and Crime Reduction

Argument: Alcohol consumption is linked to social issues such as domestic violence, crime, and road accidents. A ban would contribute to a safer and more stable society.

Supporting Point: Reducing alcohol availability has been shown to decrease crime rates and improve family cohesion in other regions.

## 4. Protecting the Youth

Argument: Alcohol availability can negatively influence young people, leading to addiction and risky behaviors. A ban would protect the younger generation from these harmful effects.

Supporting Point: Youth are particularly vulnerable to peer pressure and advertising, making restrictions on alcohol crucial for their well-being.

## 5. Tourism Can Thrive Without

Argument: Kashmir's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and hospitality are its primary attractions, not alcohol. Promoting alcohol-free tourism can attract families and religious tourists who prefer such environments.

Supporting Point: Many global tourist destinations, such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, thrive without alcohol, proving that it is not a necessity for tourism.

## 6. Economic Diversification

Argument: Instead of relying on liquor sales for revenue, the government can focus on promoting other industries like handicrafts, agriculture, and ecotourism. This would create a more sustainable and ethical economy.

roots support for the cause, giving politicians a mandate to push for the ban. It also demonstrates their commitment to representing the

## 3. Introducing Bills for Legislative

By introducing a bill in the legislative assembly, politicians formalize the demand and create a platform for debate. This approach shows a proactive stance and positions them as leaders who take tangible steps to address public concerns.

## 4. Moral and Ethical Positioning

Supporting a liquor ban allows politicians to position themselves as morally upright and socially responsible leaders. This enhances their image and credibility among voters.

## 5. Countering Opposition

In a politically sensitive region like Kashmir, advocating for a liquor ban can be a way to counter opposition parties or external influences by aligning with local sentiments and assert ing regional identity.

#### Challenges and Counterarguments

## 1. Economic Impact

Critics argue that a liquor ban

port, demonstrate leadership, and address the moral and ethical concerns of their constituents. While challenges exist, a well-planned and inclusive approach can make the case for a liquor ban both com-

pelling and feasible. The demand for a liquor ban in Kashmir reflects a combination of religious, cultural, health, and social concerns. While alcoholism is widely recognized as harmful, imposing a ban involves navigating economic, enforcement, and societal challenges. The debate often centers on balancing public health and moral values with economic realities and individual freedoms.

#### Comparisons With Other Restrictions

Pilots, Drivers, Surgeons, Machine Operators, and Critical Machine Operators: Alcohol restrictions for these professionals are based on public safety concerns. Similarly, a liquor ban is often justified as a measure to protect soci-

Cigarettes and Drugs: Like alcohol. these substances are regulated or banned due to their harmful effects on health and society. However, outright bans often face similar challenges, such as black markets and enforcement difficulties.

For many, the call for a liquor ban is rooted in religious principles and the desire to align public policy with these values. However, the issue



tourism sectors

steps taken to cut Carbon hy Politicans Alignwith Popular Sentiment

For many, the

religious principles

call for a liquor

ban is rooted in

and the desire

to align public

policy with these

values. However,

the issue is not

solely religious;

socio-economic

dimensions. Some

and political

argue that the

availability of

alcohol leads to

social problems,

public disorder.

such as addiction,

and health issues

olicymakers

at Davos

it also has

1. Gaining Public Support
Politicians often align with popular sentiments to gain the

trust and votes of the majority. In a Muslim-majority region like Kashmir, advocating for a liquor ban resonates with the religious and cultural values of the people, making it a politically strategic move.

#### 2. Signature Campaigns and **Public Mobilization**

Signature campaigns and public demonstrations show grassnisms and public awareness cam-

3. Tourist Preferences

Some tourists may prefer inations where alcohol is availthe. Proponents can argue that my mind: Is alcoholism good or Rashmir's unique attractions can still draw visitors without relying swer and a definitive solution.

#### The Wisdom in Prohibition: A Case for a Healthier, Safer, God-Fearing, and Culturally Aligned Kashmiri Society

The best argument for a liquor ban in Kashmir combines religious and cultural alignment, public health benefits, social stability, and the potential for alcohol-free tourism. Politicians align with this sentiment to gain public sup-

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

often becomes politicized because

it intersects with identity, gover-

nance, and public morality. Away

from politics or religious sanc-

tions, a simple question lingers

The writer is a surgeon at Mubarak Hospital in Srinagar, a senior columnist, and writes for social, moral, and religious columns. He can be contacted at drfiazfazili@gmail.com

# **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, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

## MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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## Giving Iftar to the Needy

am writing to highlight the importance of a wonderful practice that should be practiced during the holy month of Ramadan providing iftar meals for those in need. It is a deeply rooted tradition in many communities to share the blessings of the fast with others, especially the less fortunate.

Ramadan teaches us the values

of compassion, generosity, and empathy. Offering iftar to the needy not only helps them meet their basic needs but also fosters a sense of community and solidarity. In a world where many suffer from hunger and poverty, this simple act can make a significant difference, bringing hope and joy to those who may otherwise go without.

It is heartening to see that many individuals, local organizations, and mosques are taking this practice to heart, ensuring that no one feels excluded during this blessed month. This practice reflects the true spirit of Ramadan — an opportunity to reach out, support one another, and strengthen the bond of humanity.

I hope that more people will con-

tinue to embrace this noble tradition of sharing iftar with the needy, not just during Ramadan but throughout the year, as acts of kindness have the power to bring about lasting change in our communities.

> Tauseef Khan Srinagar

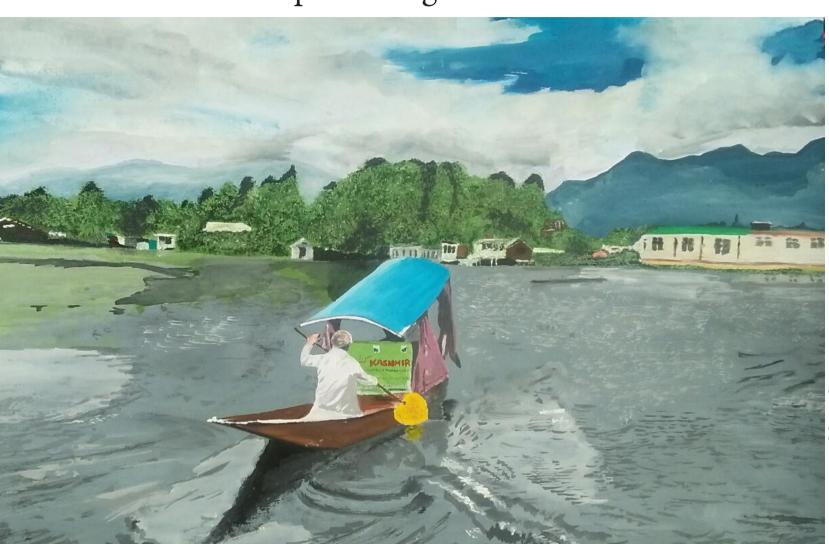
## Mindful Fridays

# Ding! Ding! Ding!

Scene 2: The phone rings



for the decomposed dead body from the days of your youth. They have been a back-breaking nine years and gratefully you have found some answers



Aisha Hasnain

omeone asked an orator:
"How long does it take you
to prepare your speeches?"
The orator replied: "It depends. If
I am to speak ten minutes, I need
a week for preparation; if fifteen
minutes, three days; if half an
hour, two days; if an hour, I am
ready now."

I have been given seven and a half hours to write this article so gauge its splendour on that parameter.

Ah, so Aisha, where are we? March 2025! Nine years. How heart-breaking it is that nine years ago in class 11 you had worked on your first article, almost reached the end of the process but eventually decided not to get it published. The reason being your anxiety issues gaining momentum. Your article was about hope and courage but when challenges starting pour-

ing your way, your mettle was put to test and you questioned the sincerity in your article. You did not feel ready and I feel sad for the fragile 11th grade student you. And feel I should. Let me get to a bit of an extreme: I should mourn for the decomposed dead body from the days of your youth. They have been a back-breaking nine years and gratefully you have found some answers. Aisha, sometimes the only thing that makes trials difficult for a person is their age. You were a tiny doll who lived like a 70 year old woman in her mind. Thankfully you have been able to shatter that web and let yourself live for once like a 26 year old that you are. Keep going.

You lost seven years of academic life and your well-wishers have constantly said that you were committing a sin by letting your intelligence go to waste like that. This is their concern for

66

When was it that you received a phone call from God telling you that you are a writer and not a mathematician? Last year June. Math was always the easiest to prepare for in school. No rote learning. You were as bad at parrot-fashion as you were good at completing your home-work with dedication

you. The only way you can convey the intensity of your anxiety to them is revealing the fact that the SOS medication does not help you whatsoever. It does nothing. Don't take their words to heart. Don't succumb to the

pressure. They don't know that it will only land you in an asylum. How much can one explain? And you don't need to explain every time. Have courage for silence. You keep your focus on your values and disorganized goals. They

don't know that you are waiting in a huge line under a merciless heat for your turn to rise and that waiting there alone needs one hell of grit. Keep going, I said.

When was it that you received a phone call from God telling you that you are a writer and not a mathematician? Last year June. Math was always the easiest to prepare for in school. No rote learning. You were as bad at parrot-fashion as you were good at completing your home-work with dedication. Rote-learning was a nightmare. I think you must have received a volume of messages from God about the writing instinct in you but they were left inattended because of your nev er-ending love for mathematics even after it broke up with you in grade 12. He was compelled to call you. Now you have become fond enough of writing that when recently someone saw your artwork and told you that you express

yourself better as an artist than a writer, you didn't take it as a compliment. Take it from me that these 9 years have led you very close to your turn and your ideas about living have become very meaningful. You received quite some spanking from life until it made you learn to spell it right.

This article is one small badge of honour you will wear on your heart for show-off that your therapist chose you for today's column of Mindful Fridays instead of his own article. This is your first published work, on the first Friday of Ramadhan. Good luck with your upcoming book. This time you are not waiting to see the sincerity in your ideas. You are presenting your journey unapologetically raw and naked, with sincerity.

The author goes by her pen name, Aisha Hasnain. She can be reached at aishahasnain02@gmail.com

## Ramazan Muslims: Hypocrisy or Reverence?

Jewel Khufia Noor

The month of Ramazan is a time of spiritual rejuvenation and introspection for Muslims around the world. It is during this sacred month that many individuals, who may not actively practice their faith throughout the year, find themselves drawn to Masajids, prayer, and acts of charity, earning them the label of 'Ramazan Muslims' (Muslims only in Ramadan).

This term often carries a hint of skepticism, questioning the sincerity of these temporary changes. However, could these seasonal transformations be indicative of a deeper, underlying faith waiting to be reignited? Is this phenomenon a form of hypocrisy, or does it reveal the presence of dormant faith, however faint, within the hearts of Muslims?

## Ramazan's influence in awakening the Spiritually Dormant

The symbolism of Ramazan, with the opening of the gates of Paradise and the closing of the gates of Hellfire, holds deeper significance than mere metaphors.

These things happen in the realm of the unseen and the

spiritual part of the believers perceive these changes, resonating with their spiritual senses and drawing them closer to acts of worship and self-reflection.

One striking manifestation of this spiritual awakening is witnessed in the phenomenon of 'Ramazan Muslims,' individuals whose devotion intensifies during this month. Despite their minimal engagement with religious practices outside Ramadan, they find themselves drawn to religious acts, indicating a hidden faith yearning to be revived.

An illustrative example of this awakening is observed in the story of a non-Hijabi girl embracing the Hijab during Ramadan. Her Hijab, becomes a visible sign of the light that exists within her heart.

Similarly, individuals grappling with Quranic recitation find solace in the knowledge that their sincere efforts are valued by the Divine.

Moreover, the sight of Masajids bustling with worshippers during Ramadan symbolizes more than increased religious fervor; it signifies that the truth still exists within the community.

#### The Damaging Effect of Excessive Criticism on Religious Growth

Critiquing and failing to encourage the small acts of devotion exhibited by Ramadan Muslims can have a detrimental effect on the delicate seed of faith (Iman) sown during this blessed month. Each individual's spiritual journey is unique, akin to a seed that requires nurturing and care to blossom into a beautiful flower of faith.

It is crucial to understand that not everyone progresses at the same pace on their spiritual journey. Some individuals may experience rapid growth and profound spiritual transformations within a short period, while others may stumble and need to restart multiple times. This diversity in progression is part of the human experience and should be embraced rather than criticized.

The disparity in religious journeys, including failures and setbacks, highlights the importance of embracing imperfections and learning from them. In many other aspects of life, such as education or career development, failures are seen as opportunities for growth and learning. Howev-



The sincere repentance of a person, regardless of their past actions or shortcomings, can be accepted and rewarded by Allah (SWT). Conversely, even acts of worship spanning decades may be rejected if tainted by ostentation or insincerity

er, when it comes to religious practice, there is often an expectation of perfectionism, which can be unrealistic and

discouraging.
Instead of focusing solely on outward displays of religious devotion, it is essential to value intentions and efforts. God appreciates sincerity and the striving spirit more than flawless execution. Every small act of worship contributes to the overall growth of faith.

#### Realigning Our Spiritual Objectives: Clarity, Compassion, and Shared Success

As Muslims, our ultimate goal is to attain Jannah (Paradise) for ourselves and our loved ones. However, in our pursuit of this noble aspiration, it is essential to maintain clarity in our objectives and cultivate compassion towards

Just as a child passionately defends her favorite toy or treat in front of her mother, we should strive to protect and cherish the spiritual wellbeing of ourselves and those around us. This means focusing on the positive aspects of people's actions and encouraging their efforts towards improvement, rather than dwell-

ing on their shortcomings.

Having a clear vision entails seeing beyond differences and recognizing the sincerity in others' intentions. It involves wishing for them the same mercy and understanding from Allah (SWT) that we seek for ourselves, ultimately aiming for collective success in attaining Jannah.

By embracing this mindset of compassion and clear vision, we not only strengthen our own spiritual journey but also contribute to a more supportive and harmonious community, where everyone strives towards the shared goal of pleasing Allah (SWT) and earning His ultimate reward.

#### Respecting Divine Authority: Leaving judgment to Allah

It's important to refrain from judging the intentions of others, especially among Ramadan Muslims, as we cannot accurately analyze their hearts and motives. Only Allah (SWT) has the ultimate knowledge and authority to judge individuals' sincerity and intentions.

The sincere repentance of a person, regardless of their past actions or shortcomings, can be accepted and rewarded by Allah (SWT). Conversely, even acts of worship spanning decades may be rejected if tainted by ostentation or insincerity.

Therefore, our focus should be on our own sincerity, seeking forgiveness, and striving to improve ourselves without passing judgment on others. Ultimately, the reward and acceptance of our deeds lie in the hands of Allah (SWT), who knows the true intentions behind every action.

Let God do his job and not try to take over his role.

## Conclusion

Ramadan acts as a mirror, reflecting the latent spirituality within individuals, akin to detecting life in a cataleptic patient. The crucial question is whether we will endeavor to revive and nurture these spiritual traces or allow them to wither under the weight of our criticism!

Let's reflect and relate the wisdom captured in these lines:

Abhi Sooraj dooba nahi, zara se shaam to hone do.. Me khud he laut jawuga,

mujey nakaam to hone do!

The author is an engineer

## NIT Srinagar empowers 700 Ladakh youths with MSME entrepreneurship training

Srinagar, Mar 06: A comprehensive two-week Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, designed to ignite entrepreneurial spirit and technological skills among Ladakh's youth, concluded successfully on Wednesday. The program reached over 700 students, connecting them with vital resources and opportunities in the technology sector.

Organized by the Department Mechanical Engineering at NIT Srinagar, in collaboration with NIELIT Leh and the University of Ladakh, the workshop was sponsored by the

Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

The valedictory session was graced by Dr. Phuntsog Toldhan, Director of NIELIT Ladakh. Prof. Binod Kanaujia, Director NIT Srinagar, served as the Chief Patron for the event.

The program focused on equipping participants with practical skills in high-demand areas, including high-altitude drone piloting, 3D printing, laser engraving, UV printing, IoT, solar energy, robotics, and automation.

"This program marks the



beginning of a sustained effort by NIT Srinagar to cultivate technology-driven culture

in Ladakh." stated Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Nodal Officer of the MSME ESDP Scheme, who highlighted the region's vast potential and the government's commitment to supporting aspiring entrepreneurs.

"We aimed to bridge the gap in technical institutions and empower young individuals to leverage technology for their entrepreneurial ventures," he said.

Dr Dinesh also acknowledged the instrumental support of Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kanaujia, Registrar Prof. Atik-ur-Rehman, and Dean Research and Consultancy Prof. Roohie Naaz in making the program possible.

Dr. Toldhan said that there is importance of collaboration in fostering technology-based skill development. We are delighted to partner with NIT Srinagar and are exploring future collaborations, including a high-altitude drone competition, to further benefit the youth and entrepreneurs of Ladakh, he said.

Ahmed, Mushtaq Technical Officer and NIELIT Coordinator, also provided support throughout the entire process.

Meanwhile Mr. Mohd Salim, a program coordinator, noted the

over 2,000 students registered at their center.

"We hope this program will inspire more entrepreneurs, building upon the success of emerging ventures like Ladakh Electro Hub and Ladakh Paragliding Adventure, and contribute to the technological advancement of Ladakh," he said.

The program was convened by Dr. Phuntsog Toldhan and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, with coordination support from Dr. Mehaboob of the University of Ladakh and Mr. Mohamad Salim of NIELIT Leh.

## CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

#### **CM To Present**

Conference in its manifesto for the 2024 assembly elections. (KNO)

#### **J&K Economy Projected**

significant progress, with the unemployment rate declining to 6.1 per cent in 2023-24 from 6.7 per cent in 2019-20.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also serves as the finance minister, tabled the report in the J&K Assembly on Thursday.

The report provides an in-depth analysis of the region's economic performance, development progress, and future outlook, of-fering valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders.

"The real GSDP of J&K is expected to grow at 7.06 per cent, and the nominal GSDP is expected to grow at 11.19 per cent in 2024-25," the report stated.

"The size of J&K's economy (Nominal Gross State Domestic Product) is estimated to be approximately Rs 2.65 lakh crore, and its real GSDP is estimated to be about Rs 1.45 lakh crore during 2024-25," it said.

The report stated that J&K is estimated to achieve a compound annual growth rate of 4.89 percent in its real GSDP from 2019-20 to 2024-25, compared to the 4.81 per cent growth rate recorded from 2011-12 to 2019-20.

The report further stated that J&K's per capita annual income (per capita NSDP) at current prices is estimated to reach Rs 1,54,703 in 2024-25 (advance estimates), compared to the national per capita income of Rs 2,00,162

As per the report, the per capita income of J&K at current prices is anticipated to grow at 10.6 per cent in 2024-25.

"The comparative analysis of J&K's per capita income with that of northern states from 2019-20 to 2023-24 indicates that J&K's per capita income grew at a compound annual growth rate of 8.3 per cent, which is higher than Punjab (6.22 per cent), Delhi (6.74 per cent), and Himachal Pradesh (6 per cent)," it said.

The report further maintained that J&K is actively contributing to the national GDP (0.8 per cent) in proportion to its population (0.98 per cent).

"The primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors are expected to contribute 20.00 per cent, 18.30 per cent, and 61.70 per cent, respectively, to the Gross State Value Added during 2024-25," it said.

It stated that inflation in I&K increased to 4.5 per cent in 2024 from 4.3 per cent in 2023, showing an overall rise of 0.2 percentage points. In contrast, at the all-India level, inflation decreased to 5 per cent from 5.7 per cent during the same period.

Inflation in J&K hovered between 3.8 per cent and 4.5 per cent from 2019 to 2024, compared to national figures of 3.7 per cent to 5.0 percent during the same period.

The report further stated that a revenue of Rs 15,737.80 crore was realised in the first nine months of the financial year 2024-25, which is 77 percent of the Rs 20,333.55 crore revenue realised in 2023-24.

The contribution of non-tax revenue to total revenue increased to 32 per cent in FY25, the report said and pointed out that the share of power tariffs in non-tax revenue grew from 56 per cent to 67 per cent since FY22

"Tax revenue of Rs 10,624.09 crore was realised in the first nine months of FY25, which is 76 per cent of the Rs 13,903.22 crore revenue realised in FY24, whereas non-tax revenue of Rs 5.113.71 crore was realised in the first nine months of FY25, which is 80 percent of the Rs 6,430.33 crore revenue realised in FY24," it

Among the major revenue contributors, the highest increase of 96 per cent in revenue realisation was witnessed in taxes on vehicles, followed by a 67 per cent increase in power, 36 per cent in GST, 33 per cent in water user charges, and 14 per cent in excise collection, among others, it said.

The revenue expenditure in the first nine months of FY25 stood at Rs 49.828 crore, which is 75 percent of the Rs 66,621 crore revenue expenditure incurred in FY24.

Meanwhile, capital expenditure in the first nine months of FY25 stood at Rs 11,538 crore, which is 51 per cent of the Rs 22,531 crore capital expenditure incurred in FY24.

The report revealed that J&K has shown significant progress, with the unemployment rate on usual status declining to 6.1 per cent in 2023-24 from 6.7 per cent in 2019-20.

"This improvement is also reflected in the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR), which have risen to 64.3 per cent and 60.4 per cent, respectively, in 2023-24, showcasing enhanced employment opportunities and economic activities in J&K," it said.

As many as 40,778 units have been established under various self-employment schemes (SESS), employing about 1.16 lakh young boys and girls, it said.

It stated that 35.28 lakh unorganised workers have been registered on the e-SHRAM

portal as of November 2024.

It added that gross non-performing assets have reduced from 5.71 per cent in December 2022 to 4.13 per cent as of March 2024.

The report revealed that total food crop production increased by 7.12 per cent (from 19,515 thousand quintals to 20,904 thousand quintals) over the past year. The region has also progressed towards self-reliance in vegetable production, reaching 520 thousand quintals in 2023-24.

The agriculture sector in J&K is shifting towards high-value crops, organic vegetables, and exotic varieties. Under initiatives like the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, the government will invest Rs 5,013 crore in 29 projects over five years. This is expected to add Rs 28,000 crore to GSDP, creating 2.88 lakh sustainable jobs, it said.

It added that the plan will also benefit 13 lakh families and provide skills to 2.5 lakh youth through 19,000 new enterprises.

#### **Business Rules**

yesterday at 8 pm, we convened a cabinet meeting and finalised the business rules. They were approved by our cabinet," Abdullah said in reply to the motion of thanks to the Lieutenant Governor's address to the Assembly.

He further said the rules have been submitted to the Lieutenant Governor for approval. "We hope they will be approved," he added.

Asserting that this step will reduce confusion, he said, "As long as this system is in place, it should operate smoothly without any confusion. Although I view it as temporary, implementing business rules is preferable to reduce confusion."

Chief Minister Abdullah last month openly criticised the dual governance model in the Union Territory (UT) – where he shares power with the Lieutenant Governor — as a "recipe for

He had said the hybrid model of governance in the UT was not to anyone's advantage and the systems worked better when there was a single centre of command.

The Congress, People's Democratic Party (PDP) and other parties have criticised the dual model of governance in J&K.

## **Name One Project**

decisions to remove holidays."

"The 22 people who sacrificed their lives on July 13, 1931, did so for a voice, for some rights. If what they did was wrong, why did Maharaja Hari Singh take the steps he did after their sacri fice? Why did he set up the Glancy Commission? Why did he announce elections after that commission? Why did the Praja Sabha come into existence, which eventually became the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly?" Omar asked.

He added, "If the sacrifices of those people led to the formation of this Assembly, can't we at least use respectful words for them? Their only fault was that they were Muslims. Admit that. Because in the rest of the country, where voices were raised against autocracy, no one called them traitors. But here, because they were Muslims and were fighting for democracy, such words come so easily from our

Omar also addressed the controversy surrounding the holiday on December 5, marking the birth anniversary of Sheikh Abdullah. He revealed that during his previous tenure as the Chief Minister, he had considered abolishing the holiday to reduce the number of public holidays in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If you had asked me, I would have willingly given up that holiday. My colleagues may not remember, but when I was Chief Minister last time, I told my colleagues that I wanted to give up the December 5 holiday. Salaria Sahib is a witness. I said there are too many holidays in Jammu and Kashmir, and I want to reduce them. But if I start cutting other holidays, people will say that you kept your grandfather's holiday and cut the rest. First, remove the Shere-Kashmir holiday on December 5, and then we will reduce the other holidays," Omar said.

He added that Sheikh Abdullah's stature is not tied to the December 5 holiday. "What he did for Jammu and Kashmir cannot be erased. Whether you observe July 13 as a holiday or not, whether you observe December 5 as a holiday or not, no one can erase the sacrifices of those people from the hearts of the people here." he said.

The Chief Minister criticized the use of the Public Safety Act (PSA) to detain individuals without trial. He argued that if the government has evidence against those detained, they should be prosecuted in court rather than held under preventive detention.

"If you are keeping people in jail for years based solely on the PSA, it means you have no evidence to prosecute them, no case against them. You are simply detaining them under the PSA. If what you say is true—that they are stone-pelters, OGWs (Over Ground Workers), or terrorists-then why do you need preventive detention? Preventive detention is needed when you cannot build a case against someone," Omar said.

The Chief Minister reiterated his

commitment to restoring statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that all members of the Assembly would support a resolution in favor of statehood if brought to

"We believe that there is no party or person here who is against statehood. But if Sajad Sahib [Sajad Lone] has doubts that some people are against statehood, bring the resolution. Today, I say that all our members will vote in favor of it," he said.

#### **'Govt Will Fulfil All**

government employees.

He said his government is formed for a full five years, expressing hope that the next budget session of the assembly will be thrown open by the governor instead of the lieutenant

Winding up the discussion on motion of thanks to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's address in the legislative assembly here, Abdullah said a lot was talked about the NC manifesto which "we have prepared with a lot of thought and is our promise to the people of J&K"

"When we put forth our manifesto before the people we told them that give us five years...we assure the people that we will fulfil all the promises from A to Z, whether related to prisoners or termination of government employees. We are bound to do that," the chief minister said.

In its manifesto, the National Conference had promised to prioritise the release of political prisoners and youth who have been "unjustly' detained in jails and are not involved in serious crimes besides seeking amnesty for all political

The manifesto also talked about ending "unjust" termination of government employees and said "it will address and rectify cases of unjust job terminations, ensuring fair treatment and job security for all employees'

Referring to some members' criticism of LG's address. Abdullah said the LG cannot replace his earlier speech made in the November session shortly after the formation of the government and that it is in addition to that speech.

"Some (members) termed it as a love letter (from NC to BJP)...I do not go into it but want to make it clear that we made new additions and next year I hope that when we will meet (for budget session), there will be a Governor instead of Lt Governor," he said.

Abdullah also referred to the speech of Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma defending the use of Public Safety Act and said "if you are using PSA then your case is weak...you put me under preventive detention (in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370) for six months because there were no charges against me. But it is better to use relevant sections of law against the stone pelters or overground workers who have been booked under PSA.'

He questioned Sharma for linking Article 370 with development and terrorism and said "whether the developmental projects he spoke about were possible only with the abrogation of Article 370".

Most of these projects started before 2014, he said and challenged the BJP leader to tell the House about one project which was not possible to be completed under Article 370 status.

Abdullah also questioned the political reservation granted to the Scheduled Tribe community and said the number of Gujjar leaders in the House dropped from nine to six.

"What miracle happened after the abrogation of Article 370? Shakti Raj Parihar (BJP) talked about ending nepotism, corruption and terrorism while the LoP is blaming Pakistan for terrorism. Who is right?

"If Pakistan is behind the terrorism then why blame Article 370...if Article 370 was responsible, then why terrorism spread to the Jammu region after its abrogation, the areas which were declared terrorism-free during my (previous) tenure," he said.

The attacks on pilgrims in Reasi, civilians in Rajouri and other places in the past few years stand testimony that Article 370 was not responsible for terrorism, he added.

He said the BIP members raised the issue of the fraud in Jal Jeevan Mission showing that the corruption has not ended.

## **'Not Just PoK,**

(UT) under illegal occupation of China. He came down heavily on the BJP leaders for accusing the National Conference (NC) of insulting Jammu and Kashmir's last ruler Maharaja Hari Singh and challenged them to give just one instance when the ruling party or any other Kashmir-based party insulted the Dogra ruler while the BJP disintegrated and downgraded his Muslim majority state.

"The foreign minister (S Jaishankar) is saying that we will get back the part of J&K which is under the occupation of Pakistan. Who has stopped them? Have we ever said that do not get it back?" the chief minister said, winding up the discussion on motion of thanks to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's address in the Assembly here.

Jaishankar, speaking during a session at the Chatham House think-tank in London on Wednesday, said the Kashmir dispute would be solved after the "return of the stolen part of Kashmir which is under illegal Pakistani occupation". Referring to the speech of BJP members

in the House, he said the Congress was targeted for leaving Haji Peer in the Uri sector to

"During the Kargil war, there was an opportunity to get back PoK because it was Pakistan which attacked us. If you were so willing, you would have brought back that part but what stopped you? When you look at the map of Jammu and Kashmir, one part is also in China but you do not talk about it," he said.

He said when the BJP-led central government brings back PoK, they should also bring that part of J&K which is presently in China and 'we will be grateful to you".

Countering the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Assembly and BJP leader Sunil Sharma for accusing the ruling party of insulting the Maharaja, he dared the opposition party to give him a single instance when the last Dogra ruler was insulted by NC or for that matter by the PDP and Congress.

"You have distorted the map of Maharaja by separating Ladakh from J&K and finishing his laws, especially related to land and jobs which were meant to provide safeguards to the peo-

Abdullah said the BJP is justifying the separation by saying that it was the long-pending

demand of the people of Ladakh.

"Have you asked them? Have you tried to find out?

"From day one, the people of Kargil were against this decision. The Buddhists of Ladakh who distributed sweets are today of the opinion that they were better placed with J&K. They walked from Leh to Delhi to get back their rights," he said.

He said Himachal Pradesh is better placed because one has to give 70 percent of jobs to the local population if someone sets up an industry or a hotel in the hilly state.

The chief minister also took a dig at the LoP for his "derogatory remarks" against the July 13, 1931 "martyrs" and said "though we have different political ideologies, they deserve respect for rising up against the autocracy and their sacrifice led to the formation of this

July 13 was observed as a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir to commemorate the 22 men who fell to the bullets of Dogra Maharaja's soldiers outside Srinagar central jail in 1931. The holiday along with the December 5 holiday to mark the birth anniversary of NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was, however, scrapped by the Lt Governor administration after the abrogation of Article 370.

"Their only fault was that they were Muslims. In the rest of the country, the people who rose against autocracy are respected and nobody can dub them as traitors,' he said.

Abdullah said whether July 13 and December 5 are declared holidays or not, it will not matter because the people respect them from their

Abdullah said in his last tenure as chief minister, he was also planning to lower the number of holidays and December 5 was also on his

"We have never harmed the legacy of Maharaja. Have we changed the name of any institution which was named in the name of the Dogra rulers?" he said.

## **Some People Trying**

will provide relief to the people of J&K.

"We will not backtrack from this fight. At times, some people are trying to intimidate, threaten and silence us but we are not those who will go silent. We will continue our fight for the rights of the people, their dignity, development and brotherhood," the chief minister said. However, he did not identify those peo-

ple who are allegedly threatening National Conference legislators. Coming down heavily on the speech of Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, Abdullah

said he (Sharma) is saying that speaking on Article 370 was like wasting the time of the House but the reality is that it was BJP members who talked most about the constitutional provision that granted special status to J&K. "Do not tell me that the Supreme Court has put its stamp on abrogation of Article 370.

does change but don't tell me that it (Article 370) will not return. "We say that it will come back and you live with your hope and we will also live with our hope. Who knows what will happen next,"

Decisions can be reviewed and the government

Abdullah said, adding "you cannot snatch a right to talk on this issue from us".

## **J&K Council**

about the names of the departments held by the ministers including the Chief Minister, the Government has specified names of the departments held by five cabinet ministers but has not mentioned names of the departments held by the Chief Minister.

"Departments not allocated to any of the Hon'ble

ministers are held by the Hon'ble Chief Minister," the government said, in the written reply.

### **Tarigami Bats**

colleagues have uttered such words. Knowing history is very, very important."

Tarigami said that the Dogra state emerged in 1846 following the Treaty of Amritsar. He pointed out that Kashmir, with its 5,000-yearold history, was "sold by the British," the same colonial power against which freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh had fought.

The CPI(M) leader also criticized the BJP for undermining the legacy of Dogra rulers and the struggles of historical figures like Zorawar Singh. He questioned the rationale behind the separation of Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir, asking, "Why was Ladakh separated from Jammu and Kashmir? This is the question

In response, BJP members claimed that the separation was due to discontent with the Kashmir administration, Tarigami countered this by stating, "When you [referring to Jammu] were contended with Kashmir, but you are still

Tarigami further criticized the downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir from a state to a union territory, calling it an unprecedented move. He questioned the legitimacy of a nominated Governor representing the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, stating, "Cite me a single example where a state was downgraded to a union territory. How can a nominated Governor represent the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir?'

He also euplogised the historical role of Jammu and Kashmir in maintaining peace during times of communal strife, stating, "It is a known fact that when the entire country was burning in communal flames, it was Kashmir alone that remained peaceful." He also praised the role of National

Conference founder Sheikh Abdullah and the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir in implementing historic land reforms that benefited farmers from both the Jammu and Kashmir regions. "Today, you demand the removal of Sheikh

Abdullah's birthday from the list of gazetted holidays, but it was he who ensured a dignified living even for the poorest of the poor, whether from Jammu or Kashmir," Tarigami said. Addressing Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Tarigami acknowledged the limitations of the

current administration, stating, "People know that you [CM] cannot even transfer a constable from your office. However the people of Jammu and Kashmir are not seeking charity but rather the restoration of their rights and dignity.' "Our rights should be restored in accordance with the Constitution of India. Let us demand in unison irrespective of party affiliations that

#### we want the same state that was founded by the Dogra rulers, and we want our job and land rights back," Tarigami said.

**LG's Address A** Safety Act, the release of political prisoners and the termination of employees, in the LG's

address "It (LG) should have been a medley of aspirations and grievances, but the aspiration part is

missing," he said. Lone said the LG's address is a "blatant betrayal" with the people of J&K and a move to normalize the changes made on August 5, 2019. He emphasized that the message of pain

2019 is missing from the LG's address. Lone also slammed the BIP over remarks made by its leader Sunil Sharma on the martyrs of July 13, 1931, stating, and "Nobody has the

endured by the people of Jammu & Kashmir in

#### right to denigrate what is sacred to us," he said. **Fight Against Drugs**

of supervision and control from parents and

society at large," he said. Responding to another question about public liquor consumption in vehicles in various areas, he emphasised that this will be dealt

with severely. He mentioned that drugs confiscated by the police are destroyed, as part of an annual exercise.

Replying to another question about alleged "misuse" of security personnel, DGP maintained that "charity begins at home". "I have reduced my security cover by over

two-thirds to address manpower shortages in the force." he said. The DGP spelt out that additional deployment has been made in Jammu to strengthen

Regarding concerns about deployment within the police force, Prabhat said that those who perform well will be rewarded with appropri-

"Systemic changes take time. Rome wasn't built in a day," he said, signalling a long-term approach to improving the force's functioning in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to another question about women's safety issues, Prabhat warned that strict action will be taken if any Investigating Officer fails to file a chargesheet in a case within the stipulated time.

## Nearly 6,000 Jobs Filled **Under Kashmiri Migrant Employment Package**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A total of 5,868 Kashmiri migrants have been appointed under the special employment package against the 6,000 sanctioned posts in Jammu and Kashmir, an official document has revealed.

The document said that out of the 6,000 approved flats for Kashmiri migrants, the construction work has been taken up on 4,848 units.

Of these, 2,832 flats have been completed with 1,221 already allotted, while 2,016 flats are at various stages of completion.

Regarding financial assistance to displaced persons,

Rs 1,452.33 crore has been disbursed among 33,636 displaced families from Pakistanoccupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) (1947), as well as those from Chhamb (1965 and 1971).

Also, Rs 88.53 crore has been disbursed to 3,541 West Pakistani refugees, who are now eligible for a J&K Domicile Certificate.

It mentions that 3,408 Kanals and 16 Marlas of land belonging to migrants have been retrieved from encroachments and illegal occupation. "Efforts are part of ongoing measures to rehabilitate displaced communities and provide them with housing, employment, and legal entitlements," it added—(KNO)

## **Jammu Airport Becoming** Big, Air Traffic Doubles In Sgr

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: Air traffic at Srinagar International Airport has doubled, reflecting increased

The administration is implementing online monitoring and mobile applications like Tameer Taraki and Hamari Sadak



connectivity to the region, according to an official document.

The document, a copy of which was accessed states: "To accommodate the growing demand, the government is working on expanding Jammu Airport, with 908 kanals of land already transferred. It also mentions that night operations at Jammu Airport have been to ensure real-time supervision of infrastructure projects, including those related to air transport.

"Notably, these initiatives collectively aim to bolster Jammu and Kashmir's connectivity, facilitating smoother travel and boosting economic growth in the region," the document fur-

## In 4-years, Jammu Receives **More Tourists Than Kashmir: Economic Survey**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir has received 80 per cent less tourists compared to Jammu in the past

The Economic Survey 2024-25 revealed that in 2021, Jammu received a tourist footfall of 1.06.50.757 while Kashmir in the same year witnessed a tourist arrival of 6,65,777.

A total of 1,13,16,534 tourists visited J&K in 2021, the survey reveals.

As per the details, Kashmir in the subsequent years including 2022, 2023 and 2024 witnessed 80 per cent less tourist footfall compared to Jammu.

The Economic Survey revealed that Jammu recorded a total tourist arrival of 1.62.10.875 in 2022 while Kashmir received only 26,73,442.

As many as 1,88,84,317 tourists visited J&K in 2022, the survey reveals.

In 2023, Jammu received a total footfall of 1,80,24,176 compared to 31,55,835 in Kashmir, thereby a total of 2.11.80.011 tourists arrived in Iammu and Kashmir in the particular year.

In 2024, 2,00,91,379 tourists visited Jammu while Kashmir recorded only 34,98,702 tourist arrivals, including both domestic and foreigners.

The figures include 5,11,922 Amarnath yatris during 2024 and 94,55,605 Vaishno Devi vatris during 2024.

Moreover, in the four subsequent years from 2021 till 2024, Kashmir witnessed more foreign tourists compared to Jammu with the Economic Survey revealing that 1.614 foreigners visited Kashmir in 2021 compared to only 36 in Jammu.

In 2022, Kashmir received 19,947 foreign tourists compared to only 38 in Jammu. In 2023, Kashmir witnessed a footfall of 37,678 foreign tourists compared to only 17,649 in Jammu while in 2024, Kashmir received 43,654 foreign tourists compared to 21,798 in lammu.

As per the survey, the number of foreign tourists has risen more than 300%

The 3rd Tourism Working Meeting of the G20, held in Srinagar from May 22nd to 24th 2023, brought J&K into the global spotlight, marking a crucial moment for its tourism

Landmark events such as the first-ever Sunburn Musical Festival in Jammu and the inaugural F4 car show in Srinagar further highlighted the region's growing appeal and vibrant cultural landscape, it reads—(KNO)

## **Govt Rules Out Construction Of Buildings, Hotels In Bungus Valley**

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ruled out construction of massive buildings and hotels in the Bungus Valley in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, stating that it is committed to preserving the ecological sensitivity of the area.

In a response to a question of MLA Langate, Sheikh Khursheed, the Minister in charge of the Tourism Department said that the government has focused on avoiding construction of massive buildings and hotels.

"Instead, the area is being developed as an eco-tourism destination, ensuring that tourism activities do not disrupt the valley's pristine environment," the minister said.

He said that the department is setting up basic recreation facilities, rain shelters, public conveniences, proper signages, lighting, and waste disposal facilities for visitors.

"To safeguard the livelihood of local shepherds, nomads, and other inhabitants of Bungus Valley, the government has initiated registration of paying guest houses in nearby areas, which not only provides an economic boost to local families but also helps in preserving and promoting the rich culture, traditions, and cuisine of the region," he said.

The Minister informed that as of now, 19 paying guest houses have been registered with the tourism department in the vicinity of Bungus Valley—(KNO)

Illegal Constructions In Pahalgam

## **J&K Govt Says Notices Issued To 269 Constructions For Deviations**

**Agencies** 

**JAMMU:** The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Thursday said 269 notices have been issued for deviations in constructions in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of the Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA).

In a written response to question of MLA Pulwama Waheed-ur-Rehman about total number of illegal and unauthorized constructions in Pahalgam, Chief Minister Omar, Abdullah, who also serves as minister of Tourism Department, said that PDA has recently issued notices to 269 deviations as per the permissions issued by the BOCA of the Authority.



"However, the majority of these include PMAY and residential houses of locals that fall within the jurisdictions of the concerned Authority," the minister said.

The minister said that Pahalgam Development Authority is the nodal office dealing with checking of deviations, illegal and unauthorized constructions, if any, raised within the jurisdiction of notified areas PDA and caries out demolition drives whenever re-

"HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF THESE INCLUDE PMAY AND residential houses of locals that fall within the jurisdictions of the concerned Authority,"

## WAI signs MoU With J&K To Boost **River Cruise Tourism**

**Press Information Bureau** 

**NEW DELHI:** The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), to boost river cruise tourism on three National Waterways

The MoU was signed on the sidelines of Chintan Shivir being held in Srinagar in the presence of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Shantanu Thakur. Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Govern-ment of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Satish Sharma; Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri T.K. Ramachandran; Chairman, IWAI, Shri dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India has been actively promoting cruise tourism in India and the agreement with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir aims to further boost tourism, generate employment, boost economic growth and provide a new mode of leisure/budget tourism on rivers in Jammu and Kashmir.



ways in the country, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has three declared national waterways, i.e., River Chenab (NW-26), River Jhelum (NW-49) and River Ravi (NW-84). With the vision to promote river cruise tourism, various cruise circuits were announced for development - spanning from Kashmir to Kerala and Assam to Gujarat - in the recently concluded Second Meeting of Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC). Within a period of two months, IWAI took a significant step to develop river cruise tourism in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir for an approximate cost of Rs 100 crore. Under the framework of

MoU; the IWAI will provide waterside infrastructure, i.e., ten floating jetties and landside infrastructure consisting of a waiting hall and other amenities for cruise passengers. Out of ten, two floating jetties will be installed at Akhnoor and Reasi (near Jammu) the declared portion of River Chenab

at Pantha Chowk, Zero Bridge, Amira Kadal, Shah-e-Hamdan, Safa Kadal/Chattabal Shrine, Sumbal Bridge and Gund Prang (in Srinagar and Bandipora) River Jhelum (NW-49) and one jetty at Sohar on River Ravi (NW-84). Additionally, IWAI will develop navigational fairways by executing dredging wherever required, provide navigational aids and conduct regular hydrographic surveys for safe plying of vessels in these waterways.

The J&K government will provide land for construction of landside facilities, facilitate all statutory clearances and appoint cruise operators in identified sectors of the three National Waterways. IWAI will also provide any technical assistance required by the Government of J&K.

With proactive steps like developing cruise terminals and related infrastructure, IWAI is working towards promoting river cruise tourism by utilising the immense potential of rivers in the country.

## **SC Collegium Recommends 3** J&K Additional Judges To Be **Appointed Permanent HC judges**

M Ahmad

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court Collegium has approved the proposal for appointment of the three Additional Judges as Permanent Judges in the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

They include Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, and Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani, according to a statement issued by the Su-

Hailing from Katra, Justice

Nargal was appointed as Additional Judge of the High Court on 1 June 2022 and took oath of office two days later.

Justice Sekhri, born in Jammu, was elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court on 27 July 2022 and took oath two days later.

Similarly, Justice Wani, born in village Brinty Batapora of District Anantnag assumed the charge of his office upon being administered the oath of office on 25 March last year.

## **J&K's Monthly Tax Collection Rises To Rs 1,180 Cr In 2025**

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's tax revenue collection has shown consistent growth in 25, with monthly collections averaging rupees 1,180 crore, according to official estimates.

According to an official document obtained, the total tax revenue for FY24 stood at Rs 13,903 crore, registering a 13 per cent growth over FY23. By Q3 of FY25, the collection had already reached Rs 10,624 crore, which is 76 per cent of the total revenue collected in FY24.

The monthly average tax revenue has increased from rupees 1,158 crore in FY24 to rupees 1,180 crore in FY25, indicating sustained growth, data shows.

Meanwhile, the GST collections contribute 61 per cent of total tax revenue, amounting to rupees 6,527 crore so far in FY25. Excise revenue has grown by 4 per cent and is projected to reach Rs 2,000 crore by the end of FY25.

As per the data, the sales tax (12 per cent), vehicle tax (6.5 per cent), and stamp/registration fees (4.9 per cent) are other key revenue contributors—(KNO)

## **Bakery Shop Sealed Over Unhygienic Conditions At Bemina** lation of safety norms. Follow-

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Thursday sealed Mughal Darbar Bemina here in Srinagar after a surprise inspection revealed unhygienic conditions, expired food items, and the illegal use of domestic gas cylinders instead of commercial ones. The crackdown was led by Naib Tehsildar Aleen Ali Sofi, accompanied by police personnel and officials from various departments.

During the inspection, officials discovered expired food items, including some with visible fungus, posing serious health risks to customers. The team also found domestic LPG cylinders being misused in place of commercial ones, a vio-

ing the findings, the eatery and its adjoining bakery shop were immediately sealed

In addition to sealing Mughal Darbar, the team also inspected various shops in the area, instructing vendors to display rate lists and refrain from overcharging customers, particularly during the holy month of Ramazan.

Speaking on the occasion, Naib Tehsildar Aleen Ali Sofi warned shopkeepers and vendors against selling food items, fruits, and vegetables at inflated prices. He assured strict action against violators, emphasizing that authorities will continue market inspections to prevent any exploitation of consumers. [KNT]

## **ACB Registers FIR In DA Case**

**SRINAGAR:** Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) P/S Srinagar Kashmir Srinagar, an official said. tered FIR into the allegations of acquisition of disproportionate assets accumulated by a public servant namely Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, then Junior Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Sub Division Pulwama.

The suspect is in possession of huge assets both immovable movable and cash deposits in his own name as well as in the name of his family members. The assets were found disproportionate to his known source

of income during the verification. Accordingly a case FIR No. 04/2025 is registered in P/S ACB

SSP Javid Hassan Bhat Searches were carried at his 02 separate residential houses located at a) Pehlipora Safapora Ganderbal, and b) Jawahar Nagar Srinagar simultaneously, he said.

During the search incriminating material including Revenue papers, finance/bank documents were recovered and seized as evidence in the instant case, the official said, adding that the investigation of the case is going on—(KNO)

## Around 11,000 Doctors, Paramedics Hired Under NHM

**SRINAGAR:** In the past five years, approximately 11,000 doctors and paramedics have been hired under the National Health Mission (NHM) in Jammu and Kashmir, while over 36,000 regular positions have been filled in the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department. According to the 2024 Eco-

nomic Survey Report, the J&K government's focus on healthcare reforms demonstrates a strong commitment to improving the sector in alignment with international standards. The emphasis has been on maternal and child health, disease prevention, and addressing future health challenges.

Recent achievements, particularly the improvement in the SDG India Index, highlight efforts to enhance healthcare accessibility and progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Despite setbacks like the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed infrastructure weaknesses, the government has increased investments in healthcare and leveraged digital platforms to expand the reach.

The report states that J&K has expanded its healthcare workforce over the last five years. This includes hiring 10,919 doctors and paramedical staff

under NHM and filling 36,274 regular positions in the H&ME Department. Additionally, 365 medical officers were appointed in 2024 and deployed in peripheral areas to strengthen patient care in remote regions. The initiative is supported by 13,965 ASHAs, increased MBBS and PG seats, and DNB programs in new GMCs and health institutions. Health and Wellness Centres, Jan Aushadhi Kendras, Amrit Stores, and digital health initiatives like tele-radiology and Tele Manas have also been established to enhance healthcare services. J&K has extended the ben-

efits of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to 19.02 lakh additional families, which was earlier available to only 6.70 lakh SECC families, according to the report. The region has been recognised for its best practices in implementing ABPMIAY SE-HAT, providing around 15 lakh treatments and saving approximately Rs 2800 crore in inpatient expenses

Launched in 2022, Tele Manas provides 24x7 tele-mental health counselling services, ensuring accessible and affordable mental healthcare. A Tele Manas UT-level cell and a mentoring institute have been established at IMHANS, Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, GMC Srinagar, providing round-the-clock services. For the smooth conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024, two semi-permanent 100-bed hospitals have been developed at Baltal and Chandanwari under CSR initiatives to provide medical facilities to pilgrims.

Jammu and Kashmir has achieved milestones in healthcare through comprehensive initiatives. The region has successfully implemented universal health insurance coverage under AB-PMJAY and PMJAY-SEHAT, targeting 100% family registration and issuance of approximately 86.12 lakh golden cards. This initiative has facilitated treatments worth Rs 2800 crore, benefiting more than 15 lakh people since its inception.

The healthcare infrastructure has been substantially enhanced, increasing bed capacity to about 21,966 beds and expanding medical oxygen generation capacity from 14,916 LPM to 1,27,901 LPM since August 2020 through 177 Oxygen Generation Plants. The region has also made strides in medical education with the sanctioning of 394 Diplomate of National Board (DNB) seats, ensuring equitable healthcare service distribution across challenging

terrains and remote areas. The region's ambulance ser-

vices have been bolstered with 489 geo-tagged ambulances, including 139 Advance Life Support (ALS), 64 Basic Life Support, and 286 regular ambulances integrated with online 108/102 ambulatory services. These efforts have enabled quick response times, with an average response time of less than half an hour, and have served more than 4.30 lakh beneficiaries since August 2020.

In tuberculosis (TB) elimination, J&K received prestigious accolades at the ONE WORLD TB SUMMIT 2023, including a Bronze Medal for achieving over a 20% reduction in TB incidence compared to 2015. District-level successes include Pulwama and Anantnag achieving TB-free status with over 80% reduction, whereas Budgam was already declared TB-free. District Srinagar received a Gold Medal for over a 60% reduction, while Jammu and Kathua districts were recognised with Bronze Medals.

The health sector in Jammu and Kashmir is embracing digital transformation to enhance healthcare accessibility and quality through various initiatives. E-Sanjeevani facilitates telemedicine consultations across specialities, which is crucial for remote areas like J&K, where more than 9.5 lakh consultations have already been conducted. The state is expanding tele-health services, including Tele-Medicine, Tele-ICU, Tele-Radiology, Tele-X-Ray, and Tele-CT Scan capabilities across its health institutions. The Drug and Vaccine Dis-

tribution Management System (DVDMS) manages online drug and vaccine distribution, while the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission digitises health records for improved healthcare delivery. So far, 90.84 lakh ABHA health IDs have been created, 79 lakh health records have been linked to the platform, and 100% of public health facilities have been registered on the Health Facility Registry (HFR). Additionally, 84% of doctors and 86% of nurses have been registered on the Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR), and 60 lakh online OR-based tokens have been generated to date.

Looking ahead, J&K's Health Department aims to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030, focusing on child health milestones, disease reduction strategies, and ending epidemics, the report states, adding that the strategic roadmap includes strengthening primary healthcare systems, improving medical education, and exploring public-private partnerships to ensure comprehensive and quality healthcare for all residents-(KNO)

# India Have Clarity On How They Operate In Dubai: Williamson

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: New Zealand batting mainstay Kane Williamson reckons India have "real clarity" on how they want to operate in Dubai, having played all their Champions Trophy games at the same venue but his team will also be reasonably well-prepared for the tournament finale due to its limited past familiarity with conditions.

Williamson did not specifically say that India had an advantage of playing at one venue, choosing to compare it to New Zealand's understanding of conditions in Lahore, where they beat South Africa on Wednesday to set up a final clash against the Rohit Sharma-led side in Dubai on Sunday.

New Zealand had played two games in Lahore during the preceding tri-series involving Pakistan and South Africa. "I suppose having played



there on a number of occasions; there's real clarity in how they want to operate," said Williamson when asked if India go into the final with an advantage of knowing the conditions. "A little bit like our opportunity here, having played a num-

ber of times at this venue as well and I think that's part and parcel in cricket," he added. Having scored a hundred in the semifinal, Williamson is high on confidence and looking forward to the final.

"It is what it is (India play all games in Dubai). Our focus is the next match, the location of that match, the opposition, they're all factors. Obviously, we played India once there," he said.

"The conditions are different, so it's important that we try and take away some of those positives and be nice and clear in how we're trying to operate come two or three-days' time in the final," he said referring to New Zealand's loss to India in the group stage.

Both Williamson and Rachin Ravindra struck hundreds to fashion New Zealand's emphatic win.

The conditions in the UAE have favoured spinners with the slow surface making strokemaking tough. But the fact that New Zealand have played a game in Dubai can only help them in the final, feels Williamson.

## South Africa's Miller Hopes New Zealand Beat India In CT Final

Press Trust of India

**LAHORE:** Frustrated with the scheduling of Champions Trophy's second semifinal after to-and-fro flights between Pakistan and Dubai in a span of just 12 hours, South African batter David Miller is now hoping for a New Zealand victory in the tournament's title clash against India.

With a brilliant hundred, Miller was the lone ranger in his side's defeat to the Black Caps in their last-four stage clash in Lahore on Wednesday.

"I'll be honest with you. I think I'll be supporting New Zealand," Miller was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

South Africa had to take an early morning flight to Dubai the night after playing their final group game in Karachi. With the tournament being played in a hybrid model, both Australia and South Africa were camped in Dubai



waiting for the result of the group game between India and New Zealand.

As Group B toppers, South Africa had to take the flight back to Pakistan to play their semifinal as the last-four match involving India was to be held in Dubai.

After scoring a hundred in a losing cause, Miller termed the scheduling not ideal.

the scheduling not ideal.
"It's only an hour-and-40-minute flight, but the fact that we had to do that. It's early morning, it's after a

f the game, and we had to fly. Then ndia we got to Dubai at 4pm.

"And at 7.30 in the morning we had to come back. It doesn't make it nice. It's not like we flew five hours, and we had enough time to recover and recuperate. But it was not an ideal situation still," Miller said.

The final will be played in Dubai on Sunday.

Miller's comments came after his teammate Rassie van der Dussen had referred to India's advantage of playing all their games at one venue.

## Aaqib, Selectors Responsible For Pak's CT Show: Gillespie

**Press Trust of India** 

**KARACHI:** Pakistan's former red-ball head coach, Jason Gillespie has said that interim head coach, Aaqib Javed and the national selectors should take the responsibility for the team's poor performance in the ICC Champions Trophy.

Hosts Pakistan were eliminated prematurely after losing their group games in the marquee tournament to New Zealand and India.

"We saw the results were not good enough. Ultimately he (Aaqib) has to bear the responsibility. He wanted complete control (of the affairs of the team) and he got it. The national selectors also have a lot of responsibility to take for the squad they picked to play in the tournament," said Gillespie, the former Australian pace bowler, in conversation with Pakistani cricket content creator Saj Sadiq.

Gillespie added that he always felt something was going on behind the scenes in Pakistan cricket when he was the head coach.

"I always felt there were things going on behind the scenes I was not trol and he got it."



aware of. And it didn't surprise me when he (Aaqib) was announced as interim coach," Gillespie said in a video posted on social media.

"In my opinion it (Aaqib's appointment) was always on the cards that this was going to happen. You can read into it as you want," he added.

Gillespie blamed Aaqib for undermining him and white-ball coach Gary Kirsten.

"He made it clear he wanted to be chief selector and he made it clear how he wanted the team to go about their work. He wanted complete control and he got it."

## **Short TAKES**

## Reiffel, Illingworth To Be On-Field Umpires For CT Final

Australia's Paul Reiffel and England's Richard Illingworth will be the on-field umpires, while Sri Lanka's Ranjan Madugalle will be the match referee for the Champions Trophy final between India and New Zealand here on Sunday.

Reiffel, 58, a former Australian fast bowler with more than 200 Test and ODI wickets, was one of the on-field umpires during South Africa's semifinal against New Zealand in Lahore.

Illingworth, 61, a former England left-arm spinner, was part of the action in India's last-four clash against Australia in Dubai.

Illingworth, the four-time ICC Umpire of the Year, also stood in the final of the 2023 ODI World Cup in India and the 2024 T20 World Cup in the Americas.

## Pacer Shami Committed Sin By Not Fasting: Barelvi Cleric

The national president of the All India Muslim Jamaat, Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi, said on Thursday that Indian cricketer Mohammed Shami has committed a sin by not fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramzan.

"In the eyes of Shariat, he is a criminal, he should not have done this at all," the Barelvi cleric said. In a video, Shahabuddin said Shami was seen drinking something from a bottle on the field during a match against Australia on Tuesday.

He advised Shami to follow the rules of Shariat.
"It is the responsibility of all Muslims to follow the rules of Shariat. Fasting is obligatory in Islam. If a person does not keep a fast intentionally, he is considered a sinner according to Islamic law," Razvi said.

"Playing cricket is not bad, but Mohammed Shami should fulfil his religious responsibilities. I advise Shami to follow the rules of Sharia and be responsible towards his religion," he added.

## Neymar In Brazil Team For WC Qualifiers v Colombia & Argentina

Former captain Neymar has been recalled by Brazil after an absence of almost 1 1/2 years.

The 33-year-old striker was included in the national squad by coach Dorival Junior on Thursday for World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina this month.

Neymar recently returned to action with Santos

after an ACL injury in October 2023. He left Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal in January and signed a six-month contract with his boyhood club.

Brazil, fifth in South American qualifying, will host Colombia on March 20 and travel to leader Argentina five days later at Monumental de Nunez Stadium in Buenos Aires.

Goalkeepers: Alisson (Liverpool), Bento (Al-Nassr), Ederson (Manchester City).

**Defenders:** Vanderson (Monaco), Wesley, Leo Ortiz, Danilo (all Flamengo), Gabriel Magalhães (Arsenal), Marquinhos (Paris Saint-Germain), Murillo (Nottingham Forest), Guilherme Arana (Atletico Mineiro).

**Midfielders:** André (Wolverhampton), Bruno Guimarães (Newcastle), Gerson (Flamengo), Joelinton (Newcastle), Neymar (Santos).

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