

# KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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## **J&K's Debt Crosses Rs 1.25 Lakh Cr**



**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: The Jammu and government on Saturday said its total debt stands at over Rs 1.25 lakh crore, including Rs 27,900 crore in general provident fund (GPF) for the Union Territory in the last financial year.

Omar Chief Minister Abdullah, who is also the finance minister of the UT, said in a written reply to Assembly member Sajad Gani Lone that as of March 31, 2024, Jammu and Kashmir's total debt is Rs

"This includes Rs 69.894 crore in loans from the Reserve Bank of India and state development, Rs 27,901 crore in GPF, Rs 14,294 crore in reserves, Rs 5,758 crore in outstanding national small savings fund, Rs 4,032 crore in negotiated loans, Rs 2,616 crore in UDAY power loans, and Rs 710 crore in Government of India advances", he said.

Abdullah further said the total outstanding liability in treasuries as of February 27, 2025, under various account

THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LIABILITY IN TREASURIES AS OF 27 FEB, 2025 under various object heads of accounts is to the tune of Rs 5429.49 crore."

## **New Criminal Laws Strengthen Women's Safety: PM** Says India's Economic Growth Driven By Women

#### **Press Trust Of India**

Gujarat: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government has given topmost priority to women's safety and framed stricter laws and rules to prevent crimes against them, besides making a provision for capital punishment to those indulging in heinous crimes like rape. The Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the colonial-era criminal law (Indian Penal Code), has strengthened the legal provisions related to women's safety, and made filing of complaints easier and delivery of justice faster, he said.



**THE NEW LAW MANDATES THAT CHARGES IN cases** of heinous crimes, like rape, be framed within 60 days and verdicts delivered within 45 days.

Addressing a huge gathering at Vansi Borsi village in Navsari district of Gujarat on International Women's Day, Modi said that India is walking on the path of womenled development for rapid progress of the country.

When a girl returns (home) late, her parents ask questions. But they don't do the same when a boy comes late...They should do it. In the past decade, we have given women's safety the highest priority, and in order to prevent crimes against them, we have made stricter rules and laws," the PM said.

"My government changed the law to introduce capital punishment for heinous crimes like rape," he said.

To ensure swift justice in serious crimes against women, the | More on P6

#### **Women Leading 296 Startups In J&K: LG**

**Observer News Service** 

ammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday reiterated his commitment to the socioeconomic empowerment of women and providing them with a conducive environment to realise their true potential. Joining the 'Sashakt Nari Samman' event organised by Buddha Art and Painting, in collaboration with Padma Shri Padma Sachdey Government College for Women, here, he said under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women empowerment | More on P6

#### **SIA Charges** 'Anti-national' **SM User**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: The State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir, on Saturday filed a charge sheet against a Twitter user in the Designated Special Court under the NIA Act in Budgam.

The case pertains to publishing of anti-national, secessionist and pro-terrorist content on social media, an official statement reads.

"The case was registered on information that a twitter handle LACTERATED KASHMIR is publishing content on Twitter which is secessionist and anti-India in nature; and promotes terrorism in J&K. Accordingly a formal case was registered vide FIR 18 of 2022 in police Station CIK/SIA Kashmir," it reads.

During extensive technical investigation, SIA said to have identified the twitter handler as Irfan-ul-Hag of Kawoosa Khalisa of Budgam | More on P6

### **Nearly Dozen Townships Coming Up In J&K: Govt**

**Press Trust Of India** 

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir government is planning to set up nearly a dozen townships at various places, including the twin capital cities, to check unplanned urban expansion and meet the housing needs of people, Health Minister Sakeena Itoo said on Saturday.

The minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to a question raised by People's Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Parra | More on P6

Land Allotted To Sri Lankan Cricketer in Kashmir?

## **Opposition Demands Answers In Assembly**

**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday witnessed heated discussions over the reported allotment of land in the Union Territory to former Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan's company, Ceylon Beverages.

The issue was raised during the Question Hour by CPI(M) MLA Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami, who questioned how

#### a foreign national was granted land in J&K. "A Sri Lankan cricketer has been given land in Kathua. Under what provisions was this allotment

made?" Tarigami asked, with-

out naming the individual. Congress MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir also expressed concern, calling the matter "serious" and demanding an immediate probe. "How can a non-Indian cricketer be allotted land in J&K? This needs urgent I More on P6

## **AFSPA Revocation In J&K Possible But Not Feasible: Army Chief**

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi has said that the revocation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from Jammu and Kashmir is a possibility, but the current security scenario does not support its removal.

Speaking at the India Today Conclave, General Dwivedi stated that AFSPA could be withdrawn once the Army is confident that local law



enforcement can effectively manage security challenges. He pointed to regions like Doda, Rajouri, | More on P6



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## KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Sunday | 09-03-2025

## **Public Notice**

I Summey Jan W/O Arsheed Hussain Bhat R/O Mazhama Shopian Want To Correct My name in adhaar records which has been wrongly entered as Sami Jan instead of Summey Jan with actual DOB 09-05-1989. Now correction required, if anybody has any objection may contact concerned Ahdar Centre Jammu/ Srinagar or concerned authorities

within 7 days

War, resident of Bakura, Alastang, Ganderbal, have lost my son's 8th class discharge certificate bearing Admission No. 401. I am now applying for a duplicate certificate. If anyone has any objections regarding this, they may submit the same to the office of Govt. Boys Middle School Bakura, Ganderbal within seven (7) days from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Gulzar Ahmad War F/o Farhan Ahmad War R/o Bakura Alastang GBL Date:- 08/03/25

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Javeed Ahmad Guiree F/o Zainab Javeed R/o 11 Bul Bul Lanker Nawa Kadal, Srinagar have changed my daughter's name From (old name) Laiba Javeed to (New Name) Zainab Javeed. In future she will be known as Zainab Javeed. If anybody has any objection he/ she may file the same to the office of the Concerned Authority within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Irfana Yaqoob R/o Akhzar Avenue Ellahi Bagh have changed my Son's name From (old name) Ahmar Salati to (New Name) Ibraheem Salati. In future he will be known as Ibraheem Salati. If anybody has any objection he/ she may file the same to the office of the Concerned Authority within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

#### NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 4166 2671 4509 from Humaira Manzoor (old name ) to Humeera Manzoor (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained Humeera Manzoor R/O:-Baharestan Tangmarg , Baramulla JVD

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 7275 5283 7612 from Ausaaf Manzoor Sheikh (old name ) to Mohammad Anas Sheikh (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Mohammad Anas Sheikh

R/O:- ChowdryBagh Rainawari, Srinagar

JVD

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

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420110013654

issued in favour of FEROZ AHMED SHEIKH Parentage **BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH** 

Whereas an application has been recieved by one FEROZ AHMED SHEIKH Parentage BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH wherein he claimed that the Name and parentage has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as FAROOQ AHMAD MOUCHI Parentage BASHIR AHMAD Which needs to be changed as FEROZ AHMED SHEIKH Parentage BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH.

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 Kashmii** 

#### **ASF ENTERPRISES**

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K), Ph.0194-2477949, 9419001176, 9419776235

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

Registered Government order Suppliers.



#### In the Court of Munsiff / Sub-Registrar, Srinagar

Next Date, Purpose of Case, Orders and Judgments as well as other case information is available on http://ecourts.gov.in

NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION

File No.: 1881 / 2024 CNR No.: JKSG02-003281-2024

Mohammad Imran Tapa Vs. Noori Shangloo & Ors

(Suit for Mandatory Injunction) PUBLIC AT LARGE:

Whereas, the suit titled above has been filed by the above-named Mohammad Imran Tapa for Mandatory Injunction and is pending disposal before this Court and is listed on 22.03.2025. Now, through the medium of this notice, it is informed that if any person has any objection, he/she shall approach this Court within (15) days from the publication of this notice. After that, no

objection will be entertained, and appropriate orders shall be passed. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 07.03.2025.

> (Adnan Manzoor Nagashbandi) Munsiff / Sub-Registrar Srinagar





SEND YOUR RESUME TO:

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ADDRESS

Bagfust Balawah Sirbaga; Jammis and Kashnik

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

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420100004815

issued in favour of SAIMA SADAF PAUL Husband SARFARAZ AHMAD

Whereas an application has been recieved by one SAIMA SADAF PAUL Husband SARFARAZ AHMAD wherein he claimed that the Name and parentage has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as SAIMA ROUF MALIK Which needs to be changed as SAIMA SADAF PAUL Husband SARFARAZ AHMAD.

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.

fko

**Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir** 

## OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of Ab. Hamid Khan S/o Gulzar Khan R/o Bangdara Reshipora Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of EWS (Economically Weaker Section)

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of EWS in favor of his Ulfat Hamid, Suhail Ahmad, Akash Hamid. In this connection, a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village Bangdara Reshipora. The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

		Relation- ship with the Family Head	Age	Occupa- tion	Annual Income
01	Ab. Hamid Khan	Head	55 Yrs	Labour	1,70,000 /
02	Mst. Robana	Wife	52 Yrs	House- wife	
03	Ulfat Hamid	Son	21 Yrs	Student	
04	Suhail Ahmad	Son	21 Yrs		
05	Akash Hamid	Son	18 Yrs	_	

According to the report of patwari concerned, the applicant's family has not more than 5 acres of land and does not have greater than 1000 sq ft Reside House. The applicant has not any Residential house or Residential plot in a municipal area, the applicant's Residential plot is not more than 200 sq ft and the applicant's family income is not more than 8 lacs per year. Moreover, the

applicant does not belong to any Backward Area. Therefore, through this Public Notice, objections are being sought from the general 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.

fko

Anish Rashid

**Executive Magistrate** 

Public at Large

زعدالت جناب ڈسٹرکٹ جج صاحب بڈگام ہااجلاس او بی بھگت

. Saleema Bano Wd/o: Ab Rashid Sheikh . Akeel Ahmad

I. Nisha Saleem ons and daughters of Ab Rashid Sheikh

Residen of: Check No. 1 BK Pora District Budgam

اشتہار بھراد آگاہی ہور خاص و عام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل/سائلان نے ایک درخواست نسبت جانتین شوشکیٹ حصول قرم میلنج -/997973 پیش عدالتِ ہٰډا کی ہے۔لہذا بذریعیا شتہار ہرخاص وعام کو . فما مل تا تارخ 37.03.2025 أَوْدَا ٓ كَرِيثِي كرين بعد كذرنے معياد كوئى عذر يااعتراض قابل

MKO

## Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mechnical Irrigation Division Anantnag HQ Awantipora

INF

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-Tenders in two cover system valid for 180 days, are invited from Original Pump Manufacturers (OPM's) or their authorized Dealers/ representatives or registered, reputed and experienced Mechanical/electrical contractors/other firms / SSI unit holders/ duly registered for the below mentioned works:-

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost("Rs" in Lacs)	Cost of tender document/ (In Rs.)	Earnest money @2% (in Rs)	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Installation of 40 HP water motor 5 cusec LIS at Pattalbagh	5.70	500/	11400	45 days

AAA No. 23-MCO OF 2024-25 Dated: 20.02.2025 Technical Sanction No.:MIDA/47 of 02/2025 Position of Funds Available

Major Head District Capex

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktender

Γ		Publish Date	07.03.2025	at	04:00 PM
Γ	Ii	Document Down load/sale start Date	08.03.2025	at	10:00 AM
Γ	Iii	Clarification start date	10.03.2025	From	02:00 PM
Γ	Iv	Pre-bid Meeting date	10.03.2025	at	11:00 AM
Γ	V	Bid submission start date	13.03.2025	From	10:00 AM
Γ	Vi	Clarification end date	12.03.2025	Up to	04:00 PM
Γ	Vii	Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	17.03.2025	Up to	05:00 PM
Γ	Viii	Date and time of Bid opening	18.03.2025		oon or any date convenient
1				to the D	ontt

All the terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in e -Nit & PWD form No.25-double

NO MIDA/3362-68

DIPK-12798/24 dated: 03-08-2025

Executive Engineer. hanical Irrigation Division Anantnag HQ Awantipora

Email id: - eomcsopore@gmail.com Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir Ph.No: 01954222256

#### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SOPORE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

In compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and in the interest of environmental protection and public health, a complete ban is hereby enforced on the storage, supply, transport, sale, or distribution of Single-Use/Throw-Away Plastic, Styrofoam, and Thermocol within the jurisdiction of Municipal Council Sopore.

**Prohibited Items Include:** 

Plastic carry bags (irrespective of thickness)

Disposable plastic cutlery (spoons, forks, knives, straws, plates,

Styrofoam (thermocol) plates, bowls, and cups Plastic packaging material for food items

Any other single-use plastic or thermocol products

**Legal Consequences:** Violators of this ban shall face strict action, including:

Seizure of banned materials Fines and penalties under the relevant laws

Cancellation of trade licenses for repeated offenses

All individuals, businesses, shopkeepers, and vendors are directed to comply with this order and switch to eco-friendly alternatives. Public cooperation is crucial for ensuring a clean and sustainable environment in

No:- MC/SPR/2024-25/4565-67 Dated:- 07/03/2025

DIPK-NB-3686/24 dated: 08-03-2025 Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Sopore

cao.splg1@gmail.com

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Phone: 0194-2311398

## **Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar

Subject:- Engagement of Krishi Udyami (KUs)/Agricultural Entrepreneur in District Srinagar. Reference:- i) Order No.:- 30-DDCS of 2024 dated:- 29/02/2024. ii) DDCS/Dev/Committee/7076-83 Dated:- 11/11/2024

> **ORDER** Order No.:-168 /P&S of 2025 Dated: - 05/03/2025

Pursuant to the Final Merit list of the prospective candidates for selection of Krishi Udyami approved by the Chairman, District Level Selection Committee (Addl. District Development Commissioner) Srinagar the following candidates are hereby engaged as Krishi Udyami against the Panchayats shown against each.

S.No	Name of the KKG & Location	Name of the Candidate
1.	KKG Khimber	Afroza Beigh D/o Haji Ab. Gaffar Beigh R/o Khimber Hazratbal
2.	KKG Balhama A&B	Nasreena Qasim D/o Imtiyaz Hussain Lone R/o Firdous Colony
		Balhama
3.	KKG Lasian A&B	Fozia W/o Basharat Bashir Wani R/o Lasjan
4.	KKG Soiteng	Ashra Manzoor D/o Manzoor Ahmad R/o Vithpora Soiteng
5.	KKG Theed A&B	Aagib Javaid Rather S/o Javaid Ahmad Rather R/o New Theed
		Harwan
6.	KKG Dara A&B, Syedpora &	Shakir Nazir S/o Nazir Ahmad Reshi R/o Syedpora Harwan
	Gundtal	

The selected candidates shall report to the office of the undersigned within a period 07 days from the date of issuance of this order and shall he allowed to join after production or the following documents certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently Date of birth certificate-(Matriculation certificate).

Marks certificate of all qualifying examinations Domicile Certificate.

d. Character certificate issued by competent authority.

The engagement shall further be subject to the following conditions:

The engagement shall be initially for a period of 02 years with the possibility of renewal subject to the satisfactory

The selected KU's shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that in case the verification.

genuineness of the Qualification/DOB certificates/Other requisite documents from the concerned issuing authority are found incorrect/fake/forged, the engagement shall be treated to have been cancelled abintio. If the selected KU's fails to join within a period of 07 days from the date of issuance of this order, they shall forego

their right to engagement as Krishi Udyami which shall be deemed to have been cancelled abintio without any further notice. selected KU's shall enter in to an agreement with the APD and shall have to deposit a refundable security amounting of Rs. 10,000 (Rupees Ten Thousand only) in the form of Fixed Deposit Receipt from any scheduled commercial

Nature of Engagement: The selected KU's will work on a franchise-franchisee basis, the operation of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) at the Panchayat level will be carried out by KU's under the support and framework provided by the Agriculture Production Department with the aim of fostering entrepreneurship, local empowerment, and the effective delivery of

agricultural services in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. No Right to Regular Appointment: KUs are not entitled to claim any regular appointment. Asset Ownership and Maintenance: Assets provided by the department for KKGs shall remain the exclusive property of the department. KU's will function as custodians of the infrastructure and facilities, being responsible for their mainte-

nance. VIII. Training and Fee Entitlement: KUs shall be provided with requisite training to enhance their Skills. They will be entitled to a payment of fees out of contingency for participating in training sessions and programs. Input License Provision: The Directorate of Agriculture shall provide/facilitate entrepreneur with the requisite in-

put license, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. X. Nodal Agency for Establishment and Administration: The Mission Director HADP shall act as a nodal agency re-sponsible for the establishment and administration of KKGs, overseeing their effective functioning.

Technological Support: Development Departments and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) shall provide regular technology support to KU's, ensuring they stay abreast of the latest advancements in agricultural technology. SKUAST Cyber extension hub shall be integrated with the KKG software ecosystem for continuous and sustainable technology backup.

XII. Facilitation of Linkages: The Agriculture Production Department/Mission Directorate HADP shall facilitate the linkage of KKGs with input companies and financial institutions, fostering institutions by entering into Memorandums of Under-

standing (MOUs) with these institutions, fostering collaborative efforts.

XIII. Extension of Functions: Village/Panchayat level workers of Agriculture and allied departments shall extend their functions through KKGs, enhancing the reach and impact of agricultural services.

XIV. Service Charges and Compliance: KU's shall charge nominal service charges and adhere to all requisite norms for extending services. A rate card for service charges shall be issued by the Mission Director HADP from time to time. Weekly reporting to Panchayat, Block, and Line departments is mandatory.

XV. Succession Plan on Disengagement: In the event of a KU leaving the assignment or being disengaged, the functioning of KKG will directly come under the control of the designated APD Officer for the said KKG, till the process of engaging new KU's is completed. Agreement Termination Conditions:-

The Agreement may be terminated by both parties (KU & APD) with a 3-month prior notice. KU's however, must provide an undertaking to stay in the agreement for a minimum of two years. In the case of exit before two years by the KU, the security amount of INR 10000 (Rupees Ten thousand) will be forfeited. This is in addition to the 3-month prior notice.
b. For all purposes the Designated APD Officer will be the overall custodian of the entire KKG setup, including monitoring of services rendered and assets.

XVII. The main function of KU's shall be Farmer Registration Service under HADP, CSS and Crop insurance etc. Sale of farm inputs including Seeds fertilizers, Pesticides through market linkages provided by APD besides booking of farm machinery from the nearest Custom Hiring Centers and KVKs and dissemination of information & advisories. KKGs shall serve as one stop service center for Agriculture and allied services at the Panchayat level.

XVIII. Flexibility in Terms and Conditions: All the conditions mentioned in the advertisement notice shall constitute the

term and conditions of the agreement. However, APD Officer reserves the right to change or add any other condition at the time

(Manohar Lal Sharma) Member Secretary Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar.

No:-CAOS/P&S/2024-25/ 5509-20 Dated: -08/03/2025

of signing of the agreement

NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT

## **J&K Completes 260 Smart** City Projects, 29 Underway

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has completed 260 Smart City projects at an estimated cost of Rs 6,358.31 crore, while 29 more projects worth Rs 857.58 crore are currently under execution, as per the official document for the year 2025.

The document states that the Smart City Mission has introduced 200 ebuses (100 each in Jammu and Srinagar) with realtime tracking and digital ticketing solutions to enhance urban mobility. "An additional 200 e buses have been approved under the PM E-Bus Sewa initiative," it states.

According to document, the Smart City Mission is revamping urban infrastructure in Srinagar and Jammu, focusing on developing green spaces, installing LED street lights, constructing health centres and auditoriums, and improving public transport to create modern, efficient, and eco-friendly urban centres—(KNO)

## **Jamia Masjid Illumination Project 'Historic': Mirwaiz**

Agencies

Mirwaiz-Srinagar: Umar Faroog has termed the illumination of Srinagar's historic Jama Masjid as a "historic moment," announcing that the first phase of the project undertaken by Augaf Jamia was completed during the holy month of Ramadan.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Mirwaiz expressed gratitude for the completion of the first phase

"Alhamdulillah, the first phase of the Jama illumination project by Auqaf Jamia has been completed during the blessed month of Ramadan. May this enhancement add to the spiritual experience of all who visit this sacred place," wrote Mirwaiz.

Notably, the illumination, he said, will not only beautify the centuries-old mosque but also enrich the experience of thousands of devotees who gather for prayers, especially during the holy month of Ramadan.

It is worth mentioning, Jama Masjid, located in the heart of Srinagar's old city, has been 'a symbol of Kashmir's religious and cultural heritage' for over past centuries—(KNO)



**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar celebrated the International Women's Day at Lala Arifa auditori-

um of the campus. The event was organised by the Women's Study Centre of the college and was attended by students and faculty members.

Akademi Sahitva awardee Kashmiri poet and noted scholar, Prof. Naseem Shafaie was the Chief Guest on the occasion while former Professor Univer sity of Kashmir and Ex-Dean Outreach, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Prof. Lily Want was the Guest of Honour.

Other guests who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Fatima Jalid from the Department of Chemical Engineering at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and Ms. Madeeha Majid, a human rights lawyer and motivational speaker.

In her welcome address, Principal of the host college, Prof. Yasmeen Faroog Khan highlighted the relevance of the day and underlined the importance of achieving gender equality in education.

Referring to the pivotal role played by Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road in women emancipation during the last over seven decades, Prof. Yasmeen said, "This institution has been a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change. As this col-

fko

SHE WAS NOT ONLY A **TRAILBLAZER FOR** women's rights, but a voice for those who were silenced. a champion for education and social justice. Her tireless efforts for promoting equality and justice continue to inspire and ignite action in

lege is completing 75 years. we humbly remember the remarkable contribution of women like Mehmooda Ali Shah whose legacy stands as a testament to what women can achieve, even in the face of adversity".

all of us."

"She was not only a trailblazer for women's rights, but a voice for those who were silenced, a champion for education and social justice. Her tireless efforts for promoting equality and justice continue to inspire and ignite action in all of us", she added.

"We still have a long way to go in ensuring true gender equality, but I believe with the spirit of women like Mehmooda Ali Shah and her ilk along with the collective action of our society, we can be closer to the world where all women, regardless of their background or circumstance, have the opportunity to reach their full potential," Prof. Yasmeen said.

## CHINAR TAXI STAND PALHALLAN

Cell: 9908797598, 9906851080, 9906764254 Regd. No: 173-MT-BIA

Dated: 08/03/25

The Chairman of Chinar Taxi Stand Palhallan, Nazir Ah Tantray, requests the Chinar Taxi Stand Palhallan to address the follow-

We have 45 Sumo vehicles. Therefore, I do not have the capacity for additional vehicles.

If anyone has a membership above 5000, they are eligible to participate in Chinar Taxi Stand Palhallan.

If anybody purchases a membership, they will be referred to the President, in accordance with legislation no. 193-MT-BIA. The membership purchase fine will be 5000, payable through

Chinar Taxi Stand Palhallan, along with an affidavit.

**CHINAR TAXI STAND PALHALLAN** 



## Ramazan: Special Plates, Grand **Buffets Take Over Srinagar**

Restaurants, Cafeterias Witness Surge in demand for traditional Iftar platters

Srinagar: As the holy month of Ramazan progresses, the special plates and grand buffets are making waves across Kashmir, with local restaurants and cafeterias witnessing an increased demand for traditional delicacies.

From bustling street vendors to high-end restaurants, the food culture during Iftar has transformed into a grand culinary experience.

Residents say this trend is not just about feasting but also about community bonding.

'Ramazan is a month of spirituality, but food remains a big part of our celebrations. Restaurants and cafeterias are offering unique Iftar buffets, which people are enjoying with their families and friends," said Irfan Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar's Hazratbal.

From wazwan platters to kebabs, dates, and refreshing drinks, restaurants and cafeterias across the Valley have introduced special menus catering to the increased demand. "Our restaurant has introduced an Iftar buffet with many dishes, including traditional Kashmiri items like kebab, gushtaba, and rogan josh. The response has been great," said a restaurant owner in Hyderpora, Srinagar.

Similarly, not just in Srinagar city but also in other districts, the trend of Iftar meals is gaining popularity. "In Baramulla, Sopore, and Shopian, along with other districts, hotels and cafeterias are offering combo deals for Iftar. which include everything from desserts to kebabs. This is a new trend we are witnessing in recent years," said Junaid, a local from Baramulla.

Notably, locals on the other hand are also expressing concerns over rising food prices during the holy month. "While the variety is appealing, prices have skyrocketed. A simple Iftar meal that used to cost Rs 200 last year now costs around Rs 300-350. The administration should monitor food prices," said Shabir Hussain, a local in Srinagar

Meet Pherni Vendor **Selling Sweet Dish** For Decades

rinagar: An elderly Pherni vendor from the Aali Kadal area of Srinagar has been serving his signature sweet dish for decades, attracting customers from across Kashmir, especially during the holy month of Ramazan.

Nazir Ahmad, along with his two sons, Showkat and Aabid, continues the family tradition of preparing and selling Pherni at Aali Kadal Srinagar, where the stall witnesses a heavy rush, particularly before Iftari.

Nazir said his family has been in this trade for around eight decades. Initially handled by his brother, Nazir took over the business and has been making Phirni for the past 60 years. He proudly said that his customer base extends across Kashmir and that the business has provided a stable livelihood for his family

## Office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla

12181-86

Shri. Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh, S/O Mohammad Abdullah Sheikh, R/O Brein Nishat Srinagar.

Subject: Sanitary work upto first manhole for Administration block of Medical College at Baramulla.

Reference: 1. Allotment No: PA/GM/K/21/222-24 dated: 01.10.2021.

2. AEE R&B Sub-Division Baramulla's letter No: AEEB/1324 dated: 04.01.2025

1. Whereas, the above subjected works has been allotted in your favour vide allotment No: PA/GM/K/21/222-24 dated: 01.10.2021 Whereas, as per allotment you were supposed to complete the work within 60 days.

Whereas, it has come to the notice of undersigned that the above captioned work has been abandoned by you. Whereas, you have been time and again directed by the field staff/ sub-Divisional authorities to resume to the work ver-

bally/latest by AEE Baramulla letter No: AEEB/1324 dated: 04.01.2025. Whereas, the building being a life line structure and was supposed to be attended on top priority but despite lapse of stipulated time period you have not completed the work.

Whereas, you are given a last chance to resume the work within two days & complete the same at an earliest otherwise. action as per the NIT/Contract shall be initiate against you, your performance security shall be forfeited & the balance work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk & cost which may be noted.

This notice be treated as final one & no further correspondence shall be made at this end.

DIPK-12819/24 dated: 08-03-2025

Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla.

**GOVERNMENT 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

### Extension Notice 1st.

Subject: Procurement of Ground Water Detector/Loggers for PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar by way of Providing, Testing and Commissioning of Bore Hole Camera System with 200 Mtr. Cable Inspection of Wells.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 66-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./13016-23, dated: 28-02-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025\_PHE\_273376\_1.

Due to "Poor Response" for the above mentioned works advertised videe-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 08-03-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given belo

Teleferice. Which was selected to be downloaded the			ı
S.No.	Item	Fresh Date	
1.	Period of submission of bids	15-03-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM	
2.	Date of opening of tenders	17-03-2025 11.00 AM	

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos. **Executive Engineer** dated: 08-03-2025

Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar.



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

#### **AIRPORTS**

**RAILWAYS** 

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



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

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**



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



#### **PRAYERS FAJR** 5:27 **ZUHR** 12:43 **ASR** 4: 52 6:36 Magrib **ISHA** 7:56

## This Day In History

- 1862 USS Monitor and CSS Merrimack battle in **Hampton Roads**
- 1889 Battle at Gallabat (Metema): Mahdi's beat Abyssinian emperor John IV.
- 1891 Great Blizzard of 1891 begins in England (lasts until 13th March; 200 people and 6,000 animals killed).
- 1893 Congo cannibals killed thousands of Arabs 1907 - 1st involuntary sterilization law enacted, Indiana.
- 1916 Germany declares war against Portugal. 1925 - Pink's War, the first RAF operation conducted
- independently of the Army or Navy, begins. 1935 - Adolf Hitler announces the creation of a new
- 1942 Construction of the Alaska Highway began
- 1945 334 US B-29 Superfortresses attack Tokyo with 120,000 fire bombs
- 1945 Japanese proclaim "independence" of Indo-China.
- 1961 Soviet flight Sputnik 9 carries and returns a dog named Chernushka (Blackie), frogs and
- a guinea pig from orbit
- 1962 Egyptian Pres Nasser declares Gaza belongs to Palestinians.
- 1962 US advisors in South-Vietnam join the fight
- 1975 Construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System begins.
- 1986 NASA announces searchers found remains of Challenger astronauts.
- 1986 Soviet probe Vega 2 flies by Halley's Comet at

1989 - Soviet Union officially submits to jurisdiction

- of the World Court. 1991- US 70th manned space mission STS 39
- (Discovery 12) launches into orbit 1994 - IRA launch 1st of 3 mortar attacks on London's
- Heathrow Airport. 2006 - Liquid water is discovered on Enceladus, the
- sixth largest moon of Saturn. 2007 - The US Justice Department releases an internal audit that found that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had acted illegally in its use of the USA Patriot Act to secretly obtain personal information

## From KO Archives

about US citizens.

## Wife Pushes Husband Behind Bars

**Observer News Service** 

RINAGAR-Police today arrested a resident of Sarnal, Anantnag who had reportedly tried to kill his wife by pushing her out of the third story of his house. Syed Khalid Shah was arrested after the statement of his injured wife who regained consciousness after seven days in coma at Soura Institute, Srinagar. Ironically, he was attending to his bruised wife in the hospital when arrested. The police have registered a case against him under the Section 307. According to the reports, Rozy Jan, was taken to hospital by her in-laws on March 2 saying that she fell from the third story of her house. She was admitted to hospital in an unconscious state and after seven days when she regained her consciousness, she revealed that she had been pushed out of the window by her husband with the intention of killing her.

The couple who had been married for last four years, had a relationship marred by quarrels and conflicts, and the birth of a child could not mend their differences. Two years back, the conflict resulted in divorce, but later a patch up brokered by their relatives resulted in their re-marriage. However, the differences could not be bridged and according to the wife, her husband was threatening to kill her daily for some time. Relatives of the victim accused Shah having developed a relationship with some other woman.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 March, 2000)

# **Kashmir's Degenerating Social Fabric**

Kya gov malaal yeth Reshwaraey?

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

If Reshwaer is to breathe again, it must first be cleansed—not by force, not by authority, but by the return of honesty, by the revival of integrity, by the rediscovery of purpose

ashmir, the Reshwaer, the land once sanctified by the footsteps of saints and softened by the words of mystics, now trembles under the weight of its own undoing. It was here that Lal Ded wandered, shedding the chains of materialism, and here that Nund Reshi's silence was mightier than a thousand decrees.

This was the land where prayers rose with the morning mist and settled like dew upon the hearts of its people. But now, what remains of that Reshwaer? What remains of that sacred breath, that divine touch?

Amir Khusrau, enamored by a Kashmir, wrote, "If there is a paradise on Earth, it is this, it is this, it is this." Paradise-like no longer exists. If he were to return today, would he still call it paradise? Or would he find himself gasping for air in a place where truth has been buried, and honor has been sold to the highest bidder?

The tragedy of Kashmir is not merely in its political wounds, nor simply in its territorial struggles. It is in its moral decay, its spiritual erosion, its betrayal of self. There was a time when Reshwaer meant humility, a land where a traveler could sleep under the shade of a chinar, unafraid of deceit or violence.

Kashmir was a place where generosity was instinctive, where a stranger was fed before he could ask, where the wealth of the valley lay not in its gold, but in its grace. Today, the same land is haunted by the ghosts of corruption. The streets that once welcomed poets and seekers now echo with cries of crime, obscene, immoral acts, the fields that once blossomed with saffron are now buried under highways and shopping malls. What was once a land of faqeers (God fearing & anti materialists) has become a playground for opportunists and pscycho breed like Razak bab.

### A crime against the soul

A greater crime than the theft of land is the theft of virtue. Theft is no longer done in the secrecy of night; it is a craft practiced in daylight, sanctioned by power, justified by necessity.

The youth, both men, women, young, old, once seekers of knowledge, now seek refuge in intoxication, drowning their disillusionment in a haze of substance abuse. The hands that once wove the finest Pashmina now tremble under the



A greater crime than the theft of land is the theft of virtue. Theft is no longer done in the secrecy of night; it is a craft practiced in daylight, sanctioned by power, justified by necessity.

weight of despair.

A couplet in Kashmiri language translates into "What will the oppressor take with him? Lal Ded has shown the path". But the path is obscured, lost beneath the rubble of greed. The mosques are grander, the sermons louder, yet hearts are darker, and intentions more hollow. Faith has been reduced to performance, religion to a ritualistic routine that serves the ego more than the soul. What use are long prayers when they do not translate into honesty? What worth is a bowed head when the hands are tainted with deceit?

The streets reek not only of economic poverty but of moral bankruptcy. Corruption is no longer an exception; it is the rule. Those entrusted with justice have turned it into a commodity. Those meant

to uphold truth have auctioned it for convenience. Nepotism thrives while merit is strangled. Reshwaer has been turned into a marketplace where everything—land, faith, loyalty—is up for sale.

### The destruction of the sacred land

Nature, once the valley's greatest poet, now laments in silence. The Karewas, the ancient plateaus that cradled saffron fields and almond orchards, are being razed, their soil sold by those who should have safeguarded it. Concrete suffocates what was once a breathing landscape, rivers carry filth instead of purity, lakes mirror the neglect of their keepers. If the land is lost, if the water is lost, if the air is lost—what remains of Reshwaer and the

Of Reshwaer, it is not just the land that is being consumed; it is it's identity itself. The Wular that once sustained villages now swallows its own banks (encroachment's). The Dal, once a mirror to the heavens, now reflects the ruin of our conscience. The waters that once carried the whispers of saints now carry the waste of an indifferent people, morally, environmentally corrupt. Kashmir, which once commanded reverence, is now being dissected, dismantled, and degraded, piece by piece, inch by inch.

#### The vanishing spirit

Once upon a time, Reshwaer was not just a land; it was a way of life. It was simplicity, it was generosity, it was truth. That spirit is now an artifact, spoken of in past tense, admired in nostalgia but abandoned in practice. This is the greatest malaal, the deepest wound—the loss of what made Kashmir more than just a valley of mountains and rivers.

"A land as beautiful as the first glimpse of paradise," wrote Sir Walter Lawrence. But what is beauty if it is hollow? What is paradise if its people live in despair? What is Reshwaer if it's people list morals and lost the purpose of very being.

#### Is redemption possible?

We, as an individuals and a society have reached to a point when redemption is the only way. Can Reshwaer be saved? Perhaps. But it will take more than mourning. It will take more than mere remembrance. It demands action, reflection, and an unwavering courage to break the chains of greed, to cleanse the conscience, to reclaim the truth.

This Reshwaer didn't die overnight. Also its redemption is not possible on memory alone. If Reshwaer is to breathe again, it must first be cleansed—not by force, not by authority, but by the return of honesty, by the revival of integrity, by the rediscovery of purpose.

Until then, the question will remain unanswered. The lament will remain unresolved, and the sigh of Reshwaer will continue to echo—"Kya gov malaal yeth Reshwaraey?"

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer The author is a Teacher, researcher and a freelance columnist

EW DELHI – Democracy is under threat around the world, but not because dictators are overthrowing elected governments and seizing power. While authoritarian takeovers still make headlines, they are no longer the greatest threat to free societies. The real danger is more insidious: a gradual yet profound transformation of our democratic systems.

On the surface, these systems appear to be functioning as they should. Elections are being held, and voters are casting their ballots for leaders and parties they believe will represent their interests. But too often, they end up electing politicians who serve only their own interests rather than those of their constituents. While gullibility is not new, it has become so pervasive that it now threatens the very foundation of democratic governance.

To understand how we got here, consider the "elé belé rule." When I was growing up in Calcutta (now Kolkata), all smart kids playing in the streets and parks knew the rule. When they played games in the neighborhood, a younger kid – usually accompanied by a doting mother – occasionally would insist on joining them. Rather than refusing outright, the players would whisper to one another the code words "elé belé," signaling that while the new kid could play along, he was not actually part of the game. If he scored a goal, we would cheer and applaud, but we all knew the truth: his goal didn't count.

Today, elé belé has become a staple of democratic politics, with ordinary people around the world eagerly throwing their support behind demagogues who don't think they count. For these leaders, a commitment to public service is worse than irrelevant; it threatens the relentless pursuit of wealth and power for themselves and their cronies. Voters who believe they are part of the game are just being played.

The result is democratic erosion. Mainstream economists and political scientists have long relied on the "median voter theorem," which states that in a majoritarian electoral system, political leaders will naturally gravitate toward the preferences of centrist voters, as winning elections requires appealing to the ideological middle rather than the extremes. But today's deepening political polarization

# Playing At Democracy

Kaushik Basu



and the growing tendency of politicians to embrace radical positions suggest that this assumption no longer holds.

While the underlying causes of this shift remain unclear, it is strongly correlated with the rise of social media. Instead of fostering informed debate, digital platforms have become powerful tools for spreading misinformation, enabling opportunistic leaders to manipulate and mislead people with ease.

Since its inception in ancient Athens, democracy has undergone numerous transformations. As technology advances, certain features of earlier democratic systems become outdated. Evolving moral standards can also lead to fundamental reforms. For example, in the Roman Republic, the votes of high-ranking officials and the wealthy carried more weight than those of ordinary citizens. We no longer

Mainstream
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find this acceptable.

Similarly, as democracy evolved, the need for stability became evident, leading to the introduction of constitutions. While constitutions can be amended, doing so requires more than a simple majority, ensuring that core institutions are not subject to impulsive change.

With democratic governance under increasing strain, the world once again finds itself at a critical juncture. Today's extreme inequality is eroding democracy in unprecedented ways. The rise of digital platforms and social media has provided the super-rich with new tools to shape public opinion. Voters believe they are active participants while – elé belé – real power is concentrated in the hands of the few.

Curbing inequality is thus not just a moral imperative; it is also necessary for protecting democracy against the threat of authoritarianism. To this end, we need a tax system that redistributes wealth and income without stifling innovation and entrepreneurship.

There is certainly scope for this. Once they reach a certain level of wealth, the super-rich are no longer motivated by a desire for more money per se, but rather by the desire to outdo their super-rich peers. This implies an opportunity to implement what I call an "accordion tax," which taxes high earners and redistributes the revenue to those with lower incomes in a way that preserves the relative ranking among the rich. Such a system would enable us to reduce inequality and maintain the incentives that drive ambition and innovation.

But individual countries cannot tackle extreme inequality by themselves. International cooperation is essential, given the limits of unilateral action in a globalized world. History has shown that when faced with major challenges, the world can come together to translate bold ideas into action. To save democracy, we must do so again.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Project Syndicate

## Blooming Against All Odds

# Dr Neelofar's Journey In Floriculture And Innovation

Hirra Azmat

ooking across the rows of vibrant flowers in the greenhouse, Chief Scientist and Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-Kashmir, Dr. Neelofar Banday, takes a deep breath. "You see, choosing floriculture and landscaping as a career came with its own set of challenges. Women in Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are still underrepresented, and their numbers dwindle even further in leadership positions. Naturally, I had to overcome many barriers to

The youngest of four sisters, Neelofar grew up in the traditional and conservative setting of the old city. However, she was always determined to make unconventional choices, often challenging societal norms. Active in sports and an exceptional student, she completed her primary and secondary education at a government school before pursuing a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Agriculture. She later earned a Ph.D. in Floriculture and Landscaping from SKUAST-Kash-

Neelofar credits her father as the driving force behind her decision to pursue agricultural science. "My father was my greatest source of inspiration," she said. "From high school, he encouraged me to study science, always reminding me that women hold up half the sky and can contribute equally to STEM."

Her research focused on the "programming of tulip bulbs"- a process that refers to the process of planting them in the fall to ensure they bloom in the spring; this involves choosing the right time, location, and planting depth.

'Tulips bloom in Delhi as well, but the bulbs don't form there because the temperature is not suitable. The ones that bloom in Delhi are already programmed. Tulip bulbs require a chilling period of 2 to 2.5 months, which naturally occurs in temperate climate of Eu-



rope and Kashmir. We artificially provided this chilling temperature to tulip bulbs in August, allowing them to be cultivated outside Kashmir while still ensuring proper blooming," the scientist explained.

Neelofar's journey, however, has been long and demanding. Throughout her research, she has had to challenge age-old stereotypes that question women's ability to engage in science while balancing career aspirations with family commitments. Taking the road less travelled, she rose to become a professor, Chief Editor of



## **NEELOFAR'S JOURNEY, HOWEVER,** HAS BEEN LONG AND DEMANDING. THROUGHOUT HER RESEARCH, she

has had to challenge age-old stereotypes that question women's ability to engage in science while balancing career aspirations with family commitments

the SKUAST Journal of Research, and currently serves as the Dean Faculty of Horticulture at SKUAST-K. Shalimar.

As a floriculture scientist, she has guided 20 to 30 Ph.D. students, whose research has covered a variety of crops, including summer annual flowers and herbaceous perennials. While summer annual plants complete their life cycle within a single warm season, herbaceous perennials die back each year but regrow from their roots.

Beyond mentoring, she has worked extensively on tissue cul-

ture propagation of lilium, standardization of production technology for various flowers, and post-harvest techniques to improve flower longevity for consumers. She has also contributed valuable insights to the Tulip Garden, Srinagar, advising on blooming periods, disease control, and optimal timings for opening the garden to

Neelofar has authored more than 90 research papers in prestigious national and international journals, including the Indian Journal of Horticulture, Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences, Journal of Ornamental Horticulture, Saudi Journal of Biological Research, and Applied Biological Research, among others.

Despite her many achievements, Neelofar has witnessed the stress and exhaustion that researchers endure. To support students facing anxiety related to research, she initiated a mental health awareness program. In collaboration with the Kashmiri American Society for Healthcare, Education & Medical Research, she helped establish a mental health counselling cell at the campus. "The goal is to protect and promote mental well-being, creating a supportive environment where

students can thrive both intellectually and emotionally," she said.

Neelofar also highlighted the rapid evolution of the floriculture industry in Kashmir, where entrepreneurs and investors now generate revenues in crores. "One of the biggest advantages of floriculture is the high income per unit area. For instance, a rice crop may yield 4,000 to 10,000 rupees per Kanal, whereas floriculture can generate earnings in lakhs within the same space. Since it is an intensive form of agriculture, it can even be practiced in home corridors or small spaces," she noted.

Her advice to young women entering agricultural sciences is simple yet powerful: believe in your potential, embrace challenges, and never hesitate to carve your own path.

# Youth in the Grip of Materialism

**Umair Ul Umar** 

aterialism has deeply infiltrated the lives of Lyoung people, shaping their aspirations, behaviors, and self-worth. In an era dominated by consumer culture, social media, and the relentless pursuit of status, youth often find themselves trapped in a cycle of material desires. This obsession with wealth and possessions is not only reshaping their priorities but also affecting their mental well-being, relationships, and overall purpose in life.

#### The Mask of Joy: When **Happiness Isn't Real**

Many young individuals believe that owning the latest gadgets, designer clothes, or expensive cars will bring them happiness and social validation. However, materialism often leads to dissatisfaction. Studies suggest that the more people chase material wealth, the less content they feel. The endless cycle of wanting more creates a sense of emptiness, as true fulfillment comes from experiences, personal growth, and relationships rather than possessions. Nowadays, people are superficially happy with fake smiles. We see many students, after failing to get a government job, travel to Gulf countries, leaving their families. Though they earn hefty amounts of money, internally they are anxious. I saw a father shrieking because his only son had not returned for more than a decade from England.

#### The Digital Illusion: How **Social Media Controls Us**

Social media plays a significant role in fueling materialism among youth. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat constantly expose young minds to a world where success is measured by expensive clothes, luxury vacations, and branded products. Influencers and celebrities showcase a glamorous lifestyle, making material wealth seem like the ultimate goal. This creates pressure among young people to keep up, often leading to financial stress, insecurities, and even unethical behaviors to afford such a lifestyle. Generation Z nowadays are big fans of vlogging. Suppose they see a person in a pool of blood; rather than helping him, they will live stream it for likes and comments to monetize their social media

#### The Unseen Battle: Mental **Health in Crisis**

The obsession with material wealth is linked to anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Constantly comparing oneself with others on social media or in real life creates feelings of inadequacy. Young people who tie their self-worth to material success struggle with identity crises, leading to emotional distress and a lack of self-acceptance. Many people I have seen who are brand-obsessed walk and talk only about brands. The materialistic competition has made them solillaquists.

#### **Emotional Distance in a Connected World**

Materialism affects how young people form relation-Many friendships and social circles become transactional, based on status and financial benefits rather than genuine bonds. The pressure to appear successful can also lead to dishonesty, pretentious behavior, and even family conflicts, as youth prioritize material pursuits over meaningful connections. Many couples always quarrel because of these brands. Maybe the demand is beyond the income. There is friction between children and parents. Even our society is responsible. Suppose a girl is employed in government; she will never prefer an unemployed man to marry her. Similarly, most employed boys prefer to marry an employed girl.

## Chained by Loans: The Dark

**Side of Debt Culture** Many young individuals fall into the trap of overspending to maintain a luxurious lifestyle. Credit cards, loans, and easy access to online shopping encourage excessive spending beyond their means. This results in financial instability, debt burdens, and a lack of savings for essential future needs like education, housing, and healthcare. We often see this culture skyrocketing



Materialism has

deeply impacted the younger generation, disrupting their inner peace and contentment. The constant pursuit of luxury, branded goods, and social validation through material possessions creates anxiety, dissatisfaction, and an endless cycle of comparison

in our society. I have seen many people who are well-off but still burdened by debt because of trying to keep up with others.

## **Moral and Spiritual Decay**

When materialism dominates a young person's mindset, ethical and spiritual values often take a backseat. Greed, dishonesty, and selfishness can overshadow principles like empathy, gratitude, and integrity. The desire for quick success leads some to unethical shortcuts, including fraud, corruption, and deception. Moreover, spiritual fulfillment, which brings inner peace, is often ignored in favor of external validation. I have a vast number of examples in my society where people don't go for Hajj in their young age because they accept bribes in different forms. When asked, they don't hesitate to say that they will repent in their 60s and then go for Hajj. Similarly, many people go for big house loans, personal loans, auto loans,

friends with skyscrapers and Mercedes. Although they know that loans are prohibited in Islam, as one of the biggest sins, it is a mandatory evil for them because of materialism.

etc., because of competition after they see their cousins and

## **Disrupted Tranquility**

Materialism has deeply impacted the younger generation, disrupting their inner peace and contentment. The constant pursuit of luxury, branded goods, and social validation through material possessions creates anxiety, dissatisfaction, and an endless cycle of comparison. Instead of finding joy in experiences, relationships, and selfgrowth, many young people equate happiness with acquiring more. This mindset leads to stress, loss of gratitude, and emotional emptiness.

#### **Breaking Free from** Materialism

To rescue the youth from the clutches of materialism, society must encourage:

## Mindfulness and Gratitude:

Teaching young people to appreciate what they have rather than constantly chasing more. SAADGIEY GAEY SHAHZAAD GIEY (Simplicity is graceful elegance)

## Financial Education:

Instilling responsible spending habits and the value of saving for the future.

#### Encouraging focus on personal growth, meaningful relationships, and ethical living.

Stronger Values and Purpose:

**Digital Awareness:** Reducing dependency on social media validation and recognizing its unrealistic portrayals

## **Parental and Educational**

Parents and educators must emphasize values beyond material wealth and provide real-life role models who inspire purpose-driven lives.

#### Turn Towards the Teachings of Al Quran:

The Quran teaches that materialism is a temporary illusion that distracts people from their true purpose. It emphasizes that wealth and worldly possessions should not become an obsession, as they do not bring lasting peace or fulfillment. Instead, the Quran encourages gratitude, generosity, and a focus on the Hereafter. True success lies in spiritual growth and righteousness, not in accumulating material wealth. By shifting our priorities from material gains to moral and spiritual values, we can attain inner peace and a meaningful life.

## **Final Thoughts**

Materialism is a powerful force shaping today's youth, often leading them down a path of dissatisfaction, stress, and superficiality. However, by promoting awareness, strong values, and a balanced approach to life, young people can break free from this trap and find true happiness in self-worth, relationships, and meaningful achievements.

The author is a blogger, columnist, and works as an IT teacher at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Yaripora Kulgam and can be reached at umairulum ar 77@gmail.com

# CS Atal Dulloo Chairs 15th UT Level Bankers' Committee Meeting

Urges Banks To Provide Banking Services In All URCs Through Banking Outlets.

**Observer News Service** 

Jammu: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired the 15th Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) meeting to review the performance of banks and financial institutions in dispensation of credit and other banking services for the first three quarters of the fiscal year 2024-25.

The meeting was attended by J&K Bank MD & CEO and Convener J&K UTLBC, Amitava Chatterjee; Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidya; Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department Sanjeev Verma; Chief General Manager NABARD, Bhallamudi Sridhar; General Manager Reserve Bank of India Neeraj Kumar, J&K Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, along with other senior officials from RBI, NABARD, banks, government departments, insurance companies and Lead District Managers.

While presenting financial achievements of banks for the first three quarters of FY 2024-25, the house was informed by General Manager UTLBC Syed Rais Maqbool that banks in the UT of J&K have disbursed Rs. 51,647 crore to 13.22 lakh

beneficiaries, achieving 99.63% of the Annual Credit Plan in fi-

Furthermore, loans amounting to Rs.1082 crore were sanctioned to 26,637 beneficiaries under major employment gen-

nancial terms and 79% in physi-

eration schemes.

While expressing concern over shortfall in achievement of targets under Priority Sector especially lending under employment generation schemes, Chief Secretary exhorted upon banks and sponsoring agencies to work in tandem to achieve the targets by the end of current financial year.

Chief Secretary directed banks to ensure setting up of

banking touch points in all identified Unbanked Rural Centers (URCs) by June 30 this year.

He stressed upon the banks to make accounts KYC compliant through linkage of Aadhaar Card, Pan Card and other requisite documents to mitigate the risks and also ensure benefits under Direct Benefit Transfer aren't impeded to the eligible

While urging banks to improve lending under KCC scheme, Chief Secretary emphasized upon popularizing the benefits of prompt repayment in Kisan Credit Card Accounts enabling beneficiaries to avail the benefit of interest subvention provided by the Government

under this scheme.

He encouraged banks to tap the huge potential in education sector in J&K by granting education loan facility to the students seeking admission in various colleges and universities within and outside the Country.

While advocating for encouraging people to lodge claims under social security schemes, Chief Secretary pressed for hassle-free claim lodging and settlement process in the time bound manner.

On the occasion, Chief Secretary launched J&K Bank Lal Ded Stree Shakti Loan Scheme-designed by the Bank in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission- for women folk of J&K with an aim to empower them by extending financial support that will enable them to realize their entrepreneurial dreams.

He lauded J&K Bank for the scheme and hoped the credit facility will go a long way in helping women of J&K achieve financial empowerment.

The house was also informed that J&K Bank and J&K Grameen Bank together have provided a credit of Rs 100 Crore to women Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed under DAY-NRLM in a single day on March 07, 2025 to mark International Women's Day.

On the occasion a token cheque was handed over to Mission Director JKRLM to celebrate the accomplishment.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Convener UTLBC Amitava highlighted role Chatterjee of banks in driving economic transformation in the region and reiterated Banks' commitment in strengthening priority sector lending with a focus on agriculture, education, MSMEs & rural housing, catalyzing the effective implementation of Central and UT Government sponsored schemes and prioritizing financial inclusion by expanding banking infrastructure in rural areas.

## High Degree Of Collusivity: Indian Army Chief On Pak, China

**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: In a veiled reference to China and Pakistan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday said there is a "high degree of collusivity," which must be accepted.

"What it means, as far as I am concerned, the two-front threat is a reality," he said in response to a question on proximity between China and Pakistan during an interactive session at the India Today Conclave here.

During the session, he fielded a broad range of questions about the army's preparedness for the future, lessons from ongoing conflicts, the situation in Bangladesh, and at the Line of Actual Control and the Line of Control.

"Now, the second thing that you have brought out is collaboration or the relationship between our western neighbour and Bangladesh.

"As far as I am concerned, since I have said that the epicentre of terrorism is in a particular country, they have a relationship with any of my neighbouring country, I should be looking worried, because as far as I am concerned, the terrorism route can be used from that country also, which is my major concern as of today," Gen Dwivedi said, when asked about reports suggesting growing proximity between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The General said it was "too

early" to take a call on the role of Bangladesh, where a change in government may bring about a change in the relationship between it and India.

"Because as far as I am concerned, I am very clear, the present military to military relationship is very strong. And, we exchanging note on regular basis, to avoid any kind of a misgiving," he added.

He was also asked how the Indian Army looked at the Pakistan-China equation.

"What we have to understand is that... we have to be very clear that there is a high degree of collusivity, which we must accept. In terms of the virtual field, it's nearly 100 per cent; in terms of physical, I would say most of the equipment there is of Chinese origin," the Army chief said.

"So, this is the situation as of today, as far as collusivity is concerned. What it means, as far as I am concerned, the two-front threat ... is a reality for me," he said.

In January 2021, the then Army chief Gen M M Naravane too said that when it comes to Pakistan and China, "the threat of collusivity cannot be wished away."

General Dwivedi also spoke about the situation along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the Special Representative-level (SR-level) meeting in December 2024, following an agreement that was finalised between the two countries last year.

## CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

#### **J&K's Debt**

amounts to Rs 5,429.49 crore.

According to the Economic Survey Report (ESR) 2024-25 tabled in the House on Thursday, the outstanding debt of Rs 1,25,205 crore represents 52 per cent of J&K's GSDP of Rs 2,38,677 crore.

The public debt of Rs 83,010 crore constitutes 66 per cent of the total on-budget outstanding debt in FY 2024, including internal debt of Rs 82,300 crore and Rs 710 crore in advances from Government of India.

Another major component of the on-budget outstanding debt is the provident fund, which accounts for 21 per cent of the total debt.

The ESR also highlighted that over the past decade, the proportion of internal debt to total on-budget outstanding debt has risen from 55 per cent to 66 per cent, while the share of the provident fund has decreased from 27 per cent to 21 per cent.

The debt as a percentage of GSDP has increased from 47 per cent in FY2014 to 51 per cent in FY2024.

## **New Criminal Laws**

government has set up fast-track courts, he said, adding that around 800 courts have been approved across the country, most of which are now operational.

"The newly-implemented Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which wiped out the colonial law, further strengthened provisions related to women's safety. A separate chapter has been added in it to address crimes against women and children in new criminal laws," he said.

Victims facing delay in justice was a common grievance earlier. But in order to address this, the new law mandates that charges in cases of heinous crimes, like rape, be framed within 60 days and verdicts delivered within 45 days, he added.

The new laws allow for e-FIRs to be filed from anywhere, making it easier for the police to take immediate action. Under the provision of zero FIR, any woman can file an FIR at any police station if she faces atrocities, the prime minister said.

The police can now record the statements of rape victims through audio-visual medium, which has been legally recognised, he added.

"A time-frame of seven days has been fixed for doctors to forward medical reports, providing significant assistance to the victims," he said.

Underlining that the new provisions in the BNS are already showing results, Modi recalled charges were framed in a gang-rape case in Surat within 15 days of the incident and the culprits were sentenced to life imprisonment within a few weeks.

Modi said blessings of women were his greatest strength and protective shield.

"I am the wealthiest person in the world. My statement will raise the hackles of some listeners. But I will reiterate that I am the wealthiest person in the world -- not in terms of money, but because of the blessings from crores of mothers, sisters and daughters. These blessings are my greatest strength, capital, and protective shield," Modi said.

Respecting women is the first step towards the development of society and the nation. India is now walking on the path of women-led development for the rapid progress of the country, Modi said.

"Our government places utmost importance on 'samman' (honour) and 'suvidha' (facilities) for women. We built thousands of toilets and gave dignity to women. Our government brought in stringent law against triple talaq and saved lives of lakhs of Muslim women from being destroyed," the prime minister said.

He stressed the need to empower women from rural parts.

"(Mahatma) Gandhiji used to say that the country's soul lies in its villages. I would like to add that women are the soul of our rural areas, and the soul of rural India resides in empowerment of rural women," Modi said.

Our government has prioritised women's rights and opportunities, he said.

India has become the world's fifth-largest economy, with the foundation of this economic progress laid by millions of women. Rural economy has played a significant role in this achievement, Modi said.

"Over 10 crore women are running more than 90 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) across the country, with over 3 lakh SHGs operating in Gujarat alone. The government is committed to increasing the income of these millions of women, aiming to make them 'Lakhpati Didis'," he said.

The PM added that around 1.5 crore women have already become 'Lakhpati Didis', and the government aims to make a total of 3 crore women 'Lakhpati Didis' in the next five years be said

The Lakhpati Didi scheme was launched by the Union government in 2023 and recognises women members of SHGs, who have an annual income of at least Rs 1 lakh from agriculture, animal husbandry, and small industries, as 'Lakhpati Didis'.

Before addressing the programme, the prime minister engaged in 'prerna samvaad' interaction at Vansi Borsi village with a group of 'Lakhpati Didis', who shared their experiences. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Navsari MP C R Paatil were also present there.

During the Navsari programme, the PM disbursed Rs 450 crore in financial assistance to more than 2.5 lakh women from over 25,000 SHGs.

A security cover comprising only women police personnel was deployed at the event to mark International Women's Day.

## **Women Leading**

has now become a mass movement in the country.

"A new era of women-led development has begun in J&K. Today, our Nari Shakti are scripting their own success stories and have become the active partner in the development journey of Jammu Kashmir," the Lt Governor said.

He called upon the artists, artisans, NGOs, teachers, entrepreneurs and various stakeholders to work collectively for women's empowerment and to ensure that the benefits of government schemes dedicated to Nari Shakti percolate to the grassroots.

Sinha extended his heartiest greetings and felicitations to Nari Shakti on International Women's Day.

The Lt Governor lauded the remarkable achievements of women artists and artisans of J&K and expressed gratitude for their contribution to Jammu Kashmir and nation-building.

"Women artists and artisans are architects of sustainable development. To be an outstanding creator, one needs to be full of love, kindness and compassion and this is what makes woman artists unique," he said. He said greater participation of women artists and artisans in the contemporary art

strengthened the fabric of the cultural ethos.
"Many artisans in J&K and the country
have achieved new milestones and others
are crafting their way to a brighter tomor-

row." he said.

and craft arena has enriched this sector and

On the occasion, the Lt Governor felicitated the women achievers and students. He also visited the stalls put up by the women artists and artisans.

Highlighting key achievements of the

government, LG Sinha listed numerous welfare initiatives that have significantly improved the lives of women across the country: "As many as 14 crore toilets have been constructed in the past 10 years to ensure dignity and hygiene for women. Under the Ujjwala Yojana, 11 crore households have received LPG cylinders, reducing the burden of traditional cooking methods."

Referring to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana LG Sinha said that 70% of houses under PMAY are registered in the name of women, ensuring financial security. "Nearly 14 crore households have received tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Out of 40 crore Mudra loans given to small businesses, 27 crore have been availed by women, fostering economic independence."

The Lieutenant Governor said that the "Startup India" movement is being led by women, with 296 startups in Jammu & Kashmir alone founded by female entrepreneurs. "The law against Triple Talaq has ensured justice and security for Muslim women. Over 90,000 SHGs in J&K have empowered 8 lakh women by providing financial independence and skill development," he said, adding, "Women in Jammu & Kashmir are excelling in various professions, including engineering, medicine, law, and

In academics, LG Sinha said, "Girls are consistently outperforming boys, winning 75% of gold medals in universities."

He reaffirmed that the government is committed to providing equal opportunities for women and ensuring their continued participation in nation-building. "In Jammu and Kashmir, we have made every attempt to empower our sisters and daughters. They are excelling in every field, and their achievements are shaping a bright future for the region," he said.

Referring to the impact of women power, LG Sinha said, "Nari Shakti's impact on shaping the future of humanity is immense. She has been endowed with a special gift from existence to nurture creativity and drive social change."

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the remarkable achievements of women artists and artisans of J&K and expressed gratitude for their contribution to the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir and nation-building.

He said, "The greater participation of women artists and artisans in the contemporary art and craft arena has enriched this sector and strengthened the fabric of our cultural ethos. Many artisans in J&K and the country have achieved new milestones and others are crafting their way to a brighter tomogrow"

## SIA Charges

District. "The accused had created multiple Twitter accounts under pseudonyms to conceal his identity from Law Enforcement Agencies. SIA successfully identified twitter handles like 'Lacerated Kashmir', 'The Resistance Kashmir,' 'Maimed Kashmir' and 'Wounded Kashmir' which were being operated by the accused person to spread secessionist ideology, promoting terrorism and downplaying lawful administrative regime, besides he has also shown disrespect to the Indian National Flag through his twitter posts," the statement reads.

On 7th of March 2025 SIA Kashmir filed a comprehensive charge sheet against the accused for commission of crime under sections 153-A of IPC, section 13 unlawful Activities (prevention) Act and section 02 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act for judicial determination, it added.

## **Nearly Dozen**

in the Assembly here. Itoo said the Srinagar Development Authority has identified state land along the national highway in Bemina Bypasss and the Jammu Development Authority has identified land at Sidhra for catering to the housing needs of the people of the Union Territory.

In addition, 1,298.28 kanals of land has

been identified for the establishment of nine townships at Padgampora in Pulwama, Watapora in Bandipora, Changran in Kathua, Bakoora in Ganderbal, Kanuyian in Poonch, Chatterhama in Srinagar and Bhalwal, Chakbhalwal and Chowadhi in Jammu. In his supplementary, Para expressed concern over the utilisation of wetland for

raising infrastructure post the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019 and demanded an environment assessment of all the township projects.

"The 4,200 kanals of land near Bemina identified for housing is wetland. We are already facing a climate crisis because of large-scale devastation and destruction due

five years. The future looks very dark and grim if the right steps are not taken," the PDP leader said.

"All ecological issues shall be taken into consideration while undertaking any construction," the minister said, adding that the details of the beneficiaries shall be determined after the formulation of the Detailed

to land, soil and sand mining over the past

## Project Report (DPR). **Opposition Demands**

attention," he asserted.

Responding to the concerns, Agriculture Production Minister Javaid Ahmad Dar distanced his department from the matter, stating that it falls under the jurisdiction of the Revenue Department. "We have no information about this. The issue needs to be examined to ascertain the facts," he said.

Reports indicate that Muralitharan's company was allotted 206 kanals (25.75 acres) in Kathua at a premium of Rs 8 lakh per kanal for setting up a Rs 1,600 crore aluminum can and beverage-filling plant, expected to generate 500 jobs. However, sources suggest that the company has now applied to surrender the land.

The controversy has sparked demands for transparency, with opposition leaders insisting that the government clarify whether the land was allotted for free and under what conditions.

Replying to another question of M Y Tarigami, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, said that the families having no land of their own are being provided 5 marlas of land for construction of residential houses under PMAY. The land is provided subject to the verification by the Revenue Department.

"The extended families of the landless background are likely to be considered for allotment of land subject to eligibility and guidelines of the scheme being issued from time to time," he said.

"The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 is under implementation in J&K UT and the compensation is determined as per the provisions contained in section 27 and sub section (2) of section 30 of the said Act," the Minister added.

He said that so far 498 persons have been allotted land, while 2,727 cases were rejected and 442 are under active consideration of revenue authorities

## **AFSPA Revocation**

and Kishtwar, where stability was improving, with efforts to boost tourism through projects like bed-and-breakfast accommodations and the enhanced use of the Mughal Road.

However, he acknowledged the recent surge in militant activity, which has necessitated the deployment of 15,000 additional troops. He emphasized that any decision on AFSPA's removal would be made jointly by the local administration, the Union Home Ministry, and the Defence Ministry, based on ground realities.

He said that while AFSPA could eventually be lifted, there is no specific timeframe for its removal.

"The Mughal Road was also being considered for significant use. However the recent security concerns have led to the induction of 15,000 additional troops in these areas," he said

Asked about discussions between Jammu and Kashmir's leadership, the armed forces, and the Home Ministry regarding the phased removal of AFSPA, General Dwivedi said, "There must first be a transition period where the local police take greater

responsibility."

He cited the example of Manipur, where AFSPA was withdrawn from Imphal, but military intervention remained possible if needed. "In Jammu, AFSPA is still in effect while police continue to conduct operations. Before the act is repealed, there must be enough evidence that the police can handle the situation and that the Army is no longer required," he said, adding, "Only with such proof would the Army support the removal of AFSPA." (inputs from agencies)

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/S: Holistic Tour & Travel" situated at Sheri Bhat, Zadibal, Srinagar

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr. Sufeyan Fayaz S/o Fayaz

Ahmad Fayaz, R/o: Amda Kadal, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, Kashmir, intend to apply in the department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/S: Holistic Tour and Travel" situated at Sheri Bhat, Zadibal, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/ Domicile, Qualification certificate, PAN card, Experience certificate (Minimum 05 years), Character certificate(Police Department), Bank statement (Minimum balance 10000), Site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by Sub- registrar, Printing material (Letter head/Visiting card), Photograph of the unit(Indoor and Outdoor), and two passport size photographs to the department of tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion agency/Adventure tour Operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/Financial institutions/Bank/Organisation etc. for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism registration (email ID:ddtreg123@gmail.com) within the period of (07) days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspapers of the Valley. No objections beyond a period of (07) days shall be entertained.

## **65 Gazetted Posts Lying Vacant At GMC Rajouri**



SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said that 65 gazetted and 122 non-gazetted posts remain vacant at Government Medical

College (GMC) Rajouri.
Responding to a question
from MLA Budhal, Javid Iqbal Choudhary, Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo said the sanctioned strength of gazetted posts at GMC Rajouri is 119, out of which 55 positions are currently filled, leaving 64 vacant. She said that out of the 415 sanctioned nongazetted posts, 293 are in position, while 122 remain vacant.

"All vacant teaching faculty posts have been referred to the J&K Public Service Commission (J&KPSC) for advertisement and selection of suitable candidates. The vacant positions are regularly filled on an academic arrangement basis in terms of SO 364 of 2020, dated 27.11.2020, to address faculty shortages in various disciplines. Regarding nongazetted vacancies, the matter is under active consideration within the department," Itoo said.

Responding to a question from MLA Zainapora, Showkat Ganaie, the minister informed that J&K currently has 554 NT-PHCs (New Type Primary Health Centres) operating across the Union Territory. She, however, said no new creations or upgrades are planned at present.

The minister said J&K is focusing on consolidating its existing healthcare facilities, given that more than 4,200

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Val-

ley Fruit Growers Cum Deal-

ers Association (KVFGDU) on

Saturday expressed disap-

pointment over the recently announced J&K Budget, saying it failed to address their long-

Sharing details, Chairman

pending demands.

Dealers As-

sociation

( K V F -

GDU),

sheer despite high

growers. "We

Bashir

Ahmad Ba-

hopes, the bud-

get has offered

nothing to fruit

had

manded several mea-

pletely ignored," he said.

sures for the upliftment of the

horticulture sector, but unfor-

tunately, we have been com-

He added that their key de-

mands, like crop insurance, MIS

schemes, and KCC loans, have

all been overlooked. The grow-

ers had also sought the estab-

lishment of testing laboratories

in all districts, exemption of

GST on cardboard boxes and

pesticides, and relief from sky-

"We demanded the waiver of

rocketing fertilizer prices.

of Kashmir Valley

uit Growers Cum

said

**Agencies** 

Fruit Growers Feel 'Neglected,'

Say Budget 2025 Offers Nothing

health institutions at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels already exist.

According to a report by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, J&K ranks among the top regions in the country in terms of healthcare institution density.

"Future creations or upgrades will be considered once the austerity measures imposed under Government Order No. 17-F of 2024, dated 15.01.2024, are withdrawn. To address critical gaps, the department aims to strengthen the existing healthcare facilities in accordance with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms. Efforts are also being made to expand e-Sanjeevani telemedicine services through a well-designed hub-

and-spoke model," Itoo said.
The minister said that the
Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) serve as benchmarks for the creation and upgradation of health facilities. While IPHS 2012 was previously in use, the current standard is IPHS 2022, which serves as the primary guideline for any future healthcare infrastructure development, she added.

Responding to a query from MLA Pattan, Javid Riyaz regarding the staffing situation in the Health Department in Pattan constituency, the health minister said that out of 171 sanctioned positions, 139 are currently filled, while 32, including two gazetted and 30 non-gazetted posts, remain va-

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans,

citing the financial distress

caused by natural calamities

and economic disruptions over

the years, but that too was ig-

He said they also urged the government to allocate funds

for irrigation facilities, promote

high-density plantations, and

ensure smooth transportation

of perishable fruits

from

during

meeting,

the budget.

ture sector is the

backbone of Kash-

"The

mir's economy, yet our genuine

concerns continue to be over-

Earlier in February, a del-

egation of fruit growers met

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

in Jammu and presented their

key demands. These included

the implementation of the crop

insurance scheme and the rein-

troduction of the market inter-

vention scheme (MIS), which

had previously helped mitigate

losses for growers—(KNO)

looked." Basheer added.

major

the

their

growers

horticul-

markets.

However,

despite

assurances

**Chief Minister** 

feel let down by

nored," said Basheer.

# In 2 Years, 32 Killed In Man-Animal **Conflict Incidents**

Over Rs 2.76 Crore Compensation Paid To Victims, Says Govt

**Agencies** 

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Saturday revealed that 32 persons died while 269 others sustained injuries in the man-animal conflict incidents across the Union Territory in the past two years.

In a response to a query raised by MLA Mir Saifullah, the government stated that a total of Rs 2.76 crore has been paid as compensation to the victims and their families during this period.

The Minister In-charge of Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department, said that 16 people lost their lives in 2023-24, while another 16 deaths were reported in 2024-25 in the incidents of man-animal conflicts.

Similarly, the number of people injured in such incidents stood at 124 in 2023-24 and 145 in 2024-25. As many



as 269 injuries were reported in the past two years.

Refuting claims that no compensation was provided to the families of victims, the Minister clarified that compensation is being paid in accordance with the government order No. 139 JK (FST) of 2023, dated: 28.06.2023.

In 2023-24, a total of Rs 1.21 crore was disbursed as compensation, while in 2024-25, the amount increased to Rs 1.55 crore, bringing the total compensation paid over the two years to Rs 2.76 crore, it added—(KNO)



THE MINISTER IN-CHARGE OF FOREST, ECOLOGY, AND ENVIRONMENT **DEPARTMENT,** said that 16 people lost their lives in 2023-24, while another 16 deaths were reported in 2024-25 in the incidents of man-animal conflicts."

## **Govt Taking Steps To Promote** Tourism In Karnah: CM Omar

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday emphasized the government's commitment to empower youth in border areas such as Karnah, Keran, Machhil and Gurez by equipping them with vocational skills to promote tour $ism\hbox{-}driven\ economic\ growth.$ 

He stated that unskilled from these regions would be provided training enabling them to acquire skills in trades relevant to the tourism sector.

The Chief Minister, who also holds Tourism Department, stated this while replying to a supplementary question from MLA Karnah, Javid Ahmad Mirchal, regarding the promotion of tourism in border areas like Karnah. The Chief Minister remarked that Karnah has immense tourism potential and stressed the need to explore it

further "We believe that there is potential for tourism. We need to explore that potential. Recently, festivals were organized in Karnah—the Border Festival and Yoga Festival. The purpose is to let people outside Jammu and Kashmir know about Karnah's tourism potential and its culture. Because of such initiatives, we have started to see a gradual increase in tourism. For this reason, local people should benefit from tourism," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told the Legislative Assembly.

The Chief Minister said that the tourism department has started registration of paying guest houses and homestays in

the area. "For now, in Karnah, we have registered six homestays, and five in Teetwal. Now, I request the MLA to help us in this. There is no point in bringing tourists if there is no place



to host them," he said, adding, "We do not want to build massive hotels there. If big hotels are built, local people will not benefit from them.

"At present we need to focus more on homestays. For this, MLAs should help us and involve local people in this.

In response to another supplementary question from member Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, the Chief Minister informed the House that the government would identify unskilled youth in border areas like Karnah, Keran, Machhil, and Gurez so that they can be trained in ITIs and the Institute of Hotel Management. Srinagar, to develop skills and trades relevant to tourism.

"In my Budget speech yesterday, I stated that our focus is on skills and entrepreneurship so that youth are equipped with skills and provided handholding to build their future in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Member Saifullah Mir suggested the establishment of a Tourism Development Authority to boost local tourism in these destinations.

Earlier, replying to the starred question, the Chief Minister stated that Karnah region is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage and strategic location near the Line of Control (LoC), he said.

He further said that Teetwal Karanoo in Nawagabra, and Budnambal villages possess natural beauty and tourism potential.

"These areas offer breathtaking landscapes, lush meadows and have cultural significance, making them attractive destinations for tourism. These areas have the potential for nature tourism, adventure tourism, and cross-border heritage tourism," he said. He stated that the Department of Tourism has taken several initiatives to bring these villages onto the tourist map.

"In order to promote pilgrim tourism in Karnah Constituency, the J&K Tourism Department has projected the construction of 'Yatri Niwas' at Sharda Temple at Teetwal, Kupwara, along wit ria," he said.

CM Omar Abdullah said that the Construction of Yatri Niwas at Sharda Temple at Teetwal, Kupwara, along with a cafeteria is currently in progress, with the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) underway. The project cost is estimated at Ra 150 Lakh.

He informed the House that the Border Tourism Festival was organized by the Tourism Department in border areas to promote tourism. "The festival was held at Teetwal in September 2022 and featured cultural and musical events, an ATV rally from Kupwara to Teetwal, nature photography sessions, trekking, camping, and horse riding," the CM said.

He added that Yoga Festival was organized by the Tourism Department in collaboration with other departments in the Teetwal area of the Karnah constituency on June 21, 2024, to promote tourism in the area—(KNO)

## 2400 Children In Child Care **Institutes In J&K: Govt**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said that there are around 2400 children living Child Care Institutes in the region and that all the requisite interventions are being made for the overall development of these children.

Replying to the question of MLA Pampore Justice Hasnain Masoodi, Minister for Social Welfare Sakina Itoo said that the department is committed for welfare of all the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. "Mission Vatsalya is monitor-

ing and inspecting the existing CCIs and provides all necessary help and assistance as required as per the guidelines of Mission Vatsalya," she said, adding that there are 1796 children in government run Child Care Institutes while 579 are in eight private institutions.

She added that the number of government run CCI registered under Juvenile justice act 2015 is 69 while NGO run CCI registered under Juvenile justice act 2015 is 58.

Regarding the steps taken to ensure registration of left out institutions to ensure their compliance with law, she said that notice issued to unregistered CCIs Dealing with children in need of care and Protection, with the direction to register the institutions as per sub-section (1) of section 41 of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2015.

"Subsequently, Circular instructions issued to all District Child Protection officers of 35K



All un-registered NGOs working for the welfare of Children in the UT of J&K under Mission Vatsalya (erstwhile ICPS) under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 41 of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2015,"

to strictly adhere to the procedure prescribed under aforementioned circular and ensure gathering of information pertaining to the unregistered NGOs working for the welfare of children besides ensuring registration of "All un-registered NGOs working for the welfare of Children in the UT of J&K under Mission Vatsalya (erstwhile ICPS) under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 41 of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2015," she said.

"The Department submits financial proposal to Project Approval Board (PAB), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India every financial year wherein a proposal is submitted to grant approval for setting up of new Child Care Institutions at district level and sub division level, as the case may be," Sakina said.

"Out of 69 Government run CCIs, 63 CCIs have been established and are functional in JBK. 06 CCIs have been approved by the PAB and are under process for establishment," she added—(KNO)

## **Tanvir Condemns Turning** Of Legislative Assembly Into 'Filmi Akhada'

Agencies

JAMMU: MLA Zadibal and National Conference leader Tanvir Sadiq on Saturday condemned the shooting of a web series in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. Speaking during the discus-

sion on Budget-2025 presented on Friday by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Tanvir, a close aide of the CM said "It's unfortunate that the LG administration had allowed the assembly floor to be turned into a filmi akhada (film arena).' Tanvir recalled

when he would accompany his father, late Sadiq Ali (former MLA Zadibal), and watch the proceedings from the gallery. "This was the most powerful assembly in the entire country, but what have you made of it? You allowed film actors to shoot scenes here and turned this into a film studio. You have violated the sanctity of this house. You [BJP] had a notion that the assembly would never function again in Jammu and Kashmir, which was the reason for such actions. But the Supreme Court intervened, and we had elections," Tanvir said.

The MLA Zadibal was referring to the OTT serial Maharani, a Hindi-language drama series created by Subhash Kapoor and starring Huma Qureshi. The political multi-season series was inspired by events in Bihar in the 1990s when Lalu Prasad Yadav made his homemaker wife, Rabri Devi, his successor. The shoot began in April 2021,



with the assembly complex and its surroundings illuminated by big lights, trunks carrying costumes and other accessories for the artists and crew, makeup vans, generators, and more. Around 100 local artists from the theatre and cultural departments were roped in for the web series.

While terming the budget-2025 presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as historic, Tanvir said, "After a gap of more than seven years a democratically elected government prepared and presented a propeople budget.

Taking a dig at the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Tanvir said, "When the PDP was ruling Jammu and Kashmir, it created a deficit of more than Rs 18000 crores and nothing was done for the education sector of the erstwhile state."

Taking a jibe at PDP' president Mehbooba Mufti's infamous "toffee and milk" remark made during the 2016 unrest when she was the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "We will bring toffee and milk to people's homes so that no person is killed in the same of such entities."—(KNO)

## **GOVERNMENT 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./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 10<sup>TH</sup>.

Installation of Bore well in Thayan block Kalaroose. Subject:

01. This office Re-Tender Corrigendum Notice Issued Vide Endorsement No. PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./8695-8705, dated: 10-12-2024. 02. This office e-NIT No.30-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./7063-74, dated: 04-11-2024, Bearing Tender ID. No. 2024\_PHE\_263359\_24, for the S. No. 11 of e-NIT.

Due to "No Response" for the above mentioned Subject work advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No under reference No. 02 & Re-Tender Corrigendum under Reference No. 01. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 08-03-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below:

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date	
1.	Period of submission of bids	15-03-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM	
2.	Date of opening of tenders	17-03-2025 11.00 AM	

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./13434-45 Dated: 08-03-2025

DIPK-12817-24 DT:08/03/2025

**Executive Engineer** Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. **Ground Water Division Srinagar.** 

## OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT **DISTRICT HOSPITAL GANDKBAL**

## **TENDER NOTICE**

For and on behalf of His Excellency the Governor of UT of J&K, sealed tenders are hereby invited from Parties/Firms/Vendors dealing in accommodation facilities (Preferably Hostel, Paying Guest type along with Mess Facility) in the Vicinity of Ganderbal (Beehama, Duderhama, Gangerhama and Saloora) for DNB/PG/DRP candidates /resident doctors. The detailed requirement along with the terms and conditions etc. can be collected from the office of undersigned, against non refundable cash payment of Rs.500/ from 14-03-2025 to 21/03/2025 on the written request on the letter head of firm/party/vendor. The tenders must be submitted & properly sealed in double waterproof envelops duly Super scribed as "Tender for Accommodation & Mess Facility for DNB/PG/DRP -Resident Doctors" addressed to Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal and should reach to the same office by or before 24-03-2025 up to 4:00 PM .The tenders will be opened on 25/03/2025 at 2:00 PM or any other date which may be convenient to the tender opening committee in the office chamber of Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal.

The intending tenderers shall have to deposit an amount of Rs 2500/ (Two Thousand Five Hundred Only) in the shape of FDR/ CDR from any National Bank/J & K Bank Ltd. having validity not less than 12 Months from the date of issue pledged to the undersigned.

NO:MS/DH/GBL-/1330-1333 DATED: 07/03/2025

DIPK-12818-24 DT: 08/03/2025

**Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal** 

# CT Final: 'India Favourites But Only **Just Against New Zealand'**

**Press Trust of India** 

**DUBAI:** Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has picked India as the favourites in Sunday's Champions Trophy summit clash against New Zealand but pointed out that the advantage will be miniscule, given that the Black Caps are a formidable side.

India, who have played all their matches here, stormed into the final with an all-win re-cord, and defeated Australia in the semifinal.

New Zealand, who finished second behind India in Group A after losing their league match, secured their spot in the final with a one-sided win over South Africa in the second semifinal in

"If there's one team that can beat India, it's New Zealand," Shastri said in 'The ICC Review'. 'So India start as favourites but



only just," he said referring to the final, which will be a rematch of the 2000 Champions Trophy title clash, where New Zealand triumphed by four

wickets in Nairobi. The 62-year-old, who has seen both teams evolve over the years, picked four players from the New Zealand squad who could make a difference in the high-stakes final.

He singled out Rachin Ravindra, calling him "immensely talented", Kane Williamson for his "stability and calmness like a saint", and captain Mitchell Santner, whom he described as an "intelligent" leader who can influence the game alongside

Glenn Phillips, who could be the

X-factor for the team. Shastri also highlighted Virat Kohli's current form as a potential game-changer, while also acknowledging Williamson's ability to seize crucial moments.

"Now (on) current form, Kohli. When these guys get hot and you let them get their first 10 runs, then they're trouble. Whether it's Williamson, whether it's Kohli," Shastri said.

"So from New Zealand, I would say Williamson. To an extent, Ravindra, he is a fabulous young player.

"But these guys when they smell the coffee and you let them, in a final, get to that 10-15, then they're doubly danger-

Ravindra, at just 25, has already accumulated five centuries in ICC 50-over tournaments -- the youngest to achieve the

## **Real Kashmir Set To Take On Aizawl FC At TRC Today**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC will lock horns Aizawl FC in a crucial I-League encounter at TRC Ground here on Sunday.

The match, scheduled for 2:00 PM, is expected to be a high-stakes contest as the Snow Leopards eye the league title.

Real Kashmir currently stands with 29 points from 17 matches, just behind Churchill Brothers and Inter Kashi and both teams having 34 points from 18 games. With only a few games left in the season, every point matters in the title race.

Addressing a pre-match press conference on Saturday, Real Kashmir head coach Ishfaq Ahmad acknowledged Aizawl FC's strength, especially after their recent victory over Sporting Club Bangalore. "Their confidence is high,

but it all depends on how both teams perform on the

field," he said. highlighted the



## Their confidence is high, but it all depends on how both teams perform on the field"

mounting pressure on top teams. "A single loss can change the standings and impact the title race," he added.

Real Kashmir, the only club from J&K in the I-League, is owned by Arshid Shawl and features a mix of local and foreign players. Winning the title would be a significant boost for football in the region.

The club management has urged fans to turn up in large numbers and support the team in this crucial match.



## Khelo India Winter Games Kick Off Today In Gulmarg



**Press Trust of India** 

**GULMARG:** Indian Army and Ladakh are set to renew their rivalry when the second leg of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025 begins at the picturesque Kongdoori slopes here on Sunday.

Indian Army will be aiming to wrest control from the first leg winners Ladakh to defend their overall title in the prestigious tournament.

The Union Territory of Ladakh finished on top in the first chapter, winning seven medals, including four gold. Tamil Nadu finished second with five medals including, three gold.

Maharashtra finished with the maximum number of medals (10) but only two gold meant they finished third.

A total of 350-plus athletes from 11 states, two Union Territories and central forces --Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) -will compete in the four disciplines of Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Ski Mountaineering and Snowboarding.

The KIWG resume after postponement due to insufficient snowfall in February. Gulmarg is now covered by a blanket of snow that promises thrilling performances.

Day 1 Schedule: Alpine Skiing - Men's Slalom; Nordic Skiing Men's 10km, Women's 5km; Ski Mountaineering - Men's & Women's Sprint; Snowboarding - Men's

## **Short TAKES**

## **DC Srinagar Attends Real Kashmir's Training At TRC Ground**



Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat attended a training session of Real Kashmir FC at TRC Ground here on Saturday.

During the event, Dr. Bilal interacted with the players and coaching staff, lauding their efforts in promoting football in J&K. He also congratulated the U-15 Real

Kashmir team for qualifying for the AIFF Youth League. He said that the Snow Leopards provide a significant platform for young players, preparing them for national tournaments. He attended the practice sessions in Real Kashmir's jersey.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from football enthusiasts, sports officials and club supporters.

The club's owner, Arshid Shawl, along with other officials, expressed gratitude to Dr. Bilal for his support and encouragement.

## **Rohit Hasn't Spoken To Me Or Team About Future: Gill**

**Press Trust of India** 

ndia vice-captain Shubman Gill on Saturday said there has not been any discussion around the possible retirement of skipper Rohit Sharma, as the team is completely focused on winning the Champions Trophy.

India will face New Zealand in the final of the ICC marquee event here on Sunday.

"Till now, we have only been discussing winning the match, winning the Champions Trophy. He has not spoken to me or to the team about this decision (retirement). I don't think Rohit is thinking about it," said Gill in the pre-match press conference here.

The Indian vice-captain said the team environment has been positive ahead of the title clash.

"The team environment or the culture we're talking about, everyone motivates each other. We all motivate each other, push each other. If someone is doing good, how can he do better?" he said.

## **Nottingham Forest Beats Ailing Man City 1-0 In Premier League**

ottingham Forest's improbable bid for Champions League qualification was strengthened by a 1-0 win over ailing Manchester City in the Premier League on Saturday, with winger Callum Hudson-Odoi scoring

City goalkeeper Ederson Moraes was beaten at his near post by Hudson-Odoi's shot in one of few clear-cut chances in a tight game at the City Ground. A few minutes earlier, Ederson had tipped a curling strike by Hudson-Odoi onto the post. Third-place Forest, which was battling relegation last season, moved four points clear of fourth-place City.

the goal in the 83rd minute.

## **Trump Will Lead 'Task Force' Preparing For 2026 FIFA World Cup**

resident Donald Trump has created a task force to prepare for the 2026 World Cup, which will bring the globe's premier soccer tournament to North America at a time when his on-again, off-again tariffs have ratcheted up tensions across the continent. "I think it's going to make it

more exciting," Trump said Friday of playing the World Cup amid sharp rhetoric between leaders of the host nations. "Tension's a good thing." The task force, which Trump

will chair, will coordinate the federal government's security and planning for the tournament, which is expected to draw millions of tourists to the United States, Canada and Mexico.

"It's a great honor for our country to have it," Trump said of the World Cup after meeting with officials from FIFA, the international soccer governing body. He said he'd like to attend multiple

Preparations are ramping up across the continent alongside tensions between the United States and its neighbors as Trump has repeatedly threatened to impose tariffs before backing off, spooking markets and leading to



downturn. He also speaks pejoratively of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and muses about Canada becoming a U.S. state, which has boosted national pride north of the border.

For 2026, the World Cup will expand to 48 teams playing 104 matches, the first time that the tournament will be played across three countries. Seventy-eight of 104 matches will be played in the U.S., with 13 games each in Mexico and Canada, and as many as six matches a day. The final will be played July 19 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said the task force will ensure that each of the visitors who will travel from around the world "feels safe, feels happy and feels that we are doing something spe-"So we're here to create and to

make the best show on the planet ever." Infantino said. He gave Trump a personalized game ball and unveiled an elaborate trophy that will go to the winner of the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup, which will pit top soccer clubs against each other this summer ahead of next year's matchup of national

Trump later brought Infantino to show off the trophy at the start of a White House cryptocurrency summit. The United States, where soccer has grown in popularity but remains a niche sport, represents a major growth area for soccer, he said.

