

'Threatening National Security' Centre Bans AAC, JKIM For 5 Yrs



Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday banned the Awami Action Committee (AAC), headed by Kashmir's influential cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and Jammu and Kashmir Ittehadul Muslimeen (JKIM) led by Shia leader Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari for five years due to their alleged 'anti-national' activities.

With this, barring the People's Conference led by Bilal Gani Lone, all other constituents of the moderate Hurriyat Conference have been banned by the government under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The two organisations -- Awami Action Committee and Ittehadul Muslimeen -- have been banned for a period of five years and the same could be contested after a Tribunal is constituted by the government,

a report said.

In a post on X, Union Home Minister Amit Shah wrote about the banning of these two organisations saying they were found inciting people to cause law and order situations, posing a threat to the unity and integrity of Bharat.

"Anyone found involved in activities against the nation's peace, order, and sovereignty is bound to face the crushing blow of the Modi govt," he said.

The AAC led by Mirwaiz condemned the government's action and said "this move seems part of the continuation of the policy of intimidation and disempowerment that has been followed viz a viz J&K since August 2019. The voice of truth may be suppressed through force but will not be silenced".

In a post on X, Mirwaiz said the AAC has unwaveringly stood by the people of Jammu and Kashmir | [More on P6](#)

ANYONE FOUND INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE NATION'S PEACE, order, and sovereignty is bound to face the crushing blow of the Modi govt."

Contractual Employees Have No Absolute Right To Continue: High Court

Dismisses Plea By 150 Petitioners Engaged To Run 500 Bedded DRDO Covid-19 Hospital

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that contractual employees have no unfettered right of continuance, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has dismissed a petition filed by around 150 people who were engaged to address the health crises caused by Covid-19 Pandemic.

"...this Court is of the view that the appointment of the petitioners was solely on contractual basis, specifically made in response to the urgent needs arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said. The petitioners along with



others had been employed to run 500 bedded temporary Covid Hospitals one each at Jammu and Srinagar, in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

"This temporary engagement was part of the establishment

of a temporary COVID hospital, which was set up to address the immediate health crisis caused by the pandemic. Given the exceptional nature of the emergency, the petitioners' services were deemed essential, and their employment was extended for a fixed term to support the hospital's operations," the court said.

Initially, the court said, the petitioners were hired on contractual basis for a specified period, with an extension of an additional six months granted to ensure continuity of service during the critical phase of the pandemic.

However, as the situation with COVID-19 improved and the immediate | [More on P6](#)

J&K's Per Capita Income Remains Below National Average

Agencies

Srinagar: The per capita income (PCI) of Jammu and Kashmir remains below the national average, with the Union Territory's PCI estimated at ₹1,54,703 for 2024-25, compared to the national average of ₹2,00,162, according to the Economic Survey 2024-25.

Despite this gap, the report highlights that J&K's PCI at current prices is expected to grow at a robust rate of 10.6% in 2024-25, surpassing the all-India growth rate of 8.7%.

"In the most recent years (2023-24 to 2024-25), J&K has shown strong growth in PCI, outpacing the national growth rate," the Economic Survey states.

The report attributes this upward trend to economic diversification and enhanced productivity across sectors. Over the past decade, J&K's per capita income has increased significantly—rising by approximately 148% from 2014-15 to 2024-25, as per data from the UT government's Planning Department.



While J&K's PCI remains lower than the national average, the gap has been narrowing. The ratio of J&K's PCI to India's PCI has improved from 71.9% in 2014-15 to nearly 77.3% in 2024-25.

Moreover, J&K's per capita income growth compares favorably with northern states. From 2019-20 to 2023-24, J&K recorded a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.3%, surpassing Punjab (6.22%), Delhi (6.74%), and Himachal Pradesh (6%).

The figures indicate steady economic progress in J&K, with rising income levels reflecting | [More on P6](#)

Daily Wager Crisis Takes Over J&K Assembly BJP Members Walk Out Flagging Lathi Charge On Protestors

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed noisy scenes on Tuesday as members cutting across party lines raised the issue of lathi charge and detention of protesting daily wage employees of the Jal Shakti department demanding release of wages and regularisation of jobs.

BJP members staged a walkout from the Assembly after a war of words with NC MLAs over the detention and baton charge of protesting daily wage employees of the Jal Shakti department.

Scores of Jal Shakti (PHE)



department workers and Monday during demonstra- tions in Srinagar and Jammu as they marched | [More on P6](#)

No Control Over Police: Omar

Asserting that the lathi charge on the protesting daily wage employees of the Jal Shakti department should not have happened, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said he does not hold control over the police. As the House assembled for the day, opposition members highlighted the massive protests by the daily | [More on P6](#)

J&K MLAs To Get ₹3 Cr As CDF Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has decided to allocate Rs 3 crore annually for each Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme.

This decision will enable MLAs to recommend and oversee the implementation of key development projects in their constituencies.

The funds will be used to support infrastructure development, public welfare services, and essential ser- vices, with | [More on P6](#)

Sajad Lone, NC Clash Over GMC Handwara In LA

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday witnessed a heated exchange of words between Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone and National Conference (NC) members over the establishment of Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara.

During the Question Hour, NC MLAs Mir Saifullah, Qaiser Jamsheed Lone, and Javed Mirchal demanded that GMC Handwara be set up somewhere between Handwara



and Kupwara. Sajad Lone also stood up, pointing out that his primary concern was to ensure that the allocated funds did not lapse. Responding to Lone, Minister for Health and Medical | [More on P6](#)

Gunmen Hijack Train In Pakistan, Hold 100's Hostage

Agencies

Quetta: Armed militants held hundreds of train passengers hostage on Tuesday in an ongoing siege claimed by a separatist group behind rising violence in southwestern Pakistan.

The militants wounded the driver as they took control of the train in a remote, mountainous area of Balochistan province which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

"Over 450 passengers on-board are being held hostage by gunmen," Muhammad Kashif, a senior railway government official in Quetta, the capital of the province, told AFP.

"Passengers include women and children," he added.

The attack was immediately claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) which is fighting for independence and accuses outsiders of profiting from the region's wealth.

In a statement, it said gunmen bombed the railway track before storming aboard the train.

"The militants | [More on P6](#)

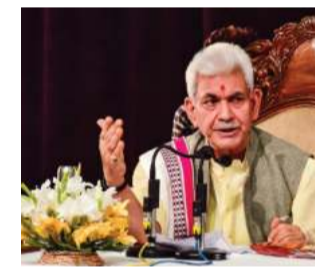
India Has Made Rapid Strides In Healthcare: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Shri Birendra Rai Hospital at Areraj, Motihari, Bihar.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his felicitations to the family members of Late Shri Birendra Rai and everyone associated with the hospital which will offer services in specialities, using latest cutting-edge healthcare technology.

"Shri Birendra Rai Ji's family has steered this esteemed institution for public service



and care. I convey my good wishes to Shri Rajeev Kumar, Dr Sanjeev Kumar and his family for the dedicated service that they are doing," the Lieutenant Governor said. Addressing the gathering, | [More on P6](#)



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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF STUDENTS WELFARE
Main Campus, Shalimar, Kashmir 190025
Phone/Fax 0194-246142 Email: dsw@skuastkashmir.ac.in
No: AU/DSW/25/F- M9/ 4785 Dated: 11/03/2025
Interest of Expression for Hostel Accommodation
SKUAST-K is looking for suitable accommodation for its students (Boys & Girls) studying at its Shalimar Campus.
Key requirements for Accommodation:
1. Location: Properties located within a reasonable distance from SKUAST-K Campuses.
2. Safety: Secure & well-maintained premises with adequate safety measures.
3. Affordability: Reasonable rental rates suitable for students.
4. Food Services: Provision of nutritious and hygienic meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) as per student preferences.
5. Amenities: Basic facilities such as furnished rooms, clean water & electricity.
Submission details:
Interested house owners and property managers may submit their expression of interest within seven days from the date of advertisement in the office of Students Welfare, SKUAST-K, Shalimar, directly or by email dsw@skuastkashmir.ac.in including the following details:
1. Property address and distance from SKUAST-K Campuses.
2. Details of food services (meal plans, menu options etc)
3. Number of rooms/beds available for accommodation.
4. Rental rates & meal charges.
5. Facilities and amenities provided (e.g laundry, furnishing etc)
6. Contact information for further communication.
Sd/-
Dean Students Welfare

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Anas Bin Fayaz S/o Fayaz Ahmad Hajam R/o Shirpora Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 22/05/2016 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub .. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth...
Public Notice..
The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Tahira Maqbool D/o Mohammad Maqbool Para R/o Darveshbagh Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 15/12/1994 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained...
fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of death certificate of my Husband, Abdul Gaffar Bhat S/o Gh Ahmad Bhat R/o Palhallan who died on 15-11-2023. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan within seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained.
Ayesha Begum
W/o Late Abdul Gaffar Bhat
R/o Palhallan
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have lost my passport bearing no: A6578847 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Assistant Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sharifa Akhter
W/o Nazir Ahmad Lone
R/o Wadwan Budgam
bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have lost my 9th pass marks certificate issued by Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Magam. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned school within Three days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Musrat Rasool
Father's Name: Gh Rasool Bhat
Mother's Name: Haseena Bano
Roll No; 116
D.O.B 01-03-1995
fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I.Mehraj u din Marazy S/O Abdul khaliq Maray R/O Harathrah Tehsil singhpora Distt Baramulla declare as under that my wards namely Majid Mehraj was born on 04/03/2016 and Iqra Mehraj was born on 02/02/2013 at harathrah singhpora and now I want to obtain DOB in favour of my wards from BDO office singhpora if any body have objection he she may contact to tehsil office singhpora within seven days and after seven days no objection will be accepted
fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
The registrar birth BDO Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Sakeena Showket D/o Showket Ahmad Shah R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 04/01/2009 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Nailah Bint Ayoub d/o Ayoub Abdullah Shah R/o Duroo sopore with verified date of birth 31/08/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice...
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Nailah Bint Ayoub d/o Ayoub Abdullah Shah R/o Duroo sopore with verified date of birth 31/08/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

ASF ENTERPRISES
Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K] , Ph.0194-24 77949 , 9419001176, 9419776235
Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, ,CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners
Registered Government order Suppliers.
Image of computer equipment

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Death
Public Notice..
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to Death of Fatima Begum w/o Mohammad Ibrahim Dar R/o Trikonalb Tehsil Pattan in this matter report Was sought from Lumberdar and chokidar concerned which reveals that the said person died on 27/06/2011 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Executive Magistrate Ist. Class Narbal, District Budgam
Tele Fax. 01951-260-276 Pin code 193401
NOTICE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC
It is hereby notified that the applicant namely Mohd Yaseen Wani S/o, D/o, W/o Abdul Majeed Wani R/o Narbal Tehsil Narbal, District Budgam had applied for the issuance of Birth certificate of his Self, Mohd Yaseen Wani, S/o, D/o Abdul Majeed Wani. The applicant intends to register his DOB as per school record / vaccination card School Certificate. If any body is having any objection / claim regarding the same he/she may approach the office of undersigned within a period of seven days (07 days) from the date of publication of this notice or else any such claims / objections shall not be entertained.
Dated: 10-03-2025
Executive Magistrate Ist Class Narbal
bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE
I RAHINA AKHTER mother of IMAD ZAHOR SEH R/O SUGAN SHOPIAN want to correct Name and d.o.b of my ward which has been wrongly entered as IMAD SEH instead of IMAD ZAHOR SEH and d.o.b wrongly entered as 31-12-2015 instead of 05-03-2019. Now correction required if anybody has any objection may contact concern Aadhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar or concern Authorities within 7 days.
fko

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL HSS RAMNAGRI SHOPIAN
Email :- phssramnagri@gmail.com
NOTICE OF AUCTION CLOSURE
Reference No: HSSR/ESTT/25/103. Date: 04/03/2025
No:-HSSR/ESTT/25/108 . Dated:- 07/03/2025.
This is to formally announce the closure of the auction for the "Dilapidated School Structure," which was held on 7th March 2025 at 3:00 PM. The Auction process commenced on 4th March 2025 and concluded on 7th March 2025, as per the terms stated in the auction announcement.
Auction Details:
Auction Type: Structures donated by local residents to Hss Ramnagri.
Items Auctioned: Dilapidated and unsafe school structures, including iron, bricks, and wood
Final Winning Bid Amount: 2,64,500
Winning Bidder: Manzoor Ahmad Bagaw S/o Abdul Gani Bagaw Resident of Redwani Kulgam .
Auction Supervision: Committee constituted under the aegis of the Chief Education Officer Shopian.
All Transactions and documentation will now be completed in accordance with relevant policies and regulations. For any further inquiries regarding this auction, please contact via email mentioned above.
Thank you for your participation.
Committee Members
1. Principal HSS Ramnagri (Member Secretary) Member Secretary
2. Principal HSS Sedow Principal Hss Ramnagri
3. Principal HSS Kanjuallar
4. Representative of R&B Division Shopian
5. Representative of Forest Division Shopian
DIPK-12897/24
dated: 11-03-2025
PRINCIPAL HSS RAMNAGRI SHOPIAN

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION KUPWARA
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e-NIT No. EE/PMGSY/KUP/eNIT/2024-25/24 Dated: 10-03-2025
Fresh Expression of Interest is invited for Engagement of Consultant for Preparation of DPR's for Roads and Bridges as per PMGSY-IV guidelines / circular issued from time to time including Road Survey, Traffic Survey with Automatic Traffic Counter, Detailed Soil Investigations, Study, Structural Design, Estimation, Preparation of Detailed Project Report & Getting it vetted from State Technical Agency (STA) for new roads proposed under PMGSY-IV in PMGSY Division Kupwara of Kashmir Province (UT of J&K). The Bidding Documents comprising reference of EO1 and of qualifying information, eligibility other details can be criteria and terms of downloaded from https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below. (NIT floated as per verbal directions by CE PMGSY Kashmir).
Table with 7 columns: S.No, Name of Work, Cost of documents (Rs.), Earnest Money (Rs.), Time Allowed for completion, Call of tender, Time and date of opening of Technical Bid, Eligibility Criteria.
1. Preparation of DPR's for Roads and Bridges as per PMGSY-IV guidelines / circular issued from time to time including Road Survey, Traffic Survey with Automatic Traffic Counter, Detailed Soil Investigations Study, Structural Design, Estimation, Preparation of Detailed Project Report & Getting it vetted from State Technical Agency (STA) for new roads proposed under PMGSY-IV Schemes PMGSY Division Kupwara, as per BOQ Uploaded.
1. The important dates and time are as under: -
1. Date of issue of tender notice 10-03-2025
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents 10-03-2025 (03:00 PM) to 17-03-2025 (4:00 PM)
3. Date time and place of pre bid meeting 13-03-2025 (11:00 AM) in the office of the Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division, Kupwara
4. Bid submission start date 10-03-2025 (03:00 PM)
5. Bid submission end date 17-03-2025 (04:00 PM)
6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids 18-03-2025 (11:00 AM)
7. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids To be notified after Technical Bid evaluation is completed
2. Cost of Bid Form: Bids must be accompanied by e-challan/Treasury Challan/receipt mention above/- (Non-refundable) deposited in M.H. 0059-PWD (Revenue) mentioning therein the name of work/ e-NIT No. pledged to Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Kupwara (Tender Inviting Authority) as the cost of the tender document. Any deviation in the specified amount, the bid shall be rejected out rightly.
3. Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security: At the time of Allotment LI must provide Hard Copy of Earnest Money/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR valid upto 30/05/2025 pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Kupwara, Any deviation in the specified amount the bid shall be rejected out rightly. The Earnest money will be released to the successful bidder only after formulation of DPR's and vetted from State Technical Agency NIT Srinagar.
4. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents in order to qualify:
a. The tender cost in the shape of e-challan/Treasury Challan/Receipt with name of work and EO1 No. / eNIT No.
b. Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Kupwara.
c. Photocopy of PAN Card.
d. Photocopy of GST number duly issued by the Commercial Taxes Department with latest GSTR- 3B Return of Latest
e. Consultant having experience of preparation of Minimum 05 DPRs in the last 5 Years. Certificate issued by Superintending Engineer/Executive Engineer.
All other terms and conditions of the e-NIT shall be seen/ downloaded from the Standard Bidding Documents uploaded on www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division Kupwara
No. PMGSY/KUP/1816-20 Dated: 11-03-2025
DIPK-12866/24

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
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
GIST of Detailed e- NIT No: - 73/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25.
For and on behalf of Government of UTJ&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Registered/Approved Mechanical Works having good experience in the relevant field /Joint Ventures etc as per details given below The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.
Table with 7 columns: S.No, Name of work, Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs, Earnest money, Cost of Tender Document, Time of completion, Class of Contract, Major Head / Programme, Tender Call.
1. Repairs to D.G set by way of Dismantling of trolley from base-frame of old Elgi Compressor and installation of D.G Set on the same trolley at (Ground Water Division Srinagar) Rs. 0.45 Lacs Rs. 1,400 /- Rs.50/- 10 days (from the date of issuance of work order) Registered for Mechanical works M & R 1st
Position of Funds: - Available.
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website:https://www.jktenders.gov.in From 11.03.2025 (10:00 AM) UPTO 19.03.2025 (11:00 AM)
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: https://www.jktenders.gov.in
As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below
1. Publishing Date 11-03-2025 (10:00 AM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids 11-03-2025 (10:00 AM) upto 19-03-2025 (11:00 PM)
3. Period of Submission of bids 11-03-2025 (10:00 AM) upto 19-03-2025 (11:00 PM)
4. Date of opening of Tender. 20-03-2025 (11:00 AM)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011
6. Cost of Tender Document : Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/e-challan deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)
NOTE: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD/e-challan, the hard copies shall have to be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT.
7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in
Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR and (The date of CDR/FDR etc must not be prior to 03 months from the date of issuance of this e-Nit and Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 11.03.2025 at 11:00 am. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Cors./13615-23
DIPK-12880/24 dated: 11-03-2025
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division, Srinagar.

Srinagar Youth Held Hostage In Myanmar

MEA Responds To JKSA, Says Matter Taken Up

Agencies

Srinagar: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday has responded to the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) regarding the distressing case of Faizan Rasool, a Kashmiri youth from Safakadal, Srinagar, who has been held hostage for ransom by human traffickers in Myanmar.

National Convenor of Association Nasir Khuehami said that the MEA has confirmed that the Indian Mission has strongly taken up the issue of Indian nationals trapped in Myanmar with the concerned authorities in Myanmar, including the specific case of Faizan Rasool.

In its official response, the MEA said that "Requests for the rescue and repatriation of all Indian nationals, including Kashmiri youth Faizan Rasool, entrapped in Myanmar, have been forwarded to the concerned authorities in Myanmar. We are actively working on it."

The Ministry also reiterated the need for caution against fraudulent job offers abroad, advising individuals to verify employment opportunities through proper channels before traveling.

Earlier, JKSA had written to External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, urging immediate diplomatic intervention to secure Faizan Rasool's release. He was lured to Myanmar under false promises of employment and is now being held for 4.5 lakh ransom.

Welcoming the MEA's swift response, Khuehami emphasized the urgency of Faizan's case, given the life-threatening situation he faces. He said, "While we appreciate the Ministry's prompt action, we have urged them to pursue this particular case with greater urgency. Faizan Rasool's life is at immediate risk. His family is in distress, and they cannot afford the ransom being demanded by the traffickers. Immediate diplomatic intervention is necessary to bring him home safely." CNS



Centaur Hotel Set For Auction, Expected To Fetch Rs 44 Cr Annually

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has initiated the process for the auction of Centaur Hotel in Srinagar, with an expected annual revenue of Rs 44 crore, which is 60 percent higher than the reserve price.

According to the official documents accessed, the planned auction is a part of the government's broader strategy to monetize public assets for better efficiency, improved services, and higher revenue generation.

The documents reveal that the historic Centaur Hotel, located along the banks of Dal Lake, is among the prime properties identified for redevelopment under this initiative. It further mentions that other key properties, including Tattoo Ground in Srinagar and Pahalgam Club, are being considered for similar monetization and redevelopment models. "The auction comes at a time when

J&K continues to face financial challenges, with the Economic Survey 2025 highlighting the region's heavy reliance on Central Government support, which contributes 70 percent of its revenue receipts," the document reads, as per KNO.

Meanwhile, it also states that the government is preparing for the auction of the Lithium mine block in Salal, Reasi, covering 317 hectares, which is expected to generate Rs 100 crore annually—(KNO)

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570 Houseboats Linked To STPs In Dal Lake

Agencies

Srinagar: In a bid to improve the water quality, the Jammu and Kashmir government has connected 570 houseboats in Dal Lake and 148 in Nigeen Lake to existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to curb pollution, an official document reveals.

Additionally, a new STP is planned under AMRUT-2.0 to cover remaining

areas, reads the document.

"As part of the Aeration & Fountains Programme, 761 fountains have already been installed in seven clusters, while five more clusters with 1,300 additional fountains are set to be installed at a cost of Rs 8.71 crore," the document revealed.

It also said that to further improve water quality, the J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority has deployed Online Con-

tinuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) at five STPs. Other conservation initiatives include bi-methanation of lake waste, removal of 140,000 cubic meters of silt, and the retrieval of 20 navigation channels spanning 10 km.

"These measures are aimed at enhancing the lake's aesthetics, improving water quality, and supporting long-term conservation efforts," the document said further—(KNO)

Defunct Drainage System Irks Hyderpora Residents

Agencies

Srinagar: The residents of Sheeshgari Bagh in Hyderpora, Srinagar Tuesday urged the government to address the worsening drainage issue in their area, which simultaneously has added to the miseries of the commuters and locals alike.

The local residents said that the problem has persisted for a long time, with no action taken despite repeated complaints.

"The drain overflows every time it rains, flooding the road and making it difficult to walk or drive. The stagnant water has also led to hygiene issues," said Aijaz Ahmad, a local resident.

Another resident, Zahoor, also expressed frustration over the damaged road,

stating that the situation worsens during peak hours. "We have school-going children and elderly people in the neighborhood. The damaged road and waterlogging make it risky for them to step out," he said.

Meanwhile, the locals have appealed to the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to repair the drainage system and restore the road. "We urge the government to intervene before the situation worsens. A proper drainage system is a basic necessity," said another resident—(KNO)



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER, J&K
Shram Bhawan-Railway Road, Jammu/Near General Bus Stand, Batamaloo Srinagar
(Website: jklabourcomm.jk.gov.in; E-mail: jk/coffice@gmail.com)

Subject: Appointment of Labour Officer in Labour Department.

Ref:
i) Administrative Department Letter No. LE-Gen/63/2022-11 L&E(7023733) dated 14-01-2025
ii) J&K Service Selection Board Srinagar's Letter No. JKSSB-Scry/7/2024 (E-7428732) dated 11-03-2024.

Order No. 65- LC of 2025
Dated: 06-03-2025

As recommended by the J&K Service Selection Board vide JKSSB-Scry/7/2024 dated 11-03-2024 and its approval conveyed by Labour & Employment Department, Civil Secretariat J&K, Jammu/Srinagar vide letter No. LE-Gen/63/2022-11-L&E (7023733) dated 14-01-2025, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of the following candidate as Labour Officer in the Pay Level 6E (35900-113500) with immediate effect:

S. No.	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address	Category	Form No.
1	Mubashir Ahmad Bhat	Mohammad Afzal Bhat	Matihindoo, Larnoo, Anantnag Dt: 17.02.2025	RBA	122350

The appointee shall report to the office of Labour Commissioner, J&K Jammu/Srinagar within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this appointment order. In case of failure of appointee to join within the stipulated period, his appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled without any further notice.

The appointee shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates in original:

- Academic Qualification Certificates
- Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificate
- Health Certificate issued by concerned Chief Medical Officer (Physical Fitness Certificate)
- Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority
- Certificates from the concerned authorities to the effect that no loan under Self Employment Scheme has been taken by the appointee
- Relevant Category Certificates (in case of candidate belonging to reserved categories)

The appointment of the above candidate as Labour Officer shall further be subjected to the following terms and conditions:

- The appointee shall furnish an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if on verification of the qualification certificates/Domicile Certificate and other documents from the concerned issuing authority are proved forged, false or fake, the appointee shall have no claim for his appointment as Labour Officer and the appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio and legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him.
- If the candidate has taken a loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment and Counselling Centre of the Domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government Service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. The DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery in terms of Circular No. 06-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated 06-02-2023 issued by the General Administration Department.
- Salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to him unless a satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of the Qualification/DoB Certificates is received from the concerned issuing authority.
- The appointee shall be on probation for a period of 02 years.
- The appointment of the above candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24 December 2009.
- The inter-seniority of the appointee shall be determined in accordance with the merit secured by the appointee in the selection list prepared by the Services Selection Board.
- The appointment of the candidate shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition(s), if any, pending before any competent court.

No. LC-ESTT/20/2024-2 (E 7457830)

Sd/-
Chanrandeep Singh, JKAS
Labour Commissioner, J&K

DIPK-12865/24
Dated: 11-03-25

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

AIRPORTS
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

☾
HIJRI
CALENDAR
11 Ramazan
1446

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 24
ZUHR	12:41
ASR	4: 55
Magrib	6:38
ISHA	8: 59

This Day In History

- 1917 - Stalin, Kamenev & Muranov arrives in Petrograd/St Petersburg
- 1917 - A German submarine sinks an unarmored US merchant ship, the 'Algonquin' on the same day that US President Woodrow Wilson gives executive order to arm US merchant ships
- 1925 - British government of Stanley Baldwin refuses to ratify Geneva agreement.
- 1928 - In California, the St. Francis Dam fails, killing over 600 people.
- 1930 - Mohandas Gandhi begins 200m (300km) march protesting British salt tax
- 1935 - Britain establishes 30 MPH speed limit for towns & villages
- 1938 - Nazi Germany invades Austria (Anschluss)
- 1941 - German occupiers confiscate AVRO studios in Netherlands
- 1942 - British troops vacate the Andaman Islands in Gulf of Bengal
- 1943 - Soviet troops liberate Wjasma
- 1945 - Italy's Communist Party (CPI) calls for armed uprising in Italy
- 1945 - USSR returns Transylvania to Romania
- 1947 - US President Harry Truman introduces Truman doctrine to fight communism
- 1951 - Communist troops driven out of Seoul
- 1957 - German DR accepts 22 Russian divisions
- 1959 - US House joins Senate approving Hawaii statehood
- 1967 - Indonesian congress strips president Sukarno of authority and names General Suharto as acting President

From KO Archives

Mufti Stages A Come Back In Kashmir Politics

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Former union home minister and senior Congress leader Mufti Mohammad Syed turned tables on ruling National Conference, when he defeated the party nominee, Mohammed Yusuf Taing, with a convincing margin of over 48, 000 votes. Mufti who succeeded in establishing lead over his rival, from the very beginning of the vote count, on Monday afternoon, maintained the same till he was officially declared elected in the wee hours of Tuesday morning.

Mufti polled 1,17,152 of 2,12,337 total valid votes polled, while Taing could manage just 68,447 votes. Union state minister for home affairs, Mohammad Maqbool Dar, a Janata Dal candidate finished a poor third by securing 11,063 votes while BJP, which admitted political front of surrendered militant group JK Ikhwan into its fold, on poll eve, got 6861 votes. All the 13 candidates in the fray, except Taing of the National Conference, lost their security deposits.

Mufti's victory is seen as his comeback in Kashmir politics, after remaining out of it for quite a long time. In the wake of 1987 Rajiv-Farooq accord, Mufti was relieved as state Congress chief by Rajiv Gandhi and in turn inducted into union council of ministers with a cabinet rank. From that day, Mufti virtually remained aloof from Kashmir politics, especially after he joined Janata Dal and rose to become the chief of party's central parliamentary board, besides holding sensitive portfolio of home affairs. It was only in mid-1996, when Mufti left Janata Dal to join back the Congress, that he started taking keen interest in Kashmir affairs again. He played an important role in finalising the list of party candidates for 1996 assembly elections. Though Congress performed very badly in those elections, it was more because of factionalism within the party with a section of Congress owing allegiance to Ghulam Nabi Azad, openly canvassing for National Conference candidates.

Now with having won the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat with a comfortable margin, Mufti is all set to give sleepless nights to his political opponents especially National Conference, which left no stone unturned to stop him from marching to Delhi.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 March, 1998)

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا الْحَاجُّونَ

With profound grief, we announce the sad demise of **Jigri**, beloved wife of Late Ghulam Bhat, R/o Sultan Mohalla, Saida Kadal, Ranger Stop, Srinagar, who left for her heavenly abode on 10th March 2025. The congregational **Fateha Khawani** will be held on **Wednesday, 12th March 2025**, at **7:00 AM** at the ancestral graveyard **Hassanabad, Saida Kadal**, near Hotel Alla Residency, Srinagar. Following that, a full-day Taziyati Majlis will be observed at her residence in Sultan Mohalla, Saida Kadal.

May Allah grant her the highest place in Jannah.

BEREAVED
Alii Mohammad Bhat, Mohammad Amin Bhat, Mohammad Shafi Bhat (Sons)
Muneer Abass, Nadeem /Adil (Grandsons)
Contact: 9596104749

DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of **Haji Aasar Mohammad Sidiq Wani** R/o Bota Colony, Mughal Lane Habbak Naseem Bagh, Srinagar who left for heavenly abode on Tuesday, 11th of March, 2025. May Allah grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul.

The congregational **Fateha Khawani** will be held on **Friday, 14th of March 2025** at **10.00 AM** at their ancestral graveyard at **Dargah Hazratbal Srinagar** near bus stop Hazratbal, Srinagar.

Bereaved
Muzaffar Ahmad Wani (Son) 7006887526
Haji. Mohd Asgar Kanth (Son in Law) 9419073234
Javaid Ahmad Wani (Son in Law) +918899555741
Saqib Asgar Kanth (Grandson) 9596264437

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KO VIEW

Kathua Deaths

In yet another grim reminder of the fragile security situation in parts of Jammu region, two more boys have disappeared in Kathua district following the five mysterious deaths. The deaths and now the disappearances have been blamed on militants. Although Jammu has been relatively peaceful in recent months, successive attacks on civilians have stirred fears of a renewed spell of violence.

This has once again given a lie to periodic claims of normalcy. The reality on the ground, more so, in the Jammu region, is telling a different story. The resurgence of targeted violence indicates that the specter of militancy is far from eradicated. The deaths of civilians in remote areas highlight a disturbing pattern, and it needs to be stopped forthwith.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh's assertion that terrorist elements may be involved in the recent killings adds a serious dimension to the issue. However, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has cautioned against premature conclusions while the investigation is still underway. Probe into the deaths and disappearances is welcome but the attacks can't be allowed to go on meanwhile. The protests and shutdown in Kathua underlines the growing anxiety among people.

In recent years, Rajouri and Poonch have been at the center of militant activity. But as security forces ramped up operations, insurgents have reportedly forayed into newer areas like Reasi, Doda, and Kishtwar. This has raised fresh security concerns, more so with militants increasingly setting up base in forests, where they are turning out to be difficult to track down for the security forces. This is also apparent from the militancy related violence in the union territory last summer, most of which has been concentrated in the hilly terrain stretching from Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu division up to the hilly areas in parts of Kashmir Valley.

At the same time, we can't but acknowledge the conspicuous drop in militancy in recent years. The last few months have witnessed a relative peace returning to the union territory. This shows the security forces have been able to force the militancy to retreat, reflecting the efficacy of the revamped security approach. But sustaining these gains will require a multi-pronged strategy involving security, development, and diplomacy. And above all, understanding the nature of militancy in the union territory. Although the number of local militants in the Valley has steeply gone down in recent years with the last year recording the lowest recruitment, this isn't a true indicator of the retreat of militancy. As the violence in the last two years has demonstrated, the shortfall in local recruitment is replenished by the infiltration from Pakistan. And this doesn't have an immediate solution. There is no escaping a drawn fight against militancy but one thing is certain: it cannot be won decisively if people feel alienated from the government.



Did You Know?

Understanding ACH in Mutual Funds: A Simple Guide for Investors

Irshad Mushtaq

If you're looking to invest in mutual funds but feel overwhelmed by the process, let's break it down. One helpful feature you might encounter is the Automated Clearing House (ACH) system. This system can simplify your investment experience significantly.

What is ACH?

ACH is an electronic network that facilitates automatic payments and transfers. In mutual funds, it allows you to set up automatic transactions—like regular investments—without needing to remember to do it manually each time.

Why Should You Use ACH for Your Mutual Funds?

Here are some benefits that make ACH a smart choice for investors:

1. Convenience: With ACH, you can automate your fund transfers. This means no more worrying about whether you remembered to make your investment this month!
2. Timeliness: ACH ensures your investments are executed on time, allowing you to make the most of market opportunities without delay.
3. Discipline: Regular, automatic contributions encourage a saving habit. This helps you invest consistently, which can lead to favorable outcomes over time.
4. Cost-effective: Many mutual fund companies waive transaction fees for ACH transfers. This can save you money in the long run, making your investments even more beneficial.

The Role of Regulatory Bodies

Now, let's look at the key institutions that oversee and regulate transactions like ACH in mutual funds:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI): SEBI is the primary regulatory authority for mutual funds in India. It ensures that the mutual fund industry operates fairly and transparently, protecting investors' interests. SEBI sets guidelines and frameworks that ensure ACH transactions are secure, reducing the risk of fraud.

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

Excited to learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com

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Tourism and Tradition at Crossroads

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

Nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, the legendary Sufi poet Amir Khusro once beautifully encapsulated Kashmir's essence in his words: "Gar firdous baraye zameen ast, hami astov hami ast"—"If there is a paradise on Earth, it is here, it is here." But beneath its breathtaking beauty lies a land at a crossroads—where the allure of tourism clashes with the sanctity of tradition. This is the story of Kashmir, a land of contrasts, where the promise of progress meets the weight of preservation.

The breaking point came during Ramazan, when an 'obscene' fashion show was held in Gulmarg. Models from around the world walked the snow-covered ramp in 'revealing' attires, igniting a firestorm of criticism. As images and videos of the event cascaded across social media, the outcry grew deafening. Kashmiris, already grappling with the delicate dance between preserving their heritage and embracing economic progress, now find themselves united in fury. "Is this the price of tourism?" They ask, their voices trembling with indignation: "Are we to trade our identity for fleeting moments of entertainment?"

Kashmir is more than just a destination; it's an emotion. Its cool, crisp air offers respite from the scorching heat of the plains, while its landscapes—ranging from lush meadows to rugged mountains—paint a picture so perfect it feels surreal. From the gondola rides in Gulmarg to the tranquil waters of Dal Lake, every corner of Kashmir whispers tales of wonder.

Adventurers flock to its trails, like the challenging trek to the Seven Great Lakes, while spiritual seekers embark on sacred pilgrimages to Amarnath and Vaishno Devi. The region's archaeological gems, such as the ancient springs of Kokernag and Verinag, add layers of history to its natural charm. And let's not forget the Mughal Gardens of Nishat and Shalimar, where terraced lawns, cascading fountains, and vibrant flowerbeds create a symphony of beauty. Nishat Bagh, the "Garden of Joy," offers panoramic views of Dal Lake, while Shalimar Bagh, the "Abode of Love," whispers tales of Mughal emperors and their romantic escapades.

But Kashmir isn't just a playground for tourists—it's a living, breathing culture. Its soul is woven with the threads of Sufi mysticism, ancient traditions, and a deep reverence for nature.

One of Kashmir's most enduring treasures is its people. Known for their warm hearts and boundless hospitality, Kashmiris welcome visitors with open arms and a steaming cup of kahwa—a traditional saffron-infused tea served in a samovar, a beautifully crafted brass kettle that symbolizes the region's rich cultural heritage.

In the upcoming spring, the government will throw open the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar for a visual feast for visitors.

However, the garden's popularity has become its Achilles' heel. Overcrowding during the blooming season has turned this serene escape into a chaotic maze of selfie sticks and jostling crowds. The narrow pathways are jam-packed, leav-



Gulmarg fashion show Credit: Facebook/Shivan & Narresh

“Kashmiris, already grappling with the delicate dance between preserving their heritage and embracing economic progress, now find themselves united in fury. “Is this the price of tourism?” They ask, their voices trembling with indignation: “Are we to trade our identity for fleeting moments of entertainment?”

ing little room to sit and soak in the beauty. While the tulips continue to bloom, the experience of witnessing them is often marred by the sheer volume of tourists.

Similarly, Dal Lake, as well as, other lakes like Manasbal Lake and Wular Lake also face the threat of pollution and over-tourism. They are not just beautiful but also cardinal to the ecological landscape of Kashmir.

As Kashmir's beauty gains global recognition, the wheels of tourism begin to turn. The government, eager to tap into this potential, recently inaugurated ambitious projects to make the valley more accessible. The recent inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a game-changer, ensuring year-round connectivity and opening doors to winter sports like skiing and snowboarding.

But the engineering marvels don't stop there. The Chenab Bridge, the highest railway bridge in the world, stands as a testament to human ingenuity. Towering over the Chenab River at a height of 359 meters, this architectural wonder connects Jammu to Kashmir, offering breathtaking views of the valley below. The Zojila Tunnel, once

completed, will be India's longest road tunnel, providing all-weather access to Ladakh and further integrating the region with the rest of the country.

The government's investment in infrastructure—amounting to crores of rupees—has transformed the journey from Jammu to Kashmir into a seamless experience. The winding roads, cutting through mountains and valleys, are a testament to the relentless efforts of engineers and workers who braved harsh terrains to connect this paradise to the world.

For a while, it seemed like Kashmir was on the brink of an economic renaissance. Hotels sprung up, jobs were created, and the promise of prosperity glittered on the horizon. But with progress came problems—problems that threatened the very essence of what made Kashmir special.

The surge in tourism has brought with it a wave of challenges that Kashmir is ill-prepared to handle.

Once-pristine destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam are now teeming with tourists, leaving behind trails of litter and stress on local ecosystems. The Tulip Garden, once a serene escape, is now a chaotic sea of selfie sticks during its blooming season.

Additionally, Kashmir's rich heritage, shaped by Sufi saints and ancient rituals, is under threat. The influx of tourists has introduced practices that clash with local values—like public drinking near mosques and shrines, sparking outrage among the deeply religious population.

A Plea to Visitors: Respect the Soul of Kashmir

To those who visit this paradise, a humble request: tread lightly. Respect the religious values and sentiments of the Kashmiri people. Remember that the mosques, shrines, and sacred spaces you encounter are not just tourist attractions—they are the heartbeats of a community. Dress modestly, avoid public displays of behavior that may offend, and take a moment to understand the culture you are stepping into.

Kashmir doesn't have to look far for inspiration. Countries like Bhutan and Oman have shown that tourism and tradition can coexist. Bhutan's "High Value, Low Impact" policy ensures that tourism benefits

the economy without overwhelming the culture. Oman, with its pristine deserts and historic forts, has struck a similar balance, preserving its heritage while welcoming visitors.

Even closer to home, Aceh in Indonesia has implemented strict measures to align tourism with Islamic values, proving that development doesn't have to come at the cost of identity.

A Vision for Kashmir: Quality Over Quantity

The path forward for Kashmir is clear: it must prioritize quality over quantity. Instead of chasing mass tourism, the focus should be on sustainable practices that protect the environment and respect local traditions. Policies that limit visitor numbers, promote eco-friendly tourism, and celebrate Kashmiri culture can ensure that the region remains a paradise for generations to come.

Kashmir's future lies in striking a delicate balance—where modern infrastructure supports economic growth without overshadowing the spiritual and cultural heartbeat of the valley.

Conclusion

Kashmir is more than just a destination; it's a legacy. Its beauty has the power to heal, inspire, and transform. But as the world floods to its valleys, it's crucial to remember that this paradise is fragile. The choices we make today will determine whether Kashmir remains a sanctuary of peace or becomes a casualty of unchecked development.

Let's not just visit Kashmir—let's protect it. For in its snow-clad peaks and shimmering lakes lies not just the soul of a region, but the heartbeat of humanity. And as Amir Khusro so eloquently said, if there is a paradise on Earth, it is here, it is here. Let's ensure it stays that way.

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

The author, Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi, is a columnist and feature writer based in Kashmir. He X's on @peermohdamir



OBSERVER MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Don't Trample Over Newspapers

For Muslims, Islam is not just a religion but a complete way of life, encompassing all aspects, including spirituality, morality, social conduct, and personal well-being.

I would like to appeal to all to kindly pay attention to the way we handle newspapers, as they often contain the name of Allah. It is important that we treat them with utmost respect and refrain from using them as trash or throwing them away carelessly.

Such actions are considered major sins and a form of blasphemy. Newspapers serve as a valuable source of information, sharing news,

opinions, and various other articles. They play a significant role in our society by keeping us informed and enabling us to make informed decisions. However, we must also recognize that these newspapers often include verses from the Quran, Allah's name, or other religious references.

To show our reverence for the name of Allah & Islamic Scriptures, we should take appropriate steps to handle newspapers respectfully. Here are a few suggestions on how we can do so:

Store or recycle: If you have newspapers that are no longer needed, consider keeping them in a designated place or recycling them prop-

erly. By doing this, we ensure that the name of Allah is not mishandled or thrown away carelessly.

Avoid inappropriate use: It is crucial to refrain from using newspapers for purposes that are disrespectful, such as wrapping perishable items, lining pet cages, or using them as cleaning materials. Instead, opt for alternative materials that are more suitable for these purposes.

Educate others: Spread awareness among your family, friends, and community members about the importance of handling newspapers with care. Encourage them to adopt respectful practices when dealing with printed materials that contain

religious references.

By taking these small yet significant steps, we demonstrate our respect for Allah's name and honour the religious significance attached to it. Let us strive to preserve the dignity of printed materials that contain religious content and set an example for others to follow.

Remember, it is through our actions that we manifest our faith and uphold the values that we hold dear. May Allah guide us all and bless us with understanding and wisdom.

Irfaq Ahmad Zargar
ifiinice@gmail.com

Women's Part in Ramazan

Appreciating and Empowering Their Efforts

Zahid Ahmad Lone

Women play an essential role in shaping the spirit of Ramazan through their dedication to family, community, and charitable acts. Despite their significant contributions, their efforts often go unnoticed, leaving them with little time for personal reflection and spiritual growth. Recognizing and supporting women during this holy month is crucial to ensuring a more balanced and inclusive Ramazan experience for all.

Even if women make great contributions, their efforts are sometimes underappreciated. Improving women's recognition and support will help to guarantee they have enough time and chances for personal prayer and introspection. Families and communities must actively help women by distributing domestic chores and showing thanks for their dedication, therefore reducing their obligations. Encouragement of women throughout Ramazan is essential for the more fair and balanced celebration of this holy month. Encouragement of men and children to help with domestic chores helps to relieve women's responsibilities, therefore freeing them to focus on their spiritual growth.

Moreover, educational campaigns stressing the contributions made by women during Ramazan should be supported so as to highlight their indispensable roles. Leaders of religious organizations and communities have an obligation to make sure women have the same chances as males to participate in social and religious events. Furthermore, initiatives for economic empowerment should be



THOUGH THEIR EFFORTS SOMETIMES GO UNREPORTED, THEY ARE ESSENTIAL IN PRESERVING Ramazan's basic values—compassion, kindness, and unity. Our culture has an obligation to honor and empower women throughout Ramazan

encouraged so that women may freely support philanthropic activities without running against financial constraints. Many women-owned companies and home-based businesses see higher sales during Ramazan; so, supporting these projects can help to promote more financial freedom and communal development.

Women's roles during Ramazan go beyond conventional home duties. Their basis for Ramazan ob-

servance is their meal preparation, charitable deeds, and support of their families and communities. As a community, it is our responsibility to honor and support women throughout Ramazan; although their efforts frequently go unappreciated, they are fundamental in sustaining the key principles of Ramazan—compassion, generosity, and unity. We can guarantee that everyone feels the real Ramazan by distributing tasks, appreci-

ating their efforts, and supporting gender-inclusive community projects. Let this Ramazan be a time of recognition and empowerment for the ladies who bless this holy month for all, alongside of worship and fasting. Though they make major contributions, women's efforts are sometimes underappreciated. Improving women's recognition and support will help to guarantee they have enough time and chances for personal

prayer and introspection. Families and communities have to actively help women by distributing house chores and showing thanks for their dedication, therefore relieving some of their obligations.

Encouragement of women throughout Ramazan is essential for the more fair and balanced celebration of this holy month. By encouraging men and children to help with domestic chores, women's stress can be lessened, and they

can then focus on their spiritual growth. Moreover, educational campaigns stressing the contributions made by women during Ramazan should be supported to highlight their indispensable roles. Leaders of religious organizations and communities have an obligation to make sure women have the same chances as males to participate in social and religious events.

Furthermore, initiatives for economic empowerment should be encouraged so that women may freely support philanthropic activities without running against financial constraints. Many women-owned companies and home-based businesses see higher sales during Ramazan; so, supporting these projects can help to promote more financial freedom and communal development. Women's roles during Ramazan go beyond conventional home duties. Their basis for Ramazan observance is their food preparation, charitable deeds, and support of their families and communities. Though their efforts sometimes go unreported, they are essential in preserving Ramazan's basic values—compassion, kindness, and unity.

Our culture has an obligation to honor and empower women throughout Ramazan. We can guarantee that everyone feels the real Ramazan by distributing tasks, appreciating their efforts, and supporting gender-inclusive community projects. Let this Ramazan be a time of appreciation and empowerment for the women who enhance this holy month for everybody, not only of prayer and fasting.

The author is a Ph. D. Scholar, University of Kashmir

How to Finish Quran in 30 Days

AMALIAH TEAM

Staying up to pray as the rest of the world sleeps, the suhoor spreads, and the anticipation of the Maghrib adhan – Ramadan is here, and the mercy of this month is arriving too. Whatever we hope to take away from this month, the true spirit of Ramadan is in reconnecting with the Qur'an.

Ibn 'Abbas narrated, "Allah's Messenger ﷺ was the most generous person, and he would be at his most generous in Ramadan because Jibril would come to him every night and he would study the Qur'an with him. Truly, when Allah's Messenger ﷺ would meet Jibril, he would be more generous than a fleeting wind." (Al-Albani)

With up to thirty blessed days in the month, a common goal for many is to try and finish an entire recitation of the Qur'an. Some years, we make it happen and some years, we lose momentum halfway through. Life happens, exhaustion takes over, and there is just too much going on – but InshaAllah we are rewarded for our intentions and rewarded as if we did finish in those years gone by.

There are many benefits to reciting the Qur'an specifically in Ramadan, the month where Allah ﷻ sent down the holy book to His beloved Messenger ﷺ. A month where we have the best opportunity to gain entry to Paradise as the doors of Jannah are opened and doors of Jahannam are closed for an entire month.

'Abdallah Ibn 'Amr reported Allah's Messenger ﷺ as saying, "Fasting and the Qur'an intercede for a man. Fasting says, 'O my Lord, I have kept him away from his food and his passions by day, so accept my intercession for him.' The Qur'an says, 'I have kept him away from sleep by night, so accept my intercession for him.' Then their intercession is accepted." (Mishkat al Masabih)

In this piece, we are taking you through some tried and tested practical tips from our trusted Amaliah community on completing the Qur'an this Ramadan.

It helps to remember that finishing the Qur'an is neither obligatory nor the only Qur'an-related goal we can have. Whatever you aim to accomplish by the end of this month and what-

ever you are able to achieve, the following tips will help you stay on track:

1. Set your daily goal

Start with a goal as it will help you stay focused each day. If you are trying to finish the Qur'an this Ramadan, then over 30 days your daily goal is: the number of pages in your Qur'an, divided by 29/30 days. This is your goal on how many pages to read per day, you can then work out how you want to achieve this (i.e. you might have a certain number of pages after each salah or at different points in the day).

You may also want to adjust this accordingly if you expect to have your period in Ramadan and take the opinion that you cannot read from the Qur'an during this time. For example, deduct the typical number of days from your period from the 29/30 days of Ramadan

"I read 20 pages a day and put aside 10-15 minutes after each prayer to read 4 pages. This always helps me complete it in the month of Ramadan!"

"I read 25 pages everyday, 5 pages after each prayer. I tried to finish around the last 10 odd nights. I followed this for 3 years but now I'm focused more on understanding the Holy Qur'an and its Tafsihs. Since Arabic is not my native language, all these years I just recited mostly without truly pondering what the Holy book actually implies. Insha Allah I'm going to set a new goal this Ramadan."

If your goal is not to finish the Qur'an, adjust accordingly. You know best what is in your capacity, what is possible for your lifestyle and current situation, so start there. This is important and will help when you are feeling down or when you are off track with what you had hoped to accomplish. Setting a goal will help you set down a detailed plan and keep you on track as much as possible.

With regards to goals in Ramadan, if you are worried about setting lofty goals and not reaching them, a friend shared "If you're overwhelmed during Ramadan due to many personal difficulties, don't set yourself lofty goals. Set standards you do not fall below."

2. Intention

Our deeds are weighed by our intentions, so here's a key point to remember as you sit to pen

down your goals for this Ramadan: aim as high as you can and strive to accomplish that goal. Whether you reach it or not, Allah will reward you for your intention and effort. If your intention is true and you do not finish, InshaAllah it will be counted as if you did complete the Qur'an and written in your book of deeds.

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said, "Actions are according to intentions, and everyone will get what was intended." (Bukhari)

We loved the advice on viewing Ramadan as a spiritual bootcamp where we should aim for lofty goals: "Ramadan is only one month a year, I like to think of it as a spiritual bootcamp, so planning ahead helps me."

"Set your intention and stick to it. On the first couple of days read extra that you've allocated to the other days. This acts as a buffer if you later miss a day or two, so you don't fall behind."

Life happens, we may not always be able to stick to our plans, but why not intend to make the most of our time and leave the rest to Allah?

3. There is no time like the present

Sometimes, the best way to deal with procrastination is to just get up and do it. Try to proactively set up a reading routine at least a week before Ramadan begins. This will inshaAllah help your transition into Ramadan smoother and less stressful.

Chantal Blake, Holistic Menstrual Health Educator advised wisely, "Stack up your reading in the early half of your menstrual cycle. When oestrogen is higher, generally drive and energy are too. As oestrogen wanes and we draw closer to menstruation, maintaining big commitments can become more challenging. And, of course, start now to get your khatam in Ramadan!"

Many people agreed with that, as someone pointed out astutely, "Start now – the goal is to complete in Ramadan but you don't have to start in Ramadan!"

Make du'a and ask Allah for His help in getting started. Allahumma inni a'udhu bika minal-kasali, wal-harami, wal-jubni, wal-bukhli, wa fitnatid-dajjali, wa 'adhabil-qabr.

"O Allah, I seek refuge in You from laziness, old age, cowardice, miserliness, the tribulation of the Dajjal and the help each

the grave.)" (Sunan An-Nasai)

4. Reading from a physical Qur'an

"My aunt swears by this, finishing it up each Ramadhan MashAllah – four pages after each prayer!"

To read through an entire juz (chapter) which consists of twenty pages in one day, the recommended plan of action is to read four pages before or after the five daily prayers. This is easier when you are reading from a physical Qur'an as you can see your progress as you turn the pages. If you cannot reach your goal for the day, you can also

other stay on track and InshaAllah you will be rewarded for this too.

"I read four pages after each prayer, that's a juz finished a day. My husband and I keep each other accountable so we are both encouraged to read!"

"I have a friendly competition with one of my siblings and friends so we can encourage each other!"

If you feel you are short on time, why not start your own Khatam group where your friends and family get together to finish one whole recitation?

"Read together with a group of friends! Get together even online, and read a page together every evening."

6. Understanding the Qur'an

Some people feel conflicted about finishing the Qur'an when they have not understood it. This makes sense as you want to have learnt something at the end. The middle ground here could be to watch video lectures that go over the translation or tafsir of the juz you are reading that day. For example, Yaqeen Institute's 30 for 30 series summarises the main points of each juz in a half-hour video.

"Do not fall into the debate of what's more important: reciting more or understanding more. Both camps have enough evidence in hadith which means both are important. Focus all your readings and listenings on Qur'an. Don't stack a hefty TBR pile of books for Ramadan because they have Persian art on its cover. Instead read tafsir, books about learning and understanding Qur'an, etc. Read as much as you can, use the tiny pockets of time to read even if it's one verse you can fit."

"Don't pressure yourself to finish. Understanding is more important than powering through."

Other ways you can connect with the Qur'an this month:

- Read the translation.
 - Study the tafsir of one surah.
 - Watch online tafsir series
 - Listen to a detailed tafsir of a single ayah every day.
 - Revise what you have memorised of the Qur'an.
 - Memorise a new surah.
- Whichever way you choose to recite this year, it is important to remember that in the month of Qur'an, every tiny effort in get-



It is often said that the way to know if your deeds have been accepted in Ramazan is if they carry on. If you don't reach your goals in Ramazan see them as something to build on. Keep going with your goals and InshaAllah by next Ramazan you will be able to build on it again

check to see how many additional pages you will be reading the next day. If you still prefer to read on a device like your phone or tablet, try switching to page view so that you can visualise your progress.

5. Accountability buddy

Start a messaging thread with friends of similar goals and reading paces as you begin this Ramadan. At the end of each day, update each other on your progress, what page you ended on and where you need to be for the next day. Motivate and help each

other stay on track and InshaAllah you will be rewarded for this too.

7. Reading for Taraweeh

There is a difference of opinion on whether you can hold the mushaf during taraweeh to recite from the Qur'an. Some scholars will allow this, for example, the scholars of the Shafi'i fiqh recommend the use of a mushaf. Some scholars of the Hanafi fiqh discourage or prohibit the use of a mushaf during the prayer.

If you prefer to hold your Qur'an and read from it while you pray Taraweeh, discuss with your local imam about the permissibility and make a decision based on that. Another option could be to recite what you have memorised in your Taraweeh prayers and to then read your set portion of the Quran after every two rakat.

"Best advice I got was to read one surah a day for the first week or so. Yes you're reading more than one juz for the first 10 surah but it really helps you to get a momentum going. I also read as much as I can during tarawih prayers on my phone (at home when I'm praying tarawih on my own)."

Here is also a guide on How to Pray Taraweeh at Home

8. Explore the abundant tech resources

From Adhan clocks to Prayer and daily adhar apps, technology has become an invaluable resource in our day to day lives as Muslims. Similarly, there are a number of Qur'an apps that aim to make Qur'an recitation and understanding effortless for us as busy individuals. Offering various translations, audio recordings, and interpretations of the Qur'an, apps like Qur'an Hive and Qur'an Reflect offer convenience and flexibility, allowing us to engage with Allah's message anytime, anywhere. Moreover, features such as bookmarking and personalised reading plans can help in enhancing the efficiency.

"If you have a basic Arabic understanding, then pick a phrase and a verse each day from your reading portion and try to reflect on it. It could be simply because of how it sounded on your tongue, look it up and think about it. Tadabbur is as simple as that. Use apps like Qur'an Reflect, Qur'an Hive, the tafsihs of Quran,

com and their app version, listen to your favourite Qari in times you feel like plugging in your headset."

"I use Quranly! It's a great app."

Whether it's listening to recitation during your commute, utilising translation tools for better understanding, or participating in online study groups, these apps offer a convenient way to deepen our spiritual connection and fulfil the goal of completing the Quran during the blessed month of Ramadan.

9. Make yourself a visual tracker

If you have a Ramadan journal, these usually have a column where you can track your Qur'an reading for the day. But even if you do not, pull out any journal you usually use and make your own tracker! Make it as simple or as pretty as you need it to keep you organised and motivated, and log in your progress for each day. This way, you can evaluate yourself at the end of every day, week and even at the end of the month to plan for where you can improve next year.

10. Keep going after Ramadan

It is often said that the way to know if your deeds have been accepted in Ramadan is if they carry on. If you don't reach your goals in Ramadan see them as something to build on. Keep going with your goals and InshaAllah by next Ramadan you will be able to build on it again.

"One part is about 20 pages which is 4 pages after every prayer. Stick to that as minimum and if you can read more, go ahead. The aim is to build the habit during Ramadan and then carry it forward with us for the rest of the year inshallah."

"I started reciting last October. Minimum 1 page per day. Sometimes I miss due to work and menstruation. But I stayed consistent."

At the end of the day, do not be disheartened if you have been unable to reach your goal; dust yourself off, adjust your plan and renew your intention.

May Allah allow us to benefit from the blessed month, keep our intentions sincere and allow the Qur'an to enter our hearts.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Today's Players More Focussed On Playing IPL, Feels Rishabh Pant

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant feels the lure of the IPL is understandable but budding cricketers should always focus on playing for the country as "everything else" follows thereafter.

Pant, who was part of India's triumphant Champions Trophy squad but did not get a game, made his international debut back in 2017.

"Since childhood, I had only one dream—to play for India. I never even thought about playing in the IPL. I think today, people are more focused on the IPL. Of course, it's a great platform, but I believe that if your goal is to play for your country,



everything else—including the IPL—will eventually fall into place," Pant told JioHotstar. "If you have that bigger

mindset, success will follow. I always believed that I would play for India one day, and God has been kind. At 18, I got the opportunity to make my debut, and I am grateful for that," said the 27-year-old.

Pant is known for flamboyant style of play and some of his trademark shots include a one-handed six with the bat often slipping out of his hands. He explained why that happens frequently.

"I think it mostly happens because I hold my bottom hand very lightly. I mainly try to use my bottom hand for support because, at times, it starts dominating. So, I focus on gripping my top hand tightly," said Pant. "But when I overreach—espe-

cially when the ball is too wide or too short—it's not always in the ideal hitting zone. Sometimes, the shot I attempt may only have a 30-40% success rate, but depending on the match situation, I'm willing to take that risk. That's my mindset.

"When I take that chance and overreach, I need to do something to maintain balance. At times, it may look like I'm throwing the bat, but in reality, I'm just trying to make the most of that delivery. If my bat slips, if it's not in my hand, or even if it hits my head—my only focus at that moment is finding the boundary."

Pant said being a gymnast in his younger days has also helped him as a cricketer.

Short TAKES

ICC Unlikely To Offer Any Explanation For Snub To PCB

The Pakistan Cricket Board is unlikely to receive any "formal clarification" from the ICC on the perceived snub during the closing ceremony of the Champions Trophy in Dubai.

India beat New Zealand by four wickets in the title clash on Sunday to win the tournament for the third time.

The controversy erupted when Sumair Ahmed, who is chief operating officer of the PCB and was the tournament director of the Champions Trophy, was not invited on stage for the final presentation.

However according to ICC sources, the PCB won't be given any formal explanation.

"If the PCB mandarins look up, even ICC CEO Geoff Allardice wasn't present on stage. The reason is protocol," said the ICC source.

"Sumair Ahmed is an employee of the PCB and not an office-bearer. Also please check when has a tournament director been on stage for presentation?"

MCG To Host A Night Match Between Australia & England

The 150th anniversary test between Australia and England will be held under lights at the Melbourne Cricket Ground from March 11-15, 2027.

Cricket Australia announced Tuesday that the historic match will be the first day-night men's test at the MCG.

The famous stadium on the edge of downtown Melbourne hosted the first cricket test in 1877 and the centenary test between Australia and England in 1977. Australia won by a 45-run margin in both of those matches.

Australia is hosting the 2025-26 Ashes series against England starting in November.

The Australian men's team, coming off a semifinal run at the Champions Trophy, is set to defend its World Test Championship title in a final against South Africa in England in June.

Cash-Strapped Man United To Build 'World's Greatest Stadium'

Manchester United plan to build a new two billion pound (\$2.59 billion) 100,000-seat stadium that will be the biggest in Britain, next to the existing Old Trafford, the club announced on Tuesday.

United appointed Foster + Partners in September to develop a masterplan for the area around Old Trafford as part of a regeneration project. The club unveiled architectural designs for the new stadium, which will feature an umbrella design, at an event on Tuesday morning in London.

United said the project could create as many as 92,000 new jobs and will lead to the construction of 17,000 homes, and will be worth an additional 7.3 billion pounds per year to the British economy.

Army, Himachal Dominate On Khelo India Winter Games Day 3

Observer News Service

GULMARG: The third day of 2025 Khelo India Winter Games cleared the smoke for medal tally to decide which states or organization will gather maximum medals.

Top contenders from previous day were Army, Ladakh and Maharashtra, but the five events scheduled for the day had left competition open to all in national games event at Gulmarg.

With gradual opening of games, the needle of medal tally began to incline towards Army as their team dominated Men's Ski Relay Event and raced to Gold while Uttarakhand team scaled Silver, Himachal Pradesh team walked for Bronze medal in the competition.

The Slalom Snowboard event for Women held at Kangdoori saw thrilling contest among the



participants. Himachal Pradesh was crowned with Gold & Silver but missed hat-trick of medals as bronze went to Maharashtra. The podium crowned Preeti Thakur as Golden Girl, Prakarti Thakur as Silver Girl both Himachal girls, while Urmila Pable of Maharashtra took pride in bronze.

The Nordic Ski Sprint Women was again dominated by Kusum Rana of ITBP who won second Gold today while three-time Gold Medalist of KWIG Bhavanj Thekkada from Karnataka did a

late come back in this competition to obtain Silver. The Bronze was claimed by non other than Selma Soreng from ITBP.

For the Men's event of 15km Nordic Sprint there were no surprises as Army's Sunny, Stanzin and Thupstan won Gold, Silver & Bronze respectively.

In Alpine Slalom women, Himachal Pradesh players swept medals with Anchal Thakur, Tanuja Thakur and Promila Thakur winning Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

Pakistan Cricket In ICU: Afridi

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Former captain Shahid Afridi has questioned the return of all-rounder Shadab Khan to the national T20 squad, saying Pakistan cricket is in ICU because of incorrect decisions.

Out of favour since the last T20 World Cup, Shadab was recalled and also appointed vice captain to Salman Ali Agha in Pakistan's T20 squad for the away series against New Zealand.

"On what basis has he been recalled. What are his performances in domestic cricket or otherwise that he had been picked again," Shahid said during a media interaction.

The flamboyant all-rounder said unless decisions are taken on merit nothing will change in Pakistan cricket.

"All the time we talk about preparations and when an event comes and we flop then we talk about surgery. Fact is Pakistan cricket is in ICU because of incorrect decisions."



He noted that whenever a new Chairman takes charge he comes and changes everything.

"There is no continuity, consistency in the Board's decisions and policies. We keep changing captains, coaches or some players but in the end what is the accountability for Board officials," the former skipper questioned.

He said it was sad to see coaches blaming players to save their jobs and the management blaming players and coaches to save their seats.

He also felt that while the PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi was a positive person, the truth was he didn't know much about cricket.

Dignified Farewell

Transforming Kashmir's Final Rides

In Kashmir, it is a painful irony that the departed, who leave behind a lifetime of earnings, are often transported to their final resting place in load carriers – vehicles they would never have used for commuting while alive. This stark contrast raises a profound question: shouldn't every soul be granted a dignified farewell, just as they lived with dignity? It is time to ensure that the last journey of our loved ones reflects the respect and honor they deserve.

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