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Ban On AAC, **JKIM Raised In J&K Assembly**



Observer News Service

Jammu: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday raised the issue of ban on Awami Action Committee (AAC) and Jammu and Kashmir Ittehad-ul- Muslimeen (JKIM)

The Centre on Tuesday lammu

Kashmir-based two religiopolitical parties for five years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

In a very brief interven-tion, PDP MLA Waheedur- Rahman Para drew the attention of the House towards the ban of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led AAC and Maulana | More on P10

No Intel Shared By Centre: CM

hief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the Centre has not shared any intelligence with his government that could have warranted the ban on Mirwaiz Umar Faroog's Awami Action Committee (AAC), and asserted he was not in favour of such decisions. The Centre had on Tuesday banned the AAC, headed by Kashmir's influential cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, | More on P10

SUCH MATTERS ARE BEYOND the elected government's control"

Khelo India Winter Games

Weather Shift Delays Skiing, **Artificial Snow To Be Used: CM**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that changing weather patterns are emerging as a challenge Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that artificial snow will be generated from this year to ensure early skiing at Culmarg.

Addressing the valedictory function of the fifth edition of Khelo India Winter Games (KIWC) in North Kashmir, Chief Minister said, "Unfortunately the weather conditions are changing. There was a time when the skiing courses in my childhood used to begin in December and continue till March. Now.



the snowfall hardly occurs in December and January months. However, the temperatures rise when the snowfall

occurs in February." He said, "We will try to generate artificial snow from December | More on P10

Increased Wine Shops In J&K?

Reports False & Baseless: Excise Dept

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Excise Department Wednesday strongly rebutted the news being circulated on various social media platforms regarding the increase in number of vends (Wine Shops) in Jammu & Kashmir, terming it as fake and baseless.

A communication issued by the department in this regard

stated that "As per I&K Excise Policy for the year 2025-26 notified vide SO 38 dated 15th February, 2025, 305 number of vends (Wine Shops) were put to e-auction on 15.02.2025 and after culmination of the bidding process, 271 vends got allotted through the e-auction process (which was conducted by J&K Bank) to the successful H1 bidders and rest of 34 locations | More on P10

No New Liquor Vends Allotted By My Govt: CM

hief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday said no new liquor vends were being allotted by his government and only earlier allotted ones were auctioned. The chief minister's remarks came after | More on P10

Flood Recovery, Hydropower Projects

J&K To Seek Revision of Central Aid

Agencies

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Covernment on Wednesday said that they will take up the issue of revision of a few components of central assistance for Jammu & Kashmir with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs at an appropriate stage.

In response to a question of MLA Handwara Sajad Cani minister in-charge Finance, Omar Abdullah said that they will take up the change in component-wise provision for the Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project and hydroelectric projects with

"As the component-wise provision for Ihelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project and hydroelectric projects has changed, the same will be taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs at appropriate stage, "the minister.

To a question whether there has been reduction in central assistance, the minister said that overall central assistance has maintained a steady level. | More on P10

Govt Identifies 625 Acres For **Industrial Estates In Kashmir**

Proposes 1,200 Acres For Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir government has identified 625 acres of land to set up industrial estates in different districts of the Kashmir division while a proposal for 1,207 acres of land has been submitted to the revenue department for similar projects in Jammu.

Deputy Chief Surinder Choudhary informed the Legislative Assembly while responding to a question from BJP's Rajiv Jasrotia.

He said that around 625 kanal of land has been

identified for industrial estates in Kashmir, while proposals for 1,207 have been submitted

He further informed that a total of 1,869 acres of land has been proposed for industrial estates across Jammu, and in the past two years, 691 acres have been transferred for the same purpose in Kashmir.

The government has granted 36 limestone mining leases, 24 gypsum mining leases, and 202 e-auctioned minor mineral blocks, he said.

As many as 8 mining leases have been | More on P10

Speaker Forms **Business Advisory** Committee

Observer News Service

Jammu: In Pursuant to Rule 317 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Abdul Advocate Rahim Rather, Wednesday nominated the members of Business Advisory Committee of which he shall be the Chairman.

The nominated memincluded Kumar Sharma, Leader of Opposition; Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA; Mubarik Gul. MLA: | More on P10



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ہرخاص وعام کوبذر اجداشتہار مطلع کیاجا تاہے کہ میری ساتویں جماعت كى مرثيفكيث زيرايدمش فمبر 1290 سيشن 2005 مم بوگئ باب اسكى دُيلى كيث نكالني مطلوب ب- الركسي كوكوني اعتراض بوتو ووسات ونوں کے اندرا پنااعتراض ہیڑ ماسٹر گورشنٹ مڈل سکول سیدن بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔میعاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل

فردوس احد گنائی ولدبشیراحد گنائی ساکن بودینه بڈگام۔ 7006136570_0

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Majeed Mir, S/o Gh Mohd Mir R/o Lolipora, Tehsil Pattan, wish to correct my son's date of birth in his school records. His date of birth has been wrongly recorded and now I want to correct it as per his Aadhaar records, which is 27-09-2011. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of Al-Noor Educational Trust, Palhallan within seven (7) days from the date of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

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 Ziyan Fayaz S/o Fayaz Ahmad Ganaie R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 03/01/2023 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...

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 Mehak Zainab D/o Ahmad Ali Malla R/o Sonium with verified date of birth 13/03/2022 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...

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 Mohammad Yariq Lone s/o Mudasir Ahmad Lone R/o Saloosa Kreeri with verified date of birth 04/07/2020 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 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Why Do Dogs Bark At Some & Not Others?

There's always a reason!

1. Dogs bark because they are experiencing something new

It may sound strange, but dogs bark because they are encountering new experiences. Some less friendly dogs will bark as soon as they meet strangers because there are too many new things about that person for them: such as a new scent, new behavior... For dogs, new things make them cautious and are perceived as potential threats.

2. Certain traits make dogs bark more easily

In fact, there are some human traits that make dogs more agitated:

- When you wear accessories like a hooded hat or sunglasses: This reduces the dog's ability to observe your face, making them feel threatened. If you have a lot of facial hair.
- If you are tall and muscular, it can scare them.
- Your voice is too deep and loud.
- You point your fingers or stare directly into the dog's eyes.
- You smoke in front of them. However, dogs are not bothered by the smell of shampoo, perfume, or deodorant...

3. Dogs protect their owners

Dogs are loyal animals, and by nature, they value their territory and tend to be highly protective of their owners. They often act aggressively towards strangers to safeguard their owner.

4. Dogs can sense a person's character

A dog's ability to see through a person's nature is



an impressive trait. Some studies suggest that dogs can judge whether a person is trustworthy or not. This is because dogs are keen observers. They will watch and remember human actions for a long time, especially how others treat their owner.

5. Due to past bad experiences

During their life with humans, some dogs may carry negative memories. These memories form their defensive instincts. Therefore, if you resemble someone who caused them a bad memory, the dog

will bark immediately.

6. How to prevent being bitten by a dog

To prevent being bitten by a dog, treat it kindly when it's still a puppy. As the owner, you should expose the dog to as many new scents, noises, and people as possible so that when it grows up, nothing surprises it. Owners can also train their dogs not to bark excessively when strangers come to the house, and don't forget to reward them with their favorite treats when they behave correctly.



Dogs are loyal animals, and by nature, they value their territory and tend to be highly protective of their owners. They often act aggressively towards strangers to safeguard their owner.

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub., issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth... PUBLIC NOTICE...

The registrar birth BDO Singapora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Sidra Aarif D/o Aaif Ramzan Sofi R/o Trikolbal Haniiwera with verified date of birth 24/06/2022 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan tko

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 Mohammad Kiyan Ibn Ovais S/o Ovais Rashid Bhat R/o Para Mohalla Pattan with verified date of birth 06/06/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

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 Hidayat Mehraj D/o Mehraj Ud din Dar R/o Tangpora Pattan Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 17/11/2020 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.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

NOTICE

I, have changed my name from (Old Name) Faheem Muzaffar Matoo to (New Name) Faheem Muzaffar Mattoo. In Future i will be known as Faheem Muzaffar Mattoo. If anybody is having objection, he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE. SRINAGAR

10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010 Phone No. 0194-2504119 Fax No 0194-2503115

(Academic Section)

Subject: Selection of senior Residents on Academic Arrangement Basis in various Disciplines of Government Medical college, Srinagar.

Reference: This office Advertisement No. 05 of 2024 Dated, 27-11-2024 and 01 Of 2025 Dated, 01-01-2025.

OFFICE ORDER NO: 207 -RA Of 2025. DATED: 11-03-2025.

Pursuant to the Notifications issued vide this office No. 07-RA of 2024 Dated, 10-12-2024 and 01-RA of 2025 Dated, 04-02-2025 and on the basis of Satisfactory verification reports of Character & antecedents by criminal investigation Department (CID), J&K, the following not In-service candidates are provisionally engaged as Senior Resident(s) in the disciplines shown against each on academic arrangement basis under s.o. 364 of 2020 Dated, 27,11.2020 and Government order No. 383-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 20.06.2024, initially for a period of one year, which is extendable upto (03) years on basis of good performance to be certified by the concerned HOD: -

S. NO.	NAME OF CANDIDATE /»	Qualification	Discipline	CID verification received vide Form No. & date
	Dr. Arshid Rasool wani	MD	Anesthesiology	Form No. 120092 Dated, 24-02-2025
	Dr. Asim Ahmad Dar	MD	Radiation oncology	Form NO. 122819 Dated, 19-02-2025
	.Dr. Aadil Najeed	MD	Radiation Oncology	Form NO. 122817 Dated, 25-02-2025
	Dr. Taseer Mehraj	MD	Transfusion Medicine	Form No. 122827 Dated. 08-03-2025

The appointment of the above doctors is further subject to the following terms and conditions: -

The selected candidates are supposed to submit their joining report alongwith an affidavit(s) in the office of the undersigned duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate to the effect that: -

a. They are not In-service candidates, the information if found wrong the selectees shall be punished under Rules which includes confiscation of the Registration of the Doctors.

 They will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of their tenure engagement, in the event they proceed on strike, their tenure engagement shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under esma Act. c. They shall remain disciplined during the whole tenure; any kind of misconduct shall make them liable for termination

without any prior notice. d. They are not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending or registered in any criminal department or

police station against them. e. They shall not claim any experience certificate, in case they leave senior Residency before completion at least of six

f. They will not indulge in any private practice, in case they are found doing private practice their appointment shall be liable for termination without any notice.

2. The above doctors shall have to execute an agreement with the institution on the prescribed format (Form A) with regard to the various terms and conditions applicable during academic arrangement same can be downloaded from the official website of Government Medical college, Srinagar.

The appointees are required to join within (21) days from the date of issuance of this order failing which the order shall be deemed to have been cancelled.

The senior Residents appointed on an Academic Arrangement basis shall be paid as per s.o. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27-11-

The senior Residents appointed on Academic Arrangement basis shall be entitled leaves as per the Government order No. 451-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated, 08.07.2024.

Principal/Dean Govt. Medical College Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION GANDERBAL

Email: exengineer12@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCL Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders (In Single Cover System) are hereby invited from Register suppliers/Owners of Pickup vehicles enlisted with Transport Department of UT of J&K, for "Hiring of 4x4 Pickup vehicle for restoration of power supply for 33KV Bandipora Gurez line for the financial year 2025-26 in respect of STD Ganderbal

Important Dates and Events

e-NIT No	STD/GBL/22 of 2024-25, Dated: 12-03-2025	
The Standa	rd Bidding Document can be downloaded over h	http://iktenders.gov.in as per schedule given below:
A		12-03-2025; 16:00 Hours
В	Clarifications start date	13/03/2025: 10:00 Hours
C	Clarifications end date	19/03/2025; 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-bidder fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	13/03/2025: 10:00 Hours
ES .		03/04/2025; 15:00 Hours
F	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time	04/04/2025;15:00 Hours
G		Office of The Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
н	Cost of e-Bid document	INR 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) Should be in Shape of Treasury Challan in favor of Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
1	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 14000/=
i	Estimated amount in lacs	Rs 7.0 lacs
K	Status of Funds	Demanded

The tender document can be downloaded from website jktenders.gov.in "Corrigendum, if any, would appear only on the jktenders.gov. in website. Sale of physical tender document is not applicable. No price shall be submitted offline in any form. Bidder can modify his bid before last date of submission of online bid. After the last date of submission of online bid, no claim of bidder shall be entertained.

No: STD/GBL/Ts/1210-15

DIPK-NB-3744/24

Date:- 12-03-2025

Executive Engineer, STD Ganderbal

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NO: RA-MC/Secl/SR/10068-72/MC

Dated: 12-03-2025

DIPK-12907/24



'No Household In Zadibal Without Safe Drinking Water'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government on Wednesday said that no household in Zadibal Constituency of Srinagar is without safe drinking water. Replying to the question of

MLA Tanvir Sadig, Minister for Ial Shakti said that none of the households in Zadibal constituency is without safe drinking water.

"It is to mention here that there are 9061 (approx.) registered water connections in Zadibal Constituency as per the records. The said area receives water supply from rangil, alusteng and Nishat Water Treatment Plants. Meanwhile in the financial year 2024-25, many improvisation works by way of laying and fitting of different dia pipes were executed for improvement of water sup-

ply," he said. "The areas mentioned fall within the scope of 4MGD treatment Plant Pokhribal, the raw water of which is lifted from Nigeen



Lake. The raw water at Plant undergoes series of treatment processes which include aeration, coagulation, flocculation, filtration, pre & post chlorination besides a special treatment namely activated carbon chambers are there to take care of odour & color. The plant is equipped with state of the art laboratory, conducting rigorous testing of water samples collected on daily basis at consumer points & at the plant for various parameters & all the parameters are within the permissible limits set by the regulatory authorities. The water supply from the plant is absolutely safe for human consumption," the

BIP Honours Bal Puraskar Awardee Ayaan Sajad



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K on Wednesday felicitated Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Awardee Ayaan Sajad in a special ceremony held at S-1, Church Lane, Srinagar.

The event was graced by Ashok Koul, BJP General Secretary J&K, and Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, BJP Minority Morcha President, who honored Ayaan Sajad for his remarkable achievements and contributions.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul lauded Ayaan Sajad's exceptional talent, tions that earned him the prestigious Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, India's highest civilian award for children. He emphasized that young empow achievers like Ayaan are an in J&K.

Jammu and Kashmir, and their success reflects the immense potential in the

Ranjodh Singh Nalwa also congratulated Ayaan and his family, acknowledging his hard work, perseverance, and outstanding accomplishments. He assured BJP's continued support in nurturing young talent and promoting skill development among youth.

Ayaan Sajad expressed gratitude to the BJP leadership especially the organisers of BJP Minority Morcha for the honor and pledged to continue working hard achieve greater heights. The event concluded with warm wishes for Ayaan's bright future and a commitment to empowering young talents

Div Com Chairs Meeting On Repair Of Bridges

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure smooth plying of traffic following diversion due to repair/construction of Chanapora and Tengpora bridges, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri virtually chaired a meeting, here.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Engineer PW R&B Central Kashmir, SSP Traffic City Srinagar and Executive Engineer Project Div. 1st R&B Srinagar, besides concerned

The meeting discussed threadbare measures to divert traffic following repair/ construction of two bridges viz. Chanapora bridge and Tengpora bridge. It was given out that the traffic shall be diverted through



two link roads, where the R&B department has been tasked to undertake barricading and install signages to ensure smooth and hassle free movement of traffic till repair/ construction work on bridges is completed.

The Div Com directed R&B and Traffic departments to work in coordination for smooth conduct of work for its timely completion, and start work right from today.

He further directed them that the bridges should be completed before the onset of Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Towheeda Akhtar W/O Danish Ahmad Mir R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan Baramulla intend to change the name of my son from Salaa Danish (Incorrect) to New Name Muhammad Murtaza Mir in his Date of birth certicifate having DOB as 15-10-2024. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with the concerned department within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

Mohammad Murtaza Mir S/o Danish Ahmad Mir Mother's Name: Towheeda Akhtar, DOB: 15-10-2024 R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan Baramulla

NIT Ranked In top 1500 Globally In 'The World **University Rankings 2025'**

Observer News Service

National Institute SRINAGAR: of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has been recognized in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025, NIT Srinagar has secured a rank-ing in the 1201-1500th category overall and 1001-1250th in the Engineering category.

The rankings are based on a comprehensive evaluation of universities across five key performance indicators: Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, Industry Engagement, and International Outlook

NIT Srinagar's scores in these parameters reflect its continuous efforts toward academic and research excellence. The institute achieved a score of 26.1 in Teaching, 12.8 in Research Environment, 43 in Research Quality, 18.4 in Industry Engagement, and 25.8 in International Outlook.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 assessed 108 countries and regions using the latest WUR 3.0 methodology, which incorporates 18 calibrated performance indicators.

This year's rankings analyzed over 134 million citations from 16.5 million research publications and included survey responses



from 68,402 scholars worldwide. A total of 411,789 data points were collected from 2,673 institutions that submitted data for the

Speaking on this recognition, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kanaufia in his message said this remarkable achievement underscores NIT Srinagar's commitment to academic excellence, research innovation, and global engagement. We are committed to further enhancing our academic and research standards to make NIT Srinagar a globally recognized institution, he added.

Institute's Registrar Prof. Atikur-Rehman said this achievement reflects our sustained efforts to

improve our research output and academic excellence. We will continue striving towards greater in-novation and global collaborations, he added.

Nodal Officer, Institute ranking Dr. Vijay kumar and Dr. Harveer Singh Pali both appreciated the efforts and active participation of all Deans, HoD's, HoC's, faculty and non-faculty staff, and students which led to this great achievement.

He expressed their gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar: Prof. Binod Kanaulia led administration for their consistent support and encouragement. "We are confident that, in future we will improve our rankings and recognition of the Institute," he added.



THE RANKINGS ARE BASED ON A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION of universities across five key performance indicators: Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, Industry Engagement, and International Outlook.

Traffic Chaos In Downtown Srinagar:

Nowhatta-Khanyar Route Remains Choked Amid Iftar Rush

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: The traffic situation in downtown Srinagar has worsened in recent weeks, with long snarls becoming a daily ordeal, particularly along the Nowhatta to Khanyar route via the revered Nagshband Sahab shrine. Commuters and shopkeepers in the area are expressing frustration over the gridlock, which intensifies during Iftar hours, leaving many for long duration

The stretch, already congested due to narrow roads and heavy commercial activity, sees an immense influx of vehicles during Ramazan, as people rush home to break their fast. The problem is compounded by haphazard parking, encroachments, and a lack of adherence to traffic rules.

"Every evening, this entire road turns into a parking lot. There are bikes, autos, and cars stuck bumper to bumper. During Iftar time, it's even worse. People park anywhere to buy essentials, making it impossible to move," said Bashir Ahmad Dar, a local shopkeeper in Nowhatta.

Commuters echo similar sentiments, lamenting the time lost in traffic. "I left my workplace in Lal Chowk at 5:30 PM, thinking I would reach home in Khanyar in 20 minutes. Instead, I



was stuck in Nowhatta for half an hour. The road was completely choked," said Irfan Hussain, a resident of Khanyar.

With ongoing rainfall adding to the chaos, many believe that authorities need to take more stringent measures to ensure smooth vehicular movement. "The rain worsens the situation, and with the absence of traffic personnel at key intersections, people drive recklessly, further delaying traffic," noted Abdul Qayoom, a driver who plies the route regularly.

Meanwhile, Speaking to Kashmir Observer over phone, SSP Traffic Srinagar, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, acknowledged the growing congestion in the old city, attributing it to multiple factors. "The ever-increasing

spaces, and poor traffic sense among some drivers contribute significantly to the problem, particularly in the Nowhatta-Khanyar belt," he said.

However, Shah assured that efforts were being made to streamline traffic movement. "We are deploying additional personnel to regulate traffic, especially during peak Iftar hours. The recent jams have also been due to rains and the increased movement of people during Ramazan. However, we are trying our level best to regulate the traffic," he added.

Authorities have urged residents to park responsibly and follow traffic norms to ease congestion, while also hinting at stricter measures to control illegal parking and road en-





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

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 5:23

ZUHR 12:41 ASR 4:56 Magrib 6:39 ISHA 8:00

This Day In History

- 1567 Battle at Oosterweel: Spanish troops destroy
- 1569 Battle of Jarnac, Count of Anjou defeats Huguenots
- 1591 Battle at Tondibi: Moroccan army under Judar defeats Sultan Askia Ishaq II of Songhai
- 1865 Confederate President Jefferson Davis signs bill authorizing use of slaves as soldiers (US Civil War)
- 1881 Alexander II of Russia is assassinated by members of far-left terror group 'People's Will' who throw a bomb at him in the city of St. Petersburg
- 1884 Siege of Khartoum, Sudan begins by Mahdist forces, lasts 10 months
- 1900 British troops occupy Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State (Boer War)
- 1911 The Colonial-Born and Settlers Indian Association is formed at a meeting in Durban, South Africa, and has at its aim to fight the infamous 3 poll tax 1912 - Bulgaria and Serbia conclude an alliance pact
- ostensibly against Austria, but it secretly provides for a possible war against Turkey
- 1918 Trotsky gains control of the Red Army
- 1920 After the German government is forced to cut its army to 10,000 men, military groups plot an unsuccessful coup - a revolt ended by a general strike 1921 - Mongolia (formerly Outer Mongolia) declares
- independence from China
- 1922 George Bernard Shaw's "Back to Methusaleh V" premieres in NYC
- 1935 Driving tests introduced in Great Britain 1938 -In a process known as Anschluss, Austria is
- annexed into Nazi Germany 1938 - World News Roundup is broadcast for the first
- time on CBS Radio in the United States. 1943 - Failed assassin attempt on Hitler during Smolensk-Rastenburg flight
- 1963 Indonesia & Netherlands reinstate diplomatic
- relations 1964 - Turkey threatens Cyprus with armed attack
- 1969 Apollo 9 returns to Earth
- 1970 Digital Equipment Corp introduces PDP-11 minicomputer
- 1973 Syria adopts constitution
- 1986 Soyuz T-15 carries 2 cosmonauts to Soviet space station Min
- 1986 -Microsoft has its Initial public offering. 1989 - 27th shuttle, Discovery 8, launched, 1st woman to
- 1989 FDA orders recall of all Chilean fruit in US
- 1991 Saudi Arabia and Iran say OPEC oil production
- cuts will take effect April 1
- 1992 An earthquake registering 6.8 on the Richter scale kills over 500 in Erzincan, eastern Turkey.
- 1995 Anti-fascist Kazakhstan anti-parliament forms 1997 - India's Missionaries of Charity chooses Sister Nirmala to succeed Mother Teresa as its leader



Musharraf Accepts Cricket Invitation

SLAMABAD- Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has accepted an offer to travel to India to watch the cricket series between the two coun-

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman said Gen Musharraf had yet to decide which matches he would

be attending. It will be his first trip to India since a tense summit meeting between the two countries in Agra in 2001.

"We are looking at the schedule of the president," foreign office spokesman Jalil Abbas Jiiani told foreign news agency. "It depends on the convenience of the president."

he added Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told parfiament he hoped the president and his family would

(Kashmir Observer, 13 March, 2005)

9 Indian Universities, Institutes Among World's Top 50 In Subject-Wise QS Rankings

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Nine Indian universities and institutions are among the world's top 60 in QS subjectwise rankings even as some of the top institutions on the list including three IITs, two IIMs and Jawaharlal Nehru University saw a drop in their positions.

According to the 15th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject, announced on Wednesday, India celebrates 12 top-50 positions across the subject rankings and the broad faculty areas, earned by nine institutions. Leading the way is the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, which ranks 20th globally for Engineering-Mineral and Mining, making it the country's highest-

performing subject area. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Kharagpur have been ranked at 28th and 45th spot for Engineering-Mineral and Mining However, both institutions have seen a drop in their positions

IIT Delhi and Bombay which shared the 45th rank for Engineering and Technology have improved their position to bag the 26th and 28th spot, respectively. The two institutions have also improved their rank for Engineer-

ing-Electrical and Electronics to

enter the top 50 list. Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad and Bangalore continued to be among world's top 80 for Business and Management Studies but their ranking has dropped since previous year. While IIM Ahmedabad's ranking dropped to 27 from 22, that of IIM A total of 79 Indian

universities - 10 more than last year - feature 533 times across this year's rankings, marking a 25.7 per cent increase compared to the previous edition. This includes 454 entries in individual subjects and 79 appearances across the five broad faculty areas

Bangalore slipped to 40 from 82. HT Madras (Petroleum Engineering) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) (Development Studies) continued to be among world's top 50 but their ranks also dropped by a few spots.

"A total of 79 Indian universities - 10 more than last year - feature 583 times across this year's rankings, marking a 25.7 per cent increase compared to the previous edition. This includes 454 entries in individual subjects and 79 appearances across the five broad faculty areas," QS said in a statement.

In the latest edition of the QS subject-specific rankings, India has the fifth highest number of new entries behind China, the US, the UK and Korea and ranks 12th for the number of overall entries.

"The high number of the new entries featured in the rankings is a continuation of a trend of the country's growing higher education ecosystem, both in terms of size and quality," QS added.

After DeepSeek, China Launches 'Manus', New AI Assistant: What It Is

Beijing: A powerful new AI tool Manus is making waves in China, fuelling hopes that it could replicate the success of Deep-Seek, which earlier this year rattled the global tech industry with

its state-of-the-art chatbot. Manus, an AI agent generally considered more advanced than a chatbot, can do everything from analysing the stock market to creating a personalised travel handbook for a trip with simple instructions from users, its web-

Here's what you need to know

Manus was released last week by Chinese startup Butterfly Effect. In a now viral introductory video posted online, co-founder Yichao "Peak" Ji hailed it as "the next paradigm of human-machine collaboration, and potentially a glimpse into AGL" referencing artificial general intelligence that aims to think the way humans do.

Currently accessible only by invitation, Manus has quickly gained traction, with its official Discord server growing to more

than 170,000 members. Its name comes from the Latin motto "Mens et Manus", meaning "mind and hand" - a nod to its integration of knowledge and practical application.

Exclusive access

Manus is a "system that can carry out tasks autonomously on behalf of users", said Manoj Harjani, a research fel-



low at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

"DeepSeek and ChatGPT differ from Manus in that they provide responses to prompts from users through a chat-style interface, whereas Manus is able to execute tasks such as booking tickets and sorting through resumes," he explained.

And while DeepSeek was quietly developed behind the scenes before rising to prominence, Manus is taking a different route - limiting access to an invite-only beta and targeting enterprise-level clients, one analyst said.

be born outside China



Pakistan train attack

190 Passengers Rescued, 30 Militants **Killed As Op Continues In Balochistan**

Press Trust of India

Islamabad: Security forces rescued 190 passengers from a hijacked train, killing 30 Baloch militants in Pakistan's restive Balochistan, as they continued to battle heavily-armed insurgents for a second day on Wednesday. The Jaffar Express, carrying some

400 passengers in nine coaches, was going from Quetta to Peshawar when militants derailed it using explosives and hijacked it.

The Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack on Tuesday when they said they killed six soldiers. However there has been no confirmation from the Pakistani authorities on casualties.

The security forces, including the military and frontier corps, are battling the militants who took control of the train near the mountainous terrain of Gudalar and Piru Kunri in a tunnel 160 kilometres from Quetta.

The Balochistan government spokesman, Shahid Rind, said the operation would continue until all passengers were rescued.

Rind said extra care was being taken by the security forces because of the hostage situation.

Officials said that some of the militants wearing vests loaded with explosives had formed groups of women and children and forced them to sit near them. Due to the presence of women and children with the suicide bombers, the operation was being conducted with utmost caution, they added.

A security source said that 90 militants had been killed so far in the clean-up and rescue operation, while 190 passengers have been rescued. Around 30 people who sustained injuries had been sent to hospitals.

He said two drivers in the main engine and eight security personnel were killed during the operation.

This is the first time the BLA or any insurgent group in the Balochistan province have resorted to hijacking a passenger train, although in the last year, they have stepped up their attacks on security forces, installations and foreigners in different parts of the province.

The security source said it was not yet clear how many militants were involved in the attack, but some of them were using satellite phones to remain in touch with

The Pakistan Railways have set up an emergency desk at the Pesha war and Quetta Railway stations as frantic relatives and friends try to get some information about their loved ones on the train.

Pakistan Railways had resumed train services to Peshawar from Quetta after a suspension of more than a month and a half

The Pakistan media earlier reported intense firing and explosion near the tunnel, where the militants hijacked the train.

The insurgents claimed that they freed women and children. However, their claim was contested by officials, with Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry saying the hostages were rescued by the security forces.

Rana Muhammad Dilawar, a district police officer in the area where the train was stopped, said the security forces had surrounded the area, but there were reports that the militants had taken some women and children as hostages. There were around four to five government officials on the train,

Tariq Mahmood, a senior official of Peshawar Railway Station, said that people should not pay heed to rumours on social media

UP Govt To Cover 10 Mosques In Sambhal During Holi Celebrations

Press Trust Of India

Sambhal: In a significant move, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) administration has decided to cover ten mosques in Sambhal during Holi celebrations on Friday. March 14 marks a rare sixty-year coincidence of the festival of colours and a Ramazan Jumma falling together on the same day

Briefing the media over the UP administration's preparedness, Sambhal SP. Shrish Chandra. said that the decision was taken to maintain communal harmony and facilitate the two communities in celebrating their respective festivals with full glee and gaiety.

"A total of ten mosques have been identified which fall in the proposed route of the 'Chaupai' procession. All of them will be covered to prevent any disturbance or tension between the two communities." he said.

mosques along the route will be covered," he said.

According to reports, an agreement has also been reached to alter the timings of the Friday prayers and 'Chaupai' processions, so that the two don't overlap each other.

The Friday 'namaaz (prayers)' will take place either before or after the Holi procession. Also, outsiders won't have permission to enter mosque premises.

Local authorities and UP Police officials have been given instructions to maintain strict vigilance and prevent any untoward incidents from unfolding on the day of the festival

The ten mosques which will be covered with tarpaulin in Sambhal during Holi celebrations, include the Shahi Jama Masjid, Ladania wali masjid, Thaane wali masjid, Ek raat masjid, Gurdwara road masjid, Gol masjid, Khajoor wali



He said that the decision has been taken to cover those mosques, from where the 'Chaupai' processions (a customary practice during Holi) will cross through and also added that this has been a practice for years. "The conventional route of the

Holi has been identified and ten

procession during

masjid, Anaar wali masjid and Gol dukaan wali mastid.

A peace meeting was also organised at the Sambhal police station, where the religious heads of the two communities discussed and deliberated on ways to prevent any incident of communal strife, during Holi celebrations and the Fri-

Will Throw Muslim MLAs Out Of Bengal Assembly After BJP Wins'

Press Trust of India

Kolkata: West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay on Tuesday directed the secretary of the House not to provide any document related to its proceedings to BJP legislators.

Mr Bandyopadhyay's came after MLAs of the saffron party tore official documents in the assembly, as the Speaker turned down their proposal to adjourn the House over alleged attacks on temples in different parts of the state and staged a walkout. The Speaker also rejected the BJP legislators' proposal of introducng a Bill related to prote dren's rights.

Mr Bandyopadhyay alleged that the BJP MLAs have earlier, too, torn documents of House proceedings in the assembly while staging protests. Do not give them (BJP MLAs) papers (related to assembly proceedings)," he told the secretary of the House.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari dubbed Mr Bandyopadhyay's decision the "rarest incident in the Indian Constitution".

There is no democracy even inside the legislative assembly. The opposition is not being heard. The Trinamool Congress government is trying to do everything by force. The walkout by BJP MLAs is in protest against this as well," said Mr Adhikari, who was earlier suspended from the assembly till March 18 for allegedly insulting the chair of the Speaker during the budget session.

Mr Adhikari, along with other BJP MLAs, also staged a demonstration



outside the state Assembly protesting the Speaker's decision not to allow the adjournment motion.

"In the last four to five days, there have been incidents of attacks on Hindu temples and idols vandalised and set on fire in a few areas in Tamluk constituency. Not a single arrest was made. In Murshidabad's district Nawada and Uluberia Hindus were attacked. Hindu shop owners and houses were set on fire and looted," the BJP leader alleged. Mr Adhikari also claimed that in Uluberia, people celebrating India's win in the recently concluded Champions Trophy were attacked. 'In Uluberia, those who were celebrating India's victory at the Champions Trophy were attacked. The Uluberia IC was injured, and when one of the BJP MLAs proposed an adjournment motion today, he was not allowed to speak.

'Do Whatsoever You Want': President Pezeshkian Rejects Talks With US Under Threats

Agnecies

Tehran: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has sharply rebuked the Trump administration's maximalist approach toward Iran, declaring that the Islamic Republic is not Ukraine and it will not negotiate with the United States under threats or coercion.

"We must maintain relationships with the world. We do not want to be estranged or quarrel with anyone, but that does not mean we will bow in humiliation before anyone," Peceshkian stated during a meeting of the Iran Entrepreneurs Forum in Tehran on Tuesday.

'We may die with honor, but we will never live in disgrace. Pezeshkian rejected what he



characterized as an ultimatum from Donald Trump, referencing a letter reportedly sent by the US president to Iran

The letter demanded that Tehran halt its nuclear and missile programs and take other measures in exchange for sanc-

"It is unacceptable for someone to come along and say, 'Don't do this, don't do that, or else.' I

NEWS MAKERS

won't come to negotiate with you Go do whatsoever you want,' Pezeshkian stated. He criticized Trump for disrespecting his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky,

a deal with Russia. The Iranian president said Trump's conduct in his recent meeting with Zelensky at the White House was "truly shameful."

while pressuring him to agree to

"If negotiations are conducted with dignity and based on mutual respect and shared interests, we will sit down and talk," he said "But the language of threats and coercion is absolutely unacceptable."

The president underscored the importance of strengthening Iran's private sector as a means to counteract Western sanctions.

Dalai Lama says his successor to PM Modi Offers Gangajal From Maha Kumbh

he Dalai Lama's successor will be born outside China, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism says in a new book, raising the stakes in a dispute with Beijing over control of the Himalayan region he fled more than six

Tibetans worldwide want the institution of the Dalai Lama to continue after the 89-year-old's death, he writes in "Voice for the Voiceless", which was released on Tuesday.

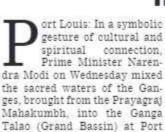
He had previously said the line of spiritual leaders might end with him. His book marks the first time the Dalai Lama has specified that his successor would be born in the "free world", which he describes as outside China. He has previously said only that he could reincarnate outside Tibet, possibly in India where he lives in exile.

Since the purpose of a reincarnation is to carry on the work of the predecessor the new Dalai Lama will be born in the free



world so that the traditional mission of the Dalai Lama —that is, to be the voice for universal compassion, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, and the symbol of Tibet embodying the aspirations of the Tibetan people — will continue," the Dalai Lama writes.

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, fled at the age of 23 to India with thousands of other Tibetans in 1969 after a failed uprising against the rule of Mao Zedong's Communists.



Louis in Mauritius. This act signifies the strengthening of ties between India and Mauritius, as well as the sharing of India's rich spiritual heritage with the world. The Prayagraj Mahakumbh, which concluded recently, was a grand celebration of unity and devotion, with millions of devotees gathering to take a holy dip in the Ganges.

The Ganga Talao, a sacred lake in Mauritius, is an important



pilgrimage site for Hindus. By mixing the gangajal into the lake, PM Mddi reinforced the cultural and spiritual bonds between India and Mauritius. The Ganga Talao is

also known as the Grand Bassin at Port Louis. The Prime Minister paid obeisance, offered prayers and also performed Aarti at the Ganga Talao.

Ganga Talao is a sacred lake for the Hindus of Mauritius, CNN noted in a report.

According to CNN, in 1887, a priest claimed to see the waters of Ganga Talao flowing from the goddess Ganga in a dream. Word of this revelation spread, transforming Ganga Talao and connecting it directly to the mighty Ganges.

CNN noted that Ganga Talao is "a cultural touchstone" for the Indian emigrants of Mauritius and is a link to their South Asian roots.

Earlier on Tuesday, in a gesture of cultural exchange and friendship, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted the Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool with holy Sangam water from the Mahakumbh, packaged in an exquisite brass and copper pot.

'20 Villages In J&K Covered Under Digital Village Pilot Project'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Central government has completed the Digital Village Pilot Project, covering 20 villages in Jammu and Kashmir and two in Ladakh as part of its initiative to promote digital literacy and e-governance services in rural areas.

The information was shared by Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw in response to a question in Parliament.

The initiative, he said, was aimed at providing multiple services, including basic computer education, skill development, tele-health consultations, financial inclusion awareness and solar-powered street lighting in one village per district across states and union territories.

Under the scheme, villagers were trained in automotive repair, handset repair, home appliance maintenance, and electrical technician skills to boost employment opportunities, he said.

ployment opportunities, he said. "However, the project did not include setting up Common Service Centres (CSCs) or ensuring full-scale internet connectivity in villages. Instead, existing CSCs were utilised, with internet services available at these centres," the minister said,

Vaishnaw said the Department of Telecommunications is working under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) initiative to provide 4G connectivity to uncovered villages, with BharatNet aiming to deliver at least 25 Mbps broadband speed to rural households,

While the Digital Village Project was not specifically targeted at any community or gender, the government said it played a role in promoting digital inclusion, literacy, and rural entrepreneurship for all sections of society, including women and marginalised communities.

With the project's completion, digital infrastructure efforts in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh now rely on broader national programmes like BharatNet and 4G saturation schemes, which are expected to expand connectivity across more remote areas in the coming years—(KNO)

Crime Branch Organises Workshop On Financial Investigations



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Crime J&K, Dr. Sunil Gupta, inaugurated a workshop on financial investigations at Crime Branch Headquarters, Channi Rama, Jammu. The workshop was organized by the Crime Branch (CB) in collaboration with an expert senior officer who has work experience with CBI Jammu, to enhance investigative skills in tackling financial crimes.

Investigating officers (IOs) from the Crime Branch and other agencies actively participated, sharing their experiences and legal viewpoints. The workshop aimed to strengthen their expertise in financial investigations, particularly in dealing with white-collar and organized crimes.

DIG CBI Vidyut Vikas, IRS, delivered an insightful lecture, sharing his experiences as an investigater crimes effectively.

ing officer in CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED). He emphasized the importance of patience and determination while conducting financial investigations.

Other notable experts who delivered lectures included SSP CICE J&K M. Yaseen Kitchloo (IPS), Joint Director Prosecution CHQ Laeeq Ahmad, and SI Abhinandan Singh.

Addressing the participants, IGP Crime J&k Dr. Sunil Gupta urged officers to strive for excellence in investigations by maintaining professionalism, leveraging the latest technology, and employing scientific methods to ensure that financial criminals are swiftly brought to justice.

The workshop marked a significant step in strengthening financial investigation capabilities in J&K, equipping officers with the necessary skills to combat emerging financial crimes effectively.

Govt Prioritizing Scientific Disposal Of Solid Waste: Sakeena Itoo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Covernment today emphasized its shift from traditional solid waste dumping to a more scientific and sustainable waste disposal approach.

Responding to a question raised by Nizam ud Din Bhat on behalf of Member G.A. Mir, Minister for Health, Sakeena Itoo, informed the House that the government is implementing scientific waste management methods. This included bio-mining of legacy waste, construction of scientific waste management centers, door-to-door waste collection, bio-fencing around waste management sites and conversion of dumping sites into bio-parks,



she added.

The Minister, replying on behalf of the Chief Minister, who is also the Minister-in-Charge of the Housing & Development Department, further stated that a Solid Waste Management Facility is operational in Achabal Town with a capacity of 4 TPD, where the town's waste is systematically collected and processed

Ramazan Fosters Community Spirit Through Roadside Iftaar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid the month of Ramazan, Kashmir's streets come alive with a unique tradition—Street Iftar, where locals set up roadside arrangements to help people break their fast.

This growing practice is

This growing practice is fostering a sense of unity and kindness across the Valley.

In bustling markets

In bustling markets, mosques, and busy streets, volunteers distribute dates, fruits, and drinks to fasting pedestrians, shopkeepers, and travelers. Many of these community-

Many of these communitydriven Iftaars are arranged by local youth, NGOs, and charitable organizations.

"It is heartwarming to see people offering special meals at the time of Iftaar to pedestrians and residents alike. We should come forward and support such a noble cause," said Firdous, a local resident.

Notably, in Srinagar, at multiple locations and in the busiest areas, people organize daily liftaar for commuters. "This is our way of giving back. Many people are away from home at liftaar time, and we don't want them to break their fast alone," said one of the organizers.

Another local from Khanyar shared, they see it as an act of kindness and a blessing of Ramazan.

Similarly, with Ramadan in full swing, Street Iftiyar continues to bring people together, reinforcing the Valley's deeprooted tradition of hospitality and communal harmony—(KNO)

Five New Railway Surveys Launched In J&K, Major Projects Stalled

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Union government has initiated five new railway surveys in Jammu and Kashmir while several key projects remain stalled due to feasibility and financial concerns.

Responding to a query by MP Mohmad Haneefa in the Lok Sabha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw revealed that the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh rail project was dropped due to its high costs and low projected demand, while the Jammu-Poonch railway line remains stalled over feasibility issues. However, the Banihal-Baramulla rail line doubling has been prioritized. He further stated that no survey is currently planned for a rail link between Ganderbal in Kashmir and Kargil in Ladakh, despite the region's strategic importance. Vaishnaw emphasized that railway projects are planned based on traffic projections,

needs, and financial feasibility, rather than regional or political considerations. A previous survey for

the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh rail line, conducted in 2016-17, estimated its cost at ₹55,896 crore, but the project was ultimately shelved due to insufficient traffic projections. Meanwhile, the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh rail line, identified as a strategic project by the Ministry of Defence, has completed its survey, with an estimated cost of ₹1,31,000 crore.

The minister also confirmed that Rajouri and Poonch districts continue to lack railway connectivity, with no immediate plans to prioritize a rail link from Reasi-Katra to Rajouri. In response to a separate question by MP Mian Altaf Ahmad, he explained that railway projects are approved based on factors such as last-mile connec-

fic projections. However, five new railway surveys have been undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Baramulla-Uri new line (46 km), Sopore-Kupwara new line (37 km), Anantnag-Pahalgam new line (78 km), Avantipore-Shopian new line (28 km), and the Banihal-Baramulla doubling project (118 km).

ity, missing links, socio-eco-

nomic impact, and funding

challenges such as land ac-

quisition, forest clearances,

climate conditions, and se-

curity concerns often delay

A survey for the Jammu-

Poonch railway line via

Akhnoor and Rajouri, spanning 223 km and estimated

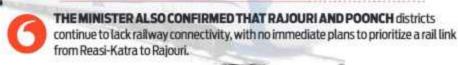
at ₹22,771 crore, has also not

progressed due to low traf-

project timelines.

Additionally,

While the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) has been fully completed, connecting several districts in Jammu and Kashmir, railway expansion to Rajouri and Poonch remains uncertain, with no clear timeline for future developments.



MeT Issues 'Yellow Alert' For Today

Agencies

erational

SRINAGAR: Amid the forecast of a week-long wet spell, the Meteorological Department here has issued a 'yellow alert' for Today, predicting intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and snow at many places.

The intermittent rainfall was recorded in the last three days from March 10 while the prevailing weather conditions are expected to continue till March 16.

The MeT has issued a 'yellow alert' for many stations for tomorrow, expecting intermittent light to moderate rain and snow at many places.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and snow in higher reaches at many places are expected to continue till March 15.

He added that intermittent



light rain and snow is expected on March 16 at few places towards morning & improvement towards afternoon.

He further said that the weather would remain generally dry from March 17 to 21st. In its advisory, the MeT has said that the travelers, tourists and transporters are advised to follow administration and traffic advisory while farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations till 16th March. "Avoid sloppy & avalanche prone areas, Landslides, Mudslides and shooting stones are expected at vulnerable spots," the advisory reads—(KNO)

Youth Driving Force Behind India's Development: Mandaviya

Press Information Bureau

SRINAGAR: Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping India's future while addressing students at the University of Kashmir today. Speaking at an event under the Viksit Bharat - Yuva Connect initiative, he stated that the government is committed to empowering young people through strategic policies and initiatives, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.

Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, underscored the critical role of youth in India's progress while addressing students at the University of Kashmir today. The event, organized under the Viksit Bharat - Yuva Connect initiative, aimed at inspiring students to actively contribute to the nation's growth. He highlighted that achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India by 2047 requires structured planning and the active participation of young minds.

Dr. Mandaviya praised the youth of the nation who have excelled in various fields. He emphasized that the strength, ambition, and innovation of young students will drive India's journey toward develop-



ment. "The dream of a developed India will be realized through the determination and talent of our youth," he remarked.

The Minister also outlined the government's commitment to youth empowerment, citing key policy decisions and budget allocations that focus on education, skill development, and employment generation. He stressed that these initiatives are designed to equip young people with the necessary tools to contribute meaningfully to the country's progress.

progress.
Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, Prof. Nilofer Khan, welcomed the Minister and expressed confidence in the ability of students to play a vital role in national development. Encouraging them to take small yet impactful steps, she stated, "Every student has the potential to be a catalyst for positive change."

As part of the program, Dr. Mandaviya interacted with students, engaging in discussions on leadership, aspirations, and nation-building. The event also witnessed a tree-planting ceremony on the

university campus under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative, reinforcing a commitment to environmental sustainability.

Senior officials from the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs, educationists, and other distinguished guests were present at the event, which was part of a broader initiative to connect with students across the Kashmir Valley. To advance the goal of de-

veloping India by 2047 among youth, the "Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect" programmes has been conceptualized with the aim to foster youth engagement and leadership in the developmental transformation of India. The events are organised around discussions on the concept of Viksit Bharat with young people in educational institutions throughout India. Youth also get an opportunity to interact with eminent speakers.

The 'Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect' was launched from Maharashtra on 19.08.2024. So far, Yuva Connect programmes have been organized in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi, Gujarat and now Jammu & Kashmir.

Govt Serious About Regularization Daily Wagers, Committee Formed: Deputy CM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary Wednesday assured that the government is committed to addressing the concerns of daily-wage workers across various departments, including those working on an ad-hoc or contractual basis.

Speaking on the issue, he stated that the government intends to regularize these workers. However, the first step is to ascertain the exact number of daily wagers. Initially, the figure was estimated to be around 60,000, but a more accurate count is needed.

To gather precise data, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary,



with a six-month timeframe to submit its report. Once the committee presents its findings, the government will take further steps regarding the regularization process in the next budget, as assured by senior officials.

Deputy CM Choudhary reiterated that the government is fully sympathetic to the struggles of daily-wage workers and is working towards a structured resolution to their demands.

Govt To Conduct Demarcation Of Natipora-Yousmarg Road Project

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, said that the government would conduct demarcation of 4-laning of Natipora- Yousmarg road via Charar-e-Sharief through the concerned SDM office,

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Ali Mohammad Dar in the Legislative Assembly here today.

here today.

He said that the recommendation has been received recently from MLA Chadoora Constituency regarding preparation of DPR for 4-Lanning (Phase 1st) of Srinagar Charari-Sharief Yousmarg Road

from Natipora to Chadoora town (length 12 Kms), which is under examination.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that Chadoora to Kandijan via Charar-i-Sharief (20.80 km) road has been proposed as a spur to NH-444. He said that presently the road is intermediate lane and has been proposed to be upgraded to 2-lane with paved shoulders subject to approval from MoRTH, Col.

He said that Kandajan to Yousmarg Road (11 kms) is part of NH-701A (Surankote-Shopian-Yousmarg-Doodhpathri-Magam road) and stands handed over to BRO for maintenance and further up gradation.

Police Books Six Infamous Drug Peddlers Under PIT NDPS Act

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing the crackdown against drug trafficking, Police in Srinagar have booked six infamous drug peddlers under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PIT-NDPS Act).

Act (PIT-NDPS Act). The notorious drug peddlers namely Imtiyaz Ahmad Sheikh son of Mohammad Rafiq Sheikh resident of Beigh Mohalla Al-Abid Rasool Dar son of Chulam Rasool Dar resident of Check Kalan Kanihama B.K.Pora, Raza Rauf Mirjan son of Rouf Ahmad Mirjan resident of Gulshan Abad Hyderpora, Azan Parviaz Glitsaaz son of Parviaz Ahmad Clitsaaz resident of Kani Mohalla Rainawari, Javaid Ahmad Wani son of Ali Mohammad Wani resident of Sonwar A/p Casoo and Danish Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Ahad Bhat resident of Panzinar have been booked under PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining the formal detention orders from Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir on the basis of dossiers prepared by Srinagar

police against them. Consequently, these drug ped-

consequently, these drug peddlers were detained and subserug trafgar have Udhampur, Poonch and Rajouri. Pertinent to mention here that these drug peddlers have

that these drug peddlers have been involved in the peddling of narcotics among the youth of Srinagar on an alarming scale. Besides, they were also involved in several NDPS Act cases of various police stations of Srinagar. Despite several NDPS Art cases registered them, they did not mend their ways after getting bailed out from courts and were brazenly promoting drugs among the youth of the valley, especially in Srinagar, through their illegal narcotics network. Police has also set into motion the process to attach their properties under the provisions of PIT-NDPS Act.

J&K Police affirms its steadfast commitment of eliminating drug peddling in the region with the full might of law. We also caution those engaged in this unlawful activity that the long arm of law would catch them sooner than anticipated and every offender will face justice.

Need To Strengthen Education & Healthcare In J&K: Tarigami

Observer News Service

JAMMU: CPI (M) leader and MLA Kulgam urged the government to liberate education from consumerism and commodification. He was speaking in the Legislative Assembly on demands for grants.

He referred to the new national education policy, stating that free universal education had been available in J&K long ago. He alleged that under the new education policy, efforts were being made to distort history, which is not a positive sign.

Referring to the privatization of education, Tarigami expressed great concern over the heavy fees charged by private schools. He said that poor parents are unable to afford these fees and urged the state government to reorient the education system in J&K so that the poor also have the opportunity to receive quality education.

nity to receive quality education.

He said that controversies were
being created about kings, while
history does not belong to kings;
rather, it belongs to the people. He
urged the education minister to
initiate reforms that promote scientific temper among students.

Education, Tarigami said, must be saved from the market economy. Regarding healthcare Tarigami

Regarding healthcare, Tarigami referred to SKIMS, Srinagar, and said that this institute provides good healthcare facilities to the poor. He stressed that its autonomy should not be made controversial, as PGI Chandigarh is also an autonomous institute of premium quality. Tarigami urged the government to equip all government hospitals and medical colleges with the necessary facilities and staff so that patients from J&K are not forced to go outside the state for treatment, as is happening at present.

Tarigami urged the education minister to consider raising the status of Degree College Anantnag to the level of a deemed university. He also demanded an increase in salaries and assured incentives for ASHA workers. Referring to the plight of daily wagers, he said that if the UT of Ladakh has been paying higher minimum wages to different categories of workers, Jammu and Kashmir should do the same. Tarigami also demanded an increase in the monthly pension for physically challenged persons.

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KO VIEW

Need Long-Term Job Plan

he new data has put Jammu and Kashmir's unemployment figures at over 8.70 lakh young people, many of them grad-uates and postgraduates. There are thousands of others who have not registered with the government and so aren't visible. While schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswini, and Parvaaz under Mission Youth have been introduced, they have made little redeeming difference. And one can understand why: adhoc schemes can hardly address as gigantic a problem as unemployment. We need a structured, long-term plan that goes beyond quick fixes.

On a positive note, the government has decided to set up a committee for regularization of the services of daily wagers, ad-hoc workers, and contractual employees, who are more than 67,000 in number. They form the backbone of essential services, yet they earn meager wages and consequently are in a constant state of insecurity

That said, the government can hire more: Nearly 82,474 vacancies exist in government departments, yet only 8,727 posts have been referred for recruitment in recent months. So, it would be in the fitness of things that the elected government expedite the recruitment process and ensure these posts are filled in a time-bound manner.

However, the overall employment scenario in J&K remains bleak, and a few thousand more government jobs would do little to address it. We also need a robust private sector to absorb a growing workforce. Similarly, we need scaling up of the initiatives like skill development programs, startup incubators, and small-business support.

The situation becomes challenging in the absence of alternative job options for the left-out youth. For one, the private sector in J&K, especially in Kashmir Valley, remains underdeveloped. And for another, rise of technology is also threatening to take over a substantial portion of jobs reserved for humans. In its Future of Jobs Report 2025, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has predicted that the new technology will displace 92 million human jobs by 2030. On a positive note, 170 million new jobs will be created, resulting in 78 million net new jobs.

It is now known that the rate of unemployment in J&K us higher than the national average. Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data has already shown that union territory has among the highest unemployment rates in India at 28.1 percent. Now the question is how the government will deal with this gargantuan orisis by providing employment to lakhs of educated youth and also ensuring that the less educated and uneducated are also engaged in productive work. This is easier said than done. But the government also can't afford to sleep over the problem. The need is for a multipronged strategy with a particular thrust on upskilling to increase the opportunities and the prospect for employment for an ever growing number of the educated youth and the uneducated too.



A Comprehensive Guide to Sharia-Compliant Options and Strategies

Irshad Mushtag

Tn recent years, the popularity of Halal investments has grown significantly, particularly among Muslim investors seeking to align their financial decisions with Sharia Islamic principles. Despite a plethora of Sharia-compliant investment options available in the Indian market, many potential investors still grapple with uncertainty and hesitation when it comes to committing their funds. This article aims to demystify the landscape of Halal investments, with a special emphasis on mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), and strategic investment practices, while highlighting the importance of professional guidance and a well-structured portfolio.

Understanding Sharia-Compliant Investments

To grasp the essence of Halal investing, it's essential to understand the principles of Sharia. Investments deemed Halal must adhere to specific guidelines, which primarily prohibit involvement with businesses that engage in prohibited activities (haram), such as alcohol, gambling, and usury (riba). Halal investments focus on ethical business practices, tangible assets, and risk-sharing principles, ensuring that investors' money is used in ways that promote social and economic justice.

The Rise of Sharia-Compliant Mutual Funds and ETFs in India

The Indian financial landscape has significantly evolved, allowing investors to explore various Halal options. Sharia-compliant mutual funds and ETFs have emerged as attractive avenues, providing a diversified exposure to the stock market while adhering to Islamic principles. These funds curate portfolios consisting of companies that are compliant with Sharia guidelines, eliminating investments in sectors that do not align with Islamic values.

Read the full article on our website: https://kashmirobserver.net.

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Rising Roads, **Sinking Homes**

Kashmir's Overburdened Roads



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

ountries, cities, towns, and villages prosper when connectivity is improved. Roads play an important part in prosperity, besides railways and airways. One of the most overlooked consequences of Kashmir's outdated road maintenance strategy is the gradual elevation of road surfaces due to repeated blacktopping. Instead of properly reconstructing roads with drainage and expansion plans, authorities simply add new layers of asphalt year after year. Over the past four to five decades, this has led to an alarming rise in road levels by nearly 2 to 8 feet in many places.

The impact on adjacent buildings-both residential and commercial—has been devastating. Homes and shops that were once at street level have now sunk below the roads, leaving them vulnerable to flooding, dampness, and structural damage. In many cases, the ground floors of buildings have become unlivable or unusable. This has led to huge economic losses for property owners, forcing many to either abandon or completely rebuild their structures. Who is responsible? Government? Engineers? Thekedar? or All Someone, someday has to take it's responsibility.

This kind of road maintenance is not just inefficient—it is destructive. The government's reluctance to properly widen, reconstruct, or redesign roads has effectively turned infrastructure development into an endless cycle of patchwork fixes that cause more harm than good.

When Roads Become Multi-purposeful

A road's primary purpose is transportation—both for vehicles and pedestrians. But in Kashmir, roads have been turned into multi-purpose spaces for every function except transportation.

Many roadsides, especially in urban centers, have become unofficial dumping sites for household and commercial waste. Sand, gravel, bricks, and cement bags are routinely dumped on roads, blocking lanes and worsening congestion.

Many roads, especially in Srinagar and district headquarters, are overtaken by street vendors, leaving little space for vehicles or pedestrians. In many areas, entire roads are blocked off for private events, leading to traffic chaos. Water pipes, electricity poles, and even makeshift sheds often occupy road space, further restricting movement.

This chaotic and unregulated use of roads is a direct result of weak enforcement of municipal laws. While occasional anti-encroachment drives take place, they are often short-lived and ineffective due to political pressures, corruption, and a lack of long-term planning

Traffic Congestion and Rising Accident Rates

Kashmir's roads are now carrying far more vehicles than they were ever designed for. With an increasing number of private cars, two-wheelers, and commercial



Kashmir's road crisis is not just an inconvenienceit is a growing economic and safety disaster. The continuous neglect of infrastructure, combined with reckless misuse of road spaces, has brought the region to a breaking point

ly designed intersections and lack of traffic signals in key areas

Despite these alarming statistics, road safety remains a low priority. The government's response has largely been limited to issuing advisories rather than implementing structural reforms.

Lack of Urban Planning and Road

One of the biggest failures of Kashmir's infrastructure development is the absence of systematic road expansion. The last major road expansion projects in Srinagar and other urban centers were carried out decades ago. Since then, the population has douhas increased exponentially, yet road width remains unchanged.

While new highways and tunnels are being built under central government schemes, urban road networks remain neglected. Even in cases where land is available for road widening, bureaucratic red tape, legal disputes, and lack of coordination between departments have stalled progress.

For instance, the much-needed widening of major roads in Srinagar, including those leading to hospitals, markets, and business hubs, and those leading to neighbouring district and tehsil headguarters, has been stuck in limbo for years due to slow decision-makping, roads should be properly excavated and rebuilt with modern drainage and base-layer techniques to prevent elevation problems. All future road projects must include provisions for footpaths, parking spaces, and service lanes to avoid encroachments.

2. Strict Anti-Encroachment

A dedicated task force should be established to clear illegal roadside encroachments on a regular basis. Fines and penalties for illegal dumping and encroachment should be increased and strictly enforced.

3. Urban Road Expansion

bility plan should be created to identify key roads for widening and expansion. Faster land acquisition processes should be implemented to remove bottlenecks in road expansion projects.

4. Improved Traffic Management Modern traffic control systems, including synchronized

signals, smart cameras, and AIbased monitoring, should be implemented. Public transport must be strengthened to reduce dependence on private vehicles.

5. Civic Awareness and Public Responsibility

Public campaigns should be launched to educate citizens about the consequences of road misuse. Local committees can be formed to monitor road encroachments and report violations to authorities.

Conclusion

Kashmir's road crisis is not just an inconvenience—it is a growing economic and safety disaster. The continuous neglect of infrastructure, combined with reckless misuse of road spaces, has brought the region to a breaking point.

If immediate action is not taken, the situation will only worsen, making mobility even more difficult and leading to greater economic losses. The government, civil society, and citizens must work together to reclaim Kashmir's roads for their rightful purpose: safe and efficient transportation. The time for patchwork fixes and bureaucratic delays is over-Kashmir needs real, lasting solutions now.

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 and

Researcher

ing and land acquisition issues. vehicles, traffic congestion has be-

come a daily struggle. Srinagar, in particular, witnesses gridlocks that stretch for hours, with no proper traffic management in place. A steady rise in the number of

road accidents and deaths. Many of these accidents are caused by narrow, poorly maintained roads. Lack of proper pedestrian crossings and footpaths. Encroachments forcing people onto roadways. Reckless driving and absence of traffic discipline. Poor-

A Roadmap for Change

The crisis of Kashmir's road infrastructure is not unsolvable. However, it requires a multipronged strategy that includes proper planning, strict enforcement, and community cooperation. Some immediate and longterm measures include:

1. Scientific Road Reconstruction

Instead of endless blacktop-

A Date With Dates!

Health benefits of eating Dates in Ramazan

Mohammad Hanlef

ates are a popular food item, not just in the Middle East but all over the world. They have amazing nutritional properties and just a few dates can keep you energised for hours; one of the many reasons people buy them. Their popularity reaches its peak in Ramazan where Muslims worldwide buy kilos worth of dates for their homes. It is the preferred food item of choice to break the fast. There are different types of dates and their benefits range from amazing taste to health improving qualities,

Dates are sweet fruits packed with plenty of nutrients, making them a good snack in moderation. Although the nutritional value of dates is high in natural sugars, they may make a good substitute for refined sugars or emptycalorie sweets.

Dates grow on date palms in small clusters. The term date comes from the Greek word daktulos, which means fingers. Farmers harvest dates in the fall and early winter, so dates usually taste freshest at this time of year. However, many people eat dried dates, which can last for a long time in a sealed container.

Breaking the fast with dates has always been a Ramazan tradition. In Hadith literature it is written that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) would break his fast with ripe dates before he would pray. Therefore, eating dates during this time has a spiritual significance. Dates have a long history in the Middle East as they have been cultivated in the area for thousands of years. The hot, arid climate provides ideal conditions for date palms to thrive.

Dates are also particularly beneficial during Ramazan because they are high in sugar and vitamins such as potassium and magnesium as well as an excellent source of fiber and carbohydrates. When fasting the body can easily develop mild health conditions like low blood sugar, headaches and lethargy. The nutrients found in dates can help alleviate these conditions and provide a source of energy. Dates are also known to help with digestion and can prevent an upset stomach when eating large amounts of food after a long period without

At the end of the month of Ramazan, the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast is held called the Eid al-Fitr. During this celebration, it is popular for families to host a feast for family and relatives in which dates are a very popular along with other foods such as honey, breads, figs, fruits and olives.

Historians believe that dates are one of the ancient fruits and their cultivation traces back to around 8,000 years ago. There are



AS A RESULT, CONSUMING DATES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO provide some protection against malignancies of the colon, prostate, breast, endometrial, lung, and pancreas. Zea-xanthin protects against age-related macular degeneration, which is common among the elderly

more than 200 varieties of dates with different shapes and flavors, however, all of them are rich in nutrition. Dates are a popular food item, not just in the Middle East but all over

Dates are one of the best ingredients for a daily diet because of their numerous health benefit. The date palm (Phoenix Dactylifera L.) is widely grown in hot, dry locations, primarily in the Middle East and North Africa, and supplies nutrition, food security, and raw material to the food industry. It has been a staple food for generations and possesses several health benefits.

Dates are a natural reservoir of sugars such as sucrose, fructose, and glucose. Fresh dates have about 157 calories per 100 grams, and dry dates have more than 300 calories per 100 grams. Dates include extra nutritional components in the form of proteins, crude fiber, lipids, and antioxidants in addition to their high natural sugar content, making them a functional food with substantial health advan-

The predominant sugars in dates are fructose and glucose, which make up two-thirds of the overall fleshy content. Water accounts for one-fifth of the whole fleshy makeup, and the remaining (small) amount is dietary fibers. Protein, lipids, crude fiber, minerals, vitamins (particularly vitamin B), and tannins are also abundant in dates. Dates have significant nutritional content and can thus assist in meeting human dietary requirements.

Date flesh contains between 0.2 and 0.5% oil, whereas the seed or pit contains 7.7-9.7%. The primary unsaturated fatty acids include palmitoleic, oleic, linoleic, and linolenic acids. The oleic acid concentration of date seeds fluctuates between 41.1% and 58.8%, making them a possible source of oleic acid.

Dates contain 23 different types of amino acids, some of which are missing from popular fruits like oranges, peaches, grapes, and apples. A small quantity of vitamin C, vitamin B(1) thiamine, B(2) riboflavin, nicotinic acid (niacin), and vitamin A are also present in them.

Dates are divided into four groups based on

their sugar content. Dates of the first class are high in sucrose (40-65%). These have a glucose and fructose content of 20-40% and water content of 10-25%. The dates in the second class are high in glucose and fructose (40-75%) but low in sucrose (10-35%)

The dates in the third class have a water content of 10-35%, glucose and fructose content of 65-90%, and sucrose content of 0-10%. Dates from fourth grade have a lot of water in them (35-65%). These have a 35-37% glucose and fructose content, with no sucrose.

Date palm trees have been feeding people as a source of energy, nutrition security, and healthy fruit for the previous 5000 years in the worst climatic conditions. The following are some of the health benefits of date fruits. Soft, easily digested flesh and simple carbohydrates like fructose and dextrose make up

When consumed, they rapidly replenish energy and invigorate the body. Tannins, a type of health-promoting flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidant, have anti-infective, anti-inflammatory, and anti-hemorrhagic (prevents easy bleeding) effects.

Antioxidant flavonoids like beta-carotene, lutein, and zeaxanthin can protect cells and other biological structures from the detrimental effects of oxygen-free radicals. As a result, consuming dates have been reported to provide some protection against malignancies of the colon, prostate, breast, endometrial, lung, and pancreas. Zea-xanthin protects against age-related macular degeneration, which is common among the elderly. Potassium is an essential component of cell and body fluids, assisting in the regulation of heart rhythm and blood pressure, and so protecting against stroke and coronary heart disease.

Dates have anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, and anti-viral characteristics, as well as the ability to prevent chronic inflammation and other disorders, due to their high phenolic content. Due to their high fiber and phenolic content, dates can aid in the prevention of cardiovascular disease and immune system regulation.

Dates can serve as an important food in the human diet and, they can play a significant part in human health and nutrition due to their unique nutritional content. Dates include a variety of functional and bioactive substances such as carotenoids, anthocyanins, phenolics, antioxidants, and dietary fiber, all of which have anti-tumor, anti-ulcer, anti-microbial, and immuno-modulatory characteristics.

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Generative AI's Specific Aid

John P. Nelson

enerative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Midjourney can produce text, images and J videos far more quickly than any one person can accomplish by hand.

But as someone who studies the societal impacts of AI, I've noticed an interesting trade-off: The technology can certainly save time, but it does so precisely to the extent that the user is willing to surrender control over the final prod-

For this reason, generative AI is probably most useful for things we care about the least.

Ceding creative control

Let's use the example of AI image generators. You probably have a rough idea of how they work. Just type what you want - "a panda surfing," "a piece of toast that is also a car" - and the generative tool draws it.

But this glosses over the countless possible iterations of the desired image.

Will the image appear as a watercolor paint-ing or a pencil sketch? How lifelike will the panda be? How big is the wave? Is the toast-car parked or moving? Is there anyone inside of it? When the images are generated, these ques-

tions have been answered – but not by the user. Rather, the generative AI tool has "decided." Of course, the user can be more specific: Imi-

tate the style of Monet. Make the wave twice the height of the panda. Maybe the panda should look worried, since it isn't used to surfing, You can also pop open an image editor and

modify the output yourself, down to the indi-vidual pixel. But, of course, drafting detailed instructions and revising the image take time, effort and skill. Cenerative AI promises to lighten the load. But as every manager knows, exercising control is work.

The devil is in the details

In all art and expression, power lies in the de-

In great paintings, not every brushstroke is planned - but each is carefully considered and accepted. And its overall effect on the viewer depends on all those considered brushstrokes

Filmmakers shoot take after take of the same scene, each subtly or radically different. Only a small fraction of that footage makes it into the final cut – the fraction that the editors feel does the job best. Great artists use their judgment to ensure every detail helps to achieve the effect

Of course, there's nothing new about putting



someone else in charge of the details. People are used to delegating authority - even about matters of expression - to marketers, speechwriters,

social media managers and the like. Cenerative AI makes a new sort of contractor available. It's always on call, and in certain ways it is very technically competent.

But compared with skilled humans, it has a limited ability to understand what you want. Moreover, it lacks intention, contemplation and the comprehensive mastery of detail that yield great expressive achievements - or even the comprehensive idiosyncrasy that spawns very

Ask ChatGPT for a film script, plus casting and shooting instructions. It will give you neither Francis Ford Coppola's masterpiece "The Godfather" nor Tommy Wiseau's bizarre "The Room."

You could, perhaps, approach a masterpiece, or a true oddity. But to do so, you'd have to exercise more and more time, more and more effort, and more and more control.

An era of 'cheap speech'

What generative AI makes possible, above all, is low-effort, low-control expression.

In the time I took to write and revise this article, I could have used ChatGPT to generate 200 grammatically correct, well-structured articles, and then I could have posted them online without even reading them. I wouldn't have had to carefully parse each word and decide whether it really helped me make my point. I wouldn't have

even had to decide whether I agreed with any of the AI-generated write-ups.

This is not a merely hypothetical example. Low-quality, Al-generated e-books of ambiguous provenance are already making their way into online vendors' catalogs - and into the libraries those vendors serve.

Similarly, using image generators, I could now flood the internet with superficially appealing images, dedicating only a fraction of a second to decide whether any of them express what I want them to express or achieve what I want them to

But in doing so, I would not just be skipping over drudgery. Writing, drawing and painting are not just labor but processes of considering reviewing and deciding exactly what I want to

put out into the world. By skipping over those cess to the Al tool.

Some scholars argue that the internet has produced an era of "cheap speech." People no longer have to invest a lot of resources - nor even face the judgment of their neighbors - to broadcast whatever they want to the world.

With generative AI, expression is even cheaper. You don't even have to make things yourself to put them out into the world. For the first time in human history, the ability to produce writing, art and expression has been decoupled from the necessity of actually paying attention to what you're making or saying.

When intention and effort matter

I suspect that great art, journalism and schol-arship will still demand great attention and effort. Some of that effort may even include custom-developing AI tools tailored to an individual artist's concerns.

But unless people become much better at curation, great work will be increasingly difficult to locate amid the flood of low-effort content, which is also known as "Al slop."

It's appropriate that generative AI becomes more useful the sloppier its users are willing to be - that is, the less they care about the details.

I could end with some dire prognosis - that working artists and writers will be replaced with mediocre automation, that online discourse will get even stupider, that people will isolate themselves in personalized cocoons of Al-generated

All these things are possible. But it's probably more useful to offer a suggestion to you, the

When you need an image or a piece of writing, take a moment to decide: How important are the details? Would the process of making this yourself, or working with a collaborator or contractor, be useful? Would it yield a better output, or give you the chance to learn, or begin or strengthen a relationship, or help you reflect on something important to you?

In short, is it worth putting in real care and effort? The answer will not always be yes. But it often will.

Art, writing, films - these are not just products, but acts. They are things humans make, through a process of thousands of little decisions that encompass what we stand for and what we want to say.

So when it comes to art, expression and argument, if you want it done right, it's probably still best to do it yourself.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Tips For Choosing Ripe Watermelons With Red Flesh, Sweet, And Paper-Thin Flesh

Thebustednews.com

atermelon is a refreshing and hydrating fruit, especially during hot weather. However, selecting the perfect watermelon can sometimes be tricky. To get the besttasting watermelon, you need to pay attention to a few key characteristics. Here's how you can tell when a watermelon is ripe and ready to be enjoyed:

Look for the Sugar Spot

In the image, you can see two watermelons with their sugar spots (the area where the stem attaches to the fruit). The watermelon on the right is ripe, while the one on the left is not. A watermelon's sugar spot should be small, dry, and slightly sunken. This indicates that the watermelon is ripe and has matured well on the vine. If the sugar spot is large or moist, the fruit may

not be fully ripe or could be overripe.

2. Check for a Uniform Color

Ripe watermelons should have a vibrant green color without any spots or bruises on the rind. The skin of the watermelon should be evenly colored, with deep green stripes. Avoid melons that are pale or have a discolored rind, as they might not be

Feel for the Right Weight

A good watermelon should feel heavy for its size. Watermelons contain a lot of water, and the heavier ones tend to be juicier and more lavorful. Gently lift the melon and compare its weight to others of similar size a ripe one will feel solid and substantial.

4. Tap The Watermelon

One of the oldest tricks to test the ripeness of a watermelon is to tap it gently. A ripe watermelon will produce a deep, hollow



sound, while an unripe one will sound more dull. The hollow sound indicates that the melon is filled with water and ready to eat.

5. Examine the Field Spot Check for a yellow field spot (the area

during ripening). A ripe watermelon typically has a soft, yellowish ield spot. If the spot is white or green, the watermelon may not be fully ripened.

6. Look for a Smooth, Unblemished Rind

A watermelon with a smooth rind and no scratches or gouges is more likely to be ripe. Minor blemishes are okay, but large cuts or soft spots may indicate the fruit has been overhandled or is beginning to spoil.

To pick a ripe watermelon with red, sweet, and paper-thin flesh, look for a small, dry sugar spot, check the uniform color of the rind, feel the weight, tap for a hollow sound, and examine the field spot. By following these tips, you'll increase your chances of selecting a watermelon that's both delicious and refreshing.

'40% Of Adults With Chronic Pain Could Have Anxiety Depression'

Press Trust Of India

bout 40 per cent of adults experiencing chronic, persistent pain could also have anxiety or depression, a review has found. Women, young adults and those with conditions such as fibromyalgia are most likely to have anxiety and depression, it observed.

Fibromyalgia is a condition marked by widespread body ache and tenderness, despite no physical injury such as tissue damage.

The review was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

Researchers, including those from Johns Hopkins University, US, analysed 376 studies, involving nearly 8.5 lakh people from across 50 countries. The participants were aged about 50 years on average, and about 70 per cent were women.

The most commonly reported chronic pain conditions in the study included fibromyalgia, low back pain and rheumatoid arthritis (inflamma-

tion of joints). Pain is said to be chronic if it persists beyond a maximum of

"In this systematic review and meta-analysis of depression and anxiety among individuals with chronic pain, approximately 40 per cent of adults had clinically significant depression and anxiety," the authors wrote.

Therefore, a mental health screening of patients with chronic pain is critical,

While acute pain can be caused by an injury or surgery, its transition to chronic pain has psychological undertones, according to the biopsychosocial

Developed in the 1970s, the model suggests that one's experience of pain in response to an external trigger is a complex interplay of biological, psychological, social and cultural factors.

model of pain.

Women are considered especially vulnerable to chronic pain, owing to var-

ied factors, including hormonal cycles and heightened emotional responses.

Further, "women, younger people, and people with nociplastic pain (arising from changes in how one perceives pain) were most likely to have depression and anxiety," the authors wrote.

According to a 2028 round-up article on pain research in The Lancet journal, the biopsychosocial risk factors of poor sleep, despondency, tiredness, stress and a Body Mass Index of over 30 were the most important reasons for localised pain progressing into chronic pain.

While treatments commonly involve anti-inflammatory drugs and prescription medicines, such as antidepressants and opioids, experts strongly recommend psychotherapy sessions as well.

"Treatments for the most common types of chronic pain (Examples: fibromyalgia, chronic low back pain) have limited impact on pain intensity, meaning many people will live with their pain long-term," said Dr Bronwyn Thompson, senior lecturer, department of orthopaedic surgery and musculoskeletal medicine, University of Otago, New Zealand. He was not involved in the study

Osteoarthritis Cases, Related Disability Up By Over 130%: Study

Press Trust Of India

Globally, cases of osteoarthritis and the resulting disability among menopausal women have increased by over 180 per cent in the last three decades, according to a study.

The findings, lished in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health, show that an excess weight or body mass index accounted for about a fth of the duration lived with disability resulting from the condition that steadily deteriorates joints.

The researchers, including those from Hangzhou Medical College. China, said declining oestrogen levels in menopause affect skeletal health and are directly related to functioning and stability of joints.

Osteoarthritis affecting knee joints were found to be the most common type, associated with the highest loss of healthy living, followed by that affect-

The countries in East Asia and high-income Asia Pacic experienced the fastest increase in burden of the chronic condition, the

While the most rapid rise in new cases of knee osteoarthritis was seen in Southeast Asia, the most rapid rise in prevalence was seen in East Asia.

The trends noted in East Asia 'may be linked to rapid population ageing, (an) increased workforce participation and a surge in obesity rates due to urbanisation and changing lifestyles," the authors wrote.

However, "the high burden observed in highincome Asia Pacic could be attributed to advanced healthcare systems with better diagnostic capabilities, facilitating comprehensive identification and reporting of (osteoarthritis) cases", they wrote.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION SRINAGAR

Fax/Phone: 0194-2470119 | email: exenifcdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com

Fresh Short Notice inviting e-Tender

NIT No. 20of 2024-25 Dated: 12/03/20.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following works to be received by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Srinagar.

S.No	Name of work.	Estt. Cost (.in lakh)	E/M (in .)	Cost of T/ Doc.	MH of Account	Time of Comple- tion	Class of contract
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	80
	Improvements/construction in the chamber of Chief Accounts officer.(Fresh of e-Nit No.18 of 2024-25)	1.56	.3120/-	.150/-	M&R	07 Days	DEE

Position of AAA: Under process

Position of TS: Accorded.

Position of funds: 100% Budgetary provision

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice :	12.03.2025	From	6:00 P.M		
2.	Period of downloading of bid- ding documents	12.03.2025	From	6:00 P.M		
3.	Bid submission Start Date :	12.03.2025	From	6:00 P.M		
4.	Bid Submission End Date :	18,03,2025	Upto	4:00 P.M		
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	19-03-2025 at 12.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irri. and Flood control Division Srinagar.				

The Successful bidder has to provide 5% of Adv. Cost as Performance Security within 3 days after opening of Financial Bid without any intimation thereof.

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions lay down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall if any found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected. As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectt. Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-

651 dtd. 07-06-2018 which reads as under: Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of E-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained

only from the Bidder whose declared lst Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids. The Cost of tenders should be collected by uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt. Bids must be accom-

panied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0701 -Rev. Misc) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Srinagar failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly. CDR/FDR (Earnest money/Bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer Irri, and F.C. Division Srinagar.

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

The normal deposits to be deducted as per GFR 2017 rules from running bills to be released after total completion of the work. The tender opening authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.into acquaint bid submission process. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-

2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7. All other terms and conditions same as laid down in the PWD Form 25Double shall also remain in force. D

No. IFCDS/CS/E-NIT-20/2024-25/8907-21

(Er. Shazia Majid) **Executive Engineer** Irrigation and Flood Division Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT 75 BN BSF. SANAT NAGAR, SRINAGAR, (J&K)

///AUCTION NOTICE///

A public Auction for dispose of the unserviceable stores (i.e. QM/Provisioning, Comn, MT, Offr Mess, 50's Mess, and Canteen stores) in respect of 75 Rn RSE will be conducted at Rn HO Sanat Nagar, Srinagar (J&K) on 17th Mar' 2025 at 1100 Hrs.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All the interested authorized bidders/parties are requested to attend the auction on scheduled date and time mentioned above.
- All interested bidder will have to get themselves registered with Commandant, 75 Bn BSF at least 01 hour prior to the auction of stores alongwith Aadhaar card, PAN card and GST number in original and also deposit Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand) only in advance as earnest money which will be refunded /adjusted after finalization of auction of condemned stores on the same day.
- 3. In case of bandh call/ strike in state on the date of auction, same will be conducted on the next day.
- The stores shall be sold to the highest bidder on cash payments on the spot.
- Successful bidder will have to deposit full amount of auction money and GST/other taxes (if any) after completion of
- The auction will be held as per departmental rules and 6. regulations.
- The final bidder will have to deposit the cost of the auctioned stores and applicable GST on the spot and will lift the same from Battalion HQ 75 Bn, BSF, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar (J&K) at his own arrangement within 24 hrs. No transport will be provided by this Department.
- In case final bidders fail to deposit the cost of the stores on the spot, his earnest money will be forfeited.
- 9. Commandant, 75 Bn BSF reserves the rights to accept / reject the final bid without assigning any reason. Any doubt/ queries its of clarification required by any bidder, presiding Officer of the board/Commandant 75 Bn BSF will give the decision on the spot which will be accepted by all concerned.
- Other terms and conditions will be announced by the BOO before the public auction.

No 1001/Prov/Auction-Notice/75 Bn BSF/2025/2610-54 Dated the 20 Feb 2025

CBC 19110/11/0126/2425



I, Sartaj Ahmad Thoker, father of Hamza Sartaj R/o Checki Cholland Shopian want to correct my son's name in Aadhaar record, which has been wrongly entered as Abu Hamza instead of Hamza Sartaj. Now correction required. If anybody has any objection, may contact the concerned Aadhaar Centre, Jammu/ Srinagar or concerned authorities within 7 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

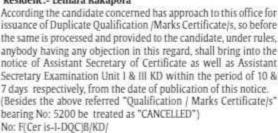
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-Roll No: 6115247

Class 10th Year & Session 2017/Annual Reg. Registration: N16381710006

Dated

Name: Yasir Ahmad Bhat Father's Name: Bilal Ahmad Bhat Mother's Name: Dilshada Akhter Date of Birth: - 09-03-2003 Residenc:- Lelhara Kakapora



Certificates, KD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to transfer the name on electricity connection bearing consumer ID No: 0203010018140 From Bashir Ahmad Mir To Saleema Begum W/O Bashir Ahmad Mir . 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.

Saleema Begum W/o Bashir Ahmad Mir R/o Arampora Near Masjid Abubakar Qamarwari Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I.Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/O Om Buran Tehsil Singhpora Distt Baramulla declare on oath as under that my DOB is as per service record is 28/10/1978 and I have attached service record with DOB application and now I want to obtain DOB in my favour 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

Assistant Secretary

India's Economic Growth To Exceed 6.5% In FY26: Moody's



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Moody's Ratings on Wednesday said India's economic growth will exceed 6.5 per cent in the next fiscal, up from 6.3 per cent this year, on higher government capex and consumption boost from tax cuts and interest rate reduc-

Projecting a stable outlook for the banking sector, Moody's The finance said although the ministry's operating **Economic Survey** ronment of Indian has projected GDP banks will remain favourable in the growth for next next fiscal, their fiscal at 6.3-6.8 asset quality will per cent. As per deteriorate modofficial estimates, erately after sub-GDP growth in stantial improvements in recent the current fiscal years, with some would be 6.5 per stress in unsecent. cured retail loans,

microfinance loans and small business loans.

Banks' profitability will remain adequate as declines in net interest margins (NIMs) are likely to be marginal amid modest rate cuts, it said.

Moody's said that following a temporary slowdown in mid-2024, India's economic growth is expected to reaccelerate and record one of the fastest rates among large economies globally.
"Government capital expenditure, tax cuts for middle-class income groups to boost consumption and monetary easing will help India's real GDP growth exceed 6.5% for fiscal 2025-26 from 6.3% in fiscal 2024-25," Moody's Ratings said.

The finance ministry's Economic Survey has projected GDP growth for next fiscal at

6.3-6.8 per cent. As per official estimates, GDP growth in the current fiscal would be 6.5 per cent.

The country's real

The country's real GDP growth slowed to 5.6 per cent in the July-September 2024 quarter before rebounding to 6.2 per cent in the following quarter.

Moody's expects India's average inflation rate to decline to 4.5 per cent in fiscal

2025-26 from 4.8 per cent in the previous year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised its policy rate by 250 basis points from May 2022 to February 2023 to tame inflation, which has gradually led to increases in interest rates for borrowers,

The RBI lowered its policy rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent in February 2025.

Those Setting Up Industries In J&K Will Have To Provide Employment To Local Youth: Dy CM

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU; Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Wednesday said those who set up industries in Jammu and Kashmir will have to provide employment to local youth in the region.

Crediting previous National Conference governments for industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir, he said Chief Minister Omar Abdulah is committed to industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir but that will not be at the cost of the people.

"Those (investors) who will set up industries in Jammu and Kashmir will have to provide employment to local youth in the region," Choudhary said while replying to supplementary questions during the Question Hour in the Assembly here.

He said the Omar Abdullah government is committed to ensuring no injustice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is the commitment of the Omar Abdullah government. The industrial estates, whether in Kashmir, Jammu, Gangyal, or any other place, were set up during National Conference rule. The Chief Minister is committed to industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir but that will not be at the cost of the people," he said.

Replying to a question from BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrotia, the Deputy Chief Minister



further said, "It is the endeavour of this government that we will not allow the lands of the people of J&K to be given to outsiders. Whatever is right will be done."

He said the local youth have a right to jobs in industries.

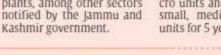
The deputy chief minister said soon after the formation of the government, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah held meetings with various stakeholders in the industrial sector. "It is a fact that the local industry faced losses during the past 10 years. Nothing was done for the employment of local youth. We are committed

to changing that," he added.
Choudhary said the key highlights of the Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021-30 aim to bolster industrial growth across various sectors, focusing on manufacturing, IT, agriculture, food processing, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, real estate, herbal and medicinal plants, among other sectors notified by the Jammu and

He said the incentives under the policy include a 100 per cent subsidy for the purchase and installation of DG sets (up to Rs 45 lakh), exemption of stamp duty and court fees on land transactions in government industrial estates.

He further said other incentives include a 25 per cent subsidy on automation, a 30 per cent subsidy on procuring and obtaining machinery, a quality certification subsidy, a 60 per cent subsidy for the purchase and installation of pollution control devices, and a 50 per cent subsidy on the total cost incurred on environment-friendly production technology expenditures.

"Besides this, there is a 100 per cent net SGST reimbursement for eligible existing units registered under GST in Jammu and Kashmir as of March 31, 2021, for 10 years. The turnover incentives under the policy include 3 per cent for micro units and 2 per cent for small, medium, and large units for 5 years," he said.



Sensex Falls For 4th Day As IT Pack Tumbles On US Growth Concerns



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark BSE Sensex dropped by 72 points on Wednesday, extending its losing run to the fourth day as IT shares retreated due to con-

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 72.56 points or 0.10 per cent to close at 74,029.76. During the session, it tumbled 504.16 points or 0.68 per cent to touch a low of 73,598.16.

The NSE Nifty slipped 27.40 points or 0.12 per cent to end at 22,470.50. In the session, it fell 168.35 points or 0.74 per cent to hit an intraday low of 22 329.55.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Nestle India, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Axis Bank, Zomato, Hindustan Unilever, and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

On the other hand, Industrid Bank, Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, ITC, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv and UltraTech Cement were the gainers. The BSE Smallcap gauge fell 0.48 per cent, while the midcap index slipped 0.57 per cent.

"Persistent uncertainties surrounding global trade and the fear of a US recession continue to influence the domestic market's momentum. Despite the stabilisation in valuation to the 5-year average and signs of improvement in urban and rural demand, investor risk appetite remains subdued," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geofit Financial Services, said.

Key concern is whether the ongoing correction happening in the US market can spill over to the global market. The US market is under pressure from weakening economic data and uncertainty over tariff policy, Nair added. Among the BSE sectoral indices, Focussed IT, IT, Teck, Realty, Telecommunication, Metal, Capital Goods, Services, and Industrial were among the major laggards.

the major laggards. In contrast, Energy, FMCG, financial services, Healthcare, Utilities, Auto, Bankex, Consumer Durables, Oil & Gas, and Power were the gainers.



THOSE (INVESTORS) WHO WILL SET UP INDUSTRIES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR will have to provide employment to local youth in the region"

NEW DELHI: Billionaire

Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms has struck a deal with
SpaceX, the aerospace company led by Elon Musk, to bring
Starlink's broadband internet
services to India, a surprise
move that follows months of
bickering over how Musk's
venture should be granted
spectrum rights.

The deal with Musk - con-

The deal with Musk - considered the right-hand-man of US President Donald Trump - comes a day after telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel signed a similar partnership deal with SpaceX.

Over the past few months, rivals Jio and Airtel had come together to demand an auction for awarding spectrum for satellite services in India as they feared an administrative allocation would give Musk airwaves at a price lower than what they had paid via auctions in the past.

This agreement "is subject to SpaceX receiving its own authorisations to sell Starlink in India", Jio Platforms - the company that holds telecom and digital properties of Reliance Industries Ltd - said in a statement on Wednesday.



Jio will offer Starlink equipment in retail outlets and online stores and also support customer installation and activation on devices. Jio and SpaceX will also explore how they can boost each other's offerings.

"Through this agreement, the parties will leverage Jio's position as the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic and Starlink's position as the world's leading low earth orbit satellite constellation operator to deliver reliable broadband services across the country, including the most rural and remote regions of India," the statement said.

Starlink is the world's largest low-earth-orbit (LEO) constellation operated by SpaceX.

stellation operated by SpaceX. On Tuesday, Bharti Airtel announced that it is entering into an agreement with SpaceX to bring Starlink's high-speed Internet service to India on a non-exclusive basis. Bharti already partners with Eutelsat OneWeb, the secondlargest LEO constellation.

Similarly, Jio Platforms has a joint venture with SES, a leading global satellite-based content connectivity solutions provider.

Jio Space Technology Limited, where Jio holds 51 per cent and SES 49 per cent, is to use multi-orbit space networks that are a combination of geostationary (GEO) and medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellations capable of delivering multi-gigabit links and capacity to enterprises, mobile backhaul and retail customers across the length and breadth of India and neighbouring regions.

Inflation Slips Below RBI's Target Of 4%; Factory Output Up 5%

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Subdued food prices in February pulled down retail inflation below the Reserve Bank's median target of 4 per cent while the country's manufacturing sector pushed the key factory output index to 5 per cent in January, showed data released by the government on Wednesday.

The charm declinating inflation.

The sharp decline in inflation has raised the prospects for another rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 9. If RBI reduces rate next month, it will be the second rate cut within two months.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)—

Consumer Price Index (CPI)based retail inflation slipped to seven-month low of 3.61 per cent in February mainly due to easing prices of vegetables, eggs, and other protein-rich items, creating space for the RBI to go for another cut in interest rate next month.

The headline inflation was at 4.26 per cent in January and 5.09 per cent in February 2024. The previous low was witnessed in July.

The CPI has been in the comfort zone of the RBI since November 2024.

The RBI, which has been mandated to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent), has reduced the short-term lending rate (repo) by 25 basis points last month on easing concerns on the inflation front.

The central bank is scheduled to announce the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy on April 9.

A significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during February has been mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, egg,



meat and fish, pulses and products, and milk and products.

Key items having lowest year-on-year inflation in February were ginger (-35.81 per cent), jeera (-28.77 per cent), tomato (-28.51 per cent), cauliflower (-21.19 per cent), garlic (-20.32 per cent).

On the other hand, top items with highest inflation were coconut oil (54.48 per cent), coconut (41.61 per cent), gold (35.56 per cent), silver (30.89 per cent), and onion (30.42 per cent).

The second set of data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that the growth in Index of Industrial Production (IIP), a measure of performance of industries, accelerated to 5 per cent in January 2025, driven by a rebound in manufacturing activity.

The government has also revised the December 2024 industrial output figure to 3,5 per cent from the provisional estimate of 3.2 per cent released in the previous month.

The expansion in IIP was at 4.2 per cent in January 2024.

In the April-January period this fiscal year, the IIP grew 4.2 per cent, slower than 6 per cent recorded in the year-ago period.

The manufacturing sector's output grew 5.5 per cent in January 2025, up from 3.6 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production growth declined to 4.4 per cent from 6 per cent year-on-year.

Parliament Passes Bill To Amend Law Governing Oilfields Development

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Parliament on Wednesday passed a bill that seeks to amend the existing law governing exploration and production of oil and gas as well as delink petroleum operations from mining operations to boost investment in the sector.

The Lok Sabha cleared the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, on Wednesday. The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on December 3, 2024.

Replying to the discussion on the bill, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India is the only country in the world where in the reference period of last three years, the prices of petrol and diesel have a brought down the

"We have brought down the prices of petrol and diesel because the prime minister reduced the central excise (duty) on two occasions," Puri asserted and took a swipe at the Opposition, saying that Congress-ruled states have increased VAT (Value Added Tax) on petrol and diesel.

Prices in neighbourhood countries are 15 to 25 per cent higher than in India. Equally, prices in Western Europe and US are much higher than in India, he said.

While moving the bill for con-

While moving the bill for consideration and passage in the Lok Sabha, Puri said it does not alter the existing level-playing field for both public and private sectors. "The oil bill aims to resolve in investing in India by providing stability in operation, both in terms of tenure of the lease and the condition. The bill also does not alter the rights of the states, which will continue to give petroleum leases and receive royalties as before.

"The bill also does not after

one of the biggest grievances of

global oil companies interested

the bill also does not after the existing level-playing field and offers no preference to either the private or the public sector," the minister said.

Among others, the bill aims to decriminalise some of the provisions of the original Oil-fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, by introducing "penalties, adjudication by an adjudicating authority and appeal as against the order of adjudicating authority".

Besides, it seeks to introduce 'petroleum lease' and expands the definition of mineral oils to include crude oil, natural gas, petroleum, condensate, coal bed methane, oil shale, shale gas, shale oil, tight gas, tight oil and gas hydrate, with a view to raising domestic output and cutting reliance on imports, he said.

Global Shares Are Mixed After Wall Street Briefly Dips More Than 10% Below Its Record

Associated Press

Global shares were mixed on Wednesday as investors weighed the impact of President Donald Trump's tariffs after another day of losses on Wall Street, US futures and oil prices were higher.

France's CAC 40 edged up 0.9% in early trading to 8,014.58. Germany's DAX jumped 1.5% to 22,644.81, while Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.5% to 8,542.24. US shares were set to drift higher with Dow futures up nearly 0.1% at 41,510.00. S&P 500 futures rose 0.6% to 5,610.00.

Trump's escalation in his trade war is rattling global markets. Trump has upped his taniffs against Canadian steel and aluminum, prompting the Canadian province of Ontario to remove a surcharge that had enraged him. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 finished little changed, raining loss than 0.18 to 36.819.00

gaining less than 0.1% to 36,819.09. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.9% to 23,566.42, while the Shanghai Composite edged down 0.2% to 3,371.92. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dropped 1.3% to 7,786.20. South Korea's Kospi added 1.5% to 2,574.82.

Stocks drooped on uncertainty about how much pain Trump is willing for the economy to endure in order to get what he wants.

"Trump's tariff policies continue

to have a destabilizing effect on markets, with investors left guessing as to which measures will either be added or walked back next," said Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade. Moves by Trump and comments

by the White House on Tuesday didn't clarify much. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said, "The president will look out for Wall Street and for Main Street."

The recent swings followed more warning signals flashing about the economy as Trump's on -and-off -again rollout of tariffs creates confusion and pessimism for U.S. households and businesses.

Rupee Inches Up 2 Paise To Close At 87.19 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

The rupee advanced 2 paise to close at 87.19 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday amid volatile global sentiment on tariff uncertainties and some recovery in the American currency index.

Forex analysts said an upward move in crude oil prices also impacted the local unit and capped its gain as selling pressure in domestic equity and outflow of foreign capital continued.

Also, market participants stayed cautious, awaiting cues from macroeconomic data to be released in India and the US later in the day.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 87.24

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 87.24 and touched the intraday low of 87.32 against the greenback. The unit also hit the day's high of 87.17 before ending the session at 87.19 (provisional) against the dollar, 2 paise higher from its previous session's closing level.

The rupee ended 10 paise higher

at 87.21 against the dollar on Tuesday, a day after losing 36 paise.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.18 per cent at 103.45.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.55 per cent higher at US 69.94 per barrel in futures trade. The domestic equity market

The domestic equity market closed on a flat note with the 30-share BSE Sensex ending 72.56 points, or 0.10 per cent lower at 74,029.76 and the broader Nifty settling 27.40 points, or 0.12 per cent, down at 22,470.50 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,823,76 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

According to experts, uncertainties over tariff moves intensified after President Donald Trump said the US would double the forthcoming levy on steel and aluminium to 50 per cent if they come from Canada but later hinted that he might reconsider the additional hike.

Gold Slightly Up On Retail Buying, Silver Rallies Rs 1,300

Press Trust Of India

Gold prices were marginally up in the national capital on Wednesday amid modest retail buying as well as Jewellery offtake, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity rose by Rs 60 to Rs 88,850 per 10 grams. It had closed at Rs 88,790 per 10 grams on Tuesday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity advanced by Rs 60 to Rs 88,450 per 10 grams.

Silver price climbed by Rs 1,300 to hit nearly a three-week high of Rs

98,900 per kg in the previous market close. In the international markets, spot gold in the international markets traded flat at USD 2,915.73 per

1,00,200 per kg. It had settled at Rs

ounce.
"Gold prices remained flat as the US dollar weakened to a five-month low, weighed down by economic concerns and geopolitical uncertain-



ty. The greenback struggled amid fears over US economic stability, fuelled by President Donald Trump's unpredictable trade policies," Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta said.

Also, Comex futures for April delivery traded higher at USD 2,921.30 per ounce.

Meanwhile, silver spot prices in the Asian market hours quoted 0.25 per cent higher at USD 33.03 per ounce,

Ban On AAC,

Masroori Abbas Ansari led IKIM.

As the House assembled for the day, Para raised the issue. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather instructed him to sit down as the Question Hour had begun.

Speaking to reporters outside the House, Para said, "This move chokes political and socio-religious space in Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has been attempting this for several years."

'Awami Action Committee has been banned. Ittehad-ul- Muslimeen has been banned. It's important that we should discuss the issue first," he said.

"It is an unfortunate order. Mirwaiz Sahab is the most moderate voice in J&K. We stand with him," Para said, adding that the Government of India should revoke the ban on AAC and IKIM.

NC legislator Tanvir Siddig said that the ban on AAC and JKIM should be revisited.

"Mirwaiz Sahab has been talking more on social and economic issues over the last few years. He has been raising his voice against drug abuse. We don't support any anti-national activity but the government should revisit its decision," he said.

However, the leader of the Opposition and BIP MLA Sunil Sharma welcomed the ban on the two organisations

"Two organisations were undermining India's unity. MHA's ban on these organisations is commendable. BJP supports this decision," he told reporters outside the assembly

Sharma emphasised "no individual or organisation should be allowed to work against the integrity and unity of our

Responding to criticism from PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, he said "PDP's foundation is rooted in separatist sentiments. Whenever radical and anti-India groups are confronted, Mehbooba ji expresses

MLA Sheikh Khursheed, brother of jailed MP Engineer Rashid, also criticised the ban, stating, "Banning any individual or political party is undemocratic, We condemn such actions. On one hand, the Centre is engaging with Mirwaiz Sahib, and on the other hand, his party is being banned. This is unfortunate.

BJP MLA Yudhvir Sethi said there should be more strictness on the people advocating the cause of Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We welcome this ban. It is aimed to curb separatist and other elements in the region", he told reporters.

The notification from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs stated that members of the Awami Action Committee headed by Umar Faroog have been involved in supporting terrorist activities and promoting anti-India propaganda to fuel secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir.

No Intel Shared

and Shia leader Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari-led JKIM for five years for their alleged anti-national activities.

PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday questioned the "silence" of the NC government over the decision, saving the people had expectations from the elected government that it would safeguard them, "but quite the opposite is happening".

"Earlier, the BJP banned Jamaat-e-Islami (Jel), it was done under the LG rule and we could not do anything about it, but we raised our voices. Today, when there is a people's government, more atrocities are happening and the ruling party is silent and not doing anything.

Such actions are wrong and abnormal, but because of the silence of the ruling party, these seem to be normal," she said. "I do not know the basis of the ban.

This is not under the purview of the elected government (in J&K) and the intelligence on the basis of which it has taken place has not been shared with us," Omar Abdullah told reporters here after the culmination of the fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Cames

However, Abdullah said, "On principle, we have never been in favour of such decisions"

"Since the Mirwaiz was released from house arrest, I have not seen any objectionable statements from him, but we do not have any information about the reasons behind the ban. (But), we will see what to do (about it) in the future," he added.

To a question whether the ban was because of Mirwaiz's criticism of the recently held fashion show at the resort, Chief Minister Abdullah said, "You cannot

The fashion show in the ski resort of Gulmarg during the fasting month of Ramzan evoked widespread criticism, with Mirwaiz Umar Faroog saying obscenity in the name of tourism promotion will not be tolerated.

Asked about the BjP's charge that the hotel where the fashion show took place belongs to one of his relatives, the chief minister said, "Yes, the hotel belongs to one of my relatives, and I am not deny-

"There are two hotels in Gulmarg that belong to my relatives - Nedous and Highland Park. But, I will not say anything more than what I have said in the assembly," he said.

Asked whether any action will take place, the CM said, "If something has been done against the law, then action will take place."

Weather Shift

through environment-friendly ways so that the slopes are prepared for skiing early amidst the minus temperatures and we will be able to start the skiing course again from December upto March. We will not have to wait for March to conduct the Khelo India Winter Games,

The Chief Minister expressed happiness over the completion of the second phase of KIWG-2025. "Finally the event has been held, which seemed impossible due to the weather conditions in January. The recent snowfall made the KIWO possible as it occurred at the apt time. I express my gratitude to all the partici-

pants," the Chief Minister said. While congratulating the Army, Himachal Pradesh, and Ladakh for securing top positions in the KIWG-2025, the Chief Minister expressed disappointment over J&K not securing any top rank in the competition. "We need to arrange the coaches and augment the infrastructure for our skiers so that I&K in the sixth edition of Khelo India Winter Cames secures the top positions," he said.

The Chief Minister welcomed the decision to develop a Winter Sports Centre of Excellence in Gulmarg.

Terming Gulmarg as the winter capital of the country, Omar said, "It is the place where skiing started. The T-bar lift in Gulmarg was introduced during British rule. Later the track lift and Candola in phases were introduced and in the end chairlift was introduced which was completed in 2012. However, this is not enough as the other countries have moved much ahead.

"In the last two-three years, we have observed that those who used to come to Gulmarg for skiing are now opting to visit the central Asian countries like Uzbekistan. Now, it is our responsibility to develop Gulmarg further and augment the skiing infrastructure here," Omar

"We are lucky that the Prime Minister recently inaugurated a tunnel in Sonamarg. It has turned the picturesque resort into a winter destination now. We want to develop Sonamarg for skiing like

The Chief Minister said that Sonamarg has the natural advantages, which can help the place to emerge as the best skiing destination

Omar said that Sports Minister Satish Sharma was recently assured by the Union Sports Minister that the infrastructure will be augmented further. "The sports infra is not limited to coming up with stadiums for cricket and football, but many games are being preferred by the youth nowadays, therefore the infra needs to be augmented at earliest so that the youngsters, who are indulging in anti-social issues activities will be involved in sports activities."

He said that his government aims to bring transformative change to the sports sector so that the youth who are "being diverted toward the wrong paths" are actively engaged in sports.

The chief minister was speaking at the concluding ceremony of the fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) in Gulmarg.

Abdullah outlined his government's commitment to developing sports infrastructure in every village, ensuring that youth have opportunities to engage in

"Our youth are being diverted toward the wrong paths. We want them to be actively engaged in sports and make Jammu and Kashmir a sports hub — whether it's for traditional sports, adventure sports, or winter sports," he said.

Abdullah further mentioned that during the presentation of the J&K budget in the Assembly, significant funds had been

allocated for sports development "Over the next four and a half years, our government aims to bring a transformative change in the sports sector,"

Reflecting on the challenges leading up to this year's KIWG, the CM said that the persistent dry weather in January and February had raised concerns about whether the games would take place.

"Over the past four years, the KIWC have been conducted with great enthusiasm. However, this year, we faced an unprecedented challenge as there was very little snow accumulation," he said.

He noted that a thorough assessment of the snow conditions was conducted by technical staff, leading to extensive discussions on whether the games should be held, postponed, or cancelled. Eventually, he decided to postpone the event, hoping for snowfall.

"Then, by the grace of the Almighty, we received enough snow and the 5th Edition of the KIWG was officially announced," he said.

As an avid skier himself, the CM shared a personal anecdote, saying that he had attempted to ski earlier in the day but found it difficult due to the high water content in the snow.

"If I found it challenging, I can only imagine how difficult it must have been for the athletes," he said, appreciating their determination and resilience in overcoming the tough conditions to deliver commendable performances.

He envisioned using eco-friendly artificial snow technology to ensure that the Khelo India Winter Games can be held as early as December and January, thereby expanding the winter sports season.

Reiterating Culmarg's status as the Winter Sports Capital of India, Abdullah emphasised that the promotion and development of skiing in the country originated from Culmarg.

"The initial infrastructure at Culmarg dates back to the British era, but what we have today is still not sufficient to meet the growing demands of winter sports and tourism," he said.

"If we wish to position ourselves as a global winter sports destination, we must invest in infrastructure enhancement," he said

He emphasised that sports infrastructure should not be limited to mainstream games like cricket and football, which require spacious grounds.

"Emerging sports like Pickleball are attracting young players, and these require minimal space. We must diversify our sports infrastructure," he said.

Abdullah extended an invitation to Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who was the chief guest at the ceremony, inviting him and his family to visit Gulmarg and other tourist destinations in J&K.

He also thanked the athletes for their participation, acknowledging their dedication and commitment despite the short notice for the commencement of the 5th Khelo India Winter Games, (inputs from agencies)

Reports False

are being put to re-auction through

Public Notice Issued on 07.03.2025 and bidding process (again to be conducted by the J&K Bank) shall be completed on 17.03.2025 for these 34 vends."

The document further added that, "It is relevant to mention that the number of IKEL-2 vends (Wine Shops) remained unchanged i.e. 305, since FY 2023-24 and there is no increase in the number of vends, either in Jammu or in Kashmir. The breakup of the vends (Wine Shops) is: lammu-291 and Kashmir - 14)."

All details regarding the Excise Policy along with location of the vends (Wine Shops) etc is available on the official website of the Excise Department i.e. https://jkexcise.nic.in

No New Liquor

reports that the government has launched bids for 83 new liquor shops

"NO NEW LIQUOR VENDS ARE BEING ADVERTISED OR ALLOTED BY MY GOVERNMENT. TV channels & news portals should immediately stop peddling this lie," the chief minister said on X.

In a written statement, the CM's office said as per the J&K Excise Policy for 2025-26m dated February 15, 305 vends (Wine Shops) were put to e-auction, and after the culmination of the bidding process. 271 vends got allotted to the successful H1 bidders.

The remaining 34 locations are being put up for re-auction through public no-tice issued on March 7.

The bidding process (to be conducted by the J&K Bank) will be completed on March 17 for these 34 vends, the state-

The government said the number of JKEL-2 vends remained unchanged, i.e. 305, since FY 2023-24. There are 291 such vends in Jammu and 14 in Kashmir,

"Therefore, the news being circulated in Social Media regarding increase in the number of yends (Wine Shops) in Jammu & Kashmir is fake/baseless," the statement added.

Speaker Forms

Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, MLA: Gulam Ahmad Mir, MLA; Sajad Gani Lone, MLA; Mir Mohammad Fayaz, MLA Choudhary Mohammad Akram,

BJP's Sham Lal Sharma on Wednesday raised the issue of non-formation of the business advisory committee in the Assembly. He questioned the functioning of the House without the formation of the business advisory committee and threatened to walk out. This led to a verbal duel between him and Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, with other members from both the treasury and oppositional benches joining the chorus.

NC member Mubarak Gul, who was in the Chair in the absence of Rather, managed to calm down the situation and persuaded Sharma to sit back, informing them that the House would be informed about the rules shortly.

He extended the session by half-anhour after consulting the House as some members from the treasury benches including minister Itoo and Javed Ahmad Dar said many members are observing Ramzan fast.

Rather returned to his chair and said the Assembly secretariat issued the provisional calendar before the commencement of the session and there was no need for setting up the business advisory committee to run the House.

"The provisional calendar was prepared in consultation with the leader of the House before the session as per the rules. The business advisory committee is formed when the House is faced with some big issue," he said.

Rather said some members have expressed concern and he finds no problem in setting up the business advisory committee to take the suggestions of the members into account for the smooth functioning of the House,

"The business advisory committees have been formed in the past and so it should be formed again," he said.

Govt Identifies 625

reserved for J&K public sector undertakings, 6 on private land, 2 quarry licenses on private land, 1 cluster quarry on state land, and 23 quarry licenses for government projects, he added.

"These measures aim to ensure the supply of key construction materials for various developmental projects across I&K," he said.

The deputy chief minister informed the Legislative Assembly that the Rs 41.78 crore Maitra-Ramban bridge over the Chenab River will be completed by August 2026.

Responding to a query by National Conference leader Arjun Singh Raju, he said the project faced delays as the National Highway Authority of India did not allow its intersection with the Ramban flyover. The bridge is now being aligned with the old NH, raising its height by 8.5 meters and extending its span by 30 meters to 300 meters, he added.

The foundation work is complete, with gantry installation and casting in progress on the Maitra side. On the Ramban side, pier headwork and deck slab casting have begun. So far, Rs 21.10 crore has been released to the contractor, he

Choudhary said BRO has proposed upgrading the Dhar-Udhampur road from two to four lanes. The matter has been submitted to Northern Command for

Replying to a question by Satish Kumar Sharma, he said work will begin once the competent authority grants approval. Legislators Balwant Singh Mankotia, Rajiv Jasrotia, and Pawan Gupta also raised supplementary questions.

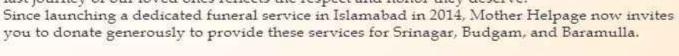
J&K To Seek

"The central assistance under Demand No. 58(Transfer of Assistance to 1&K) was Rs 41751 crore in 2023-24(Revised Estimates), Rs 41000 crore in 2024-25(RE/ first supplementary), Rs 41000 crore in 2025-26(Budget Estimates)," he

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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Rohit Might Be Eyeing 2027 ODI WC Title Before Retiring: Ponting

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Australia legend Ricky Ponting believes Rohit Sharma is still going strong and a sense of unfinished business was behind his decision to continue playing and leading India in the 50-over format until the 2027 ODI World Cup to be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Barring the ODI World Cup, Rohit has won all ICC titles while captaining India. He came agonisingly close to laying his hands on the 50-over world title at home in 2023, only to lose to Australia in the

Speaking on The ICC Review, the former Australia skipper said Rohit is pretty clear about his future goals.

"When you start getting to that point of your career, everyone's waiting for you to retire. And I don't know why, when you can still play as well

as he's played (in the Cham-pions Trophy final), I think he was just trying to put those questions to bed once and for all and say, 'no, i'm still playing well enough. I love playing in this team. I love leading this

"And I think, the fact that he said that, to me, it means that he must have that goal in mind of playing in the next (50-over) World Cup (in 2027)," Ponting

Handed the responsibility of captaincy in 2021 at the age of 34, Rohit on Sunday clinched his second ICC title -- following the T20 World Cup win last year -- as India defeated New Zealand by four wickets to win the Champions Trophy here.

Chasing 252, Rohit, 38, led from the front with an 83-ball 76 at the top to set the platform for a comfortable win.

In the run-up to the tournament, there were talks around Rohit's retirement from the ODI format after the Champi ons Trophy, as he had retired from T20ts after winning the T20 World Cup.

But Rohit simply rejected the theories at the post-match press conference following the

"One more thing, I'm not going to retire from this format, just to make sure no more rumours are spread," Rohit told reporters after winning the player-of-the-match award.

"Just have one more crack at trying to win the T20 World Cup, the Champions Trophy, and the ODI World Cup. I mean when you see him play like he played in the Champions Trophy final, you wouldn't say that his time is up just yet," Ponting add-



Sports Minister Says Gulmarg To Be Made Winter Sports Hub

2025 Khelo India Winter Games end: Army retains title



Press Trust of India

GULMARG: Indian Army emerged Khelo India Winter Games champions for a second year in a row with yet closing day of competitions here on Wednesday.

Indian Army clinched 18 medals (7 gold, 5 silver, 6 bronze) to defend their title. Himachal spirited Pradesh had to settle runnerup with 6 gold, 5 silver and

7 bronze medals. Union Territory of Ladakh came third with seven medals, com-prising 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze. Sports Minister Mansukh

Mandaviya, who gave away

the champions trophy to In-

dian Army, announced dur-

ing the closing ceremony the

central government's plans

of converting Gulmarg into a winter sports hub.

The government will put in all efforts to help elevate the level of sports in Jammu & Kashmir. We plan to cre-ate a sporting hub for winter sports here in Gulmarg to give the youth of Jammu & Kashmir the best opportunity and infrastructure to excel in sports," he said.

He said Gulmarg has now also come to be known as India's Winter Cames city.

"I have visited many foreign countries and skiing destinations but I can tell you that Gulmarg is way better, way beautiful and one of the best tourist and skiing destinations in the world. We just have to use opportunities to make the destination even better," he said in a sports ministry release.

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also attended the closing ceremony.

Mandaviya said that he met sports ministers of 28 states, eight Union Territories and senior members of Nati Sports Federations recently to create a proper roadmap in the country's bid to host the 2036 Summer Olympics.

The Winter Games saw Indian Army reigning supreme in the men's Nordic skiing events, while Indo-Tibetan Border Police ruled the same discipline in women's category.

The jawans, majorly sta-tioned at the High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg, took advantage of local knowledge and acclimatisation to extreme weather conditions including continuous snowfall, strong chilly winds, threat of avalanches and poor visibility.

J&K Govt To Transform Sports Sector: CM Omar In Gulmarg

Press Trust of India

GULMARG: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that his government aims to bring transformative change to the sports sector so that the youth who are "being diverted toward the wrong paths" are actively engaged in

The chief minister was speaking at the concluding ceremony of the fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) in Gulmarg

Abdullah outlined his government's commitment to developing sports infrastructure in every village, ensuring that youth have opportunities to engage in sports.

"Our youth are being diverted toward the wrong paths. We want them to be actively engaged in sports and make Jammu and Kashmir a sports hub - whether it's for traditional sports, adventure sports, or winter sports," he said.

"Over the next four and a half years, our government aims to bring a transformative change in the sports

sector," he added.

Reflecting on the challenges leading up to this year's KIWG, the CM said that the persistent dry weather in January and February had raised concerns about whether the games would take place.

As an avid skier himself, the CM shared a personal anecdote, saying that he had attempted to ski earlier in the day but found it difficult due to the high water content in the snow.

He envisioned using eco-friendly artificial snow technology to ensure that the Khelo India Winter Cames can be held as early as December and January, thereby expanding the winter sports season.

Reiterating Gulmarg's status as the Winter Sports Capital of India, Abdullah emphasised that the promotion and development of skiing in the country originated from Culmarg.

He also thanked the athletes for their participation, acknowledging their dedication and commitment despite the short notice for the commencement of the 5th Khelo India Winter Cames



Short TAKES

India's Absence In WTC Final To Cost Lord's £4 Mllion

India's failure to qualify for the World Test Championship final is expected to cost Lord's nearly 4 million pounds in revenue when it hosts the five-day match in June.

After finishing as runners-up in the last two editions, India missed out on a spot in the summit clash, with Australia and South Africa now set to battle for the ultimate glory in Test cricket. "Lord's is set to generate nearly £4million less in revenue for the upcoming ICC World Test Championship final after India's failure to qualify," a report in The Times said.

...the absence of India has significantly curtailed the financial windfall expected by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), underscoring the financial influence of Indian cricket across the global game.

Having spent most of the past year in the top two of the ICC World Test Championship standings, Rohit Sharma and his team slipped to third place after losing a home series 0-3 to New Zealand, followed by a 1-3 defeat to Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, thus missing out on the final.

Shubman Gill Wins ICC Player Of The Month Award For Feb

Star India opener Shubman Gill was on Wednesday named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for Febru-ary following his stellar performances, which includes his exploits in his team's title-winning Champions

Gill took home the award, beating competition from Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips. In his five ODIs over the course of the month, Cill compiled 406 runs, averaging 101.50 at a strike rate of 94.19.

This included a stellar outing in the 3-0 series win over England, wherein Gill registered three consecutive scores of over fifty.

Gill began with a confident 87 in Nagpur and fol-lowed it up with a 60 in Cuttack. He finished in a grand style, smashing a hundred in Ahmedabad. His 112 came from merely 102 balls and included 14 fours and three sixes. Gill was awarded player-of-the-match for this innings, and also took home the player-of-theseries award.

Rohit Climbs To 3rd, Gill Retains Top Spot In ICC ODI Rankings

India captain Rohit Sharma jumped two places to third in the latest ICC ODI batter rankings following his stellar performance in the Champions Trophy final, while teammate Shubman Gill held on to the top spot,

Star India batter Virat Kohli, who amassed 218 runs in the eight-team ICC tournament, slipped one place to fifth, while Shreyas Iyer remained steady at eighth, keeping four Indians in the top-10.

New Zealand trio of Daryl Mitchell (up one place to sixth), Rachin Ravindra (up 14 spots to 14th) and Glenn Phillips (up six rungs to 24th) also made significant gains. New Zealand captain and leftarm spinner Mitchell Sant-

ner was a big improver on the updated list for ODI bowlers. Santner, who claimed nine wickets including two in the final, climbed six spots to second behind Sri Lankan offspinner Maheesh Theekshana.

Afghanistan star Azmatullah Omarzai maintains his lead at the top of the rankings for ODI all-rounders, though he does have some fresh competition from a trio of New Zealand players.

Liverpool's Trent May Miss League Cup Final Due To Injury

iverpool defender Trent Alexander-Arnold is a huge doubt for the League Cup final against Newcastle United this weekend after sustaining an injury in Tuesday's Champions League round of 16 loss to Paris St Germain, manager Arne Slot said.

PSG beat Liverpool 4-1 on penalties at Anfield to reach the quarter-finals after winning the second-leg 1-0. Alexander-Arnold, 26, was replaced by Jarell Quansah in the 73rd minute, with British media reporting he had suffered an ankle injury."(Trent) had to come off. That's never a good sign," Slot said.

"And from what I heard from people that saw the images or how he got injured, it did not look very good. So I would be surprised if he is available for Sunday." Centre back Ibrahima Konate limped off in the second half of extra time but Slot said that was probably

PSG's Rise: How Enrique's Vision, Mbappé's Departure Led To CL Success

Agencies

Will this finally be the year

for Paris Saint-Germain? The year when more than a decade of spending lavishly on players can at last bring the Qatari-backed French club its first Champions League title?

The signs are there for all to see. This rejuvenated PSG side is rock-solid and playing some of the best football in Europe. Luis Enrique's players' defeat of favorites Liverpool in the last 16 tie on Tuesday night at Anfield after a thrilling penalty shootout showed that anything is now possible for PSG.

Here is a look at the reasons behind PSG's gradual progress this season, and how they knocked out Europe's top team after trailing 1-0 from the first leg in Paris to advance to the quarterfinals.

Mbappé's Departure Was Key

It's ironic, but the first stone was laid with the departure from PSG of one of the best players in the world.

leave for Real Madrid last summer opened the door for Enrique to impose his views that a well-niled team playing as a unit would be more efficient than a squad relying on the genius of the France forward.

The big hole left by Mbappé was not filled by yet another superstar. It was a major change at a club where for more than a decade owners had spent lavishly to attract big names such as Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Lionel Messi and Neymar.

Instead, Enrique on moulding what he had. His thinking made sense. If Mbappé can't be duplicated, he could be replaced by a handful of attacking players capable of scoring as much, or more, than the France captain did.

PSG still has an ample amount of superstar qualy - Ousmane Dembélé and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to name a couple - but there is a sense of unity that wasn't always evident in the previous "galactico"-filled teams.

Enrique asked for the recruitment of lesser known but excellent players across the squad to create competi-

Matvey Safonov to challenge Gianluigi Donnarumma, highly-rated defender Willian Pacho and promising midfielder

attacks with great fluidity and imagination, and defends as a hard-working unit. "I think that for the upcom-



tion and have second options at every position. It was seen as an astute move in a season with more requirements as the Champions League's new format saw more teams playing more games.

João Neves, as well as teenager Désiré Doué, the talented winger who scored the win-

ning penalty at Anfield. The addition during the winter transfer window of Kvaratskhelia from Napoli added

ing games in the Champions League, we can improve still further," said PSC captain Marquinhos, who has been playing at PSC for more than 10 years, after the win against Liverpool. "All the messages are being we're doing this year. The team is showing it has character, personality, even though it's very young. We have a collective that is our strength now."

It Did Not Immediately Click

In September, PSG labored to a 1-0 win over Girona relying on a late own goal for the victory, and the Ligue 1 leaders then managed just one point from their next four Champions League games, with losses to Arsenal, Atletico Madrid and Bayern Munich.

At some point, it looked like PSG would not even progress from the group stage. But Enrique argued that he was building for the future and that the poor results did not reflect the quality of his wasteful side. PSG's last three group stages three consecutive wins capped by 11 goals — proved him right.

Inspired Attack, Dembélé On

Without Mbappé, more players have been sharing

Bradley Barcola, Conçalo Ramos, Doué and Vitinha gelling into an awe-inspiring attacking outfit.

Dembélé's scintillating form has added an extra dimension. The France forward, who was snubbed by Enrique earlier this season, has become a scoring machine. Dembélé has notched 21 goals in all competitions for PSG so far in 2025, at least six more than any other player in Europe's top five leagues.

France Getting Excited

The second leg of PSG's last-16 tie against Liverpool on Canal + Foot attracted an average of 2.38 million viewers, with a peak of 2.6 million. According to L'Equipe, these were the highest ratings of the season. Although Marseille, the only French club to win the Champions League, remain the country's most popular team, these figures could finally herald the start of a love affair between France and PSG. (AP)







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