

MeT Issues 3-day 'Yellow Alert'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, while rains lashed the plains on Thursday.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla, Gurez in Bandipora, and a few other places received fresh snowfall overnight that continued till morning, they said.

They said most plains, including Srinagar, were lashed by moderate to heavy rains.

The Meteorological department (MeT) issued a 3-day 'yellow alert' as rains and snow lashed Jammu and Kashmir for the second running day today.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that prevalent weather conditions are expected to prevail till March 16, saying that the intermittent rains and snowfall are expected at many places during the period.

However, he said that there is no forecast of any major weather activity till March 16.

The Director MeT said that intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and snow (higher reaches) are expected across J&K during the next three days.

On March 16, | More on P6

Schools Shut In Gurez Till March 15

In view of heavy snowfall, avalanche threats, the authorities have ordered the closure of all the schools in Gurez Subdivision of North Kashmir's Bandipora district until March 15, 2025, to ensure the safety of students and staff. According | More on P6

J&K Assembly Passes Rs 27,526 Cr Grants For 4 Depts

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Thursday passed grants for four departments of school education, health and medical education, social welfare, and higher education, totalling over Rs 27,526 crore.

Introduced by Minister Sakina Itoo in the House on Wednesday, the grants amount to Rs 12,014.89 crore for the School Education Department, Rs 8,813.70 crore for the Health and Medical Education Department, Rs 4,504.28 crore for the Social Welfare Department, and Rs 2,193.40 crore for the Higher Education Department, passed through a voice vote on Thursday.

The grants totalling an amount of Rs 27,526.28 crore were approved following a two-day detailed discussion in the House.

Summing up the discussion on demands for grants, Itoo, who holds charge of Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, and Education, welcomed the suggestions from legislators regarding the departments under her charge.

Itoo assured legislators that her team would



carefully examine the suggestions for implementation, emphasizing efforts to resolve the issues raised during the discussion on demands for grants.

Speaking on the School Education sector, the Minister highlighted its critical role as the foundation of a nation under the visionary leadership of late Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who prioritized education.

She expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Omar

6 THE GRANTS WERE APPROVED following a two-day detailed discussion in the House.

Abdullah for allocating substantial budget provisions despite financial constraints, aimed at enhancing education quality across Jammu

and Kashmir.

Reflecting on the sector's achievements, Itoo mentioned J&K's achievement of nearly universal free education up to university level, supported by a network of 18,724 government schools and 5,517 private schools contributing to a literacy rate of 77.3 percent, close to the national average.

She laid thrust on infrastructure development under Capex Samagra, including new school buildings and additional | More on P6

BREAKUP OF GRANTS



- School Education ₹12,014.89 crore
- Health & Medical Education Rs 8,813.70 crore
- Social Welfare Rs 4,504.28 crore
- Higher Education Rs 2,193.40 crore

KEY INITIATIVES

- 600 ICT labs
- 2000 smart classrooms
- 500 ATLS
- 89 KGBVs for female literacy
- 85 girls' hostels
- 1859 seasonal centers for migratory populations.
- AIIMS Kashmir completion by Nov 2025
- New Cath labs at GMC Anantnag & Jammu
- BHMS courses at Kathua
- 250-bed Maternal & Child Care Hospital in Anantnag
- Pension hike under a graded structure
- Special provisions for SC/ST & BPL girl students

Employees, Pensioners In J&K Get DA Hike

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has increased the Dearness Allowance (DA) for employees and pensioners under the 6th Pay Commission from 239% to 246% of basic pay and pension.

As per the Finance Department's orders, the revised DA will be effective from July 1, 2024.

The order further said the arrears for the additional installment from July 2024 to February 2025 will be paid in cash in March 2025 and included in monthly salaries and pensions thereafter.

"The payment will be rounded off to the | More on P6

76 Terrorists Active In J&K: Report

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A total of 76 militants, including 59 foreign terrorists, are currently active in Jammu and Kashmir, government sources said on Thursday.

The data, as per news agency ANI, shows a sharp decline in the number of active terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, where a only 91 were active in the corresponding period in 2024.

Among the 76 active terrorists, 17 are local terrorists operating within the Union Territory. Of the 59 active foreigners, the sources said, | More on P6

Over Rs 18,000 Cr State Land Under Encroachment

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday said state land valued at over Rs 18,000 crore is under illegal encroachment in the union territory, with eviction processes initiated to reclaim it.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo, who was replying on behalf of the Revenue Minister, stated this in reply to a question from BJP MLA Rajiv Jasrotia during the Question Hour in the Assembly.

"The total state land illegally occupied by encroachers in J&K measures to 17, 27,241 kanals and 8 marlas (2,15,905 acres). A total of 15,39,662 kanals and 15 marlas (1,92,457 acres) have been reclaimed from encroachers," Itoo said.

She further said 13,645 kanals and 12 marlas (39,205 acres) are yet to be retrieved. "The tentative value of the land under encroachment is Rs 18,049.6 crores (3,13,645 kanals and 12 marlas)," the minister added, noting that eviction processes have been initiated.

Several members, including BJP members Narinder Singh

Raina, Rajiv Jasrotia, and R S Pathania, posed supplementary questions seeking fixing of the timeframe for removing extensive encroachments on state land.

They expressed serious concern over the massive encroachments of government lands in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister assured them that actions have already been initiated.

Regarding land use conversions, she said the total conversion of agricultural land for industrial purposes in Kathua and Jasrota amounts to 4,729 kanals and 19.33 marlas. For commercial purposes, it totals 559 kanals and 18 marlas.

In Samba, she said agricultural land conversions amount to 156 kanals and 7 marlas for industrial use, and 654 kanals and 10 marlas for commercial purposes.

She said the Revenue Department has not transferred state land to private individuals for setting up industrial estates.

"However, based on requests from the Industries and Commerce Department, 12,260 kanals and | More on P6

J&K's Shrinking Farmland Signals Looming Food Crisis

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A food security crisis is brewing in Jammu and Kashmir as farmland continues to shrink, raising alarms about the region's ability to sustain itself agriculturally.

Once the backbone of J&K's economy, agriculture is now under severe strain, with official data revealing a steady decline in cultivated land. Urban expansion, erratic weather, and dwindling irrigation sources are accelerating this decline, pushing the region toward greater dependence on food imports.

According to the Financial Commissioner (Revenue), J&K, the net sown area has remained stagnant at around 30-31% of total land over the past four years. In 2020-21, it stood at 736,000 hectares, dipping to 733,000 hectares in 2022-23 before a marginal recovery to 738,000 hectares in 2023-24. At the same time, fallow



land—once-cultivated fields now left uncultivated—has surged from 120,000 hectares in 2020-21 to 135,000 hectares in 2023-24, signaling distress in the agricultural sector. Barren and uncultivable land has also increased from 295,000 hectares to 302,000 hectares in the same period.

Urban Expansion Eating Into Farmland

A major contributor to this shift is the rapid conversion of agricultural land into residential colonies, commercial complexes, and roads. The land used for non-agricultural purposes has increased from 214,000 hectares in 2020-21 to 215,000 hectares in 2023-24. Though seemingly small, this trend represents a gradual yet persistent erosion of farmland, threatening the region's long-term food security.

Farmers say | More on P6

NC MLA Calls Out 'Dictatorship' Of Party Whip



Observer News Service

Jammu: In a dramatic turn of events in the Legislative Assembly, National Conference (NC) MLA Bashir Ahmad Veeri openly defied his party leadership on Thursday, condemning what he called the "dictatorship" of the party's chief whip and his deputy.

Visibly frustrated after being denied a chance to

represent the Bijbehara Assembly segment—voiced his dissent in the House, drawing thunderous applause from the opposition.

His remarks did not sit well with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who summoned Veeri to his chamber. The two returned to the House after 7-8 minutes, though details of their conversation remained undisclosed.

J&K Govt, Industry Owe ₹1,370 Cr in Unpaid Bills

Agencies

Srinagar: Government departments, industrial units, semi government organisations and private institutions owe around Rs 1,370 crores to the Power Development Department on the account of electricity dues, the government informed the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

In response to a question by MLA Sheikh Khurshid, the government revealed shocking figures, with defaulters collectively running up bills that have put a massive strain on the power sector.

Major defaulters include Baba Jangi with an outstanding bill of Rs 63.78 crore, followed by Chief Engineer Salal Hydroelectric NHPC at Rs 56.96 crore. XEN PHE Sopore has dues amounting to Rs 45.84 crore, while Chief Mining Engineer J&K Minerals Ltd. owes Rs 42.43 crore.

Other notable defaulters



include, Rajpora Lift Irrigation AWP Stage 1 & 2 - Rs 39.83 crore, Ex-Engineer PHE Mechanical Division Sopore - Rs 26.87 crore, Water Supply Scheme Tangnar - Rs 24.10 crore, Manager Jammu & Kashmir Cements Ltd - Rs 22.49 crore, Lift Irrigation Lethpora Stage 1st - Rs 21.97 crore, Ex-Engineer PHE Mechanical Division Sopore (PR 96) - Rs 21.41 crore.

Many municipal councils, irrigation schemes, police establishments and private companies are also among the top 100 defaulters. | More on P6

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اطلاع عام
 ہر شخص دوام کو بڑھانے کے لیے شہر میں پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ سروس کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے سامی جان (SAMI JAN) اور سیمی جان (SIMMI JAAN) کے نام سے ایک نیا سروس شروع کیا گیا ہے۔ اس سروس کے تحت شہر کے اندر اور باہر سفر کرنے والے لوگوں کو بہتر سروس فراہم کی جائے گی۔
 محمد یوسف تنگرو والدرارحان یوسف ساکن موضع بانڈ پورہ
 بڈ گام فون۔ 9906566434
 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE
 I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 9257 1948 2097 from Aanim Mukhtar (old name) to Zubair Mukhtar (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Zubair Mukhtar
 R/O - Bijbehara Anantnag
 jvd

IN THE COURT OF SUB JUDGE/CIVIL JUDGE SR. DIVISION ANANTNAG
 PRESENT:- FEROZE AHMAD KHAN
 Inhabitants of Village Aho Paison Tehsil Shangus through Mohd Hussain Wani & Other's
 V/S
 UT of J&K through commissioner secretary Health & Medical Education & Other's
 Defendants
 Suit for Declaration Mandatory & Permanent
PUBLIC NOTICE
 Whereas the plaintiffs have filed the above titled case in representative capacity before this court stating therein that they agitate the cause of the whole village before the court. Whereas the case is listed for hearing on 19-03-2025. Therefore through the medium of this Notice General Public is notified that in case any person is having any interest in the said matter he shall appear in person or through attorney before this court on date as fixed above to put forth his stand, Given under my seal & signature on 12th March 2025 No.193/SJ Ang Dated:-13-03-2025
 Sub- Judge, Anantnag
 JNA778087931

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Tilgam
 Sub.. Application of Saeeda Begum w/o Mohammad Munawar Bhat R/o Resraypora Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla for obtaining Dependent certificate. Public Notice
 It is inform to general public that applicants department certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants husband namely Mohammad Munawar Bhat died on 01/12/2024 and dependent on deceased was his wife full detail is given below. And other legal heirs of deceased are as under

Name of the family member	Relationship with the Deceased	Age	Occupation of the family member	Remarks
Saeeda Begum	Widow	65	Old Aged	Widowed
Ab. Hameed Bhat	Son	46	Farmer/Labor	Married
Mudassir Ahmad	Son	31	Labour	Married
Javed Ahmad	Son	30	Driver	Married
Mahmooda Begum	Daughter	47	House-wife	Married-out
Naaza Begum	Daughter	32	House-wife	Married-out

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..
 fko SD / Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR
 ATTENTION PLEASE
 I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th,) under Roll No. 117010016 Session Annual Reg Year 2023. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my name Arif Javid Sheik instead of Arif Ahmad Sheikh. Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars are recorded as under:
 Name: Arif Ahmad Sheikh,
 Fathers Name: Javid Ahmad Sheikh,
 Mothers Name, Masooda Bano
 Date of Birth: 15-07-2008,
 Residence:- Qazibagh Budgam. Cell: 9149880048.
 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE
 My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Afrin Zehra while my correct name is Afrina Bano which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Afrina Bano
 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE
 Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Rounak Tour & Travels" situated at Waripora, Tangmarg Gulmarg Kashmir
 Whereas I, Zahoor Ahmad Dar F/o Warihama Teh Beerwah District Budgam intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of "M/S Rounak Tour & Travels" situated at Waripora, Tangmarg Gulmarg Kashmir under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, pan card \ Experience Certificate (Minimum 5years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist 1 Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency. / Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: dtdregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.
 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE
 My name has been wrongly written in JK Bank Account details as Bilquees Firdous while my correct name is Bilkis Ara as per my academic records/Aadhaar . Now I have applied for the correction of the same, if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Bank NIT Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Bilkis Ara
 AC. NO: 0391040100009378
 Contact No: 7051633254
 mjkb

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT BIJBEHARA
 Provisional Selection list for the Post of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Anganwadi centres vide Advertised Notice No.:10 of 2024 Dated: 16.12.2024 followed by Re-Advertisement Notice No: 05 of 2024 Dated: 05.07.2024 and Notice No: 13 of 2025 Dated: 23.01.2025

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/Spouse Name	Residence	Date of Birth	AWC for which Provisionally Selected/Tentative	Ward	Qualification	Max Marks as per 10th class	Marks Obtained	%age	Addl.02 points as per HR Policy	Total Merit	Remarks
1.	Tubia Jan	D/o Ghulam Mohi ud din Nejar	Kullar	04.07.2005	Kullar B	5	10th	500	335	67.0%	0	67.0%	Selected
2	Shaistas Salam	D/O Ab.Salam Wani W/o Mukhtar Ahmad Raina	Dalseer	05.04.2005	Dalseer B	9	10th	500	264	53.0%	0	53.0%	Selected

sd/= Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Bijbehara Member Secretary
 No.- CDPO/Poshan/Bij/2024-25/226-38
 DIPK-12977/24
 Dated:- 13/03/2025.

electricdivisionrnb@gmail.com
 Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION KASHMIR, ENGINEERING COMPLEX SRINAGAR RAJBAGH.
 Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RIGHT RIVER WORKS DIVISION
 Regal lane Lal Chowk Srinagar
 Email:- eerrwdsmc@gmail.com

FRESH SHORT TERM
NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER No.19 of 2024-2025
 Dated:11.03.2025

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Commissioner, e-tenders are invited on a percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned works.

S. No.	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost in lacs	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender documents	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor	AA order No	I.S. Order No. dated
1	Construction of lane drain from the H/o Sajadud Din upto H/o Afroz Ahmad And Mohammad Amin Sheikh at Tangbagh Joglelankar, Rainawari, Ward-62	3.54	7080	220	2 weeks	City Grants	DEE	Order No. 19 of 2024 dated: 14.08.2024	44.01.03.25
2.	Construction of lane from H/o Mohamad Aslam to Abdul Ahad via H/o Bilal Ahmad Mughloo at Tangbagh Joglelankar, Rainawari	1.56	3120	204	2 weeks	ULB	DEE	Order No. 18 of 2024 dated: 14.08.2024	45.1.03.25

Position of AAA: Accorded, Technical Sanction: Accorded
 The NIT consists of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the date schedule given below:-

S. No.	Particulars	Date from to
1.	Date of publication of e-portal	11.03.2025
2.	Date of downloading of bid documents for said e-NIT	11.03.2025 from 4.00 PM
3.	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	11.03.2025 from 4.00 PM
4.	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission Ends	17.03.2025 at 06:00 PM
5.	Date of Bid opening	18.03.2025 at 11:00 AM
6.	Date of Submission of Uploaded documents (Hard Copies) by Successful Bidder including Bid Security (CDR/FDR), Tender document fee.	19.03.2025 up to 04:00 PM

Note: - (The Date of EMD/Challan must be from the date of start of bid upto Bid Submission End date, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The intending tenders should attach a call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost / total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any scheduled Bank without which no tender will be entertained.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned and Division name Viz RRWD) and Earnest Money/ bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/ bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date). The tender fees is non-refundable and can also be paid through online mode via NEFT/RTGS in favour of F./A/ Chief Accounts officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation with Bank Details as given below:-

Name of the Bank: - Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
 Branch: - Balgarden, Srinagar
 Bank Account No: - 0216010200000007
 IFSC code: - JAKA0GARDEN
 MICR CODE: - 190051008

- Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT No, SNO and RRWD viz. NIT 03, SNO, 10, RRWD)
- For one particular work, only one bank Receipt / challan (not more than one) of the exact amount of tender fees (neither lesser nor greater) as shown against that particular work must be paid and uploaded with the tenders. The same tender fees paid and uploaded for a particular work should not be again used/ uploaded for any other work in the NIT (i.e. one Bank Receipt / Bank Challan for one work only)
- Tender Fee and other relevant documents including Bid security (CDR/FDR) duly filled up, if found uploaded, with any ambiguity or un-attested correction/over writing for any work such tender /bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be not rightly rejected and action under rules shall be initiated.
- Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided.
- The participating agencies/ contractors are advised in their own interest not to resort to any cheating while submitting and uploading the tender document Fees or any other document.
- The bidders are requested to upload following documents:
 - Tender fees.
 - EMD in the shape of CDR and FDR.
 - Registration card and its latest renewal.
 - Verification of Registration Card from competent Authority
 - Latest GST clearance.
 - PAN Card.
 - Correspondence Address of the Agency with active Mobile No.
 - Bank Account details (16-digit Bank Account No, Branch office, IFSC code)
 - Any other document required to be uploaded as per the NIT.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an E-mail message on their email address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Engineer, Right River Works Division, SMC (Regal Lane, Lal Chowk, Srinagar) or in the office of the Informatics officer, SMC (Karan Nagar Srinagar). In case of holidays / offices happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, or there is any Net problem the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The lowest successful bidder has to furnish 5% of the contract value/ allotted cost as performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR immediately after opening of tenders. The performance security required as per NIT conditions shall be released after DLP is successfully over. Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR shall be released after performance security is received. The earnest money in favour of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Bank Receipts/ challans.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications to the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process

sd/- Executive Engineer Right River Works Division Srinagar Municipal Corporation

No: SMC/EERRWD/1292-95
 DIPK-NB-3760/24 Dated: -13.03.2025

(Short Term) NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 E-NIT No.241/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under
 Endorsement No: ERB/11879-887
 DATED:10-03-2025

For and on behalf of the Government of J&K (UT) e-tenders (in Double cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Construction of 10 Roomed Double Story Building cum other infrastructural and landscaping developments at Govt. HSS Kilshy Tulail B.W.O Electrical work	Rs. 8.267/= Lacs	Rs. 600 /=-	Rs. 16535/=	20 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	MH Capex Budget 2019-2020	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by Director School Education vide order No.593 DSEK OF 2019 Dated:-15-07-2019
02	Integrated Development of Kishenganga Reservoir (Electric Part)	Rs. 5.735/= Lacs	Rs. 300 /=-	Rs. 11470/=	Linked with progress of civil work	"AAY" Class Electrical	PMMSY	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded Director Fisheries J&K Vide order No.579 OF 2024 Dated:-13-11-2024
	Upgradation of Gurez Bandipora B.W.O Construction of 4 Units Toilet Complex with Tuck shop, Providing and Installation of Signages, Solid waste management along with providing of dustbins Construction Shelter sheds/Gazebo Construction of Selfie points Lighting/Illumination, Development of Hiking Trails B.W.O Signages, Banches, Installation of Zipline, Installation of Children Recreation Zone (Electric Part)	Rs. 3.276/= Lacs	Rs. 200 /=-	Rs. 6555/=	15 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	MH 5452 UT Capex Budget	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded Director Tourism hmir Vide Order No.78 DTI/Pln of 2024 Dated:-15-10-2024

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-03-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11-03-2025 from 02.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	11-03-2025 from 02.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	17-03-2025 upto 04.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	18-03-2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:
 Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft copy.
 As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat/Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-65 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-
 a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
 1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).
 1.1. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG after issuance of Letter of Acceptance which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. The EMD @ 2% of successful bidder will be released only after the submission of 5% performance Security deposit.
 1.2. The bidder who so ever participate the e-tenders floated by this office will submit Additional Performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG in case the bidder has Submitted the below Percentage Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 70% completion of work:

S. No.	% age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on account of Low Rate.	Additional Performance security to be Deposited on quoted bid by L1
1.	Upto and including 15%	Nil
2.	Greater than 15% upto & including 20%	5%
3.	Greater than 20% upto & including 25%	10%
4.	Greater than 25% upto & including 30%	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and 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 the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender without any Prior Notice to the Bidders.
- The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The earnest money may be forfeited if:-
 - Any bidder/ tendered with draws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No.ERB/11879-87
 DIPK-12953/24
 DATED:-13-03-2025

SD/= Executive Engineer, (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh

Water Supply Project For City Remains In Limbo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government on Thursday said that a crucial Rs 161.201 crore water supply project aimed at ensuring sustainable drinking water for Srinagar remains in limbo due to lack of funding.

The project, which proposes the laying, testing, and commissioning of raw water main from Preng to Rangil, is yet to receive financial backing, leaving its execution date uncertain.

In response to a question tabled by MLA Bataloo Tariq Hameed Karra in the Assembly, the government said that while the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared, it has not yet been approved.

Additionally, only the Irrigation and Flood Control Department has granted clearance, with approvals from the Forest, Wildlife, Soil Conservation, and Environment Departments still pending.

With no funding mechanism in place, officials have refrained from giving a timeline for its execution.

With no clarity on the project, this has raised concerns over the government's commitment to resolving Srinagar's water crisis. Notably, the city has been facing growing water demand due to population increase and urban expansion.

"A project of this scale should not be stalled due to financial constraints. The government must explore all possible funding avenues, including central assistance," said a Srinagar resident. Tauseef Ahmad, another Srinagar resident, said despite repeated assurances, successive governments have failed to prioritise Srinagar's water security.

"Every summer, we face supply shortages, yet major infrastructure projects like this are indefinitely delayed due to funding issues," said Irfan Rasool, a resident from downtown.



Slow Pace Of Work On Sanat Nagar Flyover Irks Commuters

Service Roads In Dilapidated Condition, Cause Massive Traffic Jams

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The slow progress on the construction of the Sanat Nagar flyover has left thousands of commuters fuming as they struggle with endless traffic jams, deteriorating service roads and rising pollution. According to officials, the project, awarded to Khanday Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., has faced multiple delays, worsening the already traffic situation in the area.

The bidding amount of the project was approximately Rs 42 crores approx. which was allotted in 2023 at a cost of Rs 32 crores. The locals, however, say the project has affected their business and livelihood.

"Every day, I spend an extra 40 minutes stuck in traffic at Sanat Nagar Chowk. The diversion was supposed to ease movement, but it has only made things worse," said Mohammad Ashraf Dar, a local businessman. "Why couldn't they plan an alternative route that doesn't choke residential colonies?"

Another commuter, Zahoor Ahmad Wani, who travels from Rangreth to Jawahar Nagar daily, echoed the concerns. "The authorities claim this is a temporary inconvenience, but it looks like a recipe for long-term disaster. The service road is in terrible condition and full of potholes," he said.

Work Slowed By Transmission Line, Service Roads in Ruins

Meanwhile, work on the Sanat Nagar flyover itself has slowed due to a high-voltage transmission line passing over the under-construction site near Seven Eleven Departmental Store. Many commuters argue that the KPDCL and R&B (Roads & Buildings Department) should have resolved this issue before initiating the project.

"It is shocking that they started building a flyover without even planning for a major transmission line obstacle. Now, thousands of people suffer daily because of their poor coordination," said Abdul Hamid Shah, a retired engineer.

Raja Muzaffar Bhat, a social activist, voiced his concerns and said that the condition of service roads has worsened, making travel even more difficult. Large potholes, dust, and uneven patches have turned commuting into an ordeal. "The service roads are in a pathetic state. People's vehicles are getting damaged, and the pollution caused by dust is making it unbearable for pedestrians," Bhat said.

However, authorities have assured that service roads will be macadamized once the weather improves. "We understand the difficulties faced by the public, but once the temperature rises, work on the service roads will begin," said an official from the contracting agency.

Despite growing anger, Chief Engineer R&B, Sajad Naquib, defended the department's efforts. Speaking to Kashmir Observer, he said that the work on the Sanat Nagar flyover has not stopped. "It is progressing, though certain challenges, like the transmission line, have delayed it slightly. We are working on relocating it, and tenders have already been floated by KPDCL."

However, with no clear deadline for the flyover's completion and the traffic crisis worsening, commuters remain skeptical of these promises. For now, daily travel remains a test of patience for thousands using the Sanat Nagar route.

'Encroachment Removal Along Water Bodies Being Given Top Priority'

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday said that removal of the encroachment along water bodies including river Jhelum is being given top priority.

Replying to a question of MLA Mubarak Gul, minister for Jal Shakti Department said that directions have been issued to all field officers to maintain strict watch and vigil and take immediate necessary actions in case of any reported encroachments.

He said that 412 Kachha/Pacca structures, 301 boundary walls and 3,35,704 trees

were removed from the banks of river Jhelum.

The minister said that it is also a fact that Weir in Chattabal plays a pivotal role in maintaining water level in the Jhelum and it is fully operational and maintaining the navigable water depth for boats in winter season only. "The work for beautification of Jhelum bund was executed by I & FC Department for which funds were provided to this Department under Smart City Project under the aegis of H&UDD. Rs 68.02 Crores DPR was approved by CEO Smart City against the beautification of the Jhelum bunds, he said—(KNO)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Chief Medical Supdt., Northern Railway, Firozpur for an on behalf of the President of India, invites expression of interest on the prescribed form for the following work:-

1	Name of work	Expression of interest from reputed, registered and licensed diagnostic centres for empanellment for providing Radiology diagnostic services for patients of Health Unit Jammu/tauli.
2	Completion period	Two years from the Date of starting.
3	App. Cost of the work	N.A.
4	Earnest money	N.A.
5	Cost of application form on cash/By post	N.A.
6	Date and time availability & Place of procuring application form	Any working day from office of Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly, Firozpur and can be had from the office of Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly, Firozpur in from 17.03.2025 to 09.04.2025 up to 11.00 Hrs.
7	Place of submission of bids	Chief Medical Supdt., N.Rly, Divisional Hospital, Firozpur.
8	Date and time of submission of application form	Up to 11.00 Hrs on 09.04.2025 Opening of bids at 11.30 Hrs on 09.04.2025.

No.15-Med/Lab Investigation Dated : 13.03.2025 797/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Police Sets Up QR-Based Accountability Feedback System

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Thursday established a QR code-based accountability and feedback system with centres being set up across all police stations in the district.

Speaking with reporters during an awareness programme on New Criminal Laws, senior superintendent of police Srinagar Imti-

yaz Hussain said that this system will allow residents to share feedback and what they expect from the police.

He added that if any changes are required, those will be implemented accordingly.

The SSP said that peace in Kashmir has come after countless sacrifices. "In the last 35 years, terrorism and other issues have caused immense suffering. Howev-

er, due to the efforts of the Centre, J&K government, police, and locals, we have successfully created an atmosphere of peace. Now, it is the responsibility of everyone to protect this peace," he said.

He also said that through New Criminal Laws the government's aim is to provide "free and fast justice" and hold the criminal justice machinery, including the police, judiciary, and prosecution accountable.

PUBLIC NOTICE

An electric connection under installation, No. 24414R-1A, and Consumer ID 0204020001782, currently registered in the name of Gh. Mohammad Nagoo S/o Gh. Hassan Nagoo is to be transferred to my name. If anyone has any objections regarding this transfer, they are requested to inform the Estate Executive Engineer Sub-Division: Khanyar, Srinagar within one week. No objections will be entertained after the expiry date.

Gh. Hussain Nagoo
S/o Gh. Mohammad Nagoo
R/O Rainawari, Srinagar

Sys

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

RE-TENDER NOTICE

The tender issued vide E-NIT No. IUST/CREST/TEND/25/01-A, dated: 28-02-2025 is hereby retendered due to low bidder participation. The important details are as follows:

ENIT No & Date	Advertised Cost of Construction	Class of Contract
IUST/CREST/TEND/25/01-B Dated: - 12-03-2025.	Rs. 21,00,000.00	Class "A"
Document Download Start Date/ Bid submission Start Date: 12-03-2025.		

Bid submission End Date: 18-03-2025 Up to 6:00 pm
Bids shall be opened at IUST on 19-03-2025 at 10:00 am.

Tender Details are available www.iust.ac.in and <https://jktenders.gov.in>.

Sd/- Coordinator, CREST, IUST Awantipora
DIPK-NB-3759/24 dated:13-03-2025

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
13 Ramazan
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 20
ZUHR	12:40
ASR	4: 55
Magrib	6:40
ISHA	8: 00

This Day In History

- 1812 - Congress authorizes war bonds to finance War of 1812
- 1862 - Battle of New Bern NC: General Burnside conquers New Bern
- 1864 - Union troops occupy Fort de Russy, Louisiana
- 1869 - Defeat of Maori leader Titokowaru in New Zealand.
- 1901 1st performance of Anton Bruckner's 6th Symphony in A
- 1901 - Germany's Chancellor von Bulow declares that the agreement Germany signed with Great Britain in October 1900, to restrain foreign aggression and maintain open trade, does not apply to Manchuria
- 1903 - 1st national bird reservation established in Sebastian, FL
- 1913 - South African Supreme Court declares that marriages not celebrated according to Christian rites and/or not registered by the Registrar of Marriages, are invalid; all Muslim and Hindu marriages are therefore declared invalid.
- 1914 - Serbia & Turkey sign peace treaty
- 1915 - German cruiser Dresden scuttled off Más a Tierra, Chile, having been pursued by the Royal Navy after the Battle of the Falkland Islands, with her engines worn out and virtually no coal.
- 1916 - Battle of Verdun - German attack on Mort-Homme ridge, West of Verdun
- 1923 - Allies accepts Vilnius taking East-Galicia in Poland
- 1926 - A train in Costa Rica falls into the Río Virilla, killing 248 and injuring 93.
- 1937 - Battle of the Century: Fred Allen & Jack Benny meet on radio
- 1939 - Nazi Germany dissolves Republic of Czechoslovakia
- 1941 - Nazi occupiers of Holland forbid Jewish owned companies
- 1941 Xavier Cugat & orchestra record "Babalu"
- 1943 - World War II: Kraków Ghetto is "liquidated"
- 1955 - Prince Mahendra becomes king of Nepal.
- 1957 - Indonesian government of Sastroamidjojo resigns
- 1958 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1958 - USSR performs atmospheric nuclear test
- 1962 - Disarmament conference opens in Geneva without France
- 1965 - Israeli cabinet approves diplomatic relations with West Germany
- 1971 - South Vietnamese troops flee Laos

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BUDGAM
Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111
E-mail:- xenrmbdivbud@gmail.com, Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No:- 97-MDB of 2024-25/11834-48 DATED:- 13-03-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest money CDR/FDR / BG	Time of Completion (in days)	Class of Contract or	Major Head of account	Project Authority
1	Balance work of Town Hall at MC Budgam	Rs.49.20 lacs	Rs.1100/-	Rs.98400/-	60 days	AAV/ BEE	FC Grants	Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
2	Renovation/Upgradation of Laboratory at District Tuberculosis Centre (DTC) Budgam	Rs.2.964 lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.5928/-	10 days	DEE	NTEP scheme	District Tuberculosis Officer Budgam
3	Repair/Renovation of Treasury Office Khanshab (Balance work)	Rs.3.24 lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.6480/-	10 days	DEE	489 Capital Outlay	District Treasurer Officer Budgam

Position of AAA = Accorded Project Authority:
Position of TS = Accorded Position of funds:- = Available/Committed,
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 website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13/03/2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13/03/2025
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13/03/2025
4.	Bid Submission End Date	18/03/2025 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	19/03/2025 at 11.00A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOI. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG which shall subsequently release 2% CDR

No: EE/MDB/NIT/11834-48
DIPK-12976/24 DATED:- 13-03-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION
DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX MOMINABAD, SRINAGAR
PUBLICATION NOTICE UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 CPC
No:-DCDCR/S/39/2025
Dated: 10-03-2025

M/S P.R Chemist through Prop. Mr. Parvaiz Rashid Bhat S/O Ab. Rashid Bhat R/O Zoonimar Gilli Kadal Srinagar Kashmir.
(Complainant/s)

VERSUS
General Manager National Insurance Company Ltd Branch Office M.A Road Srinagar Kashmir Ph. No. 0194-2479293 & Ors.
(Opposite Party/ies)

(Complaint under Consumer Protection Act 1987)

Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Commission that the Opposite Party named above can not be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation under Order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against them and should appear personally or through their counsel on 28-04-2025 at 10:30 AM. Take note that, in default of their appearance on the day above mentioned, the said case will be heard and determined in their absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Commission today on 03.03.2025.

President (O)/ Member
District Consumer Disputes
Redressal Commission Srinagar

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

Ramzan Gridlock Woes

Srinagar is witnessing worsening traffic congestion during the holy month of Ramzan, causing daily struggles for residents. All major routes are experiencing severe gridlocks between 3 PM and 6 PM, particularly along the stretch from Batmaloo through MA Road to Dalgate. This is the time, people rush home to break their fast. Ditto along Boulevard, Haiderpora, Sanat Nagar and Tengpora, triggering calls for a better traffic management, alternative routes, and stricter enforcement of parking regulations to alleviate the growing traffic woes.

However, the traffic snarls in the city are not Ramzan-specific, only timing may have changed. It has become increasingly difficult to travel through the city due to rising volume of traffic. Over the years, while number of vehicles has grown exponentially, the city's roads haven't. The latest data reveals that Kashmir recorded over 69,000 vehicle registrations in the fiscal year 2023-24, with Srinagar alone contributing more than 26,000 new vehicles. This has brought Srinagar's total vehicle population to over 335,000, exacerbating the already critical traffic situation. According to an estimate, more than 62% of the Valley's traffic converges into the city each day, clogging its limited road infrastructure.

True, construction of flyovers connecting Hari Singh Street with Rambagh have ameliorated the situation a bit in parts of uptown Srinagar, so has road widening in parts of downtown city, overall the traffic is far from being streamlined. The city continues to be hopelessly gridlocked on weekdays. In 2016, the Government had drawn up the plan of a 115 km long ring road for Srinagar. The three-tier ring road would connect East and North areas of the city with those on the West side. Most of the three-tier ring road would comprise four to eight lane roads. But the planned road, while a significant project, will primarily connect the city's peripheries and may not adequately address the core congestion issues within the city.

The need is for our city planners to think for the long term. Their approach has to be comprehensive rather than adhocist in nature. The projects which should have been conceived and implemented a decade ago are being taken up now. The expansion of the city's roads is desperately needed but not only with an eye to fix today's problems but to handle the future traffic of an ever-expanding city. The ongoing initiatives to construct flyovers, widen roads, and introduce diverse modes of transit is a welcome effort by the administration to transform Srinagar into a modern, well-connected city.



Did you know?

Shariah-Compliant Sectors in the Indian Stock Market

Irshad Mushtaq

In the beautiful valleys of Kashmir, the allure of investing can be both a pathway to wealth and a means to create positive societal impact. As we venture into the world of Shariah-compliant sectors within the Indian stock market, we find opportunities that align with ethical principles and promise meaningful returns. Here's an overview of sectors that not only support financial growth but also adhere to moral values:

1. Tech: Pioneering Innovation Responsibly!

The tech sector is at the forefront of innovation. Companies in this field are dedicated to developing cutting-edge solutions while ensuring ethical practices. Investing in tech aligns your financial goals with responsible development.

2. Healthcare: Compassionate Care That Aligns with Values

Healthcare is about more than just profits; it's about caring for individuals and communities. Shariah-compliant healthcare companies focus on providing services that meet ethical standards, ensuring your investment supports health and wellbeing.

3. Consumer Goods: Everyday Halal Products for a Better You

From food to personal care items, consumer goods companies offer halal products that cater to the needs of conscious consumers. Investing here means supporting lifestyle choices that resonate with ethical living.

4. Islamic Finance: Embrace Profit-Sharing, Leave Interest Behind!

Islamic finance promotes profit-sharing models over interest-based systems, fostering a more equitable economic environment. Engaging in Islamic finance allows you to invest while adhering to Shariah principles.

Read the full article on our website: <https://kashmiobserver.net>
Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of MI Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at miscurities@bp.sharekhan.com

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

The Death of Dignity in Kashmir

One of the most effective ways to destroy a thriving and morally sound society is to attack its core values systematically

Umair Ul Umar

“Fashion shows which objectify women, where models walk with minimal or no clothing in front of a cheering audience, contribute to the erosion of moral values. They reduce individuals to objects of desire rather than beings of intellect and depth. The younger generation, seeing this as a trend, begins to adopt a mindset where self-worth is measured by physical exposure rather than inner strength

A beautiful society is built on strong moral values, mutual respect, and a sense of purpose among its people. It thrives when families are intact, traditions are honored, and individuals are guided by ethics rather than base desires. However, history has shown that societies do not collapse overnight; rather, they erode gradually due to external and internal influences.

One of the most effective ways to destroy a thriving and morally sound society is to attack its core values systematically. This can be done by promoting decadence, weakening the family structure, and encouraging self-indulgence at the expense of discipline. In this article, we will explore how certain cultural shifts—such as the normalization of fashion shows which objectify women, the widespread use of alcohol, and the rampant spread of drugs—can contribute to the downfall of a once-prosperous and ethical civilization.

Modesty: A Shield of Dignity

Modesty has always been a pillar of strong and ethical societies. It is not just about clothing; it is about self-respect, dignity, and the idea that human beings should be valued for their character rather than their physical appearance. When a society begins to normalize immodesty in the name of "fashion," it sends a dangerous message.

Fashion shows which objectify women, where models walk with minimal or no clothing in front of a cheering audience, contribute to the erosion of moral values. They reduce individuals to objects of desire rather than beings of intellect and depth. The younger generation, seeing this as a trend, begins to adopt a mindset where self-worth is measured by physical exposure rather than inner strength.

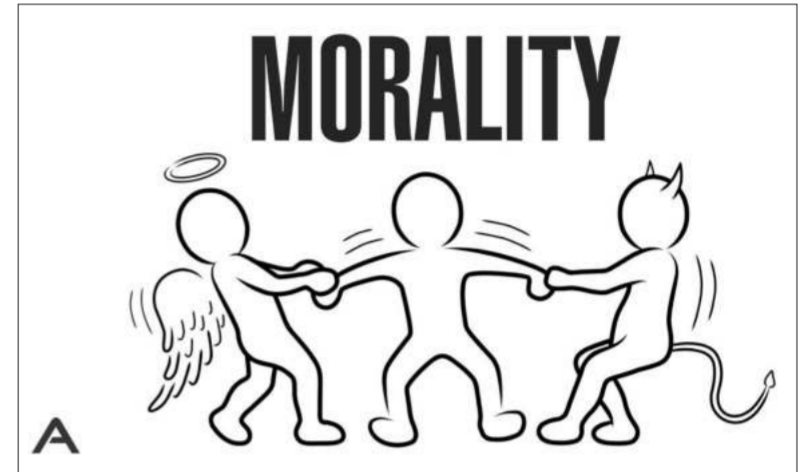
Historically, civilizations that embraced excessive vulgarity and immodesty eventually fell into moral and social chaos. The Roman Empire, for instance, saw a decline in its societal values due to indulgence in public nudity, immorality, and unchecked desires. A society that loses its sense of shame gradually loses its moral compass, leading to broken families, unhealthy relationships, and a lack of purpose in life.

Alcohol: The Slow Poison

Alcohol has been one of the greatest tools for the destruction of societies throughout history. While it is often promoted as a means of relaxation and social bonding, its long-term effects on individuals and families are disastrous.

When alcohol consumption becomes widespread, it leads to a range of social issues:

- **Family breakdowns** – Many households suffer due to alcoholism, as addiction leads to domestic violence, financial instability, and the neglect of responsibilities.
- **Crime rates increase** – A large percentage of violent crimes, including assaults, murders, and sexual offenses, are committed under the influence of alcohol.
- **Health crises** – Chronic diseases such as liver damage, heart problems, and mental ill-



“Alcohol has been one of the greatest tools for the destruction of societies throughout history. While it is often promoted as a means of relaxation and social bonding, its long-term effects on individuals and families are disastrous.

nesses become common.

Societies that have normalized alcohol consumption often face a decline in productivity and moral responsibility. When people prioritize their pleasures over their duties, institutions weaken, and social order collapses.

The Drug Epidemic: A Nation's Suicide

If alcohol weakens a society slowly, drugs destroy it rapidly. The rise of drug culture in any civilization leads to widespread destruction at multiple levels.

Drugs enslave individuals, stripping them of their ability to think critically, make rational decisions, or contribute to their communities. Young people, in particular, fall victim to this trap, as they are lured in by the promise of "freedom" and "enlightenment." However, what follows is a cycle of addiction, crime, and ultimately, death.

The impact of widespread drug use includes:

- A rise in mental health issues – Anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia are common among drug users.
- A decline in educational standards – When students prioritize intoxication over learning, academic institutions lose their credibility.
- An increase in criminal activity – Drug addicts often resort to theft, violence, and even murder to sustain their habits.

History has shown that nations that succumb to drug culture often face economic collapse, moral decay, and an irreversible loss of identity. The current opioid crisis in Kashmir serves as a warning of what happens when drugs are allowed to spread unchecked.

The Connection Between These Destructive Forces

What is common among fashion shows, alcohol, and drugs? They all promote self-indulgence and the idea that life is about pursuing pleasure without consequence.

They weaken individuals, break families, and erode societal values.

The Path to Restoration

If a society wishes to preserve its beauty, strength, and moral foundation, it must actively resist these destructive influences. This can be achieved through:

- **Education and awareness** – Teaching young people the value of self-respect, discipline, and ethical living is crucial.
- **Strengthening family bonds** – A strong family unit acts as a shield against negative influences. Parents must lead by example.
- **Community action** – Societies must stand together against the normalization of immodesty, addiction, and moral decay.
- **Legislation and enforcement** – Governments should implement strict policies against drug abuse and excessive alcohol consumption.

A beautiful society is not just about technological advancements or economic prosperity; it is about the values that hold people together. If we do not protect these values, we risk losing everything that makes life meaningful.

اللهم إني أعوذ بك من الخمر والمسكرات،
ومن الفواحش ما ظهر منها وما بطن

Allahumma inni a' dhu bika min al-khamr wal-muskir t, wa min al-faw hish ma zahara minha wa ma batan.

Translation:

"O Allah, I seek refuge in You from alcohol and intoxicants, and from all forms of immorality, both apparent and hidden."

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 columnist, blogger and an IT Teacher and can be mailed at umairulumar77@gmail.com



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

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Perils of Urbanisation

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

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

and vibrant city center that can attract more people and businesses.

While satellite cities offer many advantages over living from the crowded centre of a metropolis, they have their own set of challenges too, like lack of amenities and job opportunities, rendering them as isolated suburbs. Despite these challenges, satellite cities continue to be popular places to live for those who want

to be close to a major metropolitan area but don't want to deal with all the hustle and bustle. Overall, the future of satellite cities is looking very bright. With the continued development of smart city technology and the rise of mixed-use areas, these cities are becoming more sustainable, and attractive places to live and work.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

Mindful Fridays

Number 2

Aisha Hasnain

There is nothing poetic about the title of this article the way there was nothing poetic about the book "The Art of War" by Sun Tzu. To my dismay, the book was *actually* about war. The title of the book was not a metaphor, unlike I had assumed, and Master Sun was not an artist but a military strategist. Anyhow, the book is beautiful. No metaphor again. The black hardcover version is beautiful looking. The title of this article has to do with it being my second article.

Last Friday, which was the first Friday of Ramazan 2025, I woke up to two firsts of my life: My first published article (or any write-up for that matter) and the first cake I have baked in my life. Both are highly valued by the saint in me. This time I have been given six days to write this article, thereby you are more than welcome to judge me (judging someone is a sin). If I fail to deliver, I will go back to take refuge in my first article. I have no immunity here.

Sometimes I take my OCD for a ride and give it a treat. After my last (first) article was published, I noticed that in one sentence I had mistakenly used the present-continuous 'starting' where I was supposed to say 'started'. Two years back, I would have cursed myself twice for making this grammatical mistake. This time - since I am healing - I gave the error away to my OCD to do salsa with it! I am learning to leave mistakes on purpose wherever I can, besides doing tasks with a sense of urgency to combat obsessive-compulsive thoughts. OCD makes it so burdensome to carry your work that you end up doing nothing. Every job swells to tenfold its size, an unsettling



CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME. HOME STARTS WITH YOU. THIS RAMAZAN, when you extend some charity, ask yourself if you are kind to yourself. The human has been charged with a duty to be kind and given the luxury to be inadequate

reel of obsession over the details of the object of the job at hand is run by your neurons and for the same, your body stamina is devoured by the brain. The brain

makes the body go through this distress just to feel at ease by matching in practice the unattainable standards it has set for things. But it is a momentary sat-

isfaction. "Unattainable" means something. If left unaddressed, obsessive-compulsive thoughts only aggravate with time. You have to rob your subconscious

of its power by selfishly telling it that you are totally okay with cleaning your hands once, ah, the way my little sibling told me he was happy with his 'beautiful' calligraphy and tossed my constructively critical opinion about his artwork into the dustbin after he came to me with a smiling innocent face, like always, asking for remarks and I thought I should start giving him some guidance for improvement. He didn't give a hoot. He continues to experiment with art with as much fervour as ever every now and then, without caring about the mess he leaves behind.

Charity begins at home. Home starts with you. This Ramazan, when you extend some charity, ask yourself if you are kind to yourself. The human has been charged with a duty to be kind and given the luxury to be inadequate.

My maternal aunt narrated a story to me once. She said there was a man who had enough food for eleven months. Hence, he decided to not eat for the first month. He died. There is some quantum of truth to the hypothesis in physics that *time is an illusion*. Anyhow, another time, my paternal aunt narrated another story to me. It was before she got married. She said that there was a man who tried to escape death by going to live at the bottom of the sea. There he accidentally stabbed his palate with a fork while having food and he also died. While it is a statistical fact that more deaths happen in male category than in the female category, this story has a lot of physics to it. How can a *Homo sapiens* survive under water where s/he cannot build a house in the first place (which I am also not sure can stay solid under the pressure of the seawater) and

where s/he cannot take electricity to charge their smart phone? Not every story told and every advice given for wisdom makes sense. My personal favourite story is the non-fiction one which Granny Aisha narrates. She says when she was a little girl, one night she was sleeping in her father's bed. Her father woke up for morning prayers and little Aisha asked him to give her his keypad phone so that she could play her favourite game. Her dear father lent her his phone. Under the sheets, as little Aisha was solving the jigsaw puzzle game, she noticed through the corner of her right eye a shadow of a little thingy on her right shoulder. A small creature was leisurely resting its two little legs on her shoulder and looking at the phone screen totally baffled by it. A mouse! "Aaaaaaaa!" Little Aisha jumped out of the bed. My my! Even at the age of 26, Aisha marvels and giggles at how flabbergasted that little curious mouse was by the glowing phone screen. This here is truth stranger than fiction.

My cake tasted good. Figuratively, they say that someone ate and left no crumbs. In the literal sense, I am that someone who feasts on crumbs. If I were running a bakery shop, crumbs would be one item on display. While designing the photographic setting of my cake and the unintended muffin, I was cleaning the crumbs on the tray and in consequence, some crumbs stayed on my finger. Subconsciously, I put my finger in my mouth. "Ptui! Ptui! Ptui! ... Thu! MY FAST!" The traumatic shock.

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

A Guide to Paying Zakat on Gold

AMALIAH TEAM

One of the most common concerns among Muslim women when it comes to paying Zakat is the question of Zakat on gold – what kind of gold jewellery Zakat is obligatory on, how Zakat is calculated on gold, whether Zakat is only paid on gold that is stored for investment purposes or also on gold that is worn.

We've come together with Islamic Relief UK to put together a comprehensive guide on paying Zakat on gold to help you with your Zakat calculation this Ramadan and beyond.

First, what is Zakat and what does gold have to do with it?

As the third pillar of Islam, Zakat is an obligation on every adult, sane Muslim. It is paid annually on wealth that reaches a minimum threshold (Nisab) and has been owned for at least a lunar calendar year. Its purpose is to purify our wealth and redistribute resources within the Muslim community.

Gold and silver are the two values set by the Prophet ﷺ and used to calculate the nisab threshold. The nisab is the value of 87.48 grams of gold or 612.36 grams of silver. Gold and silver, in any form, are also forms of wealth and are subject to Zakat.

What does the Quran and Sunnah say on Zakat on gold?

The severity of not paying Zakat is mentioned many times in the Qur'an. For example:

"Those who hoard up treasures of gold and silver and spend them not in the way of Allah; give them the news of a painful punishment, on the Day when that (wealth) will be heated in the Fire of Hell and with it will be branded their forehead, their sides, and their backs, (and it will be said to them:) 'This is the treasure which you hoarded for your-

selves. Now taste of what you used to hoard.'" (Surah At-Tawbah 9:34-35)

The Prophet ﷺ said, "One who pays Zakat, Allah will make their wealth increase" (Bukhari)

Do I pay Zakat on gold that I wear or only on those kept for saving or investment purposes?

There is a difference of opinion on this and a number of scholars believe that gold worn for adornment is not liable for Zakat. This is because it becomes like items such as clothing and other household items that do not have commercial value.

The Hanbali, Shafi, and Maliki position on this is that Zakat is not payable on the gold and silver in women's jewellery which is worn while the Hanafi position is that Zakat is payable on all gold and silver in one's possession, regardless if bought to wear or as an investment.

How do we calculate Zakat on gold?

1. Determine if Zakat is due on your wealth: To determine Zakat on gold, consider your net assets, comparing them to the nisab threshold. If your net assets equal or exceed this threshold, Zakat is due on your total wealth at a rate of 2.5%.

2. Determine the current value of your gold by determining its selling price or weight: You can find out the current value of your gold if you were to sell it by visiting your local jeweller or you can use the weight of your gold and calculate it using the current price of gold in grams. You can also find out the current value of gold per gram here.

3. Finally, calculate the Zakat you owe on your gold: Currently, in March 2025, a gram of 22 carat gold costs



approximately £62.69, which equates to £1.567 Zakat per gram. For example, if you own 50 grams of gold jewellery, you would owe £78.35 Zakat (50 grams x £1.567).

Is there Zakat on White Gold Jewellery?

Yes, white gold is an alloy of gold and at least one white metal, usually silver, nickel, manganese, or palladium. White gold is treated like normal gold and is subject to Zakat, as it contains pure gold.

As some scholars are of the opinion that mixed metals are only liable to Zakat if half or more of the metal is gold or silver, you only have to pay Zakat on the gold, but not the silver part of white gold.

The amount of Zakat payable would be calculated by multiplying the full weight of the jewellery by the price per gram

for gold of that carat. For example, if you have an 18-carat white gold bangle weighing 50 grams, then 50 grams would be multiplied by the price of a gram of 18-carat gold. This is because 18-carat gold is 18/24 pure gold, so out of the total weight of 50 grams, 37.5 is pure gold.

How do we calculate Zakat on gold-plated jewellery? Gold plating is a thin layer of real gold over other metals. Metals other than gold and silver are not liable for Zakat. You will calculate the gold content and only pay Zakat on that portion.

How do we calculate Zakat on gold with precious stones?

Precious stones are not liable for Zakat.

In these cases, the most accurate way to calculate will be to visit your local jeweller and ask them to value only the gold and silver parts of your jewellery.

The valuations they give will be the total amount on which you have to pay Zakat.

Remember to note down the total weight of the gold and silver for you to reference each year.

Can my husband pay Zakat on my gold on my behalf?

While Zakat is a personal obligation and every adult Muslim is required to pay their own Zakat, you may authorise your husband to pay Zakat on your behalf. You must acknowledge the payment and ensure it is done correctly as it is an obligation on you primarily.

Who pays Zakat on gold gifted to my minor children?

According to the Hanafi school, a child is not liable to pay Zakat, even if they possess wealth above the nisab thresh-

old. The first Zakat payment will become due twelve lunar months after the child reaches the age of puberty, if they possess wealth above the nisab.

According to the majority of scholars and the Hanbali, Shafi and Maliki schools, a child who possesses wealth above the nisab value is liable for Zakat, the same as an adult.

What if I haven't paid Zakat on my gold in the past?

When settling overdue Zakat for gold, consider the historical value of gold from previous years and calculate using those values.

Let's assume you have owned 100 grams of gold each year for the past three years, and you haven't paid Zakat during this time. We will use hypothetical gold prices for each year:

- Year 1: Gold price = \$40 per gram

- Year 2: Gold price = \$45 per gram
- Year 3: Gold price = \$50 per gram

Now, to calculate your missed Zakat, you need to find the current value of your gold for each year separately.

Year 1:

- Gold Value Year 1 = 100 grams x \$40 / gram = \$4,000
- Zakat Year 1 = \$4,000 x 0.025 = \$100

Year 2:

- Gold Value Year 2 = 100 grams x \$45 / gram = \$4,500
- Zakat Year 2 = \$4,500 x 0.025 = \$112.50

Year 3:

- Gold Value Year 3 = 100 grams x \$50 / gram = \$5,000
- Zakat Year 3 = \$5,000 x 0.025 = \$125

So, if you haven't paid Zakat for the past three years, the total overdue Zakat on gold would be the total for each year:

$$\$100 + \$112.50 + \$125 = \$337.50$$

What if I cannot afford to pay Zakat on my gold this year?

"Allah does not obligate anyone beyond his capacity. For him is what he has earned, and on him what he has incurred." (Surah Baqarah 2:286)

Zakat is an obligation, and it must be settled annually if you meet the nisab threshold. To pay your Zakat, you can settle it by using the gold that you own, or selling a portion of it that equals the total amount of Zakat owed for the year.

May Allah accept our Zakat, purify our intentions and make us a means of support for those who need us around the world.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

CUKashmir, J&K Cultural Academy holds seminar on “Jammu Kashmir Ka Nissaie Urdu Adab”

Ganderbal, Mar 13: In commemoration of International Women's Day, the Department of Urdu, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, organized a seminar “Jammu Kashmir Ka Nissaie Urdu Adab” (Women's Role in Promoting Urdu Literature of Jammu and Kashmir) at the university's Green Campus on Thursday.

The seminar highlighted the invaluable contributions of eminent women poets and writers, including Dr. Taranum Riyaz, Prof. Ayesha Mastoor, Abida Ahmad, Syeda Nasreen Naqash, Shafiqah Parveen, Wajidah Tabassum, Shabnum Ashai, and others, whose literary works have played a pivotal role in

shaping and enriching Urdu literature in the region.

Delivering the keynote address, Mrs. Rukhsana Jabeen, former Director, All India Radio, Srinagar, lauded the immense literary contributions of women in Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized that their works have not only enriched the region's literary landscape but have also paved the way for future generations of writers and poets. “Their writings serve as a bridge between the past and the present, preserving the essence of Urdu literature while addressing contemporary themes such as identity, feminism, and Kashmir's unique socio-political milieu,” she said.

Prominent fiction writer Dr. Nilofar Naaz Nahvi underscored the often overlooked



yet significant role of Kashmiri women in Urdu literature. “Women poets, fiction writers, literary critics, and journalists

have vividly portrayed the socio-political, cultural, and personal dimensions of life in the Valley,” she remarked.

In her address, Dr. Kausar Rasool highlighted how women writers have skillfully encapsulated the emotions, experiences,

and cultural ethos of Kashmir through their works.

Prof. Irfan Aalam, Head, Department of Urdu, hailed the seminar as a landmark event in recognizing the literary contributions of women. “By bringing together scholars, writers, and poets, this seminar has taken an essential step toward bridging the gap in literary recognition and ensuring that the voices of women in Urdu literature are heard and preserved for future generations,” he stated.

Editor of Shiraz and Urdu, Mr. Saleem Salik, acknowledged the immense contributions of women poets and scholars, noting that their works remain underrepresented. “This seminar, through academic discussions, paper presentations, and poetic symposiums, has offered

an in-depth exploration of their literary contributions, struggles, aspirations, and achievements,” he added.

Dr. Rashid Aziz, Assistant Professor, reiterated the seminar's aim to spotlight the profound impact of women on Urdu literature in Jammu and Kashmir, a region renowned for its rich literary and cultural heritage.

The event proceedings were conducted by Dr. Nusrat Jabeen, Assistant Professor, while the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Altaf Hussain Naqshbandi, Assistant Professor.

The seminar concluded with an enthralling poetry session, where several poetesses recited their verses, captivating the audience with their eloquence.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Assembly

classrooms amounting to Rs 739 crore.

She also highlighted recent initiatives such as the restoration of the November session and provisions for 600 ICT labs, 2000 smart classrooms, and 500 ATIs to promote innovation and scientific temper among students.

“For remote and migratory populations, 1859 seasonal centres are operational across J&K”, she said. The success of government school students in board and competitive exams, emphasises their significant achievements, she added.

Further initiatives include 89 KGBVs to promote female literacy among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe populations and 85 girls' hostels sanctioned in educationally backward blocks under the Beti Anmol scheme, benefiting over 12,000 BPL girl students, she added.

Regarding the Health and Medical Education Department, Itoo highlighted its pivotal role in society's development, noting milestones such as the establishment of a dedicated Cath lab at the government medical college in Anantnag and ongoing efforts to operationalize one at GMC at Jammu.

She also mentioned the start of BHMS courses at the government homeopathic medical college, Kathua, and plans for a 250-bed Maternal & Child Care hospital in Anantnag.

She outlined ongoing projects to strengthen health infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, including the fast-tracked construction of AIIMS Kashmir, targeted for completion by

November 2025.

Discussing the social welfare department, Itoo mentioned the revision in pension amounts announced by Chief Minister for all beneficiary categories during the Budget speech 2025-26. She detailed a graded pension structure aligned with beneficiaries' age groups, ensuring equity and sustainability.

Employees, Pensioners

next higher rupee where applicable,” it said.

Additionally, fractions of 50 paise and above will be rounded off to the next higher rupee, while amounts below 50 paise will be ignored.

76 Terrorists

three belong to Hizbul Mujahideen, 21 from Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and 35 from Lashkar-e-Taiba. However, three of 17 locals are active in Jammu and 14 in the Valley.

Of the 91 active terrorists in 2024, 61 were foreign terrorists and 30 local terrorists.

The data mentions that a total of 135 terrorists were active in 2022. Of them, 85 were foreign terrorists, and 50 were local terrorists. Compared with the figure of active terrorists in 2022, there was nearly 48.35 per cent decline in the number of active terrorists in 2023.

Officers privy to the development said that the majority of the active terrorists belong to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a proscribed terrorist organisation.

The continuous decline in the

number of active terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir is the result of intensifying counter-terrorism operations in the region, focusing on tracking and neutralizing active militants.

The government has reiterated its commitment to eliminating terrorism and ensuring peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely as intelligence agencies work to identify and dismantle terrorist networks operating in the region.

Pakistan-based groups, primarily JeM and LeT, have been responsible for major attacks, including the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, the 2016 Uri attack, and the 2019 Pulwama bombing. These groups operate with logistical support from across the border, using infiltration routes along the Line of Control (LoC).

Hizbul Mujahideen has traditionally focused on recruiting local militants.

In recent years, radicalization via social media has contributed to the rise of “homegrown” militants in Kashmir. However, recruitment has significantly declined due to security forces' targeted operations, the report said.

As per the data, a total of 72 terrorists were neutralised in 2023. Of them, 22 were local terrorists, and 50 were foreign terrorists. In 2022, a total of 187 terrorists were neutralized, comprising 130 local terrorists and 57 foreign terrorists.

While militancy-related violence and local recruitment have gone down significantly in Kashmir Valley, militants seem to have shifted the focus seemingly towards Jammu, which was

a militancy-free region before August 5, 2019, when Article 370 was read down.

Over Rs 18,000 Cr

3 marla of land have been transferred to them across various districts in the past two years”, she said.

The minister said the land retrieved from the encroachers is being allotted to landless people with five marlas norm as per the policy.

J&K's Shrinking

fertile land is being lost to real estate and infrastructure projects, with little oversight. “Once a piece of land is used for construction, it's lost forever for farming,” said a farmer from Pulwama.

Climate Change Worsening the Crisis

Erratic weather patterns, including unpredictable rainfall, prolonged dry spells, and untimely snowfall, are further disrupting farming. The depleting water levels in Jhelum and other rivers, worsened by glacial melt and climate change, have made irrigation increasingly difficult.

“Our streams are drying up, and without reliable irrigation, we cannot sustain our crops,” lamented farmers in north Kashmir.

Experts warn that J&K is at risk of becoming heavily dependent on food imports if the trend continues. “The government must introduce sustainable farming programs, improve irrigation networks, and create better market access for farmers,” said Dr.

Mir Tariq, an agricultural expert.

He added that climate change has drastically altered traditional farming patterns. “Erratic rainfall and shrinking water resources have made it difficult for farmers to sustain their crops. Without strong climate-resilient strategies, agricultural productivity will keep falling,” he said.

In districts like Bandipora and Baramulla, once-thriving paddy fields now lie dry, forcing many farmers to either abandon their land or switch to less water-intensive but lower-value crops.

A Future of Food Insecurity?

With farmland depleting at an alarming rate, experts are urging immediate policy interventions. Sustainable agricultural practices, stricter regulations on land conversion, and incentives for farmers to continue cultivation are seen as urgent needs.

If corrective measures are not taken soon, J&K could face a severe food security crisis, transforming from an agrarian society into a region heavily dependent on external food supplies—an outcome that could have far-reaching economic and social consequences.

J&K Govt, Industry

each owing amounts in several crores.

The Minister In-Charge of Power Development Department (PDD), informed that 2,75,081 consumers have registered under the ongoing amnesty scheme, including 1,60,507 from Jammu and 1,14,574 from Kashmir.

The government has granted an amnesty scheme to consumers with

pending bills, allowing them to clear dues in installments and get relief on interest and penalties, the Minister added.

MeT Issues 3-day

he said that intermittent light rain and snow is expected at few places towards morning & improvement towards afternoon, adding that generally dry weather is expected from March 17 to 24.

Moreover, the MeT asked the travellers, tourists and transporters to follow the advisories issued by the administration and traffic department.

“Farmers are advised to suspend farm operations till 16th March.

Avoid sloppy & avalanche prone areas. Landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at vulnerable spots are expected,” reads the advisory issued by the MeT.

Schools Shut In

to an order, issued by SDM Gurez, the movement of students and school staff has been severely affected due to the prevailing weather conditions, making it unsafe for schools to function.

“Considering the safety and well-being of all concerned, it is hereby ordered that all schools in Gurez Subdivision shall remain closed up to March 15, 2025,” the order reads.

All heads of institutions have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the directive, it added.

The decision comes as Gurez experienced heavy snowfall, disrupting normal life and posing risks of avalanches in several areas.

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. Since launching a dedicated funeral service in Islamabad in 2014, Mother Helpage now invites you to donate generously to provide these services for Srinagar, Budgam, and Baramulla.



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LG, CM Greet People On Holi

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the occasion of Holi which will be celebrated on March 14.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Holi, I extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to all."

Holi, the festival of colours, is the harbinger of joy, hope and fulfilment in our lives. The celebration on this joyful occasion with traditional gaiety and enthusiasm marks the arrival of spring and all the colours reflect our rich diversity and vibrant culture.

Chief Minister Omar Abdul-

lah also extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the joyous occasion of Holi.

In his felicitation message, the Chief Minister said that Holi symbolizes happiness, joy and togetherness.

He expressed hope that the festival would bring harmony and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood among the people.

"The colours of Holi represent the vibrancy of life and the spirit of unity. May this festival fill everyone's lives with happiness, prosperity and cheer," the Chief Minister said.

He also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and wished that the occasion would bring new hope and joy to all.

Dr Veeri Appreciates Medical Fertility Of J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Member of Legislative Assembly -MLA from Bijbehara Dr Bashir Veeri during his speech in Legislative Assembly on Thursday appreciated the role of medical fraternity, including doctors, paramedics and healthcare professionals are provided their services under challenging circumstances in J&K, he was speaking during the discussion on demand for grants to Health, Medical Education, School Education and Higher Education Departments. He lauded the role played by the Health Department for demonstrating remarkable improvements in nearly all health indicators, surpassing those of other Indian states and the national average.

"My emphasis was on stabilizing and strengthening the primary healthcare delivery system and enhancing capacity building at the secondary level so that our tertiary care institutions can focus on research-oriented, innovative, and high-quality management. The vision of our founding father,

Sher-i-Kashmir, to transform SKIMS into a hub for medical tourism must be realized. Additionally, research into the causes of the silent epidemic of cancer in our society needs to be prioritized" said Dr Veeri.

He urged accountability for referrals to higher medical centres and documentation of LSCS (Lower Segment Caesarean Section) on hospital files with proper justification and reasons.

He appealed to the Health Minister to upgrade SDH Bijbehara to a district-level specialized hospital with enhanced infrastructure and manpower.

"The PHC of Srigufwara, midway on the ancient Amarnath Yatra route, plays a pivotal role in the health delivery system and needs upgrading to an SDH. Posts for dental surgeons be created" he said.

In his speech Dr Bashir Veeri requested the Government to grant full fledged university status to South Kashmir campus of Kashmir University and demanded that Government Degree College Anantnag should be declared as a deemed university.

LoP Sharma Meets Amit Shah

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Thursday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi and discussed with him key issues concerning the Union Territory including security and development.

During the meeting, Sharma, a senior BJP leader, also discussed with Shah recent terror incidents and urged him to facilitate improvement in road connectivity in remote areas of J&K, a party spokesperson said, adding the ongoing budget session of the J&K Assembly was also deliberated upon.

Sharma emphasized the strategic importance of J&K and the need for a comprehensive approach to tackle its security

and developmental challenges.

He also brought into notice various factors to facilitate the sustaining economic ecosystem in J&K by putting stress on the key areas like tourism, industry, and business.

During the meeting, Sharma further highlighted the growing issue of drug abuse and narcotic trafficking, seeking an urgent action, the spokesperson said.

Regarding the budget session, Sharma shared key points of debate in the assembly and its expected impact on the socio-economic conditions of J&K residents.

Shah assured Sharma that the Modi government remains committed to ensuring peace and progress in J&K and promised necessary steps for the region's overall development, the spokesperson said.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Program (EAP) Concludes In Ladakh



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A three-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Program (EAP) and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) program concluded successfully in Ladakh. Organized by the Ministry of MSME (PPDC Extension Centre, Srinagar) in collaboration with NIELIT Leh and the University of Ladakh, the program aimed to empower students with industrial-level technology awareness and entrepreneurship opportunities.

During the event, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between MSME PPDC E.C Srinagar and NIELIT Leh to strengthen collaboration in skill development, innovation, and technology-based entrepreneurship in the region.

The valedictory session was presided over by Dr. Phuntsog Toldhan, Director, NIELIT Leh, who emphasized the significance of technological advancements in Ladakh. "We are delighted to collaborate with MSME for this

awareness program. Such initiatives help enrich students' skills and create opportunities in fields like drone technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), IoT, and robotics," he stated.

The Chief Patron of the workshop was Dr. Ashwin Dhivakar, Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME (PPDC Extension Centre, Srinagar). He highlighted that MSME PPDC has conducted 534 entrepreneurship skill development programs (ESDPs) throughout India this year, including 260 one-day awareness programs, 148 management development programs, and 126 six-week skill development programs in various emerging technologies like 3D printing, IoT, and automation. He further added that the Srinagar centre alone conducted 37 one-day awareness programs, 13 one-week management development programs, and 15 six-week entrepreneurship skill development programs. The coordinators for the program were Mr. Ubaid ul Rehman and Mr. Irshad Ahmad.

True Education Shows The Path To Liberation: LG



Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday addressed the Spiritual and Value Education Summit at New Delhi.

In his inaugural address, the Lieutenant Governor exhorted the distinguished scholars and educators for transforming the education system into a holistic framework to nurture intellectual growth and moral integrity among students.

"Seamless integration of ethics and value in education is crucial to create an enlightened society and a powerful nation. Without the fine balance of our ancient value system and modern skills it is impossible to sustain and further long-run economic growth.

Value based education will enable students to explore their true strength. It will help in character building and inspire them for righteous living. This holistic education system can take the nation on a growth trajectory and bring about the changes necessary for a developed nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on imparting ethical, moral, and social values alongside academic knowledge and skills.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Our youth should have Science in one hand and Samaskara in the other. Along with

the advancement of science and technology, the teachings of traditional values, our cultural heritage and vision of great personalities should also be included in the main curriculum of education.

We need scientists as well as artists and spiritualists. Only the spirits of scientists, artists and spiritualists combined together can save education from being one-sided and succeed in making it a holistic education."

Speaking on the need to develop future-ready education systems and skill-driven learning environment, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the rapid pace at which change is taking place today, which will require constant skilling and reskilling as per the needs of the industry.

He urged all teachers to go beyond the subjects and curriculum and provide the students with skills to become successful future professionals.

"The real power of education is its ability to transform. We can fulfil the demands of a modern society and build Viksit Bharat, if we can fully utilize the power of education and skilled human resources of the nation" the Lieutenant Governor said.

Manoj Sinha asked the students to embrace lifelong learning and realize their inner ability through self-exploration and self-awareness.

"True Education shows the

path to liberation. Liberation enables you to know yourself better so that you can achieve all the goals of your life.

Education is not just about rote learning and exchange of information. Rather, education is a method, a medium. Through education you can achieve your individuality, awaken your consciousness, your passion, learn the modern skills to make your place in the world and achieve new heights in your chosen fields.

Nowadays the real aim of education is misunderstood. It is not about youth achieving the number one position or marks. Instead of numbers, students should focus on life-long learning skills. Students should follow their passion and aim to reach the pinnacle of their creativity so that they can learn new skills according to the changing demand of the industry and achieve success," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further called upon the educational institutions to aim for Zero Stress Campus and kindle the unique strength and talent of the students.

"I would also like to request all the parents to help their children develop a strong personality according to their passion. I am sure that if youth are given the opportunity to choose subjects as per their passion, they will be able to achieve new heights," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

6 THE REAL POWER OF EDUCATION IS ITS ABILITY TO TRANSFORM. We can fulfil the demands of a modern society and build Viksit Bharat, if we can fully utilize the power of education and skilled human resources of the nation"

First Syllabus Revision Of Administrative Service Being Undertaken After 25 Years: CM Omar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Asserting that the first syllabus revision is being undertaken in nearly 25 years, requiring significant changes, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said finalisation of the syllabus of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) is in its final stages, and the examinations will be held soon.

Responding to a question from MLA Aijaz Ahmad Jan during the Question Hour in the Assembly, the chief minister acknowledged delays in finalisation of the syllabus for 2018-24 batches of administrative services but assured that the process is "nearing completion".

"The government has worked to streamline the process, though the complexity of the revision caused some unavoidable delays. This is the first syllabus revision in nearly 25 years, requiring significant changes," Abdullah said.

He explained that the administration compared J-K's syllabus with those of other states and Union Territories to align it with national standards.

"Relevant departments, including revenue, law, and information technology, contributed to the process. Senior IAS officers were also consulted in drafting the final syllabus," he said.

"The final draft is ready, and we will complete the process within a month," he said.

Addressing concerns about 2018 and 2019 batches of Junior JKAS officers, Abdullah clarified that current rules do not allow their automatic confirmation. Their probation is subject to passing the departmental examination, he said.

According to rule 16, probationers must pass the exam within two years to be confirmed in service.

"However, due to major administrative changes under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the exam could not be conducted. The reorganisation required a revision of laws and regulations, includ-



Tourism Promotion In Srinagar City Key Focus Of My Govt

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday stated that the government is prioritizing the promotion of religious and tourism places in Srinagar city to boost tourism and attract more visitors.

"Places like Dal, Nishat, Shalimar, Chashmashahi, Pari Mahal, shrines, temples, gurudwaras, and other landmarks define the uniqueness of Srinagar. We are committed to promoting these destinations," the Chief Minister said while addressing the Legislative Assembly.

He was responding to a query raised by Member Ali Mohammad Sagar regarding the tourism sector's role in J&K's economy and the steps taken to enhance tourist inflow.

The Chief Minister emphasized that tourism is a key pillar of J&K's economy, significantly contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment generation.

"The sector provides direct and indirect livelihood opportunities including hotel staff, tour operators, taxi drivers, souvenir vendors, and local youth," he said.

He further informed the House that efforts are underway to diversify the tourism sector by promoting various forms of tourism, includ-

ing Adventure tourism.

MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism, Golf tourism, Eco-tourism, Pilgrimage tourism and Cultural and Heritage tourism

"This diversification is intended to attract a wider range of visitors to Jammu & Kashmir," he added.

As Minister in charge of the Tourism Department, the Chief Minister highlighted that the government is actively promoting J&K's top tourist destinations through advertising campaigns on national and international platforms.

Additionally, the Tourism Department is focusing on the development of off-beat destinations to expand tourism beyond traditional spots.

"We are working on developing lesser-explored destinations like Gurez, Keran, Bungus, Tosamaldan, Aharbal, Doodhpathri, Machail, Baderwah, Sukrala Mata, and Pancheri to attract more tourists," he said.

The Chief Minister stated that tourist arrivals in J&K have seen a significant increase in the last two years. In 2023, J&K recorded 2,11,80,011 tourist visits and in 2024, the number increased to 2,35,90,081, he informed.

finalise the syllabus.

"We are expediting the finalisation process. Once the syllabus is approved, the examination will be conducted without delay, ensuring probationers can be confirmed as per the rules," the chief minister said.

CIK Rescues 13 Kashmiri Youth From Scammers In Myanmar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Counter Intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police has rescued 13 trafficked youths from a cyber-fraud hub in Myanmar.

"Online scams in the name of providing jobs take place every day," SSP Counter Intelligence Kashmir Tahir Ashraf said on Thursday.

"In this case we were dealing with a big racket. The educated young kids of Kashmir search for jobs on social media, especially on Facebook, and they click on links and find job vacancies for data entry operators. The job is available in foreign countries, especially in Thailand," the SSP said.

"So they clicked on it and gave an online interview. They got an interview call. Tickets were also sent to them. Some were sent. Some were told that they could come with their own tickets. So, these youths went to Thailand. After reaching there, they realised that they had

been scammed and trapped there," he added.

"They (youth) were told that they had to identify the potential targets for them (scammers) across the globe. They were forced to indulge in sex chats with their targets to record their videos, which were later used for blackmailing them," the SSP said.

He said, "When our intelligence agencies came to know about J&K youth being trapped in Thailand the matter was taken up at the highest level with the Centre."

The SSP said that then a rescue operation was launched and today 13 youths reached Kashmir. "I request the youth not to get trapped through social media," he added.

"We have counselled these youth and their parents to involve their children in constructive activities. There are many government schemes which help in developing skills and making youngsters employable," the SSP said.

In 6-Yrs, Admin Provides 5,439 Specially-Fitted Scooties To PwDs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has provided more than 5000 specially-fitted scooties to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the past six years.

As per official data accessed, a total of 5,439 specially-fitted scooties have been provided to disabled persons from 2019 to 2024. Additionally, 546 more scooties will be distributed in 2025 to achieve full saturation.

It also reads, the Social Welfare Department is currently running two schools for visually impaired children in Jammu and one school for speech and hearing-impaired children in Srinagar, with 176 students enrolled.

Moreover, it also states that the "Halfway Home" in Jammu is now fully functional, while a similar facility is being established in Ganderbal to support individuals with mental health issues.

The data also reveals, the Unique Disability ID (UDID)



initiative has achieved 92.88 percent coverage in J&K, with 1,91,193 UDID cards generated, placing J&K at 6th rank in the country.

Furthermore, it states two Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), one in Jammu and another in Srinagar, are operational and have provided services to 2,022 disabled persons.

Additionally, as a boost to employment it states, over 550 disabled persons have secured jobs in the government sector due to changes in the reservation policy and the notification of posts suitable for various benchmark disabilities.

Admin Establishes Old Age Homes In 19 Districts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has established residential old age homes in 19 districts where senior citizens are offered healthcare facilities and recreational activities, reveals the official data.

It states that three senior citizen day care homes are presently operational in Jammu and Srinagar cities, providing secure spaces for elderly citizens to socialize and avail necessary services.

Two old age homes at Anantnag and Ganderbal were built in 2023-24 for Rs 21 crore, providing shelter and care to elderly population, the data reveals.

As many as, 809 special camps for senior citizens were conducted in the Union Territo-

ry and were attended by 51,000 senior citizens.

The data also states that 31 geriatric caregivers have been trained to deliver specialized social services to elderly citizens, ensuring their physical and mental well-being.

Furthermore, it also reveals that the government has reached out to 7,22,093 elderly citizens through various welfare schemes and programs during 2024-25, aiming to cater to the social and healthcare needs of the elderly population.

"The Senior Citizen Day Care Centre in Srinagar has emerged as a hub of activities for the elderly, offering recreational activities, counselling sessions, and periodic health check-ups," the data adds.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY BARAMULLA

Subject: - Interview Schedule for Deputy LADC and Assistant LADC Positions

NOTICE

13-03-2025

This is to inform all candidates who have applied for the positions of Deputy Legal Aid Defense counsel and Assistant Legal Aid Defense counsel in District Baramulla, pursuant to Advertisement Notice No. LSA/LS/96/2022/593-616, dated 21.02.2025, issued by the Member Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority, that their interviews are scheduled to be conducted on 20.03.2025 at the ADR Building, Baramulla. All candidates are required to report to the ADR Building at 11:00 AM sharp.

For any further queries, candidates may contact the District Legal Services Authority, Baramulla during office hours on phone numbers; 01952238899, 9596023093,

Javid Ahmad Pary
Secretary District Legal Services Authority
Baramulla
NO: 1091/DLSA/BlA/25
DT: 13/03/25
DIPK-12998-24
DT: 13/03/2025

Brook Banned From IPL For Two Seasons After Last-Minute Pullout

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: England batter Harry Brook has been banned from the Indian Premier League for two seasons following his last minute pullout from the 2025 edition.

Earlier this week, Brook had made himself unavailable for the second straight season and apologised "unreservedly" to his franchise Delhi Capitals and their supporters.

"There was a rule in place and that has been implemented. The ban covers the 2025 and 2026 edition," a BCCI official told PTI.

Any foreign player who misses the IPL after getting picked at the auction faces a two-year ban from the IPL unless he is injured.



"Any [overseas] player who registers for [an] auction and, after getting picked at the auction, makes himself unavailable before the start of the season will get banned from participating in the IPL/IPL auction for

two seasons," as per the BCCI document shared with teams last year.

Brook opted out of IPL 2025 to focus on his England career while in 2024, he withdrew following the death of his grandmother.

"I have made the very difficult decision to pull out of the upcoming IPL. I apologize unreservedly to the Delhi Capitals and their supporters," Brook wrote on social media earlier this week.

"It is a really important time for England cricket and I want to fully commit to preparing for the upcoming series.

"In order to do this, I need time to recharge after the busiest period in my career to date. I know not everyone will understand, and I don't expect them to, but I have to do what I believe is right and playing for my country remains my priority and focus."

England will play India in a home Test series in June, which

will be followed by the much-anticipated Ashes from November to January.

England's Wood Set To Miss India Series

England pace bowler Mark Wood will be sidelined for four months after surgery to repair knee ligament damage, the country's cricket board (ECB) said on Thursday, potentially ruling him out of the home series against India this year.

Wood has had issues with his left knee for a year and the 35-year-old experienced "increased stiffness and discomfort" during England's Champions Trophy group game against Afghanistan earlier this month, which forced him to leave the field.

Short TAKES

'Can't Ignore My Rs 23.75 Cr Price Tag', Says Venkatesh Iyer

Kolkata Knight Riders star all-rounder and newly appointed vice-captain Venkatesh Iyer on Thursday said he cannot ignore the scrutiny surrounding his Rs 23.75-crore price tag but is determined to fulfil his responsibilities rather than letting the weight of expectations affect him.

The left-handed batter, who also bowls occasional medium pace, earned a staggering Rs 23.75 crore deal -- more than 11 times his base price -- as KKR went all-out and used their RTM card following a fierce bidding war with Royal Challengers Bengaluru to bring him back.

"Obviously, you can't ignore it altogether. It exists. Wherever I go, I get asked about it," Iyer said at their pre-season media interaction at Eden Gardens.

"So, it is existent, right? But for me, it's about absorbing it and still trying to fulfill the responsibility that has been given to me."

Pakistan Star Batter Babar Opts Out Of National T20 C'ship

Dropped from the Pakistan T20 squad for the series in New Zealand, former Pakistan captain Babar Azam has decided to skip the National T20 Championship. Babar, Muhammad Rizwan and fast bowler Naseem Shah were all dropped for the five-match T20 series starting March 16 in Christchurch, but have been retained for the three ODIs against New Zealand.

While announcing the team, the PCB had indicated that Babar, Rizwan, Naseem, who are all centrally contracted players, would be taking part in the National T20 in Faisalabad starting this week.

But on Thursday it was confirmed that Babar and Naseem had withdrawn from the National T20 event citing workload management and upcoming international commitments.

Raise Your Hand If You Saw The Ball Move, Simone Fumes

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone was fuming with the referee's decision to rule out Julian Alvarez's spot kick in the penalty shootout as they were knocked out of the Champions League by rivals Real Madrid on Wednesday.

Real won the shootout 4-2 to advance to the quarter-finals following an enthralling last-16 tie which ended 2-2 on aggregate after Atletico's 1-0 win on Wednesday.

During the shootout, Alvarez slipped and the VAR spotted that his left foot touched the ball slightly before he kicked it with his right. With only one touch permitted, the penalty, which would have levelled the shootout at 2-2, was chalked off.

"I've never seen the VAR called to review a penalty in a shootout... Never!" Simeone said.

Rohit Has No Reason To Retire: AB de Villiers

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Rohit Sharma has no reason to retire, says South African batting great AB de Villiers, who believes the India skipper could go down as one of the greatest ODI captains of all time.

Speculations were rife about Rohit's retirement from ODIs after the Champions Trophy, but the 37-year-old put them to rest after leading India to an unprecedented third title.

"Compared to other captains, look at Rohit's win percentage -- it's almost 74 per cent, which is substantially more than any other captain of the past," de Villiers said in his YouTube channel.

"If he keeps going, he will go down as one of the best ODI captains of all time. Rohit has also said he is not retiring and has requested that rumours be stopped spreading."

Rohit smashed an 83-ball



76, playing a pivotal role in India's tricky 252-run chase in the final against New Zealand in Dubai to win the player-of-the-match.

"Why would he retire? With that kind of record not only as captain but also as a batter. That 76 in the final, giving India a fantastic start, laying the foundation for success and leading from the front when the pressure was at its peak," de Villiers said.

Hailing Rohit's record as both

a batter and captain, de Villiers was effusive in his praise for how the India captain transformed his batting in the ODI format over the last three years to win the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy in a span of nine months.

"Rohit Sharma has got no reason to retire. No reason to take any criticism whatsoever. His record speaks for himself. Not only that, but he has also sort of transformed his game," he said.

'ICC Stands For Indian Cricket Board'

Agencies

Cricket legend Andy Roberts criticised the International Cricket Council, alleging that it favours the Indian cricket board.

Speaking about India's influence in world cricket, Roberts told Mid-Day in an interview: "ICC must start saying no to India. They can't get everything."

"India was given an advantage in last year's T20 World Cup as well. They already knew where they would play their semi-final. How is it possible that a team does not have to travel at all in a tournament?"

At the Champions Trophy, India did not have to travel at all.

The tournament, held in a hybrid model, was officially hosted in Pakistan. However, India played all its matches in Dubai after the BCCI stated that the Indian government had refused permission for the team to travel to Pakistan.

As a result, a hybrid model was adopted, with India's matches being played in Dubai while other teams had to shuttle between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates besides playing



matches in different Pakistani cities.

This travel-heavy schedule sparked debates about fairness, with players expressing concerns over fatigue and competitive disadvantages.

"It is not fair, it's not cricket. There has to be a level playing field," Roberts asserted.

"I know a lot of money comes from India, but cricket ought not to be a one-country sport. It now looks like a one-nation competition and the playing field is not level," he added.

"The ICC stands for the Indian Cricket Board. India dictates everything," Roberts said.

"If tomorrow India says there should be no no-balls or wide balls, the ICC will find a way to make it happen."



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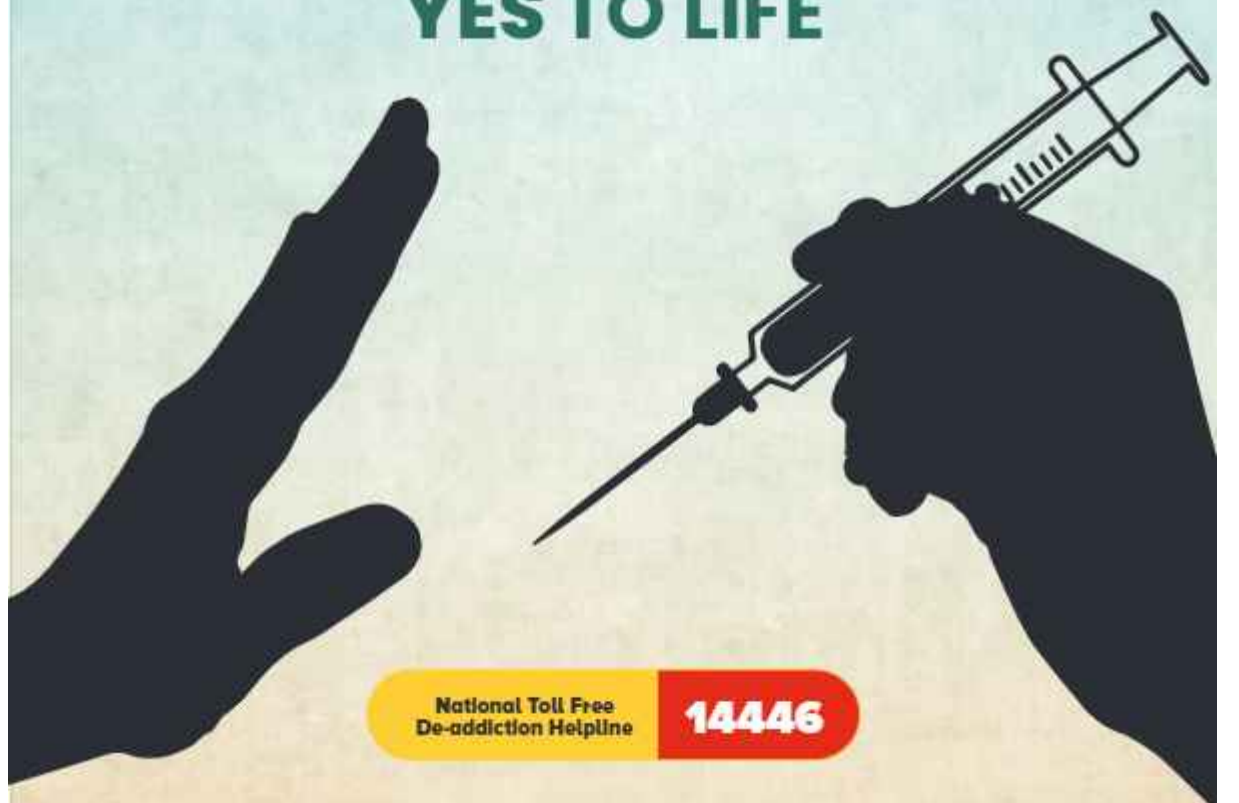


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