

Asset Distribution

J&K Got Fewer Assets In Split With Ladakh: Omar

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday stated that the distribution of assets and liabilities between the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh is being conducted through mutual understanding, following the recommendations of an advisory committee.

Acknowledging that Jammu & Kashmir has received a relatively smaller share of assets from

the erstwhile state, Abdullah clarified that the apportionment was carried out based on the recommendations of the advisory committee established under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, along with another committee formed by the government.

He made these remarks in response to a query by National Conference member Tanveer Sadiq in the Assembly.

Sadiq posed a supplementary question | [More on P6](#)



'New J&K Bhawan In Delhi'

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly that to address the limited accommodation at J&K House, Chanakypuri, the government has acquired a 3,179.58 sqm plot on a perpetual lease from the Delhi Development Authority at Dwarka, New Delhi. Responding to a question by Member | [More on P6](#)

THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LESS distribution of assets to Jammu and Kashmir in terms of the apportionment from the assets of the erstwhile state."

J&K Govt Drafting New Policy For Digital Platforms

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday announced that it is formulating a new media policy to include emerging platforms such as social media, news web portals, and websites for empanelment.

Responding to a cut motion by Pulwama MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, the government stated that the policy aims to align with the evolving media landscape while adhering to the standards set by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Government of India. Addressing concerns over the

Srinagar Press Club, the government claimed that the club was vacated due to internal disputes among its members. The premises, earlier provided by the Estates Department in Press Enclave, Srinagar, are now temporarily occupied by the Jammu & Kashmir Police.

Furthermore, the government stated that the registration of the Kashmir Press Club has been put on hold by the Department of Industries and Commerce, pending clearance from the Criminal Investigation Department. However, another entity, the Press Club of Kashmir, has been | [More on P6](#)



Devotees recite Quran inside Srinagar's historic Jamia Masjid on 17th of Ramazan. PTI Photo

PAKISTAN TERROR ATTACKS

High-Security Alert Sounded In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A high-security alert has been sounded across Jammu and Kashmir in view of the recent terror attacks in Pakistan, including the killing of a top commander of terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), officials said on Tuesday.

All the protected persons, including politicians, have been advised to be conscious and strictly follow the security protocols for their safety, the officials in the security establishment said.

They said the forces have been directed to maintain a close watch and "extraordinary" vigil to thwart any attempt by anti-national elements to carry out any attack, especially on soft targets, by intensifying area domination patrolling and search operations.

Several recent terror attacks in Balochistan, including a train hijacking and the killing of top LeT commander Zia-ur-Rehman alias Nadeem alias Abu Qatal alias Qatal Sindhi | [More on P6](#)

No Plan To Provide Stipend To Unemployed Youth: Govt

3.70 Lakh Jobless Youth Registered With Employment Department

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that it has no plans to provide stipend to unemployed youth in the Union Territory.

In a written response to a question of MLA Samba Devinder Kumar Manyal, Minister in-charge Labour



& Employment Surinder Choudhary informed the House that there is no plan to

provide stipend to unemployed youth in the Union Territory.

"Currently there is no such plan to provide a stipend to the unemployed youth in the UT of J&K," the minister said.

The minister also disclosed that 370811 unemployed youth are registered with the government.

Of them, 2, 13,007 are registered with | [More on P6](#)

Discretionary Grants

J&K CM Gets ₹80 Lakh, Ministers ₹5 Lakh Each

Agencies

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday said that a discretionary grant of Rs 80 lakh has been allocated to the Chief Minister for the fiscal year 2025-26 and Rs five lakh for each cabinet minister for the same period.

In response to the cut motion submitted by BJP MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta, the Government revealed these allocations. It was further disclosed that

during the current financial year, Rs 50 lakh in discretionary grants have been allocated to the Chief Minister and Rs 2.5 lakh to each cabinet minister.

The discretionary grants are available to enable the Chief Minister and cabinet ministers to provide financial assistance to organizations and initiatives aimed at addressing specific needs and promoting public welfare.

The Chief Minister has the authority to issue recurring grants to institutions | [More on P6](#)

Workplace Harassment Case

CAT Halts JKAS Officer's Salary For Defying Orders

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in Jammu has ordered the immediate stoppage of salary for senior JKAS officer Shubhra Sharma due to her failure to respond in a workplace harassment case. Sharma, the former Director of Animal

Husbandry, Jammu, and currently the Managing Director of JKRLM, was heading the Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH) at Workplace. Despite repeated directives, she did not file a reply, prompting the tribunal to take coercive action. A bench comprising Member (J) Rajinder Singh Dogra and Member (A) | [More on P6](#)



J&K VIP Visits Cost Rs 1.23 Crore In 2024-25

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday revealed that Rs 14.85 crore has been spent on chartered flights over the last four years.

In response to a cut motion by MLA Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, the government stated that Rs 14,85,94,471 was incurred on chartered flights since 2021, following codal formalities. It also confirmed that no

chartered flights were used before 2021.

Additionally, the government disclosed that Rs 1,23,12,245 was spent on VIP visits to Jammu & Kashmir during the 2024-25 financial year.

"The expenditure is within the sanctioned budgetary allocation, with each expense accounted for and subject to periodic audits to ensure transparency and fiscal discipline," the government stated. It further | [More on P6](#)

BJP MLA Stages Walkout Over 'Bias' In Assembly

Observer News Service

Jammu: BJP MLA R S Pathania staged a walkout from the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday, alleging bias after being denied the opportunity to speak and having his questions excluded from the House proceedings during the Budget Session.

Pathania attempted to raise a listed question during Question Hour but was not allowed by Speaker | [More on P6](#)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name .Date of Birth and residence in her Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 6581 4320 2091 has been wrongly mentioned as Aiman Jaan DOB 21.07.2018 .Wajhama instead of Ayman Shahzad .DOB 01.01.2018. Redence Guloora . Now I am applying for its Correction as per DOB Certificate and School record . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.
 Shahzad Ahmad Mir fko
 F/O. Aym...



PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my daughter's name in her Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 4218 9652 0510 has been wrongly mentioned as Hadiya Jaan instead of Hadiya Tariq Now I am applying for its Correction as per School record . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.
 Tariq Ahmad Wani fko
 F/O. Hadiya Tariq
 R/O :- Spahan Yaroo .Tehsil :- Langate . Distt : Kupwara .
 Post office Langate Pin Code 193302 .



PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 5424 5390 6163 from insar Ahmad Lone (old name) to Ansar Ahmad Lone (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Ansari Ahmad Lone jvd
 R/O :- Kanzalwan ,Gurez Bandipore

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Shahi Safar Tour And Travels situated at Narbal Lawaypora

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Shahid Ali S/o :Ali Mohd Sheikh R/o :Peth Makhama, Magam budgam intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Shahi Safar Tour And Travels situated at Narbal Lawaypora 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 (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I 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: ddtregl23@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

I, Shah Nawaz Ahmad Naikoo S/o Ghulam Qadir Naikoo R/o Vehil Chatarwan Shopian, want to correct my name and parentage on Aadhaar Record which has been wrongly entered as Shah Nawaz AH instead of Shah Nawaz Ahmad Naikoo and parentage wrongly entered as Ghulam Qadir instead of Ghulam Qadir Naikoo. Now correction is required. If anybody has any objection, they may contact the concerned Aadhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar or concerned authorities within 7 days.
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nazir Ahmad Mir, father of Shahid Nazir R/o Losdanow Shopian, want to correct the name, parentage, residence, and D.O.B of my ward which has been wrongly entered as Mir Shahid Nazir instead of Shahid Nazir. Also, D.O.B is wrongly entered as 04-10-2006 instead of 04-04-2009. Parentage is wrongly entered as Nazir Ah Mir instead of Nazir Ahmad Mir and residence wrongly entered as Losdanow Pulwama instead of Losdanow Shopian. Now correction is required. If anybody has any objection, they may contact the concerned Aadhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar or concerned authorities within 7 days.
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Farooq Ahmad Dar S/O: Gulam Mohamad Dar need to correct my father's name in my Service Book which erroneously had been written as Gh Mohd Dar instead of Gulam Mohamad Dar. Any objection in this regard, may kindly be brought to the notice of The Senior Superintendent of Police Security Kashmir, Srinagar within 07 days.
 SGCT Farooq Ahmad Dar fko
 No.296 Sec kmr
 PID No. Exk-003250

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN..

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zoya Yaseen D/o Mohammad Yaseen Dar R/o Hanjipora Hygam With verified date of birth 21/05/2021 Occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 SD
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN..

Sub . issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Usman Mir S/o Shaieb Mir R/o Dardpora Kreeeri with verified date of birth 24/07/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 SD
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub . issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Syed Ahmad Afnan Geelani s/o Waseem Mehraj Geelani R/o Kunnel Qaziabad Handwara with verified date of birth 31/03/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 SD
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 7822 7387 9957 from Ghulam Nabi Gojeri (old name) to Naba Ganai (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Naba Ganai jvd
 R/O :- Rajpora Pulwama

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH

AT SRINAGAR
 Case:- WP(C) No. 696/2024
 CM No. 6228/2024
 CM No. 1864/2024
 Sunil Bharadwaj and others ...Petitioners
 Through: Mr. A. Haqani, Sr. Advocate with Mr. Asif Wani, Advocate
 Vs
 UT of J&K and others ...Respondents
 Through: Mr. Syed Musab, Dy. AG
 Coram: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAHUL BHARTI, JUDGE
ORDER
 1. All twenty one (21) petitioners are originally born on the cadre of the respondent No. 2 - J&K Power Development Department (JKPDC in short). The petitioners No. 1 to 14 came to be appointed on the posts of Junior Engineer (Electric), in the JKPDC vide Order No. JKSPDC/Adm/EG/214/397 dated 27.08.2011 whereas the petitioners No. 15 to 21 also as Junior Engineer(Electric) vide Order No. JKSPDC/Adm/EG/CJ/2188-97 dated 09.11.2013.
 2. Thus, all the petitioners are originally in born junior engineers on the cadre of JKPDC. The petitioners No. 1 to 14 later on even came to be promoted on stop-gap arrangement basis as
 In the matter of: Caveat Application.
 MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS,
 The Caveators most humbly submit as under:-
 1. That in terms of order dated 19-02-2025 passed by Hon'ble High Court of J&K&L, in an applications preferred in a writ petition being WP(C) No. 696 of 2024 the operation of condition 1 & 2 of Govt. order No. 56-JK(PDD) of 2023 was stayed.
 Copy of the both the orders dated 19-02-2025 is annexed herewith and collectively marked as Annexure-1.
 2. That, the caveators have reasonable apprehensions that the said order may be challenged before the Hon'ble High Court. In such an eventuality the prospective petitioners may succeed in obtaining an order to the prejudice of the caveators on factually and legally misconceived grounds. This has necessitated filing of the present caveat application copy of which has in advance been sent for publication for its wide circulation. In the premises, it is therefore, most humbly prayed that in the event of institution of any proceedings in the nature of writ/appeal by the non-caveators, this Hon'ble Court may very kindly be pleased to notice the caveators as well, affording them an opportunity of being heard before granting any ad-interim relief in favour of the Non-caveator.
 Srinagar: -03-2025
 Caveators through counsel,
 (Haqani Associates)
 (Shakir Haqani)
 Advocate
 9796161222

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as FARHAN ALI while his actual name is FARHAN ALI MIR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
 ASHIQ HUSSAIN MIR mcb
 F/o FARHAN ALI MIR
 R/o PALLAR BUDGAM
 CELL. 7006477077

Dizziness Weightless Tongue Baby Feet Challenges Astronauts Face Upon Return To Earth

Press Trust Of India

It may be fun to watch astronauts float around inside the International Space Station, but the absence of gravity has its effects on long-duration space travellers, who experience dizziness, nausea and an unstable gait when they return to earth. NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov are scheduled to return to Earth on Wednesday onboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft. For Williams and Wilmore, test pilots for Boeing's new Starliner capsule, the eight-day mission stretched to more than nine months as a series of helium leaks and thruster failures deemed their spacecraft unsafe and had to return empty in September. Astronauts who have travelled on space missions earlier have reported facing difficulty in walking, having bad eyesight, dizziness, and a condition called baby feet where space travellers lose the thick part of the skin on the soles that become soft like a baby's. "Once the astronaut returns to Earth, they are immediately forced to readjust again, back to Earth's gravity, and can experience issues standing, stabilising their gaze, walking, and turning. For their safety, returning astronauts are often placed in a chair immediately upon return to Earth," the Houston-based Baylor College of Medicine said



in a note on body changes in space. It takes astronauts several weeks to recalibrate themselves to life on Earth. The vestibular organ deep inside the ear helps humans keep their bodies balanced while walking on Earth by sending information about gravity to the brain. "In the low gravity of space, the information received from the vestibular organs changes. This is thought to confuse the brain, leading to space sickness. When you return to earth, you experience the effects of earth's gravity again, and thus 'gravity sickness' sometimes occurs, with similar symptoms as space sickness," the Japanese space agency JAXA said. On Earth, gravity pulls blood and other body fluids into the lower part of the body, but for astronauts experiencing weightlessness in space, these fluids accumulate in the upper parts of the body, making them look bloated. "Astronauts returning to earth often

experience dizziness when standing up, known as orthostatic hypotension. This occurs because gravity on the earth is stronger than in space, and it is more difficult to deliver blood from the heart to the head," the JAXA said. The lack of gravity causes significant and often irreparable bone density loss. According to NASA, for every month in space, astronauts' weight-bearing bones become roughly one per cent less dense if they don't take precautions to counter this loss. To help combat this, astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) have a strict exercise regimen. "Astronauts are required to exercise two hours per day, using the treadmill or stationary bicycle, to avoid the bone and muscle deterioration that occurs in zero gravity. Without this exercise, astronauts would be unable to walk or stand up when they return to Earth after months of floating in space," NASA said. Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield reported to have experienced a weightless tongue on his return from a stint at the International Space Station in 2013. "Right after I landed, I could feel the weight of my lips and tongue and I had to change how I was talking. I hadn't realised that I learned to talk with a weightless tongue," Hadfield had said. Astronauts may also be more susceptible to infection and illness due to a suppressed immune system.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub . Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE..
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zeyyan Ishaq S/o Ishaq Ahmad Lone R/o wahipora Langate Kupwara with verified date of birth 05/01/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 SD
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that I have lost my School Leaving Certificate of 10th Class .Now I intend to get it's duplicate copy from my concerned institution where I have passed my Matriculation. If anybody has any objection regarding the same, he/she shall file an objection within a period of 07 days before Government Boys Higher Secondary School Tilgam Tehsil Pattan.
 Regards,
 Pervaiz Ahmad Rather fko
 S/o Ali Mohd Rather
 R/o Tilgam Pattan.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&M, KPDC, CIRCLR-IIND. SRINAGAR

TENDER NOTICE

eNITNo. SE/II/01 of 2025 dated: 13-03-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tender (In Two Cover System) is hereby ,ntvted from A-class electrical contractors/registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for Construction of 33KV line from 150 MVA GIS Grid substation Tengpora to Receiving station Airforce at Humhama Airport along with associated facilities at AF Substation SRINAGAR.

S/NO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (Rs In Lacs)	Estimated Cost (Rs In Lacs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Construction of 33KV line from 150 MVA GIS Grid substation Tengpora to Receiving station Airforce at Humhama Airport along with associated facilities at AF substation Srinagar.	15.36	767.91	07-04-2025;02:30pm

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
 2. The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded overhttp://jktenders.aov.in from 15-03-2025; 02:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	15-03-2025; 02:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	07-04-2025; 02:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	15-03-2025; 02:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	07-04-2025; 02:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	08-04-2025; 02:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Superintending Engineer, KPDC O&M Circle-II, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs-5000/- (Five Thousand only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs-15.36 Lac (Fifteen Lac Thirty-six Thousand only)

3. The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Superintending Engineer, O&M, KPDC, Circle -II Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801- Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.
 4. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Superintending Engineer, O&M, KPDC, Circle-II, Srinagar. No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
 a. Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Superintending Engineer, O&M, KPDC, Circle-II, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared LI after opening of financial bids.
 b. The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Superintending Engineer, O&M, KPDC, Circle-II, Srinagar.
 5. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
 6. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
 7. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.
 8. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
 9. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
 10. Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Superintending Engineer, O&M, KPDC, Circle-II, Srinagar.
 11. The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/ Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Superintending Engineer, O&M, KPDC, Circle-II, Srinagar.
 Superintending Engineer O&M, KPDC Circle-II Srinagar

No: 3766-69/ts
 DIPK-NB-3804/24 Dated: 18-03-2025

Subject: Grant Of Registration Of Unit Under The Name & Style "R2 Holidays" Situated at Batamallo Srinagar.

Whereas, I, Mr. Aaqib Ahmad Jan, S/o Ittikhar Ahmad Jan, R/o khawaja Bazar, Nowhatta Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, intend to apply to the Prescribed Authority of the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, for the registration of my proposed unit under the name and style "R2 Holidays", situated at Batamallo, Srinagar. In this regard, if anybody has any objection to the registration, they may contact the concerned department within 7 days from the publication of this notice. Objections filed after this period will not be entertained.

NOTICE

I Qazi Mohammad Iqbal Shah R/o Shah Faisal Colony Ellahi Bagh intend to rectify the name of my son Qazi Mohammad Akhtar Shah, studying in the grade 9th session 2025 under Roll no 4, in Mother Land High School, 90 feet Road Soura, Srinagar. From Mohammad Akhtar Shah To Qazi Mohammad Akhtar Shah which is inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection, in this regard, from any person or quarter, the same may be Reported to the principal of the institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quarter.

NOTICE

I Qazi Javid Ahmad Shah R/o Shah Faisal Colony Ellahi Bagh intend to rectify the name of my son Mohammad Talib Javid, studying in the grade 9th session 2025 under Roll no 3, in Mother Land High School, 90 feet Road Soura, Srinagar. From Mohammad Talib Javid To Qazi Talib Shah which is inadvertently recorded in the school record. Should there be any objection, in this regard, from any person or quarter, the same may be Reported to the principal of the institute within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there is no objection from any quarter.

Fine Of Rs 1.52 Lakh Imposed On Erring FBOs, Traders

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Court of Adjudicating Officer, Srinagar imposed a fine of Rs.1,52,500 on erring Food Business Operators (FBOs), Traders in Srinagar for violating various provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act.

Additional District Magistrate Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, who is the Adjudicating Officer, imposed the fine during adjudication of food safety cases. Kataria also warned food business operators that repeated violations of the Food Safety and Standards Act would result in the closure of their businesses. This move aims to ensure food safety and hygiene in Srinagar, following the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, which emphasizes the importance of food safety and standards act.

The penalties were levied in response to the contraventions of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act-2006 by the traders of various City areas.

The Adjudicating Officer has emphasized the importance of adhering to legal regulations in the food items and asked FBOs to comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act and its associated rules, directed the concerned enforcement agency to intensify action against the violators.

The demonstrators urged NIT Srinagar's administration to intervene and ensure that fellowships are released without further delay, stressing that such disruptions negatively impact both their academic work and well-being.

Research Scholars Protest Over Delayed Fellowships

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Research scholars at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar staged a protest on Tuesday, demanding the immediate release of their long-overdue fellowships, which have remained unpaid for the past three months.

The protesting scholars voiced their distress, highlighting the financial difficulties they are facing due to the delayed disbursement. They stated that despite repeated appeals, the administration has not taken any concrete steps to resolve the issue.

"For three months, we have been left without our fellowships. Many of us rely on this financial support to cover essential expenses such as accommodation, food, and research-related costs," one of the scholars said.

Another protester lamented the lack of response from the authorities, stating, "We have submitted multiple representations, but our grievances continue to be ignored. We are simply asking for what is rightfully ours."

The demonstrators urged NIT Srinagar's administration to intervene and ensure that fellowships are released without further delay, stressing that such disruptions negatively impact both their academic work and well-being.

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Awareness Program On CUET (UG)-2025 Organized

Observer News Service

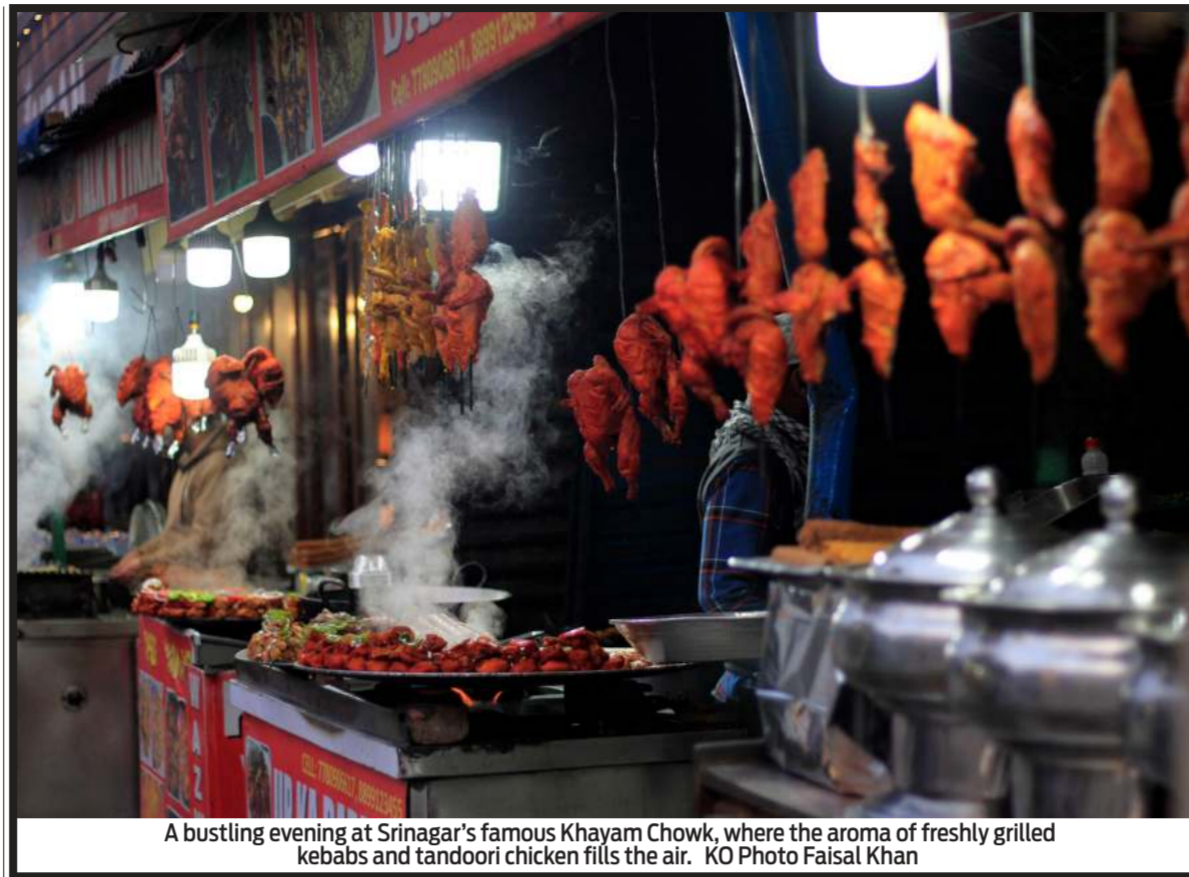
SRINAGAR: An awareness program on Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-2025 was organized today at Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial (AAAM) Government Degree college Bemina.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from a significant number of students representing various Higher Secondary Schools across Kashmir.

The session aimed to provide the students, who have passed or appeared in the 12th examination, with comprehensive guidance on the CUET (UG) 2025 admission process, eligibility criteria, and preparation strategies.

Prof. Irfan Ali, Assistant Professor of Education and Co-Convenor Admissions, delivered an insightful presentation on the CUET UG pattern, eligibility requirements, and form submission process. His detailed explanation provided valuable clarity to the participants.

The session aimed to provide the students, who have passed or appeared in the 12th examination, with comprehensive guidance on the CUET (UG) 2025 admission process, eligibility criteria, and preparation strategies.



A bustling evening at Srinagar's famous Khayam Chowk, where the aroma of freshly grilled kebabs and tandoori chicken fills the air. KO Photo Faisal Khan

LCMA Blocks SDH Habak Expansion, Govt Says Matter Under Review

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has stated that the construction of an additional block at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Habak has been halted by the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) due to regulatory constraints.

Responding to a query raised by MLA Salman Sagar, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Ito informed the assembly that the project was sanctioned under Government Order No. 656-JK (HME) of 2022, dated September 15, 2022, with an estimated budget of Rs. 1899.74 lakh.

"The tendering process was initiated by the executing agency after obtaining administrative approval. However, the required statutory clearance from LCMA is still pending," Ito said.

She further cited a ruling by the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and

The tendering process was initiated by the executing agency after obtaining administrative approval. However, the required statutory clearance from LCMA is still pending

but no decision has been made yet.

Additionally, the Housing and Urban Development Department noted that construction commenced without obtaining prior clearance from the competent authority. "Since the site falls within the restricted 200-meter buffer zone, fresh construction is prohibited unless it falls under repair, renovation, or reconstruction guidelines. The matter is currently being evaluated by the Board of Competent Authority (BOCA)," the minister stated.

Despite the stalled expansion, Ito highlighted that patient footfall at SDH Hazratbal has surged over the past three years due to improved services, including round-the-clock digital X-ray facilities, high-end ultrasound, an upgraded dental section, and enhanced maternal and child healthcare services. She acknowledged the need for additional infrastructure but reassured that the hospital is sufficiently staffed with medical and paramedical personnel.

Ladakh, issued on September 6, 2022 (PIL No. 159/2002), which prohibits new construction within 200 meters of Dal Lake's boundary, barring repairs and renovations of existing structures. In light of this, the Principal of Government Medical College, Srinagar, had filed an application (C.M No. 4159/2024) requesting permission for the hospital expansion. The court, in its directive on August 5, 2024, instructed LCMA to review the application within three weeks,

Traffic Woes

Natipora Road Causes Daily Gridlocks

Agencies

Srinagar: The vital Mehjoor Nagar-Natipora road, a key link connecting Srinagar with Nowgam and Chanapora, continues to pose serious traffic challenges due to its narrow stretch, leaving commuters frustrated and stranded for long hours.

Drivers navigating the road find it extremely difficult to make way for approaching vehicles, with school vans and other essential transport frequently getting stuck in bottlenecks. The lack of road width has rendered overtaking nearly impossible, further worsening congestion during peak hours.

Concerned citizens have urged authorities to intervene, suggesting the relocation of local residents to facilitate road widening in the larger public interest. They believe an expanded road could significantly ease traffic pressure on the already burdened Ram Bagh route, providing much-needed relief to daily commuters. (KNT)

- 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)

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 14
ZUHR 12:40
ASR 4: 59
Magrib 6:44
ISHA 8: 50

HIJRI CALENDAR
18 Ramazan
1446

This Day In History

- 1984 - STS 41-C vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1991 - Gorbachev says the Soviet Union will cut its oil exports by nearly half
- 2002 - U.S. invasion of Afghanistan: Operation Anaconda ends (started on March 2) after killing 500 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters with 11 allied troop fatalities
- Iraq Invasion of Iraq
- 2003 - Airstrikes by an American and British-led coalition signal the beginning of the invasion of Iraq, without United Nations support and in defiance of world opinion
- 2012 Wendy's overtakes Burger King to become the second best-selling hamburger chain
- 2013 - 27 people are killed and 14 are injured in a bus crash in Maharashtra, India
- 2013 - 16 people are killed by mudslides in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2013 - NASA's Mars rover Curiosity discovers further evidence of water-bearing minerals
- 2014 - Russia captures the Ukrainian naval base in Sevastopol
- 2014 - Israel sends airforce against Syrian military units involved in an attack yesterday on an Israeli patrol in the Golan Heights

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Qayoom Teli S/O Ghulam Mohammad Teli R/O Duslipora Tehsil Singhpora Distt Baramulla do hereby state as under that my ward namely Rahil Qayoom Teli was born on 15/06/2011 at Duslipora and now I want to obtain DOB in favour of my ward from BDO office singhpora if any body have objection he she may contact to tehsil office singhpora within seven days and after seven days no objection will be accepted

fko

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAZR-WVM25-7	25.03.2025 at 11.00 hours	Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Faridkot, Phillaur, Firozpur Cantt, Amritsar & Phagwara.
EAZR-PRKG25-6	25.03.2025 at 11.30 hours	Allotment of Parking lot on contract at Kapurthala Railway Station.
EAZR-PnU25-5	25.03.2025 at 12.30 hours	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Batala, Muktsar & Kot Kapura Railway Stations.
EAZR-CTG25-8	26.03.2025 at 11.30 hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Phagwara & Jalandhar Cantt. Railway Stations.
EAZR-OH25-9	28.03.2025 at 11.00 hours	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through: 1) Exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Sahnewal, Amritsar & Jalandhar City Railway Station. 2) Static media at Level crossings adjoining to Verka, Jaintipura, Batala, Bhagatwala & Patti Railway Station. 3) Static media at Goraya & Lohian Khas Railway Station. 4) Static media/overhead of water tank at Makhu & Nakodar Railway Station.
EAZR-CTG25-9	28.03.2025 at 11.00 hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Bari Brahmana, Samba, Nagrota Surian, Nurpur Road, Guler, Nagrota, Palampur Himachal, Tanda Umrur and Bhogpur Sirwal Railway Stations.
EAZR-MIS25-5	28.03.2025 at 11.30 hours	1) Allotment of contract for Peaceful/Relaxed Zone by installation, operation and maintenance of Body Relief chairs at Railway station Pathankot Cantt. 2) Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Kathua, Pathankot Cantt & Udhampur.
EAZR-MPS25-5	28.03.2025 at 12.30 hours	Allotment of contract for Multi-Purpose stalls (MPS) at Kathua & Faridkot Railway Station.
EAZR-CTG25-10	01.04.2025 at 11.00 hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Khem Karan, Muktsar, Tam Taran, Sahnewal, Kartarpur, RCF Kapurthala Halt, Nawan Shahar Doaba, Nakodar, Verka, Jagraon, Firozpur City & Fazilka Railway Stations.
EAZR-MIS25-6	01.04.2025 at 11.30 hours	1) Allotment of contract for Peaceful/Relaxed Zone by installation, operation and maintenance of Body Relief chairs at Railway station Amritsar & Jalandhar City 2) Allotment of contract for provision, operation and maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine with advertisement rights on body of machine at Railway station Firozpur Cantt.
EAZR-MPS25-6	01.04.2025 at 11.30 hours	Allotment of contract for Multi-Purpose stalls (MPS) at Jalandhar Cantt. Railway Station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in No. MC/38015/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date: 17.03.2025

Serving Customers With A Smile

APPEAL

**Jamia Arabia Ashrafuloom
Hyderpora Srinagar**
Tel: 0194-2441801, 2436804, 9797111339

Dear Brothers in Islam, Asalamu Alikum.

Jamia Arabia Ashraf-ul-Uloom, Hyderpora srinagar, is a well-known religious institution where students receive education in Islamic sciences. By the grace of Allah, the number of students is increasing daily. As a result, the institution's education and accommodation system has expanded significantly. However, due to this expansion, the financial burden has also increased.

Since its establishment, the institution has relied entirely on donations. Now, with the growing number of students, expenses have also risen. The monthly budget of the Jamia has reached in Lakhs, covering teachers' salaries, student meals, and other expenses. Currently, the institution has 46 teachers and staff members and over 350 students. Additionally, there is an urgent need for constructing classrooms, student accommodations, and a teachers' residence.

Due to these financial challenges, the Jamia has accumulated a large amount of debt. This is a moment of concern for all well-wishers. By the grace of Allah, and through the generosity of charitable individuals like you, this institution has always been supported.

We request you to contribute generously during the blessed month of

from Chief Patron and members of Jamia Arabia Ashrafuloom Hyderpora

You can your self visit this institution and deposit your money or you can credit your amount to following Account numbers

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Branch Hyderpora

For Construction 0385040100000957
For JANAKI 0385040100007804
For MASUD SHARIF 0385010100001353

SAD DEMISE

It is to inform with grief and sorrow that Mr Mohammad Jaffar Akhooon S/O Late Mohammad Asgar Akhooon R/o Zaildar Mohalla Saida kadal srinagar left for heavenly abode on 18th March Tuesday 2025 after a brief illness at Home Srinagar

He was pious, down to earth and staunch believer of Ahlubait a.s.

Congregational prayers will be observed on friday the 21th March 2025 at their ancestral graveyard at imam Bara Hassanabad (Rainawari) at 06:30 a.m in the morning after that day long condolence will continue at his Residence Dar-ul-Asgar Zaildar Mohalla Saida Kadal Srinagar for the whole day.

May Allah bestow the Departed soul Highest place in Paradise and give fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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Business & Sales Head: Namisha Raj
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
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Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

India's Strategic Vision

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's podcast with MIT researcher Lex Fridman offered a rare glimpse into his views on India's foreign policy, particularly in relation to Pakistan, China, and global institutions like the United Nations. This was after a long time that the PM sat for an interview and so was enlightening as to India's approach to a deeply uncertain world. The PM talked at length about India's relationship with Pakistan, a topic that he otherwise has studiously avoided in recent years. He recounted that his efforts to improve relations with Pakistan which included inviting the then Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif to his swearing-in ceremony in 2014 - had been met with hostility and acts of terror.

The PM has more or less elaborated the central government's policy towards Islamabad since 2014 when the BJP government took power. Although there have been efforts to kick-start an engagement between the two nations, they have been swiftly aborted following a violent incident either in Kashmir or in other parts of the country which were traced to Pakistan. Last such attack which put a complete break on dialogue was on the Pathankot air force base in 2016 which killed seven soldiers. After that, New Delhi never pursued a dialogue with Pakistan with any seriousness.

In one of his interviews during the last year's parliamentary election campaign, PM Modi made it clear that India "shouldn't bother much about Pakistan and whether it changes its approach or not." He added that for the past 10 years he had put a lock on Pakistan being a factor in running India. "Let Pakistan manage two square meals. We don't need to waste our time," he remarked, hinting at Pakistan's dismal state of affairs.

As for China, the PM struck a cautious note. Over the years, India has developed a complex relationship with its more powerful neighbour. China is a neighbour, a rival and also a great power, with a GDP that is several times more than that of India's. He expressed optimism that the relationship with China was improving following his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in October, saying they were now working to restore conditions to how they were before 2020.

However, the PM stressed his personal bond with the US president Donald Trump, saying both of them prioritize 'Nation First' approach. Considering their bonhomie from Trump's first term, the two leaders are likely to get along well. The interview shows India's foreign policy as a blend of pragmatism and long-term vision. Overall, Modi's remarks reflect a foreign policy that is increasingly self-assured—one that prioritizes India's strategic interests while maintaining a firm stance on regional security and global partnerships.



Did you know?

Understanding Why Assured Returns on Equity Investments Are Illegal in India

Investing in equity can be an exciting journey for many, but it's crucial to understand the legal framework surrounding it, especially regarding guaranteed returns. Here's a detailed overview of why promises of assured returns on equity investments are illegal in India, designed for layman investors in Kashmir.

1. Market Risks: The Nature of Equity Investments

Equity investments are fundamentally unpredictable, characterized by their potential for both high returns and significant losses. The very essence of investing in the stock market is that while it can yield substantial profits, there are also risks involved. No financial expert or advisor can guarantee fixed returns on these investments—it's simply part of the game.

Legal Basis: Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956

The *Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956* highlights the importance of transparency and fairness in the trading of securities. This law outlines that promises of guaranteed returns violate the fundamental nature of equity investments, where market fluctuations are part of the risk investors accept.

2. The Deceptive Nature of Assured Promises

Promises of assured returns not only mislead investors but can also lead to serious financial repercussions. When individuals or companies claim fixed returns on equity investments, they risk falling into the realm of fraudulent activities. Such misleading assurances can distort investor expectations and ultimately cause harm.

Legal Basis: SEBI Act, 1992

Under the *SEBI Act, 1992*, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is tasked with protecting investors from fraudulent and unfair trade practices. Offering assured returns directly contradicts this mandate, as it misleads potential investors and can lead to significant financial losses.

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

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

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



Pic Credit: Khrew My Town Facebook Page

Khrew-Pahalgam Mountains

Plantations Not Roads!

Cement factories have already destroyed the area and road construction will be murderous for the biodiversity in this mountain stretch



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

It was shocking for me when I learned that Justice (Retired) Hasnain Masoodi, the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Pampore, is advocating for the construction of a road from Khrew to Pahalgam. This proposed road will pass through Wahab Sahib, Syedabad Pastuna, Karmula, Tral, Lehandajan, and Salar.

An official government statement, made in response to Mr. Hasnain Masoodi's Assembly Question (AQ), said that the road construction is at the DPR stage and that the distance from Srinagar to Pahalgam via Khrew-Pampore will be reduced by 30 kilometers. I find this government statement absurd and ludicrous, especially at a time when everyone in the government—from the Prime Minister to the Chief Minister, and from Union Ministers to State Ministers—talks about environmental conservation, wildlife conservation, and achieving the targets under the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our leaders speak at various national and international forums about the challenges we face due to climate change. Yet, when it comes to fulfilling the commitments made at these forums, we succumb to local pressures. I couldn't believe that Mr. Masoodi, a former judge of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court and a highly learned man, would support such a "developmental" project. I am sure the people of his assembly constituency have pressured him to push this project forward; otherwise, he would never recommend something that would impact our forests, environment, and biodiversity.

Cement Factories & Scientific Reports

The proposed Khrew-Pahalgam road project will not only be disastrous for the Pampore assembly constituency but will also impact the entire mountain range from Khrew to Pahalgam. I understand the political compulsions under which our politicians operate, but an MLA or MP is also a leader responsible for guiding the people on environmental challenges.

In a place like Jammu & Kashmir—especially the Kashmir Valley—our political leaders must be even more cautious. Our biodiversity and environment have already suffered due to deforestation, urbanization, riverbed mining, clay mining, emissions from cement factories and motor vehicles, and scientific waste disposal. Khrew and its adjoining areas have suffered immensely over the last 30 years due to massive air pollution from cement factories.

There are more than a dozen cement factories in this area that have plundered everything. The saffron crop has vanished, along with apple and almond trees. According to a report published in J. Himalayan Eco by Moieza Ashraf, G. A. Bhat, and Naira Ashraf from the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Kashmir, cement factories in Khrew are a major source of pollutants in the surrounding areas.

Scientific studies have reported that cement dust is a significant cause of air pollution. The study revealed that the area is polluted with very high calcium content in the topsoil. The alkaline pH of the soil has been attributed

to the accumulation of cement dust containing acid-neutralizing compounds, such as lime and gypsum. The reference site's mildly alkaline nature is due to the decomposition of organic matter and the release of organic acids (Brady and Weil, 2000).

Furthermore, the study states that the value of organic carbon, organic matter, and loss on ignition was found to be lowest at one of the sites near Khrew, in the vicinity of a cement factory. Soil organic matter is a critical component of soil fertility and productivity because it directly affects soil structure, water movement, and root penetration, as well as indirectly influencing soil microbial activity. I believe this study is 15 to 20 years old, so one can only imagine the current state of cement dust pollution in this area.

Axing of 850 Trees

The government's response to the MLA Pampore's question stated that the project remains subject to the availability of funds and forest clearance. It is estimated that around 850 trees will be felled between Khrew Wahab Sahib and Pastuna alone, according to the DPR. From Pastuna to Bathnoor Karmula and Lehandajan Pahalgam, there will be massive deforestation, particularly of Kail, Deodar, and Fir trees.

I had expected MLA Pampore to advocate for the closure of cement factories in Khrew

EPG Concerned

The Environmental Policy Group (EPG), a Srinagar-based civil society group involved in environmental awareness and advocacy, has expressed serious concerns over the proposed road construction to Pahalgam via Khrew. The EPG issued a press statement a few days ago citing severe environmental risks and the potential loss of biodiversity in this area.

The statement reads:

"The project, as per government plans, would require the felling of 845 trees and the acquisition of 108 kanals of forest land, which environmentalists warn could devastate the fragile ecosystem of the region. The EPG argues that the environmental costs of deforestation and biodiversity disruption far outweigh the project's benefits, including a proposed 30-kilometer reduction in travel distance. With two existing roads already connecting Srinagar and Pahalgam, the group questions the necessity of the new route."

The group has also raised concerns about tunneling alternatives, which could weaken rock structures, disrupt water sources, and pose risks in the seismically active Zone 5. The EPG has urged authorities to consider lessons from past environmental disasters in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh before proceeding with this project.

“The pollution caused by cement factories around Khrew has already affected saffron, apple, and almond crops, as well as wildlife and forests. Above all, people living in Khrew and adjoining villages are suffering from respiratory ailments. Instead of promoting such environmentally destructive projects, the government should take steps to phase out cement factories and launch massive plantation drives in this mountain range

and their rehabilitation. However, hearing that the government is discussing the construction of a road to Pahalgam via Khrew Wahab Sahib was painful.

Replying to a question from Mr. Hasnain Masoodi (MLA Pampore), the Minister for PWD (R&B) stated that the construction of the road via Khrew Wahab Sahib, Syedabad (Pastuna), Karmula Tral, Lehandajan, and Salar will significantly shorten the travel distance between Srinagar and Pahalgam. He claimed that the road would open up new tourist destinations in the upper areas of Tral and create employment opportunities.

"The project consists of two parts: one from Wahab Sahib Khrew to Pastuna and the other from Bathnoor Karmula to Lehandajan Pahalgam," he said, adding that "the DPR for the Pastuna to Wahab Sahib Khrew stretch (8 km) has been prepared at an estimated cost of approximately Rs 27 crore. The proposed road involves the acquisition of 108 kanals of forest land and the felling of 845 trees, which requires forest clearance. The project can proceed only after securing funds and obtaining the necessary clearance," said the Minister for R&B (PWD) in response to the question.

He further stated that "the DPR for the Bathnoor Karmula to Lehandajan Pahalgam stretch amounts to approximately Rs 44.10 crore. However, the road passes through forest land, for which the Forest Department must give its clearance, as the project involves the axing of a significant number of forest trees (Kail, Deodar, and Fir)."

Impact on Wildlife

The Khrew-Pahalgam road project will not only be disastrous for the environment and forests but will also impact wildlife. The wildlife has already suffered due to cement factories and the pollution they cause. If the road is built, traffic movement will destroy the entire habitat of Hangul and other wildlife species. The entire stretch is part of Dachigam Wildlife Sanctuary, which will be severely affected. The proposed road is also expected to pass through a notified Wildlife Sanctuary in Tral, further endangering wildlife habitats.

Conclusion

The pollution caused by cement factories around Khrew has already affected saffron, apple, and almond crops, as well as wildlife and forests. Above all, people living in Khrew and adjoining villages are suffering from respiratory ailments. Instead of promoting such environmentally destructive projects, the government should take steps to phase out cement factories and launch massive plantation drives in this mountain range.

I hope Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, R&B Minister Mr. Surinder Chowdhary, and MLA Pampore Mr. Hasnain Masoodi reconsider this project and do not proceed with road construction in the area.

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

Embracing Diversity and Inclusive Education in Schools

PEERZADA AARIF

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend an orientation program on various aspects of inclusive education, organized by the District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIET) Baramulla. This program underscored the need and importance of inclusive education in our schools. Resource persons, through detailed presentations, discussed how to create truly inclusive heterogeneous classrooms, acknowledging and addressing existing diversities and differences. The Department of Education, in collaboration with SCERT, has been conducting such capacity-building programs for teachers, aligning with the provisions of NEP 2020.

Inclusivity is paramount for addressing the diverse needs and aspirations of children within heterogeneous groups. No classroom is homogenous. Classrooms inherently include children from varied socioeconomic backgrounds, diverse caste groups, different religious groups, different genders, children with disabilities (also known as children with special needs or CWSN), children with specific learning disabilities, socially and economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs), and other forms of diversity.

To address these diversities and ensure the inclusion of all groups, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the concept of inclusive education in our schools.

Inclusive education, as advocated by prominent educationists and philosophers, aims to cultivate a positive and supportive classroom atmosphere, ensuring a fair and equitable learning environment for all children. It seeks to prevent exclusion and discrimination in all its forms.

Inclusive education refers to a teaching and learning environment that supports all students, regardless of their abilities, learning styles, or disabilities. It is founded on the principle that all children have the right to learn together in mainstream classrooms within the same schools.

The National Education Policy



AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL, THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO UPGRADE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE TO BETTER CATER TO THE NEEDS of children from disadvantaged groups, including CWSN. Regular teacher training programs and the appointment of special educators are vital for creating safe and supportive learning environments in our schools

(NEP) 2020 strongly emphasizes inclusive education, with the objective of ensuring that all students, irrespective of disability or ability, have access to high-quality education. The policy also prioritizes equity and social justice.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "Inclusive education means all children

in the same classrooms, in the same schools." It entails providing meaningful learning opportunities for groups that have been traditionally marginalized, including not only children with disabilities but also speakers of minority languages.

The core principles of inclusive education centre around ensuring

equitable access, participation, and a supportive environment for all learners, regardless of their background or abilities. It is about fostering a sense of belonging and celebrating diversity.

Despite notable advancements in global education, millions of children from marginalized communities remain excluded from

quality education. They encounter barriers such as poverty, discrimination, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient teaching resources, which impede their access to learning opportunities. UNESCO reports that approximately 258 million children and youth are out of school globally, with marginalized groups being disproportionately affected. The absence of inclusive education perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality and hinders the potential of these individuals to contribute fully to their communities and society.

In Jammu and Kashmir, there is a substantial population of children belonging to various marginalized, disabled (CWSN), and other disadvantaged groups. The 2011 Census reported approximately 4 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir living with various disabilities. While this data needs updating, it's acknowledged that the number of individuals with disabilities, including conditions like autism and learning disabilities, has been increasing. Like other regions, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has a significant population of children with special needs.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the estimated population of children with special needs (CWSN) is around 30,273, representing 0.8% of the 5-18 year old child population, with a slightly higher percentage of boys (53.3%) than girls (46.7%).

The concept of fostering inclu-

and SCERT JK have undertaken various initiatives to address the needs of Children With Special Needs (CWSN) or children with disabilities, with the aim of integrating them into the educational mainstream. However, more concerted efforts are necessary in this direction.

The concept of inclusive education represents a paradigm shift from traditional teaching methods to more progressive and active pedagogies. It facilitates the removal of barriers and obstacles, enabling the realization of universal education and the development of a well-structured nation. Every child possesses the capacity to integrate into their community and develop a sense of belonging. Teachers play a crucial role in identifying students' strengths and weaknesses and tailoring instructional programs accordingly.

Teachers, as key stakeholders, must equip themselves with new and advanced learning techniques, adhering to the guidelines of NEP 2020, to ensure the effective implementation of inclusive education principles at the grassroots level. Our schools should be inclusive spaces for all forms of diversity. Embracing diversity will pave the way for education for all, ultimately fostering the progress and development of our future human resources, who are being shaped within our classrooms.

At the administrative level, the government needs to upgrade existing infrastructure to better cater to the needs of children from disadvantaged groups, including CWSN. Regular teacher training programs and the appointment of special educators are vital for creating safe and supportive learning environments in our schools. Providing specialized facilities in schools for CWSN children and addressing the specific needs of different genders are also crucial considerations.

In conclusion, fostering inclusivity within our schools will contribute to building a social structure founded on social justice and equity.

The author is a teacher and a freelancer. He can be reached at aarifpeerzadai@gmail.com

Ramazan: Why Napping Might be Good



Short naps – lasting around 20 to 30 minutes – can improve alertness without causing sleep inertia. On the other hand, longer naps, such as those lasting 40 minutes or more, have been shown to boost both mental and physical performance but must be scheduled carefully to avoid interfering with nighttime sleep.

Timothy Hearn

During Ramazan, Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. This unique rhythm often leads to changes in sleeping patterns. With nights shortened and days filled with fasting, many Muslims find themselves battling fatigue and a dip in alertness – and a well-timed nap may provide a much needed boost.

Recently published research on athletes fasting during Ramazan has demonstrated that even a 40-minute nap taken after a strenuous evening session can significantly improve physical and cognitive performance. And, in studies with soccer players, those who napped showed better performance in short-distance shuttle runs and attention tests than those who skipped the nap.

So, why can naps have such a transformative effect on our energy levels?

Siesta science

Naps work by giving the brain and

body a chance to reset. When you're awake for long stretches – especially under the stress of altered meal times and reduced nighttime sleep – the brain accumulates sleep pressure.

A nap, especially in the early afternoon when many experience a natural dip in alertness, can relieve that pressure and enhance mood, reaction time, and even physical endurance. One 2024 study, for instance, showed that a 40-minute nap not only reduced feelings of sleepiness but also improved performance in tasks that require focus and quick thinking. While a 2025 study of female athletes found that both 40-minute and even 90-minute naps could enhance physical performance and mood after a night of sleep restriction.

But it's not all good news for habitual nappers. Although longer naps sometimes show even greater benefits, they may also lead to temporary grogginess – a phenomenon known as sleep inertia

– which can counteract the positive effects if not managed properly.

But there's evidence that exposure to bright light and face washing could help nappers combat sleep inertia. For some, though, this grogginess can linger long enough to affect productivity, mood, and overall performance.

When it comes to nap duration and timing, the key is to find the "sweet spot". Short naps – lasting around 20 to 30 minutes – can improve alertness without causing sleep inertia. On the other hand, longer naps, such as those lasting 40 minutes or more, have been shown to boost both mental and physical performance but must be scheduled carefully to avoid interfering with nighttime sleep.

To nap, or not to nap?

During Ramazan, when the body is already adapting to a shifted sleep schedule, a carefully timed nap might be especially beneficial. It can serve as

a counterbalance to the reduced sleep quality and quantity that sometimes accompany fasting. However, if taken too late in the day, a nap might delay the onset of your regular sleep cycle, leading to disrupted sleep patterns.

But, when taken at the right time, napping can be a valuable tool for enhancing alertness, mood, and even physical performance – benefits that are particularly relevant during periods of fasting like Ramazan.

Ultimately, the decision to adopt a daily nap should be guided by your personal lifestyle, sleep quality, and overall health goals. For many, a well-timed, moderate-length nap is not only a healthy habit, but also a strategic advantage in managing daily challenges – whether you're fasting during Ramazan or simply trying to make the most of a hectic day.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Trump, Putin agree to immediate ceasefire for energy and infrastructure in Ukraine war

Washington, Mar 18 (AP) President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed during a lengthy call Tuesday to an immediate pause in strikes against energy and infrastructure targets in the Ukraine war, but the Russian leader stopped short of backing a broader 30-day pause in fighting that the US administration is pressing for.

The White House described it as the first step in a "movement to peace" it hopes will

eventually include a maritime ceasefire in the Black Sea and a full and lasting end to the fighting.

The White House added negotiations would "begin immediately" in the Middle East on those steps. Shortly after the call between Trump and Putin, air raid alerts sounded in Kyiv, followed by explosions in the city. Local officials urged people to seek shelter.

It was not immediately clear whether Ukraine is on board

with the limited ceasefire plan.

Ukrainian officials had proposed a ceasefire covering the Black Sea and long-range missile strikes and the release of prisoners at their meeting with the US delegation in Saudi Arabia earlier this month.

"We agreed to an immediate Ceasefire on all Energy and Infrastructure, with an understanding that we will be working quickly to have a Complete Ceasefire and, ultimately, an END to this very horrible War

between Russia and Ukraine," Trump posted on social media following his call.

The Kremlin said Putin welcomed Trump's calls for the maritime ceasefire and "agreed to begin negotiations to further work out specific details of such an agreement."

Putin also told Trump that Russia and Ukraine are set to exchange 175 prisoners of war each on Wednesday, and Russia will also hand over to Ukraine 23 badly wounded soldiers, the Kremlin said.

Putin also called on Trump to end foreign military and intelligence assistance to Ukraine as the US looks to bring an end to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to the Kremlin.

The move comes as the White House pushes for Russia to sign off on its 30-day ceasefire proposal aimed at ending the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials last week agreed to the 30-day ceasefire proposal during talks in Saudi Arabia led by Secretary

of State Marco Rubio. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, however, remains skeptical that Putin is ready for peace as Russian forces continue to pound Ukraine.

The engagement is just the latest turn in dramatically shifting US-Russia relations as Trump made quickly ending the conflict a top priority — even at the expense of straining ties with longtime American allies who want Putin to pay a price for the invasion.

In preparation for the Trump-Putin call, White House special envoy Steve Witkoff met last week with Putin in Moscow to discuss the proposal. Rubio had persuaded senior Ukrainian officials during talks in Saudi Arabia to agree to the ceasefire framework.

Putin last week said he agreed in principle with the US proposal, but emphasised that Russia would seek guarantees that Ukraine would not use a break in hostilities to rearm and continue mobilization.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

J&K Got Fewer

alleging discrimination against Jammu and Kashmir for receiving "fewer assets" during the distribution process.

"It is true that there has been very little investment in terms of allocation of assets to Jammu and Kashmir, but our endeavour has been to distribute assets through agreement and mutual understanding. The bifurcation of Ladakh and J&K occurred over five years ago," the chief minister said in his response.

Abdullah, however, pointed out that "if we look at the case of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, which were separated long ago, they are still embroiled in disputes over assets, even in court".

"We did not want to go down that path. Our aim is to resolve this issue through mutual understanding despite its impact on J&K," Abdullah said.

A significant part of the guesthouse at Chanakypuri in Delhi has been allotted to Ladakh, resulting in limited accommodation available at the J&K House in the capital, he said.

"To address the accommodation requirements, the government has acquired a plot of land measuring 3179.58 square metres on a perpetual leasehold basis from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Dwarka for constructing a J&K Bhawan complex, considering its accessibility and proximity to the other state bhavans," he added.

The chief minister added that the possibility of creating additional accommodation on Prithviraj Road in Delhi is being explored.

Regarding encroachments on J&K's assets, Abdullah said a property owned by the J&K government in Delhi, measuring one kanal and 11.2 marlas, was illegally occupied by unauthorised individuals, not duly authorised by the estates office or the resident commission in Delhi.

These individuals have been successfully evicted, and the resident commissioner now has possession of the property, he said.

The chief minister had earlier said that financial liabilities amounting to Rs 2,504.46 crore are to be transferred to Ladakh, and the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ladakh administration.

Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories -- J&K and Ladakh -- on October 31, 2019, following the abrogation of Article 370.

'New J&K Bhawan

Tanvir Sadiq regarding lack of accommodation for those visiting Delhi, Chandigarh from J&K after the transfer of main buildings of Jammu and Kashmir House, New Delhi, to the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Hospitality & Protocol portfolio, clarified that a significant portion of the Guest House at Chanakypuri has been allocated to Ladakh. "Consequently, the UT of J&K has limited accommodation available at J&K House, Chanakypuri, New Delhi," he informed the House.

To address this issue, the government has acquired a plot at Plot No. 3, Sector-19, Phase-1, Dwarka, New Delhi, where a JK Bhawan complex will be constructed. This location was chosen for its accessibility and proximity to other state bhavans, ensuring better facilities for J&K visitors.

Regarding the property in Chandigarh, the Chief Minister informed the House that J&K owns a property in Sector-17, Chandigarh, which will be modified after obtaining the necessary permissions.

He assured that arrangements would be made to provide proper accommodation for patients traveling to Chandigarh for medical treatment. The Chief Minister emphasized that while constructing new buildings, J&K's architectural heritage will be reflected in the designs, and traditional J&K cuisine will also be made available. Additionally, more locals from J&K will be employed in these establishments.

Clarifying concerns over asset distribution post-2019, the Chief Minister stated that the apportionment of assets between J&K and Ladakh was carried out based on the recommendations of an Advisory Committee constituted under Section 85 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, as well as a committee formed under Government Order No. 1011-GAD of 2019 dated 12.09.2019.

CM said that the asset allocation between J&K and Ladakh was done by the apportionment of assets & liabilities committee constituted by

the Central Government.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister mentioned that the government is exploring possibilities of creating additional accommodation at 5 Prithviraj Road to further address accommodation needs. He also informed the House about the successful retrieval of government property at Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi, which had been under unauthorized occupation.

The property, measuring one kanal and 11.2 marlas, was occupied by individuals who were not duly authorized by the Estates Office, Resident Commission, New Delhi.

"Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5(1) of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971, the unauthorized occupants have been evicted, and the property is now in the possession of the Resident Commission, J&K," he stated.

High-Security

have prompted the security alert, the officials said.

Rehman, who was wanted by the Indian security agencies for several deadly terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, including the killings of seven civilians in Rajouri in January 2023 and nine pilgrims in Reasi in June 2024, was gunned down along with his bodyguard in an attack by gunmen in the Jhelum area of Punjab province in Pakistan on Saturday evening.

Considered the most trusted handler of LeT founder and 26/11 Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Rehman infiltrated into the Jammu region in early 2000 and exfiltrated in 2005. He had a wide network of overground workers (OWGs) in Poonch and Rajouri through his old contacts, the officials said.

Quoting intelligence inputs, the officials pointed at the possibility of a 'lone wolf attack' or a targeted attack on any protected person by terrorists to avenge the killing of their commander and the anniversary of 'Jang-e-Badr', a pivotal military victory led by Prophet Muhammad in 624 CE (17th Ramadan, 2 AH) near the town of Badr, Saudi Arabia.

The officials said an advisory was issued to all the protected persons who have been asked to give their tour programmes in advance to the security control room or district senior

superintendents of police for tying up arrangements with the concerned agencies.

They have also been asked to avoid last minute additions to their tour programmes and move in the terrorism-infested areas only on the days when the road opening parties are deployed, the officials said, adding that they were advised against visiting any area after sunset or changing the already prescribed routes.

The protected persons have been asked to keep their programmes secret, and move around with their personal security officers who should be permitted to leave only after getting a substitute, the officials said.

They said the advisory also requested the protectees to avoid participation in public meetings at crowded or vulnerable places for the time being, and not move out of their vehicles unnecessarily unless proper security cover is present.

The protectees have also been asked not to come out to receive guests without knowing their identity, the officials said, adding that they were asked to inform the security personnel immediately on noticing anything suspicious.

The officials said security around the vital institutions have also been enhanced as a precautionary measure.

No Plan To Provide

the Department in Kashmir Valley and 1,57,804 in Jammu, the minister said.

Listing out steps to provide employment to unemployed youth, the minister said all the departments refer their vacant posts after fulfillment of codal formalities to Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission and Services Selection Board.

"The Employment Department is organizing career counselling on a regular basis for unemployed youth that helps them to explore career options in different avenues," he said.

J&K CM Gets

and individuals engaged in activities that, in his opinion, enhance public well-being. Cabinet ministers, on the other hand, may provide non-recurring grants to charitable organizations and individuals on similar grounds. (KNO)

J&K Govt Drafting

officially registered by the same department. **CAT Halts JKAS**

Ram Mohan Johri expressed strong displeasure over Sharma's non-compliance. The tribunal noted that multiple warnings had been issued, yet no response was forthcoming.

The order came in response to a plea by Anu Bala, Assistant Director of Fisheries, who contested the CASH committee's findings, arguing that it failed to adhere to legal procedures and Vishakha Guidelines on workplace harassment.

The bench criticized the senior officer's approach, stating that such disregard weakens public trust in the judiciary and hampers justice. Emphasizing that "nobody is above the law," the tribunal stressed the importance of upholding legal procedures.

Sharma's salary will remain withheld until further orders, with the tribunal directing her Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) to ensure compliance. The next hearing is scheduled for April 11, 2025.

J&K VIP Visits

clarified that the spending on VIP visits follows established protocols to facilitate their smooth conduct.

BJP MLA Stages

Abdul Rahim Rather, who stated that his name had been called earlier when he was absent. The MLA explained that he was delayed due to a traffic jam caused by poor traffic management.

Accusing the Speaker and the Assembly Secretariat of unfair treatment, Pathania expressed frustration over not being given a chance to speak and having his queries ignored. In protest, he walked out of the Assembly.

"As per House rules, every MLA can raise 10 questions in both starred and unstarred formats. However, only one of my questions was included in the proceedings. Nineteen remain pending, and the session ends in just seven days," he told reporters outside the Assembly.

Pathania reiterated his objection to what he called a biased approach by the Speaker and the Assembly Secretariat, emphasizing his demand for fair treatment in legislative proceedings.

28th year OF PUBLICATION



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OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

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UNRAVEL KASHMIR

Radical Social Media User Arrested

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Acting on credible intelligence, and during the course of social media surveillance, a team of CIK successfully identified and apprehended an individual operating a radical social media handle on Facebook, 'Shaddy Kashmir Dryfruits', which was being used to disseminate extremist content with an intention to disturb peace.

Upon receiving input about the online activity, a swift investigation was launched, social media handle was resolved leading to the identification of the suspect as Showkat Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Ahmad Dar, a resident of Doodh Mohalla, Shalimar, Srinagar.

The social media abuser Showkat Ahmad Dar was found to be actively engaged in posting and sharing content aimed at glorifying terrorism, terrorist commanders and inciting anti-national sentiments among young minds. Efforts to track the suspect were initially hindered due to his constant movement and change of location.

However, a well-coordinated strategy was implemented on ground to apprehend him along with his electronic device. A preliminary inspection of the digital devices revealed access to the radical Facebook account, along with incriminating materials, including a video of slain terrorist commander

Zakir Musa and other extremist propaganda.

It is crucial to highlight that Showkat Ahmad Dar has a history of radical activities. He was previously arrested in 2019 by Harwan Police Station of Srinagar for involvement in stone-pelting incidents. Additionally, in 2022, he was detained by Cyber Police Station Srinagar for engaging in the online dissemination of radical content.

It is noteworthy that on the request of intelligence agencies in Jammu and Kashmir, all the social media service providers have established special units to monitor the radical propaganda especially in J&K. The moment any such radical activity is witnessed by their monitoring unit, it is reported to the security agencies immediately.

These joint actions by security and intelligence agencies in Jammu and Kashmir in coordination with The Special Monitoring units of social media companies, has been responsible in busting many radical modules and identify potential terrorists.

The successful apprehension of the suspect highlights the commitment of law enforcement agencies to curb online radicalization and safeguarding the youth from extremist influences.

Investigations are going on, his role and other associates are under probe, and further legal action will follow as per the provisions of the law.

NHIDCL Paving Way For J&K's Infrastructure Transformation

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, is changing the face of Jammu and Kashmir by building modern roads and tunnels. With projects worth 20,500 crores under way, including three national highways and seven tunnels (four under construction and three in the planning stage), the region is seeing major improvements in travel, economy, and security.

Important projects like the Sonamarg Tunnel and Zoji-La Tunnel are connecting some of India's toughest terrains. These new roads not only make travel easier for residents and boost tourism but also ensure year-round access to border areas for security forces. NHIDCL's work is helping Jammu and Kashmir grow economically and stay better connected to the rest of India.

It has been reported that NHIDCL has completed seven major projects in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Sonamarg Tunnel (2,378.76 crores). Ongoing projects such as the Zoji-La Tunnel (6,808.69 crores) and the Chenani-Sudhmahadev-Khelani-Kishtwar-Vailoo-Khanabal highway on NH-244 are making travel



smoother and safer.

The Sudhmahadev-Dranga Tunnels (3,876 crores) and the Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel (5,025 crores) on NH-244 are also of great strategic importance. Unlike NH-44, which is closer to the Line of Control (LoC), NH-244 provides a safer route for the military. The Sudhmahadev-Dranga Tunnels reduce travel distance from 100 km to just 32 km, making army movements faster. The Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel, bypassing the snow-covered Sinthan Pass, ensures all-weather connectivity and saves travel time.

NHIDCL is following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). A representative from NHIDCL said, "Our projects in Jammu and Kashmir use the latest technology and global engineering expertise to tackle the unique challenges of high-altitude areas. The

Sonamarg and Zoji-La tunnels use advanced tunnel-building techniques to ensure safety and stability. These developments are not just about roads; they also boost trade, tourism, and access to essential services, improving people's lives."

Since 2014, Jammu and Kashmir's road network has expanded significantly, with 258 kilometers of highways built. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, along with PWD, BRO, and NHAI, is making large investments to improve infrastructure. More than 10,192 crores have been invested in BRO and PWD projects, including the Akhnoor-Poonch road, which is improving accessibility and mobility. NHAI's major projects, such as the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway (11,090 crores), will further improve connectivity, reduce travel time, and support economic growth in the region. (KINS)

RBI Organises Town Hall Meeting For MSME Entrepreneurs



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Reserve Bank of India, Jammu organised a town hall meeting for the MSMEs entrepreneurs at Srinagar. The event was presided over by Chandrashekhar Azad, Regional Director, RBI, UTs of JK and Ladakh and attended by Neeraj Kumar, General Manager, RBI; Raees Maqbool, GM, UTLCB, J&K; Ashutosh Sareen, GM, Jammu & Kashmir Bank; Saheel Yaqoob, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO; Anil Kumar Sharma, DGM, PNB, other senior bankers and representative from Industries associations. Around 150 entrepreneurs/prospective entrepreneurs participated and benefited from the programme.

At the outset Chandrashekhar Azad, Regional Director, RBI, UTs of J&K and Ladakh welcomed the participants and explained that the objectives behind conducting Town Hall meetings are to create awareness of banking facilities in clusters, link the unbanked entrepreneurs to the formal banking system and create a platform for a two-way communication amongst the stakeholders. He further elaborated

that the Town Hall meeting is a medium for resolving issues, facilitating credit linkage and disseminating of the information /guidelines issued by RBI pertaining to MSME sector. He also explained the untapped potential in MSME sector in employment generation and economic prosperity of the country and exhorted the entrepreneurs to come forward and be partners in economic growth of the country. He highlighted that in UT of J&K, MSME sector achieved 134% of Annual Credit Plan (ACP) target for the year 2024-25 up to December 2024. Also, credit outstanding in the MSME sector achieved a growth of 10.51% from December 2023 to December 2024 in UT of J&K.

Presentations on Credit Guarantee Architecture for MSE finance, Credit Scoring and Rating Models for Financing of MSMEs and TReDS Platform were delivered by experts on the subject. During the question hour session, participants interacted freely and clarified their doubts with all stakeholders. The participants as well as the senior officers of the banks highly appreciated the efforts of RBI in reaching out to the people directly for their benefit by holding such meetings.

Awareness Camp On Self-Employment Schemes Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: JK Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd., Srinagar, organized an Awareness Camp at Chattabal, Srinagar, on Tuesday in collaboration with the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi. The event focused on informing the general public, particularly individuals belonging to backward classes, about self-employment schemes undertaken by the corporation. The event drew a large gathering of people.

Speaking on the occasion, Mehmood-ul-Haq Gundroo, Deputy General Manager (Kashmir), provided a brief introduction to various income-generating schemes, with special emphasis on the scheme dedicated to backward classes.

He urged people to come forward to avail benefits offered by the corporation. Attention was drawn to the low-interest rates on loans. The Deputy General Manager (Kashmir) reiterated the corporation's commitment to supporting individuals in creating opportunities for themselves and others. The corporation remains steadfast in its mission to empower individuals and drive progress toward a self-reliant society.

Zulfikar Ali, District Manager, Srinagar, of the corporation, gave a detailed description of the corporation's schemes for establishing income-generating units. Emphasis was placed on the education loan schemes. Ms. Shreeza, Chairperson of Chinar Valley Youth Trust, attended the event and appreciated the corporation's efforts, expressing a desire for organizing more such awareness camps.

SINCE 2014, JAMMU AND KASHMIR'S ROAD NETWORK HAS EXPANDED SIGNIFICANTLY, with 258 kilometers of highways built. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, along with PWD, BRO, and NHAI, is making large investments to improve infrastructure.

CM Moves 13 Demands, 12 Supplementary Demands

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday moved 13 Demands and 12 supplementary Demands in the Legislative Assembly which was subsequently presented before the House for discussion by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather.

"I move that a sum not exceeding the aggregate amount mentioned in Demand Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 19, 20, 24, 31 and 33 be granted to Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 2026 in respect of Heads indicated in the List of Business against each demand," Chief Minister said.

These Demands for Grants pertain to the General Administration Department, Finance, Housing, Power Development, Tourism, Revenue, Law, Disaster Management, Hospitality & Protocol, Civil Aviation, Cul-



ture, Estates Information and Planning departments and the charge of these departments is held by the Chief Minister.

He added: "I also move that a sum not exceeding the aggregate amount mentioned in Supplementary Demand Nos. 1, 8, 10, 12, 18, 19, 24, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 36 be granted to Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 2025

in respect of Heads indicated in the List of Business against each demand."

The discussion for demands of grants will continue for today, March 19 and 20 while Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will reply to the demands on grants on March 20 afternoon which will be followed by voice vote to pass the demands of grants.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister informed the Legislative Assembly that the digitization of Jamabandi for Balhama has been completed and is currently undergoing authentication.

Responding to a question by Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad Pardeesi, the Chief Minister, who also holds charge of the Revenue Department, stated that the digitization of Jamabandi for Lasjan has also been completed.

However, any errors identified during the process are being rectified on a case-to-case basis.

Kashmir Sees Tourist Surge As Badamwari Blooms In Spring

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With the arrival of spring, the Kashmir Valley is witnessing a surge in tourism, as visitors from across the country and abroad flock to its scenic landscapes.

Among the first major attractions to come alive after the harsh winter is Srinagar's historic Badamwari Garden, which has transformed into a breathtaking spectacle of almond blossoms, drawing nature lovers and travelers alike.

Located at the foothills of Koh-e-Maran in the old city of Srinagar, the sprawling 300-kanal Badamwari Garden is adorned with almond trees in full bloom, offering a mesmerizing experience to visitors. The delicate pink and white flowers, set against a backdrop of verdant greenery, create a striking contrast to the snow-clad peaks of the valley, making it a must-visit destination for tourists during this season.

News agency KINS reported that over the past few days, as temperatures have risen and the sun has bathed the region in warmth, the foothill in Badamwari has significantly



increased. Tourists were seen strolling through the garden, capturing selfies, and soaking in the tranquil atmosphere.

Sunita, a tourist from Delhi, shared her excitement about the visit. "We had initially planned to leave early, but at the last moment, we decided to stop by Badamwari. After spending days amid Kashmir's snowy landscapes, witnessing these vibrant blossoms was a refreshing change. The beauty of nature here is simply breathtaking," she said.

Another tourist, who had been exploring the valley for a week, expressed awe at the picturesque setting. "This is my first time witnessing such an enchanting bloom. The sight of almond flowers covering the garden is a life-

time experience. I would recommend everyone to visit Kashmir during spring at least once every two years," he said.

The resurgence of tourism in Kashmir marks a positive turn for the region's economy, especially after the challenges posed by previous disruptions. With more travelers choosing Kashmir as their springtime destination, local businesses, hoteliers, and tour operators are hopeful for a prosperous season ahead.

Authorities are also making efforts to enhance the tourist experience by improving infrastructure and ensuring seamless visitor management. The Department of Tourism has been actively promoting spring attractions, with Badamwari emerging as a highlight in its campaign. (KINS)

Statehood Restoration Govt's Top Priority: Dy CM

Agencies

KULGAM: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday said that the top most priority of the National Conference led government is to restore statehood and special status to Jammu and Kashmir, besides safeguarding land and jobs.

Talking to reporters after paying tribute to former Speaker Wali Mohammad on his 31st death anniversary at Dambhal Hanjipora here in South Kashmir, the Deputy Chief Minister, said, "Since the formation of the National Conference government, we have been doing whatever is possible."

Asked about the promises made in NC's manifesto during elections, he said that all commitments would be fulfilled.

"The promises made by the National Conference in its manifesto will be fulfilled one by one. Give us some time, as we are deeply concerned about the employment of youth. The National Conference government has only one motive—to work for the poor and fulfill the aspirations and dreams of the people," Choudhary said.

Responding to a query on the deaths of two people in Qazigund, Kulgam, he condemned the incident and called for an investigation, urging the Lieutenant Governor of J&K to intervene. "It is very wrong, and we con-



demn such incidents. There is a need for an inquiry, and the LG should intervene, as the police are under him. He must look into how such deaths occur, whether in Kashmir or Jammu. Also work needs to be done on drug menace," he said.

Meanwhile, Choudhary visited Chandian Pajan area of Kulgam to meet the family of the two brothers who were found dead after they went missing.

He called for a judicial probe into the deaths, saying, "Two youths from the Gujjar-Bakarwal community have lost their lives, and one has been missing for several days. CM Omar Abdullah has directed us to visit the families and understand their needs. We can't bring back the deceased, but I assure you that a judicial inquiry will be conducted," he said.

He stated that the government would provide all possible assistance to the families, adding that Omar Abdullah government knows how to address issues—(KNO)

Teachers Forum Urges Timely Salary Release Ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum has urged the administration to release the salary budget for March 2025 ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, ensuring that employees receive their dues in time to prepare for the festival.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Forum Chairman Mohammad Shafi Rather emphasized the need for early salary disbursement, particularly before Shab-e-Qadr, to enable employees to meet their financial obligations, including shopping for essential commodities and making charitable donations. He pointed out that Eid-ul-Fitr, which falls at the end of the month, requires significant financial planning for employees.

"Many employees set aside contributions for generous causes, especially during the sacred nights of Ramadan. With the night of decree (Shab-e-Qadr) approaching, it is crucial that salaries are credited in advance to facilitate

charitable donations and festival preparations," Rather stated.

The Chairman also highlighted the impact of income tax deductions on the February salaries, which resulted in many employees receiving only a portion of their earnings. Given this financial strain, he urged Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take immediate steps to release the March salary budget promptly.

Furthermore, Rather appealed to the authorities to clear the pending General Provident Fund (GPF) and gratuity dues of employees. "Many employees are awaiting their GPF and gratuity payments, which could offer them financial relief ahead of the festival. The government must expedite the disbursement process," he added.

The forum expressed hope that the administration would address their concerns at the earliest to ensure that employees can celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr without financial difficulties.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The spellings in Mother's name on D.O.B certificate of my daughter Seerat Fatima is inadvertently mentioned as Firdousa Ali instead of Firdoush Ali. Now, I intend to rectify the same from the office of concerned authorities. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact the office of Registrar Births and Deaths (B.D.O) Dadasara within a period of seven days of publication of this notice. After the expiry of seven days, no objection will be entertained.

Mir Safdar Hussain
F/O Seerat Fatima R/O Dadasara Tral

LAA

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mother's name on D.O.B certificate and school records including CBSE Matric Certificate of my son Ahmad Zerk Mir is inadvertently mentioned as Firdousa Safdar instead of Firdoush Ali. Now, I intend to rectify the same from the offices of concerned authorities. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact the concerned offices within a period of seven days of publication of this notice. After the expiry of seven days, no objection will be entertained.

Mir Safdar Hussain F/O Mir Ahmad Zerk
R/O Dadasara Tral Dist: Pulwama, J&K

LAA

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-51-24-25 Date: 18.03.2025

Closing Date/Time: 11.04.2025 15:00 Hrs.

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-51-24-25 Closing Date/Time 11.04.2025 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER

Contract Type	Works	Tender Closing Date, Time	Date, Time of Uploading Tender	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	Period of Completion
Name of Work	(i) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of HBL make Integrated Power Supply (IPS) systems installed at Stations & L-Xing gates under the jurisdiction of Sr. DSTE/FZR over Firozpur division for Three (03) years.	11.04.2025 15:00 hrs.	18.03.2025 13:30 hrs.	28.03.2025	(i) 36 Months
	(ii) Sectional Signal maintenance Contract (SSMC) for the sections of ADSTE/LDH for one year.				
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 1,37,24,453.16 (ii) 1,39,61,726.25				(ii) 12 Months
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 2,18,600.00 (ii) 2,19,800.00				

841/2025

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For queries call

Farooq A Ashai (Coordinator)

Ph: +91 788-9402837

Email : farooq.ashai@motherhelpage.org