

Waqf Being Selectively Targeted: CM



Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill across the country are understandable as only a particular religion is being "targeted".

"Charitable activities are an integral part of all religions, and Muslims carry them out through Waqf. When a specific community is targeted, tensions are bound to arise," Omar told reporters outside the assembly.

The All | [More on P6](#)

2024 J&K Elections Cost Rs 155 Cr

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government disclosed on Monday that an expenditure of Rs 155 crore was incurred for conducting the 2024 Assembly elections in the | [More on P6](#)

12 Free Gas Cylinders For J&K? Govt Says Proposal Under Consideration

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Monday said that the proposal of providing 12 gas cylinders free of cost to people in J&K is currently under

examination.

In a written reply to a question of Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone, Minister in-charge Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma informed the House that the issue of

providing 12 gas cylinders free of cost in J&K is under examination.

"The issue is under examination by the Government. All efforts are being made to fulfill commitments," the minister said.

Lone had | [More on P6](#)

Rain, Snow Likely From March 25

Agencies

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department has forecast light rain and snow over higher reaches of north and central Kashmir from March 25 to 27.

An official | [More on P6](#)

'Border Issues A Humanitarian Concern'

The Chief Minister observed that border dwellers face numerous challenges and said his government will convene a meeting of MLAs from border areas in April to address the issues faced by them. He also said that over Rs 144 crore have been disbursed to farmers, whose lands were affected by fencing along the International | [More on P6](#)

RS 144 CR DISBURSED AMONG People For Border Fencing Compensation."

NC MLA Alleges Manipulation In AAY, BPL Lists

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Monday witnessed a heated discussion after National Conference (NC) MLA Aijaz Jan expressed concerns over the exclusion of deserving families from the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) lists

under the public distribution system (PDS). Speaking in the House, Jan said many families who should be eligible for these schemes were being moved to the Above Poverty Line (APL) category, making them ineligible for key benefits.

"What should I tell people who approach me | [More on P6](#)

Govt To Halt PDS Verification

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said it would put on hold a general administration department order for verifying beneficiaries under the public distribution system. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer | [More on P6](#)

Kathua Operation Enters 2nd Day



Agencies

Jammu: An encounter at Sanyal village near the International Border in the Hiranagar sector in Kathua

district entered its second day on Monday.

The operation entered on Sunday after security forces confronted a group of terrorists | [More on P6](#)

CBSE Mulls Allowing Calculators In Class 12 Exam

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is examining a proposal to allow use of basic non-programmable calculators in class 12 accountability exams to ease cognitive load associated with lengthy calculations, according to board officials.

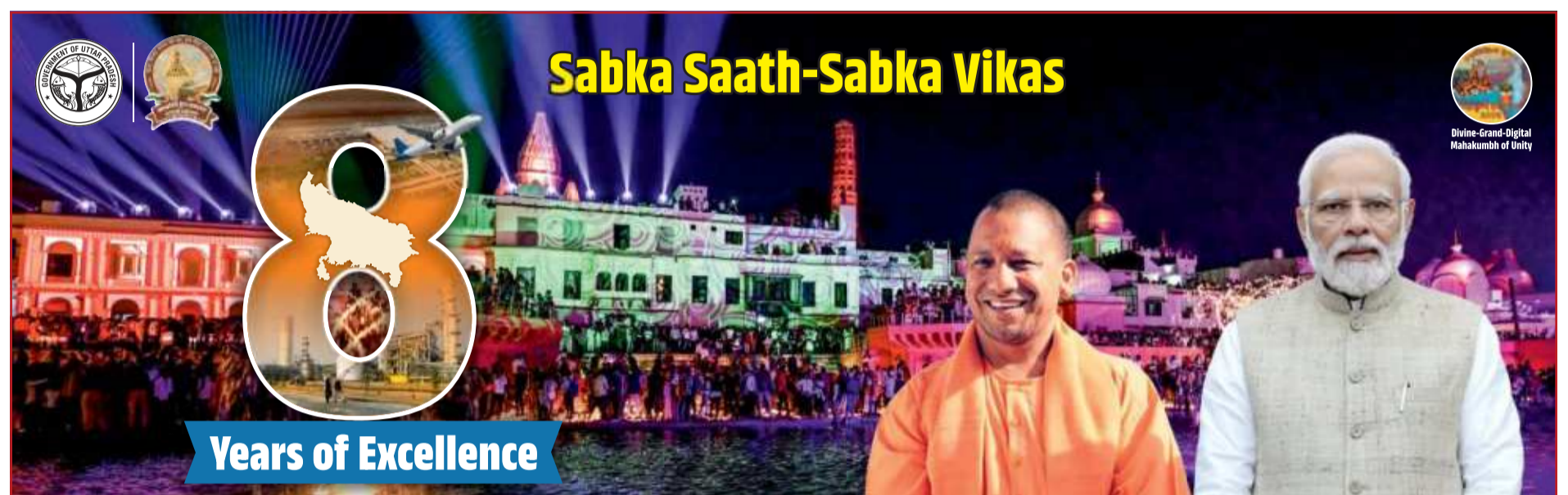
A panel will be formed to formulate guidelines on their use to ensure uniformity, they added.

While CBSE allows students with special needs in both classes 10

and 12 to use calculators, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISEC) allowed class 12 students to use calculators in 2021.

"The board's curriculum committee had proposed that basic, non-programmable calculators be allowed in class 12 accountability examination, limited to functions necessary for typical financial calculations, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and percentage calculations," a senior board official said.

"A panel will be formed | [More on P6](#)



- First in attracting domestic & international tourists
- Pucca houses for 56 Lakh+ families
- First in implementing PM Kisan Samman Nidhi
- 1.86 Crore LPG connections under PM Ujjwala Yojana
- First in providing PM SVANidhi loans to street vendors
- Construction of 2.75 Crore toilets

Uttar Pradesh No. 1

- Free ration to 15 Crore individuals
- PM Matru Vandana assistance to 60 Lakh mothers
- Free electricity connections to 1.58 Crore households
- Free medical treatment up to ₹5 Lakh for 9 Crore people
- 9.57 Crore individuals with Jan Dhan bank accounts
- Gharani certificates to 1 Crore families

Nurturing Farmers, Cultivating Prosperity

- Inaugural Cabinet's First Decision: ₹36,359 Crore crop loan waiver, 94 Lakh farmers benefitted
- Foodgrain Production: Increased from 557.46 Lakh MT in 2016-17 to 668.39 Lakh MT (20% rise) in 2023-24
- Irrigation Capacity: Increased from 82.58 Lakh hectares in 2017 to 131 Lakh hectares, 976 projects completed
- Record Sugarcane Payment: ₹2.80 Lakh Crore paid since 2017, which is ₹66,000 Crore more than the total payments made in the last 22 years
- Sugar Mills: 3 new sugar mills, 6 mills revamped and expansion of 38 sugar mills
- Grain Procurement: Middlemen removed, ₹43,424 Crore disbursed for wheat procurement and ₹88,746 Crore for paddy procurement
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana: ₹80,000 Crore+ transferred to 2.86 Crore farmers
- 73,924 solar pumps installed under PM KUSUM Yojana

Empowering Women, Elevating Nation

- 20% reservation for women in police force with 1.38 Lakh+ women secured Govt. jobs
- 1 Crore+ women employed through 10 Lakh+ self-help groups
- Women Workforce: Increased from 14.2% in 2017 to 35.1%
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana: Free LPG connections to 1.86 Crore families, along with free LPG cylinder refills during Holi and Diwali
- Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana: 22.11 Lakh girls benefitted
- Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana: 33.55 Lakh women benefitted
- Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana: 4.22 Lakh couples tied the knot, financial assistance increased from ₹51,000 to ₹1 Lakh
- Increase in honorarium for Anganwadi workers and helpers, 3.73 Lakh women benefitted
- B.C. Sakhi: 39,000+ women facilitated transactions worth ₹31,626 Crore, earned ₹85.81 Crore dividends

Creating Employment, Inspiring Youth

- Per capita income increased from ₹46,000 in 2017 to ₹1,24,000 in 2024
- Unemployment rate: 18% youth unemployed in 2016, now reduced to 3% in 2024
- Fair and transparent recruitment process: 8.5 Lakh+ government jobs, 3.75 Lakh+ contract jobs
- 2 Crore+ jobs in private sector and MSMEs, 2.54 Lakh+ jobs through ODOP scheme
- Employment to 2.27 Lakh+ youth under Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana
- Aim to train 10 Lakh new entrepreneurs under Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan

Driving Progress through Inclusive Growth

- 3,213 Annapurna Bhawans constructed, while work underway on 1,630 bhawans
- ₹708.49 Crore scholarships to 32,49,854 Scheduled Caste (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹9,662.25 Crore scholarships to 89,31,203 Scheduled Caste (Post-Matric) students
- ₹1,28,627.48 Crore scholarships to 62,79,519 Backward Class (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹7,62,524.03 Crore scholarships to 1,31,05,263 Backward Class (Post-Matric) students
- ₹221.95 Crore scholarships to 8,58,750 General Category (Pre-Matric) students
- ₹5,499.86 Crore scholarships to 48,13,347 General Category (Post-Matric) students

Building a Healthier Future

- Ayushman Bharat: Free treatment up to ₹5 lakh for 9 crore people
- 80 medical colleges operational, MBBS seats increased by 11,300
- AIIMS in Gorakhpur and Raebareilly, and Atal Medical University in Lucknow
- Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University in Gorakhpur
- 22,681 Arogya Mandirs



Uttar Pradesh on the Fast Track to Development

- 6 expressways operational, 11 under construction, Uttar Pradesh will account for 55% of the country's expressway network upon completion of Ganga Expressway
- Expressway length increased by 491 kilometers till 2017 to 1,225 kilometers by 2024
- 32,000 kilometers+ new roads constructed, 25,000 kilometers of roads widened/strengthened
- Number of Airports increased from four till 2017 to 21 Airports till 2024, including 5 international airports
- India's largest Jewar Airport nearly complete, set to become the nation's biggest air cargo hub
- Inland waterway operational from Haldia to Varanasi, expansion work ongoing from Prayagraj-Ayodhya

Zero Tolerance towards Crime

- Prior to 2017: Mafia and criminals unchecked, Post 2017: Rule of law, fear-free environment
- As per NCRB data, 84.41% reduction in dacoity, 77.43% reduction in robbery, 41.01% reduction in murder, 66.40% reduction in rioting, 54.72% reduction in abductions for ransom, 17.08% reduction in dowry deaths and 26.15% rape cases reduced
- 79,984 criminals booked under the Gangster Act, action taken against 930 offenders charged under NSA
- Seizure of nearly ₹3,000 crores worth property from mafia's illegal occupations, facilitating housing for the poor
- 222 notorious criminals killed in encounters, and 28,000+ wanted criminals sent to jail
- Police Commissionerate system implemented in 7 metropolitan cities, 18 Anti-Terrorism Squad units established
- 6 Special Security Force units formed, 3 Women PAC battalions set up
- Cyber police stations established in all districts, 11 Lakh+ CCTV cameras installed
- Response time of 112 Police Control reduced from 25.42 minutes in 2017 to just 7.24 minutes in 2024

Powering Progress

- Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana: Free electricity connections to 1.58 crore homes
- 24-hour power supply to district headquarters, 22-hour at tehsil level and 20-hour power supply in villages
- 100% waiver on power bills of farmers with private tubewells
- 4000 MW capacity plant under the Green Energy Corridor in Bundelkhand
- Establishment of 53 compressed biogas/bio coal/bio diesel and bio ethanol plants

Ensuring Basic Amenities, Enhancing Lives

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana: Free ration to 15 Crore individuals
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: 56 Lakh+ houses constructed
- PM SVANidhi Yojana: ₹3000 Crore+ loan to 1,80,000+ street vendors
- Har Ghar Jal Yojana: Access to potable tap water provided to 2.36 Crore+ families
- MGNREGA: Leads in providing 100 days of employment by generating 200 Crore mandays

Nurturing Young Minds

- Construction of Atal Residential Schools in 18 divisional headquarters
- CM Model Composite Schools in 57 districts
- State Universities operational in Aligarh, Azamgarh, Saharanpur, Mirzapur, Balrampur, and Moradabad
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad National Law University in Prayagraj
- Sainik School, Forestry College, and NCC Training Academy in Gorakhpur
- Veterinary Science Colleges in Gorakhpur and Chandauli



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Researchers Look Into Futuristic Ideas Like Atmospheric Water, Rain Energy

Press Trust Of India

When changing climatic conditions, increasing heat waves and other extreme weather events have challenged the availability of fresh water, experts advocate going beyond the conventional for futuristic solutions. On March 22, as the UN World Water Day focuses attention on the importance of fresh water, here are a bunch of stakeholders who are looking at the futuristic solutions that stand out for their disruptive ideas in the country perennially battling water scarcity with less than three per cent land mass global share against the 18 per cent of population. Dr Visakh Vaikuntanathan, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR, and his team have been working on a novel concept of harnessing rain energy by quantifying the amount of energy contained in rainfall of different intensities, light, medium, heavy, extremely heavy etc. "The energy 'lost' in the form of

sound when rain impacts on surfaces is palpable," says Vaikuntanathan and explained the challenges in the process of harvesting this energy, which differs with the type of rainfall. His team says the 'all-weather' cells - which work as a 'solar cell' when the sun shines and as a 'rain cell' when it is rainy - can be integrated with rooftops, sidewalks, drainage systems etc. to extract energy from raindrops as well as water flow in existing rainwater harvesting systems. With rainfall data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the team calculates the average rainfall rate, expressed in mm/hour. "Next, we employ fluid mechanical models reported in the scientific literature on the relationship between rainfall rate and raindrop size distribution, to estimate the amount of kinetic energy contained in the raindrops within a particular rainfall," he says. "Ongoing studies are focused on improving this framework for estimating the rain energy contained in different rainfall types, and creating a rain energy map



based on the rainfall data," Vaikuntanathan adds. Going beyond conventional sources, such as the fast-depleting groundwater or surface water, atmospheric water harvesting and generation are some of the innovative solutions being implemented. A paper in the journal Nature earlier in the month points out how a sorption-based atmosphere water harvesting (SAWH) irrigation system can "revolutionise agriculture, making it geographically and hydrologically independent". However, not just for irrigation, atmospheric water generation can

be an eco-friendly and reliable drinking water solution for industries, corporates, and communities using innovative technology, says Navkaran Singh Bagga, CEO and founder of Akvo Atmospheric Water Systems. His company is into atmospheric water generation in 15 countries using sustainable water technology, in this case, tapping the atmospheric humidity. It recently announced the commercial launch of its Water-on-Want (WoW) initiative for corporates in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Bagga says, "The minimum daily offtake is 500 litres per day (LPD) and it works on OPEX BOOT (Build Own Operate Transfer) model with no initial cash investment." Technology is helping in other ways too and is especially useful in assessing and analysing the Himalayan glaciers situated in remote, high-altitude areas. The glacier and snowmelt constitute 30 to 40 per cent of the annual water flow of the mighty rivers originating in the upper Himalayas, which are intricately linked to the groundwater of the river floodplains. Reminding that the theme of this year's World Water Day is 'Glacier Preservation', Dr Dipankar Saha, Chair Prof, Centre for Advanced Water Technology and Management (CAWTM) at the Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS), says: "In the Gangetic plains flanked by Himalayas in the north, climate change is impacting glaciers and in turn imposing uncertainty in downstream river flows and aquifers. The situation needs urgent action."

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name .Parantage and Date of Birth in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 6267 5585 7469 has been wrongly mentioned as Masrat Bano D/O. Gh Hussan Dar DOB 03.05.2002. instead of Masrat Hassan D/O. Ghulam Hassan Dar .Date of Birth (DOB) .10.01.2006. As per J& K Board Of School Education . Now I am applying for its Correction as per Board 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.



Masrat Hassan
 D/O. Ghulam Hassan Dar fko
 R/O :- Langate Langate .Tehsil :- Langate . Distt : Kupwara .
 Post office Langate Pin Code 193302 .

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of Gh Nabi Ahanger S/o Mohamad Kamal Ahanger R/o Daulatpora, for the Issuance OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his favour of Nargis Jan .

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted a file to the office of the undersigned for the issuance of an OBC certificate. In this connection, a report of the concerned Patwari has been sought, which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Daulatpora, Tehsil Kreeri, and belongs to the OBC community, having an annual income of 70,7220/-.

The details of the applicant's family are as follows:

S. No	Name of Family Member	Relationship with Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
1	Ghulam Nabi Ahanger	F/o	72	Retired	-
2	Altaf Hussain Ahanger	Son	30	Private Job	-
3	Nagees Jan	self	27	Student	-

Therefore, through this Public Notice, objections are being sought from the public. If any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) from the date of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar, Kreeri fko

Date: 24/03/2025

New Eye Drops Slow Vision Loss In Animals: Study

ANI

Researchers have developed eye drops that extend vision in animal models of a group of inherited diseases that lead to progressive vision loss in humans, known as retinitis pigmentosa. The eye drops contain a small fragment derived from a protein made by the body and found in the eye, known as pigment epithelium-derived factor (PEDF). PEDF helps preserve cells in the eye's retina. A report on the study is published in Communications Medicine. "While not a cure, this study shows that PEDF-based eye drops can slow progression of a variety of degenerative retinal diseases in animals, including various types of retinitis pigmentosa and dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD)," said Patricia Becerra, Ph.D., chief of NIH's Section on Protein Structure and Function at the National Eye Institute and senior author of the study. "Given these results, we're excited to begin trials of these eye drops in people." All degenerative retinal diseases have cellular stress in common. While the source of the stress may vary -- dozens of mutations and gene variants have been linked to retinitis pigmentosa, AMD, and other disorders -- high levels of cellular stress cause



While not a cure, this study shows that PEDF-based eye drops can slow progression of a variety of degenerative retinal diseases in animals, including various types of retinitis pigmentosa and dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD)

retinal cells to gradually lose function and die. Progressive loss of photoreceptor cells leads to vision loss and eventually blindness. In this new study, led by first author Alexandra Bernardo-Colon, Becerra's team created two eye drop formulations, each containing a short peptide. The first peptide candidate, called "17-

mer," contains 17 amino acids found in the active region of PEDF. A second peptide, H105A, is similar but binds more strongly to the PEDF receptor. Peptides applied to mice as drops on the eye's surface were found in high concentration in the retina within 60 minutes, slowly decreasing over the next 24 to 48 hours. Neither peptide caused toxicity or other side effects.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Father's name in my Pnb MetLife Policy bearing Policy No's: 1) 21825635 2) 20354895 has been wrongly written as GH HASSAN SHEIKH while his correct name is GH AHMAD SHEIKH which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PNB MetLife office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
BASHIR AH SHEIKH
 S/O: GH AHMAD SHEIKH ird

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE
 The registrar Birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Toiba Qayoom D.o.B 05/07/2041 and Mehvish Qayoom D.o.B 06/06/2013 D/o Ab Qayoom Ganie R/o Shirpora Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. 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 Faizan Ahmad Dar s/o Mohammad Ramzan Dar R/o Hardushuo sopore with verified date of birth 04/05/2020 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 BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Haneefa Bano d/o Mohammad Ismail Dar R/o Ganepora Buran Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 26/06/1988 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. SD fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the renewal of my fertilizer license. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the chief agriculture officer baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Mehraj Ud Din Waza fko
 S/O Ghulam Mohammad Waza
 R/O Tantraypora Palhallan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing Consumer ID No: 0201020002484 from Shail Mohammad Sesy S/o Lt Mohammad Sidiq Sesy to Jahangir Ahmad Patnoo S/o Gh Mohiudin Patnoo. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the AEE Sub Division Dalgate Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Jahangir Ahmed Patnoo pd
 S/o Late Mohiudin Patnoo
 R/O Ganaie Mohalla Pathan Bagh Brian Nishat Sgr

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no; JK04F 2203. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Mohd Shabir Bhat fko
 S/o Gh Ahmad Bhat
 R/o Chayera Tehsil Magam

PUBLIC NOTICE

In school records my three wards mother's name has been recorded as Rehana Jaan instead of Rehana Qadri. Now I want to correct the same. In this connection if any body having objection he/she may contact to Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson school Tangmarg within 07 days from the date of publication of this Notice after that no objection shall be entertained.
Khurshed Ahmad Shah
 F/o 1.. Shah Hinaan class 8th Adm.no.0961-16T.
 2 ..Shah Abdul Manan class 5th Adm.no.1133-19T.
 3 ..Shah Hayan class 2nd Adm.no.1247-21T fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Khanday, S/o Abdul Rahman Khanday, have lost my Class 10th Marks Card issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JK BOSE). The details of the lost document are as follows: Roll No.: 811472 Year of Passing: 1997. I am applying for a duplicate marks card from JK BOSE. If anyone has any objections, they may file the same with the office of the concerned institution within one week from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.
 Abdul Rashid Khanday Media Line Ads

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my daughter the name is entered as ZAINAB HUSSAIN while his actual name is ZAINAB ZAKIR. 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.
ZAKIR HUSSAIN mcb
 F/o ZAINAB ZAKIR
 R/o CHANIGUND KARGIL CELL. 7051806564

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار صورہ سرینگر
 عنوان: درخواست اجراء نامہ صوفی ولد محمد عامر صوفی ساکنہ عمر پورہ سرینگر
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Chanapora Hospital Functions As PHC, Not SDH: Itoo

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Mar 24: The government on Monday clarified that the hospital in Srinagar's Chanapora area operates as a Primary Health Centre (PHC) and not as a Sub-District Hospital (SDH).

Responding to an inquiry from MLA Mushtaq Guroo, Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo said that in 2010-11, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of India approved a 30-bedded hospital at PHC Chanapora under the National Health Mission (NHM). The facility was subsequently constructed and inaugurated as a PHC in 2014.

"The PHC Chanapora operates as per official timings, from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The staff includes 21 personnel from the regular side and 2 from the NHM side. Currently, 17 staff members from the regular side, including 4 medical officers and 2 dental surgeons, are in position, along with 2 NHM staff members," Itoo stated.

The minister reiterated that the hospital functions as a PHC and not an SDH but has been strengthened with additional equipment and manpower through NHM. She emphasized that the PHC ensures equitable access to quality healthcare, offering free screen-

ings for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, and cancers (oral, breast, and cervical).

"Essential medicines and diagnostic facilities are available free of cost, with PHCs providing 175 drugs and 39 diagnostic tests, while sub-centres offer 96 drugs and 14 diagnostic tests. The PHC is also actively engaged in preventive, promotive, and curative healthcare services, emphasizing early detection, disease management, and community wellness programs," Itoo added.

Addressing concerns about external influence over hospital facilities, the minister confirmed that no room at PHC Chanapora has been allotted to any NGO. However, she mentioned that a geriatric centre for elderly care has been established at the facility and is currently operational.

In response to another question from MLA Justice Hasnain Masoodi, Itoo underscored the role of sports in curbing drug addiction among youth. She stated that engaging young people in sports activities serves as an effective deterrent against substance abuse, keeping them away from harmful influences and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Govt Examining Proposal For Motorable Bridge Near GPO

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Mar 24: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said it is examining a proposal to address the issue of the missing motorable bridge near GPO/Convent School in Srinagar, after the initial plan was altered due to technical constraints.

Responding to a query by MLA Ahsan Ahmad Paredesi in the Legislative Assembly, the Public Works (R&B) Department stated that a motorable bridge was initially planned and its foundation laid, but it was ultimately constructed as a footbridge.

The department cited

a communication from the Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Kashmir, dated April 2, 2016, which revoked the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the project due to concerns that the bridge's height would require raising road levels on both the Convent and GPO sides by approximately 2.5 meters, making it impractical for vehicular movement. Asked whether the government intends to convert the footbridge into a motorable bridge or construct an alternative parallel bridge near Abdullah Bridge to ease traffic congestion, the department said the proposal remains under examination.



People gather for iftar at a mosque in Balgarden breaking their fast in a communal setting during Ramadan. KO Photo Faisal Khan

Asia's Largest Tulip Garden Gears Up For Record-Breaking Footfall

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Mar 24: With the much-anticipated Tulip Festival 2025 set to commence on March 26, authorities have introduced a "one-way traffic plan" to efficiently manage the expected surge in visitors to Asia's largest Tulip Garden.

An advisory issued by the Srinagar Traffic Police states that traffic restrictions will be enforced daily from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, particularly on holidays, to prevent congestion. Officials anticipate a significant influx of tourists and locals, especially after Eid-ul-Fitr, eager to witness the blooming tulips and explore the adjacent Mughal Gardens.

Traffic Plan for Tulip Festival

Visitors heading to the Tulip Garden are advised to take the Lal Chowk-Dalgate-Boulevard/Gupkar Road route. For the return journey, they must use the Nishat-Foreshore-Habak-Dargah-Khanyar route. Residents of Harwan, Shalimar, and Nishat traveling towards Lal Chowk should opt for the Foreshore-Hazratbal route instead of the Nishat-Boulevard road axis. Additionally, commuters from Gulab Bagh, Zakoora, Naseembagh,

and Habak should use the 90-foot road and Ali Jan route to reach Lal Chowk instead of Foreshore Road.

Parking Guidelines and Enforcement
 Authorities have issued strict



parking directives, urging visitors to utilize designated parking spaces at the Botanical Garden, open land at Karpura, and LCMA Parking at Nishat. Vehicles found parked on roadsides will be fined and towed away to prevent obstructions and maintain a smooth traffic flow.

Official Appeal for Public Cooperation
 Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Muzaffar Ahmad Shah has urged the public to cooperate with the new traffic plan, emphasizing that the measures are essential to avoid grid-

locks and ensure an orderly experience during the festival. The Tulip Festival remains one of Kashmir's most cherished spring attractions, drawing thousands of visitors each year. With traffic restrictions in place, authorities are hopeful for a seamless and enjoyable event for both tourists and locals.

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
 SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
 24 Ramazan
 1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 05
ZUHR	12:40
ASR	4: 58
Magrib	6:49
ISHA	8: 08

This Day In History

- 1802 - Great Britain and the French Republic sign the Treaty of Amiens
- 1817 -Tsar Alexander I recommends formation of Society of Israeli Christians
- 1820 -Greece freedom revolt against anti Ottoman attack
- 1821 - Greece gains independence from Turkey (National Day)
- 1895 - Italian troops invade Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
- 1902 - In Russia, 567 students are tried for rioting and 'political disaffection' are found guilty; 95 are banished to Siberia
- 1911 - Triangle Shirtwaist Factory catches fire 145 die, all but 13 girls
- submarine disaster; a US F-4 sank off Hawaii, killing 21
- 1920 - Greek Independence Day.
- 1937 - Italy & Yugoslavia sign non-aggression treaty (Pact of Belgrade)
- 1944 - RAF Flight Sgt Nicholas Alkemade survives a jump from his Lancaster bomber from 18,000 feet over Germany without a parachute; his fall was broken by pine trees and soft snow, and he suffered only a sprained leg.

Anganwadi Workers Protest Outside CM House

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Mar 24: Anganwadi workers and helpers from across Kashmir staged a protest outside the Chief Minister's residence at Gupkar, demanding the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act.

Holding placards and raising slogans, the protesting workers urged the government to address their long-pending demands without further delay.

"We have been serving the community for years, yet we continue to

“We have been serving the community for years, yet we continue to receive meager wages. The government must implement the Minimum Wages Act so that we get what we rightfully deserve.”

receive meager wages. The government must implement the Minimum Wages Act so that

we get what we rightfully deserve," said one of the protesting workers. Another protester lamented that despite repeated assurances, their demands remain unmet. "We appeal to the authorities to address our concerns at the earliest. Our struggle will continue until we get justice," she added. The protesters further urged the administration to take immediate steps to ensure better wages and improved working conditions for Anganwadi workers across the region.

In The Court Of Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) Srinagar Designated Commercial Court

Present: Ms. Kusoom Pandita, JI

In The Case Of : JK Bank Ltd B/u: Parimpora Sgr V/S

1. Abid Fayaz Labroo S/o: Fayaz Ahmad Labroo R/o: Qamarwari Srinagar

Suit for Recovery of Rs:- 1,40,318.00/-

PUBLICATION GENERAL NOTICE (0:5 Rule 20 CPC)

Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named remained absent all along despite service. Hence, this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them who should appear personally or through their counsel on 19.05.2025 at 10 AM

Take notice that in default of his/ their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in his/their absence accordingly to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 17.03.2025

Sd/- Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) Designated Commercial Court

In The Court Of Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) Srinagar Designated Commercial Court

Present: Ms. Kusoom Pandita, JI

In The Case Of : JK Bank Ltd B/u: Parimpora Sgr V/S

1. Mrs Zubaida W/o: Late Manzoor Ahmed Wangnoo R/o: Qamarwari Srinagar (Bilal Colony)

Suit for Recovery of Rs:- 1,86,119.20/-

PUBLICATION GENERAL NOTICE (0:5 Rule 20 CPC)

Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named remained absent all along despite service. Hence, this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them who should appear personally or through their counsel on 19.05.2025 at 10 AM

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Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 17.03.2025

Sd/- Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) Designated Commercial Court

In The Court Of Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) Srinagar Designated Commercial Court

Present: Ms. Kusoom Pandita, JI

In The Case Of : JK Bank V/S Sabiya Manzoor

1. Sabiya Manzoor D/o: Manzoor Ahmad Bhat R/o: Kani Mazar Nawakadal Srinagar

Suit for Recovery of Rs:-201577.49/

PUBLICATION GENERAL NOTICE (0:5 Rule 20 CPC)

Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant(s)/respondent(s) above named remained absent all along despite service. Hence, this proclamation under order 5 Rule 20 CPC is hereby issued against him/them who should appear personally or through their counsel on -09.04.2025 at 10 AM

Take notice that in default of his/ their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in his/their absence accordingly to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 24.01.2025

Sd/- Additional District Judge (Bank Cases) Designated Commercial Court

From Office of the Advocate M.A Sofi And Associates

In the case of

1) Abdul Majeed Kaloo S/o Abdul Rehman Kaloo
 2) Rafiq Begum W/o Abdul Majeed Kaloo
 3) Zahoor Ahmad Kaloo S/o Abdul Majeed Kaloo

All Residents of Kaloo Mohalla Pattan Baramulla

(Caveators/Applicants)

V/s Public at large

(Non-Caveators/Non-applicants)

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap-peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/ order at their back/in eparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

fko

Sd/advocate

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-54-24-25 Date:- 24.03.2025

Closing Date/Time: 12.04.2025 15:00

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-54-24-25 Closing Date/Time 12.04.2025 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
	(i) Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Efftronics Make Data Logger and Control office Application (COA) installed at stations over Firozpur Division for three years.
	(ii) Sectional Signal maintenance Contract (SSMC) for the sections of DSTE/ASR for one year.
	(iii) Replacement of defective cable, strengthening of existing cable to improve safety and reliability and provision of SSDAC/MSDAC at stations to prevent signal failure due to water logging over Firozpur division. (ii) Provision of duplicate Power Cable for external Supplies from Relay room to relay Hut at LDH, JUC, FZR, SNL & DDL over Firozpur division.
	(iv) Sectional Signal Maintenance Contract (SSMC) for the sections of DSTE/FZR for one year.
	(v) Works of (i) Provision of Road Signals at mid-section interlocked L-xing gates over Firozpur division & (ii) replacement of over aged route/shunt LED aspect installed over Firozpur division.
	(vi) Provision of dual detection for block working on JUC-ASR, LDH-FZR & FKA-ABS sections of Firozpur division.
	(vii) Telecom work in c/w Renovation of Control office chambers of DRM office Firozpur along with misc. work-related to control.

Tender Closing Date Time	(i)-(iv) 12.04.2025 14:00 (v)-(vii) 14.04.2025 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	22.03.2025 13:21
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 26711785.03 (ii) 8494887.47 (iii) 32037635.39 (iv) 14984554.68 (v) 14403007.82 (vi) 14980032.36 (vii) 7416420.96	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	(i)-(iv) 29.03.2025 (v)-(vii) 31.03.2025
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 283600.00 (ii) 169900.00 (iii) 310200.00 (iv) 224900.00 (v) 22000.00 (vi) 224900.00 (vii) 148300.00	Period of Completion	(i) 36 Months (ii) 12 Months (iii) 12 Months (iv) 12 Months (v) 9 Months (vi) 9 Months (vii) 4 Months

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Why Democracy Must Return to J&K Bar Association



Hasnain Khawja

KO VIEW

Bollywood's Return To J&K

Testifying to the improvement in the situation in J&K over the past five years, over 350 films and web series have been shot in J&K in the past five years, as revealed by Lieutenant General Manoj Sinha. This shows re-emergence of the union territory as the favourite site for Bollywood shoots. In recent years, the big Bollywood names including the megastar Shah Rukh Khan have shot their movies in the Valley. Last time Khan visited the Valley in 2023 to shoot some sequences of his blockbuster movie Dunki. Similarly in 2024, the top Bollywood film director Rohit Shetty shot his film 'Singham Again' in Kashmir, featuring Ajay Devgn in the lead role. The director later took to Instagram to share his experiences and express his gratitude towards the people of Kashmir.

A big reason for the increasing number of Bollywood shoots is the 2021 film policy, which has made it easier for filmmakers to shoot in J&K. The policy offered incentives, simplified permissions, and ensured security to the production houses, persuading more and more film makers to shoot in the UT.

Kashmir has historically been a location of Bollywood movies. Beginning with Raj Kapoor who introduced to the world the Valley's fabled beauty when he shot Barsaat here in 1949, Kashmir became a favourite Bollywood haunt through the successive decades being primarily sought after for its breathtaking locales. However, the advent of militancy in 1989 changed all that. The deteriorating security situation forced Bollywood out of the Valley. Though films with connection to Kashmir continued to be made but now Kashmir was more of a subject for the movies than the location. About a dozen movies were shot in the Valley through the nineties, but a number of them reflected Kashmir either as an abode of violence, or an unremitting battleground between India and Pakistan.

Bollywood's return to the Valley - and followed by the opening of a multiplex at Shivpora in Srinagar in 2024 - again portrays more than peace. Unlike in the past, Bollywood's relationship with Kashmir is no longer spontaneous and natural. Like everything else in the Valley, it has also become political. Movie-making in Kashmir is about peace, about reinforcing Kashmir's image as a paradise on earth, and also about reflecting the turmoil in the region.

It is also true that the Bollywood shoots have helped change the image of Kashmir as a troubled place. One result of this has been an unprecedented rise in tourist flow to J&K. Last year alone, over 2 crore tourists visited the UT. But Kashmir can also be an unpredictable place. Here's hoping that the situation stays peaceful for more Bollywood shoots to take place and more tourists to arrive.

“
Now that the tide has turned in Kashmir, it is imperative that this renewed faith in democracy extends to all institutions, including the J&K High Court Bar Association. Just as the people of Jammu & Kashmir have exercised their right to vote in Assembly elections, lawyers must also be given the opportunity to participate in a free and fair Bar Association election

The Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association stands as a crucial institution representing the legal fraternity, ensuring the fair administration of justice and upholding the rule of law. However, in recent years, the association has been plagued by a severe democratic deficit, with its functioning effectively hijacked by a closed group operating in a completely opaque and undemocratic manner. The legal community, which has long been committed to upholding constitutional values, now finds itself denied the basic right to participate in the affairs of its own representative body.

For a considerable period, elections within the Bar Association have been delayed indefinitely, and key decisions are being taken without consulting the general body. The very essence of a democratically functioning Bar Association—which relies on transparency, accountability, and regular elections—has been replaced by arbitrary decision-making. The continued exclusion of members from the electoral process has led to growing discontent within the legal fraternity, raising serious concerns about the credibility and fairness of the Association's leadership.

One of the most alarming aspects of this situation is the fact that the J&K High Court Bar Association, which was previously unregistered, has now been duly registered. If the Association is now legally recognized and in full consonance with the Advocates Act, 1961, there exists no justifiable reason to delay elections any further. Any attempt to obstruct or indefinitely postpone the democratic process would not only be arbitrary but would also violate the fundamental principles of fairness and justice enshrined in our legal system.

The recent Assembly Elections in Jammu & Kashmir stand as a testament to the fact that the people of J&K strongly

believe in the democratic process. The massive voter turnout and enthusiastic participation in these elections reflect the people's unwavering commitment to democracy and electoral representation. The Hon'ble Prime Minister himself lauded the people of J&K for their trust in the democratic process, recognizing this as a historic shift in the region's political landscape.

Now that the tide has turned in Kashmir, it is imperative that this renewed faith in democracy extends to all institutions, including the J&K High Court Bar Association. Just as the people of Jammu & Kashmir have exercised their right to vote in Assembly elections, lawyers must also be given the opportunity to participate in a free and fair Bar Association election.

It is deeply unfortunate that while members of the Bar are committed to upholding the Constitution of India and contributing to the legal system, they are not being trusted or allowed to play their rightful role within their own Association. This exclusionary approach not only undermines faith in the institution but also threatens the foundational values of justice and democracy. Lawyers, who serve as the defenders of constitutional rights, are themselves being denied basic democratic participation within their professional body.

In light of this alarming situation, there is an urgent need for intervention to restore the democratic structure of the Bar Association. It is imperative that the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir takes up this matter at the highest levels, engaging with the Lieutenant Governor's Office, Law Department Govt of J&K and Police Department of J&K.

The Way Forward

The solution to this crisis is clear:

- Immediate Announcement of Free and Fair

Elections – Since the Association is now duly registered, elections must be held at the earliest under an independent and impartial election body.

- Strict Enforcement of Democratic Norms – All decisions must follow due process, with regular general body meetings and complete transparency in financial and administrative matters.
- Oversight Mechanism to Prevent Future Abuse of Power – A structured institutional framework must be put in place to ensure democratic functioning and prevent future irregularities.

The legal fraternity plays a pivotal role in upholding the rule of law and safeguarding democracy. It is therefore unacceptable that its own representative body is functioning in a manner that contradicts these very principles. If immediate steps are not taken, the credibility of the Bar Association will suffer irreversible damage, affecting not just lawyers but also the broader legal and judicial system.

The people of Jammu & Kashmir have already shown their commitment to democracy. Now, it is time for the legal community to be given the same opportunity. The government must act now to ensure that the J&K High Court Bar Association returns to a truly democratic and transparent system, where every lawyer has the right to participate in shaping the future of their profession. The elections of the Bar Association are not just necessary—they are the need of the hour.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. Hasnain Khawja is a Chevening Scholar and a practicing advocate at High Court of J&K.



Did You Know?

Safeguard Your Investments: Avoid Financial Fraud and Scams

Irshad Mushtaq

In today's fast-moving financial world, fraudsters are constantly devising new ways to deceive investors. As Kashmiri investors, it is crucial to stay alert and protect your hard-earned money. Here are key strategies to help you avoid financial fraud:

Disregard Dubious Advertisements

- Be skeptical of investment opportunities promising unrealistically high returns.
- Always research companies before investing—verify their legitimacy through reviews and regulatory registrations.

Avoid Third-Party Payments

- Financial regulations prohibit third-party payments; always transact directly with registered firms.
- Request official receipts and documentation for every transaction.

Beware of Suspicious Calls

- Never engage with unsolicited calls, especially those pressuring you into immediate action.
- Verify the caller's authenticity by contacting the company through official channels.

Verify Before You Invest

- Ensure investment firms are registered with SEBI or RBI.
- Check for legitimate contact details, including a physical address and phone number.

Seek Professional Advice

- Consult certified financial advisors before making investment decisions.
- Stay informed about market trends through trusted financial sources.

Avoid Cash Transactions

- Use bank transfers or digital payment platforms for traceable transactions.
- Never transfer funds to an individual's name; ensure payments are made to verified company accounts.

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

Follow Irshad Mushtaq, Investor & Founder of M I Securities for expert financial insights. Contact: misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com
Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute financial advice



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Ending Ramazan with Increased Devotion in Prayers

As the blessed month of Ramazan draws to a close, it is a time for deep reflection and increased devotion. While many of us begin the month with enthusiasm, our efforts in worship sometimes decline as the days pass. However, the final days of Ramazan are the most spiritually rewarding, offering us a unique opportunity to seek forgiveness, strengthen our faith, and draw closer to Allah.

The last ten nights, particularly Laylat-ul-Qadr, hold immense significance. It is during this time that sincere prayers, supplications, and acts of charity carry multiplied rewards. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasized the importance of seeking forgiveness and making the most of these nights. Therefore, instead of allowing exhaustion or worldly distractions to take over, we should strive to in-

crease our prayers, recite the Quran with greater dedication, and engage in acts of kindness.

Moreover, as we prepare for Eid, it is important to remember that the true essence of Ramazan is not just about fasting but about self-discipline, gratitude, and empathy for those less fortunate. Let us ensure that we end this sacred month with sincerity, increased devotion, and a commitment to carry its lessons be-

yond Ramazan.

I urge fellow Muslims to make the most of these final moments, seek forgiveness, and pray for peace, guidance, and prosperity for all. May Allah accept our efforts and grant us the strength to continue our good deeds beyond this holy month.

Tariq Wani
Srinagar

The Thin Line Between Solitude and Loneliness

Musaib Bilal

I think society owes me an apology for making me believe that being alone was a depressingly bad thing. I was born and remained an only child—no siblings, no in-home cousins. My parents had a son before me who, unfortunately, passed away just a few months after arriving on this blue (indeed blue) planet.

Growing up, I didn't have many resources, so I had to make do with what I had—including learning to enjoy my own company. It took me years to be okay with solitude, but I eventually embraced it. In school, I was a different kind of kid. My academic journey started in an unusual way. I missed half of my nursery year due to illness, struggled with grades in lower kindergarten, and then started performing well. But another setback came—a surgery that forced me to miss more school. Still, I managed to ace upper kindergarten.

When I came second in first grade, I felt happy—for about two minutes. That changed when I got home and saw my father's disappointment. He told me I had become overconfident. What I heard instead was: "Be less confident." From that moment, the only goal of my life was to come first in class.

Naturally, there was a price to pay. In striving to please my parents and be the "good kid," I didn't have friends coming over, nor did I visit anyone's house. I rarely saw parks, alleys, or streets. I was always home before sundown. My father had a tough job, and though he took me to the park once a week, work often called him away. I'd be left in the custody of Moo-

in was chaotic and tense. Three families lived there, and though we were segregated, my father had a history of childhood trauma in that house. Eventually, we moved. The new place felt liberating—there were no boundaries. I could shout, I could hit the walls (literally).

I grew up watching Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Bruce Lee, and Jackie Chan in movies like *Rambo*, *Commando*, *Fist of Fury*, *The Medallion*, and more. Naturally, I became drawn to action, tension, martial arts, and fighting. I imagined fight scenes, turning my bedroom into a battleground of thread-lasers I stole from my mother's cabinets.

My maasi, as sweet as ever, bought me a Power Rangers kit—it had a gun that could transform into two mini-guns. I was flexible too. At the same time, something else was happening: I had a cousin, just two years older, who was passionate about dance. Since my mom spent two years at my Nana's house after giving birth, I was directly influenced by my cousin and got into dance myself. It gave me expression and freedom. I quickly learned to mimic her and even made up dance moves. As long as I moved in a way that felt true to the beat and melody, it was enough.

But soon, schoolwork increased. At age seven, my tutor made me join a *Darsgah*—a place to study the Quran. It was one of the most difficult turns of my life. I despised it. I felt oppressed. I had planned to go home and watch *Tom & Jerry*—but no. I've always hated unplanned things, and this was forced upon me. Make no mistake—I had memorized all the *Kalimas* and some *Surahs* before I was six. But



AI generated image for representational purposes only

came home again, and then went to the *Darsgah*. What else would I do?"

"Yeah."

"That must be awful—you must feel so alone."

I'd shrug it off playfully. I had my ups and downs academically. I rose again. By sixth grade, insecurities pushed me further into solitude. Not having *manly hobbies* meant I wasn't included.

ers would ask, "Are you a single child?" with pity in their eyes.

"Yeah."

"That must be awful—you must feel so alone."

I'd shrug it off playfully.

I had my ups and downs academically. I rose again.

By sixth grade, insecurities pushed me further into solitude. Not having *manly hobbies* meant I wasn't included.

What about martial arts?

Unfortunately—or fortunately (for him)—my cousin Iqbal became a national-level rugby player. He'd come home covered in blood. My maasi and mom were traumatized. So was I. Later, he attempted UFC but had to withdraw after a brutal match. The verdict was final: no martial arts, ever.

Knowledge Became My Refuge

In eighth grade, I joined *Axiom Coaching Center*. Javid Sir became my mentor, and I fell in love with learning. Until then, my goal had been to come first. Now, I craved knowledge. I felt invincible.

Then came eleventh grade. My mental health collapsed. Depression. Anxiety. Overwhelming workload. Everything spiraled downward. By twelfth grade, I entered denial. I studied obsessively—perfectionism took over.

Online classes isolated me further. People reached out, but I avoided them. Meanwhile, I found solace in an online fan community for Jass Manak. I made friends,

some of whom remain close. One, however, ghosted us all. That abandonment reopened wounds I didn't know I had.

JEE prep wasn't easy. I discovered I had ADHD. We moved again. I was lonely. Isolated. Living in a house that didn't feel like home. My 90th percentile felt like failure. I had no validation. No pat on the back. I lost purpose. I felt hopeless.

Then, Selena Gomez released *My Mind & Me*. Alongside prayers, it saved my life. It took months of struggle—arguments, breakdowns, even suicidal ideation—but I crawled out.

I started writing. Two books. More drafts. More ideas. I rediscovered music. I read. I prayed. Ramadan came. I passed an exam.

The College Realization

Then, college. Gym. Classes. Library. Studying. Healthcare. Writing. One day, a gym acquaintance approached me: "Brother, why are you always alone? You should make friends, explore, live."

For the first time, I realized—I wasn't just alone. I was lonely.

But I also learned: solitude isn't loneliness. I'm still working on the balance.

I had been in talks with a girl who had a crush on me. We were set to meet outside the college library, but she ditched me multiple times. It wasn't a great feeling. I came back home.

Over time, I started to realize just how lonely I actually was. Everyone sat in circles with their friends—some played catch, some gossiped, some teased each other, some bought lunch for each other in the canteen. Meanwhile, I ate my boring sandwich while reading *How to Manage Life with ADHD*.

One day, while walking behind the chemistry department, I felt empty. I took out my phone in a failed attempt to call someone. But who would I call? The ones who were fascinated by me always gave me an ick. And the ones I wanted to be friends with were way too cool. I wasn't cool by any stretch.

I was sad.

I entered the physics lab and saw a welcoming face. For once, I made an effort to act nice. That familiar face is my friend Danish now. Danish has a lifelong best friend, Aabid, who's also my friend.

I had found my tribe.

Two days later, college shut down.

Overcoming the Cycle

We didn't get to know each other much except through social media.

But I felt welcomed. Naturally, all the love I had never been able to give someone—I poured into our friendship. But in hindsight, I did it too much. I became obsessive. That triggered a cascade of different things.

Our path has been rocky—there have been ups and downs, moments of closeness, and moments of distance. I've struggled with balancing attachment and independence, with understanding when to hold on and when to let go. There were times I overextended myself, times I felt like I was too much, and times when I withdrew completely out of fear of being too overwhelming. But every experience, every challenge, has shaped me into the person I am today.

People like me—those who grew up in solitude, who never fully learned the rhythm of friendships, who were forced to navigate the world alone—often find themselves in this push-and-pull. We long for deep connections, yet we fear them. We crave companionship, yet we struggle with the mechanics of maintaining it. And sometimes, we oscillate between wanting to be seen and wanting to disappear.

But thanks to therapy, I know that now. I understand myself better.

It's only recently that my mentor and therapist told me that being alone can also mean enjoying solitude—the way I once did with *Power Rangers*, dance, karate—and not being lonely. I now have an entire toolbox that helps me form genuine connections with myself and others.

While I practice the art of being alone and having fun with solitude, I still struggle with getting completely obsessed with my friends. It's an everyday effort. I understand that it's a long path.

But social media and pop culture make people like me feel like we are missing out if we don't have friends. That being alone is depressing. That it's unlikely. People like me are seen as outcasts and aliens, further adding to the shame we've always felt.

Although I would like to mention—there's a thin line between **avoidance (loneliness)** and **solitude**. I try to walk it carefully.

And despite everything—the struggles, the setbacks, the uncertainty—I know one thing for sure: I am still here. Still growing. Still learning. And still finding my place in the world, one step at a time.

The author is a Columnist

PEOPLE LIKE ME—THOSE WHO GREW UP IN SOLITUDE, WHO NEVER FULLY LEARNED the rhythm of friendships, who were forced to navigate the world alone—often find themselves in this push-and-pull. We long for deep connections, yet we fear them. We crave companionship, yet we struggle with the mechanics of maintaining it. And sometimes, we oscillate between wanting to be seen and wanting to disappear

min—someone much older than me, whom I barely even remember now. Eventually, I stopped going to the park altogether. My primary source of socializing became going to the market with my mom, where we'd visit Batamalloo Sahab to buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and occasionally a loaf of bread or cheese. I adapted quickly—because what other choice did I have?

For reasons not relevant here, the house I spent my first five years

I simply wasn't mentally prepared for it.

With little time for anything other than being the "good kid," I never played much.

The Awakening

Fast forward to 2022. I was preparing for JEE. I was intellectual. People wanted to get to know me, but they'd ask: "But what else do you do?"

"What do you mean? I went to school, came home, went to tuition,

late to even try.

In Kashmir, cricket is ingrained in a boy's identity. But I didn't have that. During games period, while others were thrilled to play, I hid—hoping to be the bench player no one noticed.

Insight: The loud, confident players who *knew how to play* rarely scored. I wonder what that means.

Back to childhood—I mastered enjoying my own company. Teach-

Obituary

RAJA TASLEEM

Presiding Over Hearts, Forever

Sartaj Hussain

The sudden demise of Raja Tasleem Khan Abbas, who was serving as the Special Judge of the UAPA Court in Sopore, Baramulla, has left the entire legal fraternity of Kashmir in profound grief. His passing is not just a loss to his family and colleagues but an irreplaceable void in the judicial system of Jammu and Kashmir. Known for his sharp legal acumen and unwavering commitment to justice, Raja Tasleem Sahab upheld the highest standards of decorum and fairness throughout his career.

Raja Tasleem Sahab left for his heavenly abode at the prime of his career, a time when his contributions to the legal system were at their most impactful. In both his professional and personal life, he was known as a thorough gentleman—kind-hearted, patient, and always willing to lend a listening ear. His ability to balance firmness in his judicial role with compassion in his interactions set him apart as a judge and as a human being.

Anyone who had the privilege of knowing him, whether in a professional capacity or otherwise, has a story to share about his kindness and fairness. I

am no exception.

My very first interaction with a judge was with Raja Tasleem Sahab when he served as the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar. At the time, I was in the second semester of my LL.B degree when, along with my friend and Tasleem Sahab's family member, Raja Mohammad Zeeshan Khan, I had the honor of meeting him in his chamber. That encounter left a lasting impact on me, as his personality exuded wisdom, humility, and grace.

I also vividly recall sitting in his court one day when an advocate had two cases listed before him. In one, the matter had reached the stage of arguments, while in the other, the court merely recorded the party's presence and scheduled a new date. The party in the latter case had been waiting all day for their matter to be taken up. Upon seeing his advocate argue fearlessly in the other case, he remarked in frustration, "Wuch aemsind wiz kyuth boolut" (Look how you represented his case).

Unaware of the procedural stage of his own case, the client, feeling neglected, went up to Tasleem Sahab and complained, believing his advocate was not doing enough. Tasleem Sahab listened



IT WAS A REMARKABLE DISPLAY OF THE DEEP UNDERSTANDING and respect that should exist between the Bench and the Bar. Such was the wisdom and fairness of Raja Tasleem Sahab—an exemplary judge and an extraordinary human being

patiently but, in his characteristic gentle manner, explained that while the client might litigate only once, the advocate had to appear before the court every day. He would not allow an advocate's reputation to be unfairly maligned.

It was a remarkable display of the deep understanding and respect that should exist between the Bench and the Bar. Such was the wisdom and fairness of Raja Tasleem Sahab—an exemplary judge and an extraordinary human being.

Beyond his fairness and wisdom, Raja Tasleem Sahab had a profound impact on young legal professionals like myself. I recall a time when a friend of mine was aggrieved because his complaint was not acted upon by the concerned police station. Seeking guidance, my colleagues and I approached Tasleem Sahab and narrated the issue.

Without hesitation, he advised us to draft an application for a status report and then issued an order in our favor. That moment was not just a resolution of the issue at hand—it became a valuable learning experience. He gave us not only an understanding of legal procedure but also our very first court order.

As rightly remarked by a friend a col-

league, Advocate Sobiya Manzoor Pullo "He effortlessly made advocacy accessible for a newcomer like me, with his patient ear and commitment to ensuring the justice one rightfully deserved. He went above and beyond, tirelessly supporting both advocates and clients in their quest for fairness."

The legal fraternity of Kashmir has lost a towering figure, a judge who embodied justice, fairness, and kindness in every aspect of his work. His memory will continue to inspire those who knew him, and his contributions to the judiciary will not be forgotten.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know him, even if briefly, and to witness his sense of justice firsthand. Raja Tasleem Khan Abbas's legacy will live on in the countless lives he touched and the legal principles he upheld with unwavering dedication.

May Almighty grant him the highest rank in Paradise and give his family the patience and courage to bear his loss. Ameen!

The author is pursuing Law at the School of Law, University of Kashmir

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Waqf Being

India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has announced a nationwide agitation against the bill, with large-scale demonstrations planned in Patna and Vijayawada on March 26 and 29, respectively, as part of the first phase of the protest.

A parliamentary joint committee has already submitted its report on the proposed amendments to the Waqf Bill. While the bill has yet to be formally listed for discussion, there is growing speculation that it may be tabled during the ongoing Budget session.

The 31-member committee, after multiple deliberations, proposed several modifications to the bill. However, opposition members strongly opposed the report, submitting dissent notes, and accusing the government of attempting to dismantle Waqf boards.

The committee's 655-page report was presented to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on January 30. The amendments, backed by BJP members, were adopted by a 15-11 majority vote, further fueling criticism from the opposition, who see the move as an attack on Waqf institutions.

The bill was initially introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on August 8 last year before being referred to the joint committee for review.

'Militancy Cannot End People's Support'
The Chief Minister emphasized that militancy in the region cannot be eradicated without the cooperation of the people. He stated that while security matters are not directly under the purview of the elected government, his administration is assisting the Union Home Ministry in maintaining peace and stability in the Union Territory.

"Security is not entirely our responsibility, but I have repeatedly said that militancy cannot be wiped out without public support. The elected government is making efforts and supporting the Lieutenant Governor in ensuring the situation remains under control," Omar told reporters outside the assembly before the day's session.

Responding to a question about the ongoing anti-terror operation in Sanyal near the International Border in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district, Omar said such incidents have occurred in the past as well.

"As per my information, no direct contact has been established with terrorists yet. The search and cordon operation was launched based on suspicious movement, and we have to wait and see how the situation unfolds," he said.

He further noted that since the operation is taking place in a border village, it is possible that the individuals in question crossed over from across the border.

"At this stage, making any definitive statement would be premature. Let's see how the situation develops," he added.

When asked about repeated terror attacks in Kathua and Billawar, the chief minister acknowledged that parts of the Jammu region have witnessed increased militant activity in recent years.

"We have seen similar incidents in Rajouri, Poonch, and other areas. The objective behind these attacks is to disrupt peace," Omar said.

2024 J&K Elections

Union Territory.
Responding to a cut motion raised by MLA Kupwara, Mir Muhammad Fayaz, Minister in-charge of the Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, informed the Assembly that Rs 150 crore was spent

on conducting the 2014 Assembly elections. He further stated that the release of funds to clear liabilities from the recent elections is under active consideration by the Government.

"The recently conducted Assembly elections incurred an expenditure of Rs 155 crore. The matter of releasing funds to clear liabilities is under active consideration," the Minister said.

The elections were held in three phases during September and October last year. The National Conference emerged as the single largest party, securing 42 seats, while its ally Congress won six seats. The BJP claimed 29 seats, and the Peoples Democratic Party secured three.

Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (PC), Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) each won one seat, while independent candidates claimed seven seats.

12 Free Gas Cylinders

inquired whether the government intends to provide 12 gas cylinders free of cost and if so, the timeline for its implementation.

The promise to provide 12 cylinders free of cost every year to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of the society in J&K was originally made in the manifesto of National Conference for 2014 UT polls.

In November last year, Satish Sharma had said the formal announcement on providing 12 gas cylinders a year to the people of J&K will be made shortly.

"Modalities are being finalized and very soon the formal announcement regarding double ration and 12 gas cylinders will be made public," he had said.

Rain, Snow Likely

stated that the weather will remain generally dry with cloudy skies on the afternoon of March 24.

However, from March 25, light rain and snow are expected over higher elevations in scattered areas of north and central Kashmir.

"A spell of light to moderate rain and snow is likely at many places, particularly in north and central Kashmir, from the late afternoon of March 26 until the evening of March 27," the official added.

Additionally, thunderstorms with gusty winds are expected at a few locations between March 26 and 27.

The weather is expected to remain dry from March 28 to April 3. Travelers, tourists, and transporters have been advised to plan their journeys accordingly and adhere to official advisories. Farmers are also advised to suspend agricultural activities on March 26 and 27.

'Border Issues A

Border (IB).
Responding to supplementary questions from various MLAs representing different parties regarding concerns raised by border residents, Abdullah told the House, "This is a humanitarian issue. Border residents face numerous challenges."

He added that following the conclusion of the session in April, a meeting with all border area MLAs will be held.

"I will convene a meeting with all MLAs representing border areas along with officials. The government will take whatever steps are necessary," he said.

Several BJP members, including Vijay Kumar, Surjit Singh Salathia, Devinder Kumar Manyal, and CPIM member M Y Tarigami, raised issues related to land compensation, agricultural activities by locals before fencing, and poor conditions of border hamlets.

A heated exchange of words also took place between Tarigami and BJP MLA Balwant Manokita, who alleged there is no border area in the constituency of the member, who is asking questions about the border areas of Jammu.

Tarigami countered him by saying he can raise questions about any area and Jammu does not belong to him alone.

The chief minister said Rs 155.08 crore has been allocated as compensation, out of which Rs 144.12 crore has already been disbursed to landowners, with the remaining amount pending title verification.

"We are not sitting on funds. Rs 11 crore remain unspent in the disbursement process. We will instruct the department to expedite the disbursement efforts on fast track," he assured.

NC MLA Alleges

daily with these concerns? Those who genuinely qualify for AAY and BPL benefits are finding themselves categorized as APL," Jan said, urging the government to review the process.

In response to a query, the government stated that it does not maintain manual update lists of beneficiaries, claiming that all changes are captured on the RCMS portal (rcms.jk.gov.in), which is available in the public domain.

Jan questioned whether the current system was serving the people's expectations. His remarks prompted support from senior opposition leader Mir Saifullah and other MLAs, who also sought greater transparency in the process.

In response, the concerned minister assured the House that a verification process would be initiated, and details would be shared with the legislators.

Despite the assurance, several MLAs continued to press for a thorough review of the system, emphasizing the need for accountability in welfare programs aimed at marginalized communities.

Govt To Halt

Affairs Minister Satish Sharma made the announcement in response to supplementary questions from multiple members in the assembly.

"We will suspend the order issued by the general administration department for beneficiary verification," Sharma told the House.

The general administration department had ordered a verification of beneficiaries to make the public distribution system (PDS) database clean and credible, he said.

Sharma also said the Centre had advised states and Union territories to conduct regular verifications to remove ineligible beneficiaries.

The minister emphasised that the Jammu and Kashmir government was committed to eliminating fake ration cards through an ongoing process.

In response to a question from National Conference member Mir Saifullah, he clarified that the verification process aimed to include genuine beneficiaries and exclude undeserving ones to meet the targeted goals of the PDS.

Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana of the National Food Security Act, which targets the "poorest of the poor", 35 kilogrammes of foodgrains are distributed per family per month while Priority Households receive five kilogrammes per person per month, Sharma noted.

Kathua Operation

hiding in a dense nursery after infiltrating from across the border.

The intense firing between the two sides lasted for over half an hour in the evening,

they said.

The officials said the operation was launched following an intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists inside a 'dhok' — a local term for an enclosure — located within the nursery in Sanyal village, approximately five kilometres from the International Border with Pakistan.

A police team from the Special Operations Group initiated a search operation after receiving the input and when the personnel entered the area, they came under heavy fire from the terrorists, leading to a gunfight.

Reinforcements were swiftly dispatched to aid in the operation, as a manhunt was launched to apprehend the terrorists, believed to have infiltrated on Saturday via either the ravine route or through a newly created tunnel.

Despite the intense exchange of fire lasting nearly half an hour, there has been no report of any casualty, the officials said, adding that the cordon has been strengthened with the help of the additional forces.

One of the inputs also suggested that two groups of 5-6 terrorists each infiltrated on Saturday.

According to the officials, some village women collecting firewood reported seeing around five terrorists who had sought refuge in the expansive nursery area.

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat arrived at the encounter site on Monday evening to personally supervise the operation. He was accompanied by Inspector General of Police (Jammu) Bhim Sen Tuti.

The security forces have cordoned off a dense nursery area where 3 to 5 heavily armed terrorists are believed to be hiding.

The deployment of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), officials said, has resulted in the recovery of arms and ammunition in Hiranagar. "The search parties have found a few M4 carbine magazines, sleeping bags, track suits, several packets of eatables, and separate polythene bags," said an official.

A seven-year-old girl sustained minor injuries and was shifted to a local hospital. However, the circumstances leading to her injury were not clear immediately.

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat is personally monitoring the operations, the officials said.

Army's Rising Star Corps (IX Corps) said in a post on X that a joint operation involving police forces and Army troops is currently in progress in the Sanyal Hiranagar area based on the intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists.

Anita Devi (48) said heavily armed terrorists caught hold of her husband when they had gone to the nursery to collect firewood.

"The terrorists were holding my husband at gunpoint and also asked me to come near. But my husband signalled me to escape and I started running away. One of the terrorists tried to stop me but in vain as I started shouting, which attracted the attention of two more persons who were cutting grass," Devi.

She said the incident occurred around 4.30 pm and all of them returned home and informed police.

There were five of them and they had beards, Devi said.

District Development Councillor Karan Kumar also said heavy gunfire was heard in the region.

"An atmosphere of fear has gripped the village due to the presence of terrorists. We heard around 250 rounds of intense gunfire," Kumar said, adding security forces have encircled the area to flush out the terrorists.

Kathua has emerged as a major

infiltrating route for Pakistan-based terrorists to reach the higher reaches of Udhampur, Doda and Kishtwar districts and further to Kashmir over the past year, which is evident from a series of terror incidents.

After carrying out deadly attacks in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch over the past four years, terror activities spread to six other districts in the Jammu region in 2024, leaving a total of 44 people, including 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists, dead.

Though the Pir Panjal districts of Rajouri and Poonch witnessed a considerable drop in terror activities in 2024 compared to the previous years, the series of incidents in Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur and Jammu from April-May onwards last year came as a concern for the security agencies.

To counter the threat and thwart the attempts of Pakistan-based terror handlers to spread terrorism to peaceful areas, the officials said, the security forces have started relentless operations.

According to official data, Doda, Kathua and Reasi districts recorded nine killings each followed by Kishtwar (five), Udhampur (four), Jammu and Rajouri (three each), and Poonch (two) in 2024. Those killed included 18 security personnel and 13 terrorists.

Earlier this month, Kathua was rocked by protests after the mysterious death of five people in the remote Billawar tehsil.

The bodies of 15-year-old Varun Singh, his paternal uncle Yogesh Singh (32) and maternal uncle Darshan Singh (40) were found in the Ishu nullah in the remote Malhar area in the higher reaches of Kathua on March 8. They had gone missing on March 5 while attending a wedding ceremony.

On February 16, the bodies of Shamsher (37) and Roshan (45) were found in Kohag village in Billawar. The post-mortem examination revealed that they were strangled, (inputs from PTI and KNO)

CBSE Mulls Allowing

to provide clear guidelines regarding acceptable calculator models to ensure uniformity and prevent the use of advanced or programmable devices. The curriculum committee has argued that the move will allow students to allocate more time to analytical responses and case study assignments," the official added.

The curriculum committee has also argued that allowing calculators will ease the cognitive load of lengthy calculations and help students by reducing their stress and improving exam performance.

With the move, the board also aims to enhance analytical responses, align with international standards, and support the National Education Policy (NEP)'s focus on higher-order thinking skills.

Other key proposals being considered by the board include piloting an On-Screen Marking (OSM) system for small-volume subjects and implementing a new re-evaluation process in board exams.

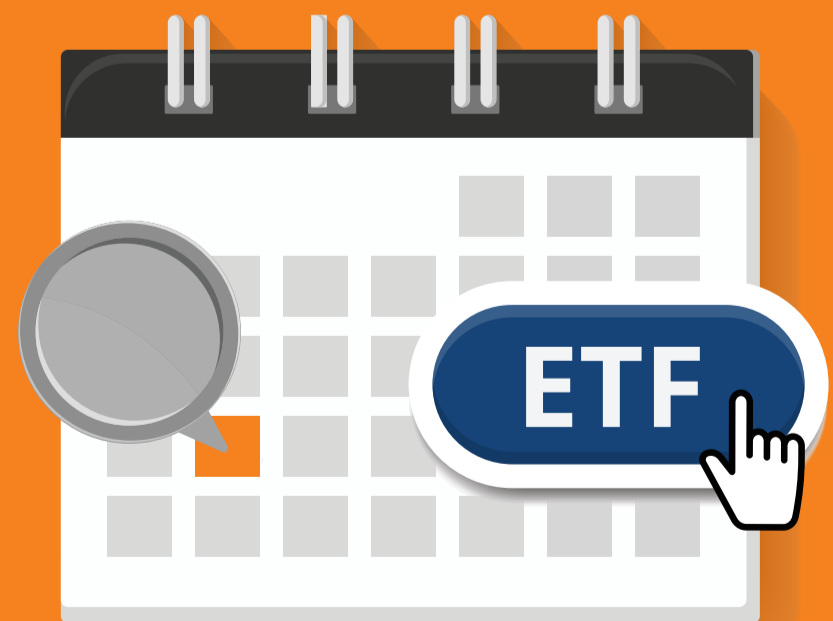
"To reduce the time spent on sending answer books to evaluation centres physically, the examination committee of the board proposed implementing On-Screen Marking (OSM) which will entail scanning and uploading answer sheets for digital evaluation, ensuring a faster and more efficient evaluation process.

"The proposal of OSM may be rolled out on a pilot basis in a few subjects in the main examination in both Classes 10 and 12; science or mathematics supplementary examination and mathematics for revaluation from 2024-25 academic session," the official added.

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NHPC Allocates Rs 28.67 Cr For CSR During Current Fiscal: CM Omar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: CChief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has allocated a total of Rs 28.67 crore for corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Rs 28.67 crore was allocated by the NHPC for corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in J&K for the financial year 2024-25, out of a total Rs 167.93 crore earmarked for pan-India CSR initiatives," he said replying to a question of PDP member Waheed Ur Rehman Para in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

The chief minister informed the House that NHPC's CSR activities cover key sectors such as health and sanitation, education and skill development, rural development, sports and disaster management.

In response to a supplementary question, Abdullah emphasized the need for consulting the MLA when planning and



implementing CSR projects.

"We will convey this recommendation to NHPC and request them to involve the MLA in identifying priority areas for CSR initiatives," he said.

The chief minister added that CSR funds should be utilized in consultation with local communities, ensuring the maximum benefits reach people.

"As far as I know, the company consults with local stakeholders before making decisions on CSR projects to ensure the most effective use of these funds," he stated.

Invest In Horticulture Sector To Curb Unemployment: Sajad To Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference Chairman and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone, on Monday urged the government to increase budget allocation for the horticulture sector in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing its potential to generate employment and boost the local economy.

"There is significant scope in this industry to create jobs, but the budget allocation remains inadequate. As job opportunities shrink across sectors, horticulture presents a viable path for economic growth," Lone said while addressing the assembly.

He highlighted the financial difficulties faced by farmers, particularly those engaged in traditional paddy farming, who often struggle to generate substantial income after covering expenses. "A paddy farmer barely saves Rs 2,500, whereas high-revenue sectors offer significantly better financial returns. If farming does not remain profitable, why would they continue growing rice just for tradition's sake?" he questioned.

Expressing concern over the conversion of agricultural land into real estate and industrial



use, Lone warned that existing laws alone cannot halt this trend. "If farmers see no financial benefit, they will shift to other occupations. Government intervention or corporate investment is necessary to sustain the sector," he stressed.

Lone also pointed to the economic challenges farmers face despite subsidies and the impact of global market dynamics on local agriculture. "Even with a 50% subsidy, many farmers struggle to afford the remaining costs. The financial burden discourages modernization in agriculture," he noted.

He urged the government to facilitate corporate investment or allocate more funds directly to the horticulture sector to provide relief to farmers. "Without this transition, a significant portion of agricultural land will be lost to non-agricultural activities," he cautioned.

Over 900 Worshippers Performing Itikaf At Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: More than 900 worshippers have gathered at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya, one of North Kashmir's largest Islamic seminaries, to observe Itikaf during Ramadan.

The seminary, renowned for its long-standing tradition of hosting large Itikaf gatherings, attracts spiritual seekers from across the country and abroad. According to its management, the institution prepares approximately 230 plates of food per meal, each serving four people, ensuring organized meal distribution for the Itikaf participants.

Itikaf, a practice where individuals isolate themselves in mosques for intensive prayer and religious reflection, holds significant importance in Ramadan. The

large gathering at Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya also highlights the spirit of community service, as volunteers play a crucial role in assisting those in Itikaf.

Shahid Ahmad, a local volunteer, said, "Serving those in Itikaf is a blessing for us. We wake up before Sehri to prepare food and ensure that everything is ready on time. It is tiring but rewarding."

The seminary follows a structured schedule, with Quranic recitations, prayers, and religious discussions throughout the ten-day period. Muneeb Hussain, a volunteer from Bandipora, emphasized the sense of brotherhood among participants. "People from different places come here, but we all work together as one family. Seeing them break their fast peacefully makes all our efforts worthwhile," he said.

'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Plantation Drive Organized



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Zones Budgam, Dreygam, and Chadoora, in collaboration with the Forest Department, organized a Plantation Drive under the banner of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam." The initiative was carried out in vari-

ous educational institutions and surrounding areas to promote environmental conservation.

On this occasion, Incharge Activity DYSSO Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Khanday, actively participated in the drive in Zone Budgam, encouraging students and staff to contribute to a greener future.

Nearly 16,000 Posts Vacant In J&K's Health Department: Itoo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Nearly 16,000 positions remain unfilled across Jammu and Kashmir's Health Department, Health Minister Sakina Itoo informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday. The shortage spans multiple categories, including doctors, paramedics, and non-gazetted staff, impacting healthcare services across the Union Territory.

Responding to MLA Sham Lal Sharma's inquiry, the Minister disclosed that the Directorate of Health Services in Jammu has 980 vacant gazetted posts and 2,937 non-gazetted vacancies. In Kashmir, the Directorate of Health Services has 420 unfilled gazetted posi-



tions alongside 1,574 non-gazetted vacancies. Additionally, the Ayush department has 45 vacant gazetted posts and 190 non-gazetted positions, while the National Health Mission is operating with 305 gazetted and 1,422 non-gazetted posts unfilled. Combined, the va-

cancies in these departments amount to 7,873.

Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) across Jammu and Kashmir also face acute staff shortages. GMC Srinagar and its associated hospitals have 347 vacant gazetted posts and 1,984 non-gazetted vacancies. GMC Jammu follows closely with 362 gazetted and 1,392 non-gazetted positions unfilled. Other medical colleges facing shortages include GMC Anantnag (91 gazetted, 283 non-gazetted), GMC Baramulla (232 gazetted, 357 non-gazetted), GMC Doda (154 gazetted, 225 non-gazetted), GMC Kathua (121 gazetted, 188 non-gazetted), GMC Rajouri (173 gazetted, 232 non-gazetted).

Digital Marketing & AI Bootcamp Held At KU's South Campus

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The South Campus of the University of Kashmir successfully organized a week-long Digital Marketing and AI Bootcamp from 17th to 24th March 2025. The event, designed to equip participants with cutting-edge skills in digital marketing and artificial intelligence, was coordinated by Dr. Irfana Rashid, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, under the guidance of Prof. Waseem Bari, Director of South Campus, University of Kashmir. The bootcamp was supported and funded by the University of Kashmir under the patronage of Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilefer Khan and Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal.

The bootcamp brought together students, scholars, budding entrepreneurs, and professionals, offering a blend of expert-led sessions, hands-on activities, and competitive challenges to foster learning and innovation. The event kicked off with an inauguration ceremony graced by Dr. Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid (IAS), Deputy Commissioner of Anantnag, who delivered an inspiring keynote address on the importance of digital transformation and the role of youth in driving technological advancements.

Over the course of the week,

participants engaged in a series of interactive sessions led by Ms. Nikita Vora, IIM Ahmedabad Alumnus and a distinguished digital marketing trainer and founder of SHELeads India. The sessions covered essential topics such as digital marketing fundamentals, social media strategy, SEO, Google Analytics, content creation, team building, and presentation skills. Ms. Vora's sessions were enriched with real-world examples, practical insights, and hands-on activities, making complex concepts accessible and engaging.

A highlight of the bootcamp was the inter-group competition, where participants presented comprehensive digital marketing campaigns to a panel of industry experts, including Mr. PK Gautam (Founder of MFable), Mr. Arif Shah (Product Manager at Ideas2IT), and Dr. Shah Nawaz Qadri (Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Sciences). The top three performing groups were awarded during the valedictory ceremony. The competition focused on four key areas: Strategy & Research, Content Creation (Posts, Landing Pages, Emails), Ad Strategy & Budgeting, and Presentation & Teamwork. Teams worked collaboratively, simulating professional digital

marketing roles such as content writers, graphic designers, social media managers, and data analysts. They analyzed global campaigns like "Sharela Coke" and Starbucks, creating strategies and content to showcase their understanding of digital marketing principles.

Photography played an integral role in documenting the vibrant atmosphere and capturing the participants' journey. The competition culminated in team presentations, where participants showcased their strategies, content, and ad campaigns, receiving feedback from trainers and peers. This exercise not only reinforced their learning but also highlighted the importance of teamwork and effective communication.

The bootcamp concluded with a valedictory ceremony, where the top three performing groups were awarded for their outstanding digital marketing campaigns. The event also saw the announcement of internship opportunities for participants, extended by Dr. Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid (IAS), Ms. Nikita Vora, and industry leaders such as Mr. PK Gautam (Founder of MFable) and Mr. Arif Shah (Product Manager at Ideas2IT). These opportunities provided students with practical exposure and a pathway to apply their learnings in real-world projects.

PHOTOGRAPHY PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN DOCUMENTING THE VIBRANT ATMOSPHERE and capturing the participants' journey. The competition culminated in team presentations, where participants showcased their strategies, content, and ad campaigns, receiving feedback from trainers and peers.

Majority Of Schools In J&K, Ladakh Follow Three-Language Formula: Report

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A significant number of schools in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh continue to adhere to the three-language formula as part of their curriculum, according to data from the Ministry of Education. However, student enrollment trends indicate varying levels of language adoption across the two Union Territories.

According to the latest figures, 81.2% of schools in J&K and 77.4% in Ladakh offer three languages, while 15.7% of schools in J&K and 21.4% in Ladakh implement a two-language system. A smaller percentage, 3.1% in J&K and 1.2% in Ladakh, offer only one language in their curriculum.

In terms of student enrollment, 83.4% of students in J&K and 84.4% in Ladakh are enrolled in schools offering three languages, while 14.1% in J&K and 15.2% in Ladakh study in institutions with two-language instruction. Only 2.5% of students in J&K and 0.5% in Ladakh attend schools with a single-language curriculum.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes flexibility in the three-language formula, ensuring that at least two of the three



The policy aims to promote multilingualism while allowing students to change their language choices in Grade 6 or 7, provided they attain proficiency in three languages by the end of secondary school.

languages taught are Indian languages. The policy aims to promote multilingualism while allowing students to change their language choices in Grade 6 or 7, provided they attain proficiency in three languages by the end of secondary school. Meanwhile, in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across Tamil Nadu, which follow a uniform education scheme under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 86 Hindi and 65 Sanskrit faculty members are currently employed, along with 24 part-time Tamil teachers engaged based on student demand.

Drug Peddler Arrested In Sopore: Police

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police on Monday said to have arrested a drug peddler in Sopore and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police team led by Incharge Police Post Watergam under the supervision of SDPO Rafiabad and SHO Police Station Dangiawacha, during patrolling at Watergam, intercepted a suspicious person, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

During the search, 696 grams of contraband charas powder like substance and 34 grams of charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Mohammad Jamal Gojree son of Ghulam Ahmad Gojree resident of Watergam Rafiabad. Subsequently he has been arrested.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 29/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Dangiawacha & further investigation has been initiated. "We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law."

Big Boost For Affordable Housing!

J&K Gears Up For PMAY-Urban 2.0 Interest Subsidy Rollout



Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a major push for affordable housing in Jammu & Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), Mandeep Kaur, chaired a high-level meeting to fast-track the implementation of the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

Senior officials from J&K Bank, financial institutions, and housing authorities strategized on expediting subsidy disbursements, ensuring seamless loan facilitation for eligible homebuyers from EWS, LIG, and MIG categories.

The meeting focused on devising strategies for effective implementation of the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) component under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

Pertinently, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0, launched by the Prime Minister on 17th September 2024, included the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) as a key initiative to enhance affordable housing accessibility. Under this Central Sector Scheme, the eligible beneficiaries from the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Lower Income Group (LIG) and Middle-Income Group (MIG) categories will receive an interest subsidy on home loans sanctioned and disbursed on or after 1st September 2024. The subsidy aims to support the beneficiaries seeking to construct or purchase a house.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized the urgent need for

all banks to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with any Central Nodal Agency (CNA) designated by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India. This step is crucial to facilitate the timely claim and transfer of subsidies to the eligible beneficiaries.

Under the scheme, the eligible beneficiaries with an annual family income of up to ₹9 lakh can avail of an interest subsidy of ₹1.80 lakh. Home loans up to ₹25 lakh for properties valued at up to ₹35 lakh, with a carpet area of up to 120 square meters, qualify for a 4.0% subsidy on the first ₹8 lakh for a loan tenure of up to 12 years.

During the meeting, Mandeep Kaur asked the J&K Bank, as the Convener of J&K UTLCB, to ensure that the Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) is thoroughly reviewed in the upcoming J&K UTLCB meeting. She also urged all financial institutions to actively participate in the scheme's rollout and provide necessary support to beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board (Mission Director, PMAY-Urban 2.0), Director Finance, Housing & Urban Development Department; General Manager, J&K Bank Ltd.; Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer, J&K Housing Board; Assistant General Manager, National Housing Bank (NHB); Regional Chief, Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO); Chief Manager, State Bank of India (SBI); and other senior representatives from public and private sector banks.

Sanitation Drive Launched At SKIMS MC Bemina



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An effective sanitation drive was launched at SKIMS MC, Bemina complex under the instructions of newly appointed Principal Dr. Fazl Q. Parry.

The sanitation drive is aimed at improving the clean environment in the hospital and its surrounding campus.

Principal SKIMS MC appreciated the efforts of the sanitation department which is working round the clock to clean the college & hospital surroundings. He expressed his gratitude to the entire sanitation staff for their cooperation and dedication. He said they made it possible despite meager resources & limited manpower.

Principal MC also appealed the general

public and patients visiting the hospital to maintain hygiene in the hospital and its surrounding campus and must

refrain from throwing away any food wastes, plastic bottles or any trash in the premises. He further added that the hospital is a public property & belongs to people and we need to generate enough civic sense for creating a clean and hygienic environment in and around the whole campus to decrease the chances of unwanted infection and unwanted stray animals thriving in the campus.

He also thanked Medical Superintendent Dr. Shafa Deva, Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Qayoom, CMO's and all the Sanitation Officers for their extraordinary cooperation in the Holy month of Ramadan. He exuded confidence that with cooperation of general public & hard efforts of our sanitation department

SKIMS MC will be able to maintain hygienic environment in and around the campus of the college & hospital premises in future as well

از نیابت کھن پیٹھ
درخواست از جانب: - ایڈیٹیو گیم ڈیپارٹمنٹ اسد اللہ بٹ ساکن نیکن پورہ بغرض حصول سند و اثرائت جانز
اشتہار بر آؤ آگائی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر سبت اول رپورٹ بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی۔ رپورٹ
بیواری سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ فاطمہ زوجہ؟ اسد اللہ بٹ ساکن نیکن پورہ مورخہ
2025/01/08 کو فوت ہوئی ہے اور متوفیہ مذکورہ گھر بیوکیا کرتی تھی اور مات فاطمہ بیگم
مندرجہ ذیل دارعائن جائزہ میں ہیں۔
1- ایڈیٹیو گیم ڈیپارٹمنٹ، خنجر گھر بیوکیا، 40 سال، شادی شدہ
اس کے علاوہ مندرجہ بالا مات فاطمہ بیوکیا ایک اور پرمی مظفر حسین بھی تھا جو کراچی لائی فونگنی
مات فاطمہ بیوکیا مذکورہ فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ مظفر حسین پسر متوفیہ مات فاطمہ مذکورہ مندرجہ ذیل
دارعائن جائزہ میں ہیں۔
1- معراج مظفر ولہ مظفر حسین، پسر، زیر تعلیم، 18 سال
اس طور سے سالانہ ایڈیٹیو گیم کے ریگیٹل ہیئر سٹنڈنٹ کال کرنے کی خواہاں ہیں معاملہ جڈا پراگرسیو شخص کو
کوئی عدویا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ماتوں کے اندر اپنا غدار یا اعتراض سبت کرے۔
بعد از اس کوئی بھی عدویا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

AJ M

Iyer's Captaincy Credentials In Focus As PBKS Open Against GT

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Skipper Shreyas Iyer will lean on his captaincy credentials as he looks to turn around the fortunes of perennial underperformers Punjab Kings in this IPL, opening the season with a clash against Gujarat Titans here on Tuesday.

Iyer enjoyed huge success leading Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL title last year, four years after guiding Delhi Capitals to the 2020 IPL final, and now faces the challenge of ending Punjab's 18-year-long wait for their maiden IPL title.

The Punjab team reached the semifinals in 2018 and made it to the final once in 2014, but despite numerous squad changes



and leadership shifts, they have failed to break into the top 5 in the last four editions, even after rebranding to Punjab Kings from Kings XI Punjab.

However, with Iyer at the helm, Punjab has a captain

with proven leadership credentials. He will also reunite with coach Ricky Ponting at Punjab, providing the ideal platform to make a fresh start.

On the other hand, Shubman Gill, who is the vice-captain

of India's ODI team, endured a tough season as GT captain, with the team finishing in 8th spot in 2024 after a title win and runner-up finishes in 2022 and 2023 under Hardik Pandya.

Both Gill and Iyer are in great form, having played crucial roles in India's Champions Trophy-winning campaign in Dubai earlier this month.

Iyer finished as India's top run-scorer in the Champions Trophy with 243 runs in five games, while Gill also struck a century in the opening match against Bangladesh and contributed significantly to India's triumph.

As for team dynamics, GT's batting strength will rely on a solid start from Gill and England's

wicketkeeper-batter Jos Buttler, who will be looking to bounce back from recent poor form.

The middle-order will be in the hands of West Indian Sherfane Rutherford, Sai Sudharsan, and Masood Shahrukh Khan, with all-rounders Rashid Khan, Rahul Tewatia, Glenn Phillips, Washington Sundar, and Mahipal Lomror expected to contribute.

Punjab Kings, on the other hand, will depend on skipper Iyer, Josh Inglis, Prabhsimran Singh, Marcus Stoinis, and Glenn Maxwell for their batting. The Punjab outfit also boasts a strong line-up of all-rounders in Azmatullah Omarzai, Stoinis, Marco Jansen, Shaheer Khan, and Musheer Khan. The match begins at 7:30 PM.

Short TAKES

BCCI Central Contracts: Will Rohit, Kohli Lose A+ Status?

The BCCI's Central Contracts for men are yet to be released, fuelling speculations over some rejigging in the A+ category following the retirement of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja from T20 Internationals.

While the women's central contract list with 16 names across three categories was released on Monday, the men's list which had 30 names last time, is expected to come out in the next few days.

The A+ category has a retainership fee of Rs 7 crore, followed by A where a player gets Rs 5 crore while cricketers in Grade B and C are paid Rs 3 crore and 1 crore respectively.

It has been learned that not all stakeholders are on same page over retention of all senior players in A+ category. Bumrah, Rohit, Kohli and Jadeja were handed the highest category contracts last year.

Tamim Iqbal Undergoes Angioplasty After Heart Attack Mid-Match

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal on Monday underwent angioplasty after suffering a heart attack during a Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League match in Dhaka.

According to a report in ESPNcricinfo, the incident occurred in the first innings of the 50-over-a-side contest between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Shinepukur Cricket Club when the 36-year-old Iqbal felt pain in his chest.

Tamim, who was leading Mohammedan, fielded for just one over before being rushed to a nearby hospital. The Bangladesh Cricket Board had cancelled a scheduled board meeting this afternoon after the development. BCB president Faruque Ahmed is at the hospital, along with other members.

Iqbal had announced his retirement from international cricket for the second time in January this year.

FC Barcelona Legends Rivaldo, Xavi To Play In India

Rivaldo, Xavi Hernandez, Michael Owen and Pepe were among the additional star names confirmed to take part in the Legends Face-off contest between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid, here on April 6.

Among the others who have also been confirmed for the contest to be played in Navi Mumbai at the DY Patil Stadium are Javier Saviola, Phillip Cocu and Christian Karembeu.

"I've experienced some of the greatest rivalries in football, and now I can't wait to relive it in front of passionate Indian fans in Mumbai. Get ready for a special night," Xavi said in a release.

Owen said, "India has some of the most passionate football fans, and I'm looking forward to stepping onto the pitch for Legends Faceoff."

J&K Athletes Shine At Khelo India Para Games 2025



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K's top para athlete, Sheetal Devi, clinched a gold medal in the Compound Women category at the Khelo India Para Games 2025, while Rakesh Kumar secured a bronze in the Compound Men category. The archery events were held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, where both athletes delivered stellar performances.

Adding to J&K's success,

Anita Kumari, hailing from the border district of Rajouri, won a bronze medal in the 10M Air Pistol Para Shooting event.

It is pertinent to mention that Khelo India has been phenomenal in providing a platform for athletes from border areas and marginal backgrounds to compete at the national level. In recent years, J&K athletes have consistently shined in national championships, further highlighting the

region's growing sporting excellence.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, congratulated the athletes on their outstanding achievements, calling it a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing sports infrastructure, coaching facilities, and training programs to help athletes compete and win at both national and international platforms.

J&K Snowboarders Make Debut At World Championship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a historic feat for Indian snowboarding, the country made its debut at the World Snowboard Championship 2025 in St. Moritz, Switzerland. J&K athletes Zubair Ahmad Lone and Mehraj ud Din Khan, both hailing from Tangmarg, Kashmir, qualified and represented India in this prestigious international event, marking a significant milestone for the sport in the country.

Adding to J&K's success in winter sports, another athlete, Syed Ishfaq Hussain from Check Ferozpora, Tangmarg, secured two bronze medals at the prestigious FIS Race 2025 held at Cedar Ski Resort, Lebanon, on 14th and 15th March.

Competing in the highly competitive Cross-Country Skiing events, Ishfaq displayed exceptional skill and determination, clinching both bronze medals in the 1.1 km Sprint category. His remarkable performance reflects his dedication and the growing potential of Indian athletes on the international skiing stage.

J&K Sports Council has successfully hosted



five editions of Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg, which has significantly contributed to the prosperity of winter sports in the region.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, lauded the athletes for their outstanding performances, stating, "The achievements of our winter sports athletes reflect the immense potential of Jammu & Kashmir in the field of sports. The government remains committed to strengthening sports infrastructure and providing world-class training facilities to ensure our athletes continue to shine on the international stage."

Dignified Farewell

Transforming Kashmir's Final Rides

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

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



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