

Massive Forest Fires Break Out Across Kashmir

20 Incidents Reported In A Week



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid prolonged dry weather and minimal snowfall, massive forest fires have erupted at multiple locations across Kashmir, severely impacting the region's green cover.

South Kashmir has witnessed a surge in forest fire incidents over the past few days, with more than 20 reported cases in the last week alone. Officials said 18 fires have been controlled, while others remain active.

The fires, fueled by dry vegetation, have spread across Tral, Pinglish, Dadoo Marhama (Anantnag), Dachnipora (Pahalgam), and Khuwripora (Aishmuqam), affecting forest compartments 17, 21, 22, 50, and 58. Additionally, Budroo, Sallar, Kullar, Dehvato, Mawoora, Grendwan, Reshkobal, Hapatnad,

Wajoora, and Pendobal have also suffered damage.

In Anantnag's Andoo-Shangus, officials managed to douse the flames after an intense operation, while another blaze continues in Kokernag's compartments 63 and 64. A separate fire in Compartment 34V, Check Watoo Block (Vasho Range, Kulgam), has been contained.

Mudasir Mehmood, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Anantnag, said the department is actively working to control the remaining fires, with 80% of the Kokernag blaze already brought under control.

Conservator of Forests (South Circle), Arshdeep Singh, attributed the surge in fires to dry grass and human negligence during recent festivities. "Many people visited forests during celebrations, and their | More on P6

8 More Kashmiri Crafts Secure GI Tag

Agencies

Srinagar: In a landmark achievement securing the unique craftsmanship of artisans, 8 more traditional products of Kashmir have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) certificates by GI Registry, Chennai, based on their sources of origin.

GI registration provides legal protection against counterfeit products, prevents unauthorized use, boosts exports, and promotes economic

prosperity for producers of goods associated with a specific geographical territory.

Giving details, a spokesman from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, today stated that Kashmir Namda, Kashmir Gabba, Kashmir Willow Bat, Kashmir Tweed, Kashmir Crewel, Kashmir Chain Stitch, Shikara and Wagguv have secured GI registration. With this, he said, the total number of GI registered crafts has | More on P6



288 Votes In Favour, 232 Against

LS Passes Waqf (Amendment) Bill After 12-Hr Debate

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha early Thursday passed the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, after over a 12-hour debate, which saw the ruling NDA strongly defending the legislation as beneficial for minorities, while the opposition described it as "anti-Muslim".

The Bill was passed after all amendments moved by the opposition members were rejected by voice votes. It was passed after a division of votes -- 288 in favour and 232 against.

In his reply to the debate, Union Minorities Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said there is no place in the world safer than India for minorities and they are safe because the majority is entirely secular.



He said even a minuscule minority community like the Parsis are safe in India and all minorities here live with pride. "Some members have said that minorities are not safe in India. This statement is completely false. There is no place safer than India for minorities. I am also a minority and we all are living here without any fear and with pride," he said after the debate on the Bill.

The minister said whenever a minority community faces persecution, it always comes to India to take refuge and cited the examples of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan community, minorities of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. "Minorities of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan came to India after facing religious persecution in | More on P6

Waqf Bill Violates Freedom Of Religion: Speaker

Speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather on Thursday said the Waqf Amendment Bill is violative of the Constitution's freedom of religion and an "unnecessary interference" in religious matters of Muslims. | More on P6

NC MLA Seeks Debate In J&K Assembly

National Conference chief spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq has demanded immediate debate in the J&K Legislative Assembly on the Waqf Amendment Bill passed by the Parliament. Sadiq has shot a letter to Speaker of Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather, seeking | More on P6

Aga Ruhullah Slams 'Weaponised' Verification In Kashmir

Observer News Service

New Delhi: In a strong appeal to the government, National Conference MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has raised concerns over what he described as a "verification regime" in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that it is being used as a tool of oppression against families of individuals accused of militancy. Speaking in Parliament, Ruhullah accused the authorities of subjecting innocent people to harassment under the pretext of security clearances.

"If an individual is found involved in militant activity, their entire family and extended relatives are punished," Ruhullah stated, emphasizing that job verifications, passport clearances, government contracts, and even business approvals are being systematically denied. "This is against the Constitution and the law. No one should be punished for someone else's actions." The MP | More on P6

Tensions Rise Over Administrative Transfers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Tensions have escalated between two power centres in Jammu and Kashmir, primarily over the transfer of 48 Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha who is the head of Union Territory and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's six-month-old government are at loggerheads over several issues including departmental control.

The latest row erupted after LG ordered the transfer of 48 middle-rung JKAS officers, including 14 additional deputy commissioners and 26 subdivisional magistrates.

The LG ordered the transfer and posting of additional deputy commissioners in Pulwama, Kupwara, Basohli, Doda, Anantnag, Sunderbani,



Rajouri, Nowshera, Baramulla, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Kathua, Bhandarwah and Handwara.

This has reportedly prompted Chief Minister Abdullah to convene an urgent meeting of ruling National Conference (NC) MLAs and their alliance partner, the Congress.

Though the agenda of the meeting remains undisclosed, sources suggest it will focus on growing | More on P6

OMAR ABDULLAH HAS CALLED FOR AN URGENT MEETING OF LEGISLATORS of the ruling National Conference and alliance partners on Friday.

Wet Spell Likely Next Week: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Weatherman here on Thursday predicted a wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir next week.

A meteorological department official said that while generally cloudy weather with possibility of light rain/snow (higher reaches) was expected over North Kashmir and Sonamarg-Zojila axis today, the weather is likely to remain "generally dry" from April 4-7. The MeT department also predicted the possibility of thunder with gusty winds (30-40 KMPH) at a few places towards late afternoon today.

Regarding April 8, he said, the weather is expected to be generally cloudy towards afternoon with possibility of light snow over higher reaches of North Kashmir and Sonamarg.

From April 9-10, he said, generally cloudy weather with light rain and snow (higher reaches) was expected at many places of Kashmir Division and at scattered places of Jammu region.

He said on April 11, generally cloudy weather with light rain and snow (higher reaches) was expected at isolated places towards morning and improvement thereafter.

The MeT department urged travelers, tourists, and transporters to | More on P6

J&K Govt Enhances Pensions Under NSAP, ISSS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has accorded sanction to the enhancement of the pension for elderly citizens, widows, disabled individuals, and transgender persons under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS).

As per an order, the beneficiaries aged below 60 years will now get Rs 1250 per month, while those between age 60-79 will get Rs 1500 per month and those above 80 years of age will get Rs 2000

per month.

"The pension shall be disbursed only to the approved beneficiaries as per the scheme guidelines issued by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for NSAP and rules issued by Government of J&K vide G.O No. 156-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated 08-09-2022," the order reads.

It added that a pensioner will enter the next age group from the month in which the beneficiary attains the required age. However, the enhanced pension payout shall be applicable or reckoned from the succeeding | More on P6



Marriage Assistance Raised To Rs 75,000

The Jammu and Kashmir government enhanced financial assistance under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS) for poor girls from Rs 50,000 to 75,000 for the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families. According to an order, assistance for Priority Household (PHH) ration card holders remains unchanged at Rs 50,000. New scheme will be effective from April 1, 2025. | More on P6

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OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application of Noor-ud-Din Khan R/o Sheikhpora Tehsil Kreeri for the Issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his/her/ their favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC. In this connection, a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought, which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Sheikhpora of Tehsil Kreeri and belongs to the _____ Community, having an annual income of Rs. 50000/-.

Table with 6 columns: S.No, Name of the Family Member, Relationship with the Applicant, Age, Occupation, Annual Income. Rows include Noor-ud-Din, Haneela Begum, Rafia Akhter, Khushnooda, Amer Djn, and Shumaila Noor.

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) positively from the date the notice has been published.

fko_R

Naib Tehsildar

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 Anabiya Shabir D/o Shabir Ahmad Sheikh R/o Kripalpura sari Singapora with verified date of birth 11/12/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan..

Sub. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Azan Nazir s/o Nazir Ahmad Dar R/o Iqbal colony pattan with verified date of birth 21/03/2012 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Eshaan Tanveer Reshi S/o Tanveer Ahmad Reshi R/o Palpora pattan with verified date of birth 27/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

fko

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aleena Showkat Qadri D/o Showkat Ali Qadri R/o Poshwani pattan With verified date of birth 05/06/2020 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zainab Ashfaq D/o Ashfaq Ahmed R/o Ussan kohie with verified date of birth 30/01/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

From the office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool sheikh and Associates

In the case of

Gh Rasool sheikh S/o: Ab Ganie Sheikh R/o: Tantraypora Palhalla Pattan Baramulla Vs Public at large

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 seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte 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

OFFICE OF ADVOCATE YAKOUB HUSSAIN SOFI J&K HIGH COURT SRINAGAR

CHAMBER NO. 07 MUNSIF/JMFC AT MAGAM Cell No. 9906517553, 9419068005

In the case of:

Mohammad Yousuf Malik S/o Gh Hassan Malik, R/o Astan Mohalla Magam

... Caveators

Versus PUBLIC AT LARGE

... Non-caveators

IN THE MATTER OF:

Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of C.P.C. The Caveators have reasons to believe/apprehension that non-Caveator (s) may file a suit/application/petition or any other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court, District Courts, Revenue Courts or any other forum and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/ex-parte against the caveators and in such eventuality, the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators may be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order or direction.

Date: 02-04-2025 BMG

Seal & Signature Yakoub Hussain Sofi Advocate J&K High Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the name of son from old name Aman Ullah Dar to new name Mohammad Amaan Dar In future I will be known as New Name Mohammad Amaan Dar. Further the DOB of my son has been wrongly written as 25-08-2016 instead of 25-08-2015 which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bilal Ahmad Dar Passport No: R9003824 F/o Mohammad Amaan Dar R/o Takanwaripora Noor Bagh Srinagar

tu

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

syh

ازنیابت پہلوان

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب شیفتیجیم روجہ فارو احمد شیخ ساکت تاپور پورہ، مہراجہ اجرتی ریگل ہیر سٹریٹیٹ

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عمر فاروق 08 سال پسر متوفی زیر تعلیم
شیفتیجیم 44 سال زوج متوفی گھریلو کام
اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کمنہ نہیں ہے۔ منجانب اشتہار کے لئے سائل اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی مزایا، عیاش، ہتھیار، ہتھیار سازی، دان کے اندر اندر آئے ہوئے عیاشی وراثت حذا کو فوری اذیت کے دوران پیش کریں۔ ایجنڈے سے معافی عیاشی کا عمل نہیں ہوگا۔
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Tel- 0194-3510830 Email ID: -electricdivision3rd@rediffmail.com, electricdivision3rd@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender e-NIT No.: ED-III /03 of 2025-26 Dated: -01-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies Registered with ROC of INDIA, Original Manufacturers or relevant class A registered electrical contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPDD, for "Rate Contract for carrying out Restoration, Maintenance and HT-LT Network improvement Works for the year 2025-26 in respect of ESD Pather Masjid and MR Gunj, ED-3rd (Stage Contract)" as details below:

Table with 4 columns: Name of the work, EMD, Cost of Tender Document, Validity of Contract. Row 1: Rate Contract for carrying out Restoration, Maintenance and HT-LT Network improvement Works for the year 2025-26 in respect of ESD Pather Masjid and MR Gunj, ED-3rd (Stage Contract). EMD: 10,000/- (Ten Thousand only). Cost: Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only). Validity: 01 Year.

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

Table with 2 columns: A-J, Description of tasks and dates. A: Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start). B: Clarification start date. C: Clarification End date. D: e-Bid submission (start) date and time. E: e-Bid submission (End) date and time. F: Hard copy of tender document Submission end date. G: Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time. H: Online financial e-bid opening date & time. I: Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids. J: Cost of e-bid document.

No.: -ED-III/TS/16684-94 DIPK-NB-23/25 Date: -03-04-2025

Executive Engineer Electric Division 3rd

SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF KASHMIR Directorate of Research

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project in J&K (JKCIP)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for following positions under the project titled "Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project in J&K (JKCIP)" purely on contractual basis, initially for a period of one year, with a provision for extension up to the project period in further spells of one year each, depending upon the performance of the candidate (Co-terminus with the project) to be stationed at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar, Srinagar or its constituent units.

Details including remuneration, minimum qualification/experience etc are given below:

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Name of Post and salary, No. of Posts, Minimum Qualification/Experience. Rows include Procurement Officer, Manager, and Young Professional.

Applicants can directly apply through University Recruitment Portal by or before 12-04-2025. The shortlisted candidates shall be called for interview. The detailed advertisement can be found on SKUAST-K official website www.skuastkashmir.ac.in.

Sd/- Director Research No. Au/DR/2025-26/05-08 Dated: 02.04.2025

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) PROJECTS DIVISION III, SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 02-NP of 04/2025 Dated: -01-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis for the below mentioned works from approved and eligible Contractors Registered with UT of J&K Govt. CPWD, JKPWD, MES, Railways, and other State/Central Governments as per pre-qualification criteria in this bid document for each of the following works:- Table 1

Table with 10 columns: S. No., Name of Work, Adv. Cost, Cost of T/Doc, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor, Major Head of Account. Rows 1-7 describe various maintenance contracts.

Table with 10 columns: S. No., Name of Work, Adv. Cost, Cost of T/Doc, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor, Major Head of Account. Rows 8-11 describe various maintenance contracts.

Position of AAA : Authorized by Director, Estates Department Kashmir Position of TS : Accorded by Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Project Division-III, Kashmir Position of Funds : Assured by Director Estates, Kashmir Project Authority : Estates Department, Kashmir

1. SCHEDULE OF TENDER:- The bidding documents consisting of pre-qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below in Table

Table 2: Schedule of Tender. Columns: S. No., Date of Issue of Tender Notice, Period of downloading of bidding documents, Bid submission Start Date, Bid Submission End Date, Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online).

- 2. DOCUMENTS COMPRISING THE BID:- Notice Inviting Tender (NTI), Bill of Quantities (BOQ)
3. INTEGRITY OF THE BID PROCESS:- Information leading to clarification, examination, evaluation, Comparison of bids and recommendations for award of contract extra during the bid process is confidential. All bidders are advised not to make any attempt to influence any officer or official of the department or any person related to them, and any such attempt made will result in disqualification of the bidder at any stage of the bid process including appropriate action under existing provision of law. Misconduct / Misbehavior observed during the tender opening process with any officer/official shall be dealt under rules and in terms of the enlistment of registration of contractor in the Department and shall be subject to cancellation of registration card issued by this department or any other department. However, contractors registered with other departments must have online registration on www.jkpwdoms.gov.in. Earnest money/Bid Security & tender document Fee indicating name of the work/NIT No. therein. No documents which have /have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents. Class of Contract is strictly as per Column number 7 in table 1. No other CARD and Certificate is accepted. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language.

DIPK-41/25 No. XEN/R&B/PDIII/2025/11-20/T-1 dated: 03-04-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Project Division III Srinagar.

Authorities Seal Unregistered IVF Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities sealed an unregistered In-vitro Fertilization (IVF) clinic in the HMT area of Srinagar on Thursday, raising concerns over patient safety and unethical medical practices.

According to officials, the IVF clinic at Umerabad, HMT, was found operating without registration with the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Council and the District Regulatory Authority (DRA), prompting immediate action by health authorities.

Sources revealed that a large-scale malpractice is ongoing in several parts of Kashmir, where doctors from outside the region are brought in to consult patients. These patients are then referred to clinics in Delhi and other locations, often without clear information about donors

or proper medical protocols. This practice has led to financial and emotional exploitation of childless couples.

Public outrage has grown following the closure, with many demanding strict regulatory oversight of IVF clinics to prevent such unethical practices. Residents stressed the need for stringent action against unregistered facilities to protect patients from potential fraud and medical risks.

"Unregistered clinics not only violate professional ethics but also put patients at serious risk. They undermine the integrity of medical practice and pose a threat to public health," said one concerned citizen.

The J&K Medical Council has repeatedly issued warnings to unregistered clinics, urging them to comply with regulations to ensure ethical medical practices and patient safety.

DLSA Organizes Awareness Programme On UTRC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) at Central Jail Srinagar.

The initiative was conducted under the able guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary of J&K Legal Services Authority, and under the chairmanship of Tasneem Arif, Principal District Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The primary objective of the event was to educate jail inmates about the role and significance of the UTRC in safeguard-

ing their rights and ensuring they are not unduly detained.

The programme witnessed the active participation of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) from the Prison Legal Aid Clinic, alongside jail inmates.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel, served as the resource person and provided in-depth insights into the mandate of the UTRC. She highlighted the committee's role in reviewing the cases of undertrial prisoners, ensuring that their legal rights are upheld, and emphasizing the importance of swift justice. The session also covered legal remedies available to inmates, the necessity of speedy trials, and their constitutional rights within the criminal justice system.



RESPITE FROM POLLUTION & FOUL SMELL SMC To Clear 11 Lakh Metric Tons Of Waste From Achan

Agencies

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is all set to clear 11 lakh metric tons (MT) of municipal solid waste in next 18 months from Achan dumping site here.

A top official from the SMC while divulging the details said that two Material Recovery System (MRS) or Material Recovery Facility (MRF) processing plants are coming up for the first time at the site, to clear 11 MTs of municipal solid waste presently piled up at Achan landfilling site.

He informed that the site will be completely cleared from the municipal solid waste within 18 months, adding that at present, 600 MTs of municipal solid waste gets generated at the site on daily basis, but the two processing plants will now help to process mixed municipal solid waste to recover recyclable materials like paper, plastic, glass, and metals.

The official said that the tenders have been floated in this regard and

further necessary steps will be taken shortly to remove the piled up garbage once for all.

"The measures being taken are set to end the woes of local residents, especially those living close to the dumping site, who have been raising their voices over the foul smell emanating from the waste, causing immense hardships to them," he added.

"The new processing facilities will fulfill the public demands and the people living around the landfilling site will have a sigh of relief," the officer said.

Pertinently, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on March 10 had informed the Legislative Assembly that the Achan site was established in 1986 and initially functioned as a landfill site and over the years, it has evolved into a critical waste processing hub for the city.

"The site handles approximately 550 TPD of municipal solid waste, serving as the primary waste disposal and processing facility. While it has historically faced challenges related to odour and environmental concerns,

the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has been actively implementing measures to minimise any impact on nearby residents. Continuous efforts are being made to ensure that waste processing and disposal are carried out scientifically and in compliance with environmental standards," he had said.

He had said that under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, and City to Investments to Innovate, Integrate, and Sustain, SMC has proposed a series of state-of-the-art waste processing facilities aimed at achieving 100% scientific waste management. "These projects are expected to be fully operational by 2027, significantly reducing landfill dependency and improving environmental compliance". He had said that key proposed facilities include material recovery facility (MRF)-459 TPD, Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) Plant-300 TPD, IoT-Based Waste Management System, Bio-Mining of Legacy Waste-11 Lakh MT and Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) Plant-459 TPD.(KNO)

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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- 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 - (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR
05 Shawwal
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 50
ZUHR	12:34
ASR	5: 05
Magrib	6:56
ISHA	8: 19

This Day In History

- 1944 - Allied Bucharest bombings targeting railroads kills 5,000
- 1945 - Hungary liberated from Nazi occupation (National Day)
- 1947 - Convention on International Civil Aviation goes into effect
- 1947 - Largest group of sunspots on record
- 1947 - UN's International Civil Aviation Organization forms
- 1949 - Israel & Jordan sign armistice agreement
- 1949 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) treaty signed in Washington DC

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Elect, Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Jammu for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:

Tender Notice No.	17-Elect-C-BDGM-SL-25
Name of Work	Internal/External Electrification work of sick-Line shed at Budgam Railway station, laying of cables, poles etc. in connection with USBRL Project.
Approximate Cost of the Work	Rs. 59,09,759.64 (Including GST and all other taxes)
Completion Period	06 (Six) Months
Bid Security to be deposited	Rs. 1,18,200.00
Site/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.04.2025.
Last date/time of uploading of tenders	30.04.2025 upto 15.00 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website.
Date/Time of Opening of tenders	30.04.2025 at 15.00 hrs. (Immediately after close of uploading of tender).
Detailed Tender Notice & Tender document	Tender Notice is available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in from 05.04.2025 and the tender document will be available for uploading of offers on IREPS website from 16.04.2025 to 30.04.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in the tender document. Only e-tenders will be accepted and tenders submitted in any other form will be summarily rejected. The detailed notice also can be seen on Notice Board of the above office.

No.: 17-Elect-C-BDGM-SL-25 Dated: 03.04.2025 1011/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name of my daughter in school records from Syed Aroush Fatima To Saeeda Fatima. Objections, if any, may be communicated to the Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute, Habak, Naseem Bagh within one week from publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Syed Nasir Rizvi
Father Saeeda Fatima
Class: 9th Standard (Lily) IZ
ID Number: 2320
Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my daughter has been wrongly spelled as Syeda Mahroush Kulsum instead of Saeeda Mahroush Kulsum in school records. I intend to correct the spelling mistake. Objections, if any, may be communicated to the Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute, Habak, Naseem Bagh within one week from publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

Syed Nasir Rizvi
Father Saeeda Mahroush Kulsum
Class: 4th Standard (Lily) iz
ID Number: 3262
Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-II, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR**
TENDER NOTICE
eNIT No. STD-II / 04 of 2025-26 Dated 27-03-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from A-class electrical contractors/ registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency/Transformer Repairing Agencies to fix "Annual rate contract for repairs of 33/11kv Power Transformers, 33/0.433KV and 11/0.433KV auxiliary Distribution Transformer(damaged) under the jurisdiction of Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar for the year 2025-26 or till next rate contract".

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Estimated Cost (in Rs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Annual rate contract for repairs of 33kv/11kv Power Transformers (damaged) under the jurisdiction of Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar for the year 2025-26 or till next rate contract.	Rs1,00,000/-	Rs50,00,000/-	26-04-2025; 2:30pm

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

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 05-04-2025; 4:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	05-04-2025; 4:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	26-04-2025; 2:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	05-04-2025; 4:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	26-04-2025; 2:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	28-04-2025; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs1000.00(Rupees One Thousand Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 100000.00(Rupees One Lac Only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/ Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e- Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
 - Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.
 - The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
 - The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
 - The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
 - In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.
 - All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/ BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
 - To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) As per InformationTechnology-Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
 - Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/ Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
 - The Name of the Work/ Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm should be clearly written on the cover.
 - The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

DIPK-NB-15/25
No: STD-II/2035-37/Ts Dated: 03-04-2025
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Tilgam
EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS
Subject:- Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar births and deaths (Block Development Officer) Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth/Death of Javid Ahmad Magray, S/D/W/O Abdul Aziz Magray, R/O Tilgam, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, with verified date of event (Birth/Death) as 15-02-1976, occurred at Home. In this connection, if anybody has objection to the issuance of said registration, they may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Tilgam
fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora..
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO Walloo has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Umar Farooq Teli s/o Farooq Ahmad Teli R/o Seriguo Dangepora with verified date of birth 20/05/2015 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
Naib Tehsildar sariwarpora
fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan..
Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Nahida Mohi u din D/o Ghulam Mohi u din R/o Ganepora Buran pattan with verified date of birth 13/04/2009 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

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 Rutba Zehra D/o Ghulam Mohi u din s/o R/o Reshipora Hanjwera with verified date of birth 27/04/2013 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
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office of the Additional Mission Director JKSLRLM, Kashmir
Natraj Lane, Lal Mandi, Wazir Bagh, Srinagar- 190007
Telephone/Fax No 0194-2501928 email: amdkashmir.umeed@gmail.com

DASTI QUOTATION

Sealed Quotations are invited from the Registered HR/Consultancy Agencies for watch and Ward services (03 Persons) at UMEED HAAT located at Ghat No. 08, Boulevard Road Srinagar on 24x7 basis adjacent to Hotel Welcome, which should reach to the office of the undersigned by or before 10-April-2025 upto 4 pm

DIPK-61/25 dated: 03-04-2025
No: AMDK/JKRLM/UWH/5827-28

Addl Mission Director
JK Rural Livelihoods Mission Kashmir

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora
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 Khalida Jan D.o.B 02/05/2013, Raquija Jan D. o.B 16/02/2018, Mubashir Ahmad Mir D.o.B 15/02/2019 S/ D/o John Mohammad Mir R/o sariwarpora 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
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth BDO Walloo has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Nazima Jan D.o.B 04/08/2012, Anayat Ahmad Chohan D.o.B 16/04/2018 S/D/o Ghulam Nabi Chohan R/o Shouchalpora 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
Naib Tehsildar sariwarpora
fko

خاندان حکماء باغچوان پورہ کو صدمہء جا بجا نگاہ
الحسان حکیم صاحب سمن ہنسین ہنسین

اسلام بلکہ وراثت اللہ ویکارتو
بڑے سرخ ہا دم کے ساتھ آپ کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ ہمارے والد بزرگوار
الان حکیم غلام حسن ابن مرحوم حکیم اشرف علی ساکن حکیم محلہ باغچوان پورہ
(حال غازی دوری زوی ہئی منصفہ معاملات کے بعد برصغور کی شام خانیق
حقیقی سے جاٹے

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون

آپ سے استعنا ہے کہ مرحوم کے تقن میں دعائاً مستوفیٰ کر میں۔ مرحوم کی اجائی فاتحہ خوانی بروز اتوار 6
اپریل تک سات بجے ان کے آبائی قبرستان حکیم محلہ باغچوان پورہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعد از ان مجلس
تعمیرت ہمارے والد حکماء خانہ دعاغازی دوری زوی ہئی منصفہ معاملات کے بعد برصغور کی شام خانیق
دعاگو
حکیم غلام حسن و بی بی عزیزہ دعاغازی صاحبہ
bko

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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KO VIEW

News or Misinformation?

The way we consume news has changed drastically over the last decade or so. Gone are the days when people received their daily news either from newspapers and television. Now social media has taken over as a major source of information for millions. But is this information credible? Not necessarily. At least not the one shared on the platforms by the sources that are not formally devoted to producing news. Hence the rampant rise in misinformation and disinformation. This has also created a significant problem: the struggle to differentiate trustworthy journalism from misinformation.

News production is a formal process, to wit: it is the responsibility of trained professionals who adhere to strict ethical standards, ensuring accuracy and credibility. But now anyone with a smartphone and internet access claims to be a journalist. The result is that the digital space is now flooded with unverified information, making it harder than ever for the people to separate fact from fiction. Hence the abiding value of a traditional newspaper or a new channel.

However, the advancement in communication technology has by and large overturned the revenue model of the traditional media. More so in the places like Kashmir where fewer revenue sources exist for the professional media organizations outside the government. The challenges for the media in Kashmir Valley are formidable. The media in the region, comprising a robust English and vernacular press, online sites and a few fledgling television channels, has a particularly unenviable job to perform. The problems faced by it are both universal to the conflict situations and unique to the region. One of the major problems bedeviling the freedom of expression in the Valley is the economic sustainability of the local newspapers.

Being a place with only a fledgling private sector and little industrial presence, government advertising is a predominant source of revenue for the newspapers. This gives the government enormous power to influence news agenda as the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah rightly said in his recent speech in the Assembly. He said the media shouldn't be dependent on government advertisement as this curtails its freedom to report. But this isn't also so straightforward an issue. Media in the union territory has been receiving government ads and also performing its job well like in the rest of the country. True, this also reflects positively on the approach of the successive governments towards the media. And it should stay that way. The alternative is the free run to misinformation and disinformation.



Did You Know?

From Gold to Crypto: Where to Put Your Money

Irshad Mushtaq

In today's dynamic financial landscape, understanding various investment options and their associated risks is crucial for building a robust financial portfolio. Here's a detailed overview of popular investment avenues:

Fixed Deposits (FDs): These are time-bound investment options offered by banks where a sum of money is deposited for a specific period at a predetermined interest rate. They are considered low-risk with moderate returns.

Savings Accounts: Although primarily for daily transactions, savings accounts offer minimal interest. They are secure but not ideal for significant returns.

Gold Investments: Gold can be purchased physically (like coins and jewelry) or through financial products such as gold funds or ETFs. It is seen as a hedge against inflation.

Silver: Similar to gold, silver can be bought physically or through financial products. Its market dynamics can differ, offering varied returns.

Real Estate: Investing in property has traditionally been a way to generate wealth. However, it requires significant capital and comes with risks like market volatility and liquidity issues.

Mutual Funds: These funds pool money from many investors to invest in stocks, bonds, or other assets. They provide diversification and professional management but come with market-related risks.

Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs): ETFs trade on stock exchanges and can include a collection of different securities. They offer flexibility and diversification.

Shares: Owning shares of a company means owning a part of it. This can yield high returns but also bears the risk of market fluctuations.

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

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

Humour And Politics

The recent case of Kunal Kamra is a perfect example of this. Known for his sharp satire and political humour, Kamra has frequently been at the receiving end of outrage, criticism, and even legal action.



Narayanan Kizhumundayur

“
Shankar's Weekly, a popular political satire magazine founded by Keshav Shankar Pillai, regularly published cartoons mocking Nehru and his government. Instead of taking offense, Nehru encouraged it, famously saying, “Don't spare me, Shankar.”

Humour is one of the greatest gifts given to humanity. It has the power to bring people together, lighten tense situations, and offer a fresh perspective on life's absurdities. A well-placed joke can turn a heated debate into a moment of shared laughter, a stressful day into something bearable, and a dull gathering into a memorable one.

But humour, in its purest form, is meant to entertain, not to divide. It should be seen as humour—nothing more, nothing less. Unfortunately, in today's world, especially in the realm of politics, humour is no longer just humour. It is dissected, debated, and often weaponized, leading to unnecessary outrage and controversy.

History is filled with examples of how humour has been used to reflect society's truths. Court jesters in medieval times had the freedom to mock even kings, often delivering harsh truths in a way that was acceptable because it was wrapped in humour.

In ancient India, the role of the Vidushaka in royal courts was particularly important. The Vidushaka was more than just a comedian—he was a trusted confidant of the king, whose wit and humour helped defuse tense situations.

In Sanskrit dramas, especially those by Kalidasa, the Vidushaka played the role of both a comic relief and a wise counselor, using humour to highlight flaws in governance and human nature. The Vidushaka's sharp tongue and playful nature allowed him to say things that others feared to express, making him an essential figure in maintaining balance in the court. This tradition reflects the deep-rooted understanding that humour, when used wisely, can be a powerful tool for truth and diplomacy.

However, as societies have evolved, so has the way humour is perceived. What was once accepted as lighthearted fun is now increasingly analyzed under a political microscope. Every joke today seems to be examined for hidden meanings, political agendas, or offense. A comedian's harmless remark can be turned into a national controversy overnight, and a satirical cartoon can lead to protests and threats. The increasing politicization of humour is dangerous because it takes away the very essence of what makes humour enjoyable—the ability to laugh freely, without fear or consequence.

The recent case of Kunal Kamra is a perfect example of this.

Known for his sharp satire and political humour, Kamra has frequently been at the receiving end of outrage, criticism, and even legal action. His jokes, often aimed at politicians and media figures, have sparked debates about the limits of free speech, the role of comedy in democracy, and the growing intolerance towards dissent. While some see him as a fearless comedian speaking truth to power, others label his humour as offensive and inappropriate. This divide highlights a broader problem—humour is no longer being seen as humour but as a political statement.

This is a stark contrast to how humour was treated in earlier times. One of the finest examples is how India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, embraced humour, even when it was directed at him. Shankar's Weekly, a popular political satire magazine founded by Keshav Shankar Pillai, regularly published cartoons mocking Nehru and his government. Instead of taking offense, Nehru encouraged it, famously saying, “Don't spare me, Shankar.”

Nehru believed that humour and satire were essential in a healthy democracy, allowing citizens to critique and laugh at their leaders without fear. This attitude not only endeared Nehru to the public but also demonstrated the maturity required to accept humour in the right spirit. Unfortunately, such an open-minded approach to satire is rarely seen today.

The issue is not just about Kunal Kamra. It is about a larger pattern where comedians, satirists, and even ordinary people making jokes online are constantly walking on eggshells. Today, humourists must worry about offending sensibilities, facing backlash, or even legal consequences for making people laugh. This is not how humour is supposed to function. It is meant to challenge, yes, but it is also meant to be taken in the spirit it is intended—a source of amusement, a tool to make people think, and sometimes, a harmless way of poking fun at the absurdities of life.

Politicization of humour is harmful because it divides society rather than uniting it. Instead of allowing people to enjoy comedy, it forces them to take sides—whether a joke is funny or offensive becomes a matter of political allegiance rather than personal taste. This kind of atmosphere stifles creativity and

discourages open conversation. A joke that might have once simply made people laugh now leads to debates about whether it was appropriate, biased, or politically motivated. The result? A society where humour is no longer spontaneous but carefully measured, where comedians must think twice before making a joke, and where laughter comes with conditions.

One of the greatest losses in this scenario is our collective ability to laugh at ourselves. Cultures that thrive on humour have always encouraged self-deprecating jokes, allowing people to acknowledge their own flaws and laugh about them. But today, taking offense has become a national pastime. Anything and everything can be twisted into an insult or an attack, making humour a dangerous profession. This constant state of outrage is exhausting—not just for comedians but for audiences as well. Instead of enjoying a joke, people now analyze it, looking for hidden agendas or reasons to be offended.

This is not to say that humour should have no boundaries. There is a difference between humour that brings people together and humour that is designed to be hateful. But in the rush to label jokes as offensive, many fail to understand the context and intent behind them. A joke, at the end of the day, is just that—a joke. If people cannot separate humour from serious discourse, society will lose one of its most effective ways of coping with reality.

It is time to return to a world where humour is seen for what it is. Instead of politicizing every joke, we should encourage a culture of lightheartedness and open-mindedness. We should teach people to laugh more and take offense less, to appreciate satire without turning it into a political debate, and to allow comedians the freedom to do what they do best—make us laugh. A world that cannot take a joke is a world that is becoming too rigid, too serious, and too divided. Instead of censoring humour, we should celebrate it, because laughter, after all, is one of the few things that truly unites us all.

The author is a Kerala-based Accountant and a Freelance Writer in English & Malayalam. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
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Impact Player Rule: Game-Changer or Failed Experiment?

Every season, the cash-rich IPL tournament is talked about for a variety of reasons. While most of it remains till that particular edition of the league, some remain even after a significant amount of time, and the Impact Player rule is one such. While the contentious rule introduced in IPL 2023 edition has gained support

from fans, the question remains whether the Impact Player rule is really impactful, or is it a failed experiment. The effect of an 'impact player' on the game is evident from the fact that high scoring totals have become the new normal. The addition of a new batter severely changes the dynamics of batting, as a flurry of sixes are being hit in all parts of

the stands. On occasions of spinning wickets and bowler friendly pitches, the bowlers make merry out of it and restrict teams to low totals. But most importantly, the Impact Player rule potentially takes away the value of all-rounders. And now the teams hardly consider having all-rounders as they have the privilege of playing an additional batter or an additional

bowler to gain maximum advantage. While it remains to be seen how long the Impact Player rule can be sustained, the BCCI must keep in mind the repercussions it can have on Indian cricket in the longer run.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR

The Scholar Who Illuminated Hearts

Mohammad Talib Beigh was more than a scholar, more than a teacher—he was a beacon of wisdom in a world often clouded by ignorance.

Dabirah Hassan

Mohammad Talib Beigh lived a life of profound scholarship, unwavering faith, and deep compassion. Born into the respected Beigh family of Reshipora, with ancestral roots in Malpora Budgam, he was destined for a path of intellectual and spiritual distinction. His early education began at a local school, but it was at Jamia Babul ILM Budgam where his true academic journey flourished. There, he earned his Molvi Fazil degree, mastering Arabic with such proficiency that he later returned as a teacher, shaping future scholars.

His contributions extended far beyond the classroom. As Vice Principal of Jamia Babul ILM, he upheld the institution's legacy of learning, while his role as manager of *Al-Irshad*—a monthly religious and socio-cultural journal—allowed him to influence broader intellectual discourse. His dedication to faith and justice was further exemplified through his position as Publishing Secretary of Anjuman-e-Sharia-e-Shiyan (J&K), where he worked tirelessly to uphold religious and ethical principles.

To truly understand his impact, one must turn to those who knew him best. After his passing, I had the privilege of documenting his life through conversations with his closest companions, students, and fellow scholars. Their words paint a portrait of a man whose wisdom, humility, and spiritual insight left an indelible mark on all who crossed his path.

Aga Syed Anees Kazmi – A Lifelong Friend

"Talib Beigh was not just a classmate but a guiding light. Even during our student days at Babul ILM, his brilliance was evident. Though a year ahead of me, his knowledge surpassed his years. His handwriting was so exquisite that when rare books were unavailable, he would painstakingly copy them by hand for distribution. Some of these handwritten texts remain treasured by his students today.

After completing his education,

he joined Babul ILM as a teacher, inspiring countless students. Later appointed Secretary of Anjuman-e-Sharia-e-Shiyan under Aga Syed Yousuf Almosavi's leadership, he earned such trust that while others' opinions might be questioned, his counsel was always accepted without hesitation. As an esteemed member of the Ulama Committee, his insights on religious and judicial matters were highly regarded.

Talib Beigh made significant contributions to the renowned book *Bahristan-i-Shahi*, written by Dr. Akbar Haider Kashmiri. This important Persian chronicle details Kashmir's history up to 1614 A.D., published in 1982 by Anjuman-e-Sharia-e-Shiyan in Kashmir. His photograph appears in the book.

However, following Aga Yousuf's demise, internal strife within the Anjuman took a dark turn. Family conflicts and leadership struggles emerged. Talib Beigh, known for his integrity, became a target. His home was attacked, and he faced grave threats. Rather than compromise his principles, he chose to step away, resigning from the Anjuman to devote himself to spiritual pursuits."

Aga Syed Taqi – A Fellow Intellectual

"To speak of Talib Beigh is to speak of a man whose intellect was matched only by his humility. Whenever I recall him, I see him alongside Aga Syed Yousuf, the founder of Anjuman-e-Sharia-e-Shiyan. Their bond reflected mutual respect and shared purpose.

His mastery of Deen Shinasi (theology) was unparalleled. As head of the Anjuman's Judicial Department, his verdicts demonstrated both fairness and fearlessness. Beyond his judicial acumen, he was a gifted writer and philosopher. I often listened to his discourses, read his essays, and studied his legal opinions—each revealing profound understanding of scripture and human nature.

His Urdu prose possessed remarkable beauty. In all my years, I've never encountered another writer who matched the elegance and depth of his words. He was,



without doubt, a scholar of the highest order."

Ghulam Muhammad Gulzar – A Scholar's Perspective

"Talib Beigh was a man of refined taste—his love for poetry and literature shone through every conversation. About a decade ago, we would meet at literary gatherings where his insights never failed to enlighten.

After Aga Syed Yousuf's passing, his association with the Anjuman diminished. While I don't know the reasons nor wish to speculate, I do know he remained a man of

unshakable principle. His character was noble, his demeanor gentle, and his heart open to all. He carried himself with artistic grace, yet his warmth made him approachable to everyone—family, neighbors, and strangers alike."

Syed Mohammad Musavi – A Student

"As his student at Jamia Babul ILM, I was fortunate to learn from him. He taught with patience and kindness—never raising his voice nor dismissing a question. Even when students struggled, he responded with a smile, encourag-

ing deeper thought. His kindness wasn't merely a virtue; it was a lesson itself, teaching us that true knowledge must be paired with compassion."

Aga Syed Mohammad Hussain – A Colleague's Tribute

"He transcended being just a teacher; he was a guardian of wisdom. His Lugatul Arabi lessons went beyond language—they became lessons in faith, discipline, and truth.

In the Judicial Department, his rulings were fearless. When asked about passing judgment, he said, 'I

stand at the brink of Hell. If I sway from justice, I will fall into its fire.' Such was his reverence for truth.

He mastered ILM-e-Nujoom (astrology) and ILM-e-Ramal (geomancy), yet never used this knowledge for personal gain. Instead, he dedicated himself to spiritual healing. After withdrawing from public life, people from all walks—Muslims and non-Muslims alike—sought his blessings. His room became a sanctuary for troubled souls.

We often fail to appreciate such souls during their lifetime. Only after they depart do we recognize the void they leave behind."

Mohammad Tahir Safvi – A Travel Companion

"In 2009, I accompanied him and his family on pilgrimage to Najaf, Karbala, and Syria. Travel reveals a person's true nature, and Talib Beigh's was one of quiet wisdom. He spoke little, but every word carried weight.

His devotion was unwavering—rising at midnight for prayers, eating sparingly, always maintaining serenity. He harbored no hatred, bore no grudges. His calming presence made his loss particularly profound for Reshipora."

Haji Ghulam Hussain Rather – A Student's Homage

"Talib Beigh lived immersed in knowledge, which refined his very being. His teachings on *Dewan-e-Mutanabbi* weren't mere lectures—they were journeys into poetry's soul. Through *Al-Irshad*, he extended wisdom far beyond classroom walls."

Aga Syed Abid Hussaini – Islamic Scholar

"His courtroom was unique. People of all faiths came not for legal disputes, but spiritual solace. While hospitals heal bodies, Talib Beigh healed hearts. In his presence, anguish turned to peace, confusion to clarity. His legacy lives not just in books or sermons, but in countless uplifted lives."

-Dabirah Hassan is a Multimedia Journalist at Kashmir Observer

Empowering Futures in Kashmir Schools

This framework is inspired by on-ground experiences, psychological principles, and the dynamic needs of our students. It is not a final destination but a living map, open to updates, feedback, and collective wisdom.

Arshid Qalmi

In a fast-evolving world marked by changing career landscapes, technological advancements, and increasing socio-emotional complexities, the need for robust Career Guidance and Counselling (CGC) in schools has never been more urgent. Particularly in regions like Jammu and Kashmir, where lack of access to diverse career information, and limited mentorship contribute to students' career anxiety, a well-structured CGC framework can serve as a transformative tool.

As a Resource Person for Career Guidance and Counselling, I have witnessed firsthand how students in Classes 10 and 12, standing at crucial crossroads, grapple with confusion, pressure, and misinformation.

Why Career Guidance and Counselling?

Decision-making at Crossroads: Class 10 and 12 students are required to make critical academic and vocational choices with long-term implications.

Psychological Well-being: In the absence of guidance, students experience high levels of stress, low self-esteem, and fear of failure.

Changing Employment Landscape: Students need updated exposure to emerging careers.

Local Challenges: Rural students often lack mentors, digital access, and exposure.

Core Objectives of a Career Guidance and Counselling Program

To provide accurate and updated career information.



Kashmir Observer

As a Resource Person for Career Guidance and Counselling, I have witnessed firsthand how students in Classes 10 and 12, standing at crucial crossroads, grapple with confusion, pressure, and misinformation.

To assess aptitude, interests, values, and personality.

To address emotional and motivational blocks.

To enhance decision-making and planning skills.

To expose students to emerging fields, scholarships, and opportunities.

To involve parents and teachers as facilitators of the student's journey.

The Framework: A Step-by-Step Model

1. Pre-Session Planning: Conduct surveys, prepare resources.
2. Student Group Segmentation:

Based on class, aspirations, motivation.

3. Career Awareness Module: Explain career journeys, introduce stream-subject-career linkage.

4. Psychometric Support & Self-Discovery Tools: Use tools to assess aptitude, personality, interests.

5. One-on-One Counselling & Group Guidance: Clarify myths, discuss alternatives.

6. Parental and Teacher Involvement: Conduct awareness sessions, train teachers.

7. Use of Technology & Resources: Introduce portals, provide printed/digital guides.

Post-Session Follow-Up and Mentorship

Develop Career Tracker Files.

Provide mentorship and alumni networks.

Collaborate with NGOs and colleges.

Set up a school-level Career Cell.

Challenges and Cultural Sensitivities

Stigma around failure or vocational courses.

Limited options for girls.

Over-focus on government jobs. Fear of stepping outside the valley.

Conclusion: Building a Culture

of Informed Hope

Career Guidance is not just about selecting a stream or profession, it is about building informed hope. We must recognize the unique struggles of Kashmiri youth and walk with them as co-dreamers.

A strong CGC framework is the foundation for an empowered, skilled, and emotionally resilient generation.

-The author is a Kashmir-based educator. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.

Magotra conferred with doctorate in mass communication & journalism

Jammu: Vijay Kumar Magotra has been conferred with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Mass Communication & Journalism by Mary Land State University, USA, in a convocation organized by the National Urban Rural Computer Literacy Mission (NURCLM) entitled "India Iconic Achievers Award - 2025," held recently at Juhu Beach, Mumbai.

Eminent personalities from the fields of commerce & trade, film

industry, corporate world, education, and media graced the function. Among them were Sanjay Nirupam, former Rajya Sabha member; Ajay Kesar, Income Tax Commissioner; Kumar Rakesh, chairman Global Governance of News Group, along with a galaxy of film personalities, who felicitated the awardees in various fields after lighting the traditional lamp on this occasion. Sunil Kumar, MD NURCLM, and

Vinod Kumar, chairman NURCLM, also gave an account of the event. Vijay Kumar Magotra was honored with a doctorate in mass communication & journalism in recognition of his nearly 40 years of active service in the Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of I&B, in different capacities, promoting and popularizing various welfare schemes. He organized Mega Multi-Media outreach programs, including

Vartalaps, involving VVIPs and former CMs across J&K. Magotra's contribution to all media units of the Ministry of I&B in mass communication activities has been recognized with the "Best Performance in Publicity" – a lifetime achievement award of DFP, GOI, in 2009 at New Delhi. He was also a recipient of the Abdul Kalam Sewa Samman - 2023. Magotra has significantly contributed to print media through his articles on

issues of land, people, tourism, and historical fairs & festivals in leading English newspapers and journals. His passion for promoting dying culture and sports has left an indelible mark in various fields, being associated with Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan as managing director and in sports as general secretary of the Volleyball Association of J&K after his retirement in 2012. Interacting on his recognition,

Magotra expressed gratitude to his parents, mentors, and well-wishers for this achievement. Mohan Lal Dogra, chairman BLSKS, congratulated Magotra on this honor and his selfless service in promoting India's cultural heritage, besides inspiring youth towards sports and nation-building activities. This honor is a great recognition of Magotra's 50 years of relentless service to society.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1 & 3

Massive Forest

carelessness led to these fires," he said.

Addressing concerns about limited manpower and equipment, Singh emphasized that forest fires differ from house fires and require traditional firefighting techniques. "The flames spread over vast areas, and factors like dryness, rising temperatures, and strong winds make containment difficult. We rely on manual methods like creating firebreaks and temporary fire lines."

He added that technology is also aiding efforts, with Forest Survey of India alerts providing satellite imagery every six hours to help detect and track fire outbreaks.

Singh noted that authorities are actively identifying individuals responsible for starting the fires, warning of strict action against them. "The government takes this issue seriously, as forests are public property."

Range Officer, Dhooth Ganga Forest Range, Zahoor Ali Khan expressed deep concern over the situation, appealing to the public for cooperation. "The dry conditions have made our forests extremely vulnerable," he said. "We urge tourists and locals to refrain from activities that could spark fires. We also request that anyone who witnesses suspicious activity immediately inform the forest department."

Khan also highlighted the challenges faced by forest personnel, who are often ill-equipped to handle such large-scale fires. "We need modern tools, including CO2 cylinders and advanced firefighting equipment," he stated. He further suggested that the government consider deploying drones and even helicopters to combat the fires more effectively.

LS Passes Waqf

their respective countries. How can you say that minorities are not safe in India. Very, very wrong to say this.

"The coming generation will never forgive you. Minorities in India are safe because the majorities of the country are fully secular. This is not the case in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. But still, you abuse us," he said.

Rijiju said, through the Bill, the NDA government is going to unify all minorities in the country. He also highlighted the "wholehearted" support of the Christian community for the Bill.

He said a large number of disputes are pending with the Waqf tribunals and through the legislation, the government wants to expedite these cases.

"We want to expedite the resolution of the disputes in the tribunals. Justice delayed is justice denied. Widows, divorcees, and orphans will be given justice through the Bill," he said.

Earlier, making an intervention in the debate, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that a vote bank was being created by intimidating minorities and confusion being spread in the country in the name of the Waqf bill.

"The Narendra Modi government runs on a very clear principle that we will not bring any law for vote bank because law is for justice and welfare of people," he said, adding, "Everyone has the right to follow their religion, but conversion cannot be done for greed, temptation and fear."

He stressed that it has become a fashion to create fear among the people of the minority community.

"It is the resolve of the Modi government that no citizen of this country, irrespective of his religion, will be harmed," Shah said.

He said the non-Muslims in Waqf council and boards are meant purely to ensure the administration of properties in accordance with stated aims.

Shah said if there had not been an amendment in the Waqf Act in 2013, there would have been no need to bring this legislation.

"Elections were due in 2014 and in 2013, the extreme Waqf law was made overnight for the purpose of appeasement. As a result, 123 properties in Delhi's Lutyen's Zone were handed over to the Waqf just 25 days before the elections," he said.

He said a vote bank was being consolidated by intimidating minorities and confusion being spread to strike fear among minorities.

Earlier, there was no provision to include any non-Muslim among those who run religious institutions and the NDA government is not going to do it either, he said.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said the INDIA bloc will oppose the proposed changes to the Waqf law and called the Bill an attack on the basic structure of the Constitution.

He accused the government of

misleading Parliament, referencing past discussions on the matter.

"This Bill is an attack on the basic structure of our Constitution, an attack on our federal structure, and has four primary objectives: to dilute the Constitution, to defame minority communities, to divide Indian society, and to disenfranchise minorities," he alleged.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav claimed that the Bill was a BJP ploy for polarisation following its reverses in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. He claimed the Bill would send a wrong message to the world and dent the country's secular image.

The Bill will prove to be a "Waterloo" for the BJP as some of its allies might be claiming to support the legislation but inside they are not happy about it, he said.

Participating in the debate, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi staged a symbolic protest by tearing up a copy of the Bill.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, called the Waqf Bill a weapon, aimed at marginalising Muslims and usurping their personal laws and property rights.

"This attack on the Constitution by the RSS, BJP and their allies is aimed at Muslims today but sets a precedent to target other communities in the future," he said.

According to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Waqf tribunals will be strengthened, a structured selection process will be maintained, and a tenure will be fixed to ensure efficient dispute resolution.

As per the Bill, while Waqf institutions' mandatory contribution to Waqf boards is reduced from 7 per cent to 5 per cent, Waqf institutions earning over Rs 1 lakh will undergo audits by state-sponsored auditors.

A centralised portal will automate Waqf property management, improving efficiency and transparency.

The Bill proposes that practising Muslims (for at least five years) can dedicate their property to the Waqf, restoring pre-2013 rules.

It stipulates that women must receive their inheritance before the Waqf declaration, with special provisions for widows, divorced women and orphans.

The Bill proposes that an officer above the rank of collector investigate government properties claimed as Waqf.

It also proposes that non-Muslim members be included in the central and state Waqf boards for inclusivity.

Bill Tabled In

a 288-232 vote in the early hours of Thursday after over 12 hours of debate. If approved by the Rajya Sabha, the legislation will be sent to President Droupadi Murmu for her approval; it would become a law after the President's assent.

In the Rajya Sabha, Rijiju emphasised that the bill aims to usher in transparency, accountability and efficiency in the management of Waqf properties, asserting that only a Muslim can become a 'Waqif' and said the question of the majority of members on the Central Waqf Council being non-Muslims does not arise.

Tabling the bill in the Upper House, which was examined and redrafted by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), Rijiju said the proposed legislation has nothing to do with religion, but deals only with properties.

The minister informed the House that there were 4.9 lakh Waqf properties in 2004, which have now increased to 8.72 lakh.

Seeking the opposition's support to pass the bill, Rijiju said it aims to accomplish the unfulfilled tasks of the previous governments.

He also said Waqf owns the largest chunk of properties in the country, leaving aside those owned by Defence and Railways.

"It has been said here that Muslims will be harmed by the step we are taking. Many people said this is unconstitutional, illegal and the right of Muslims is being snatched away... Very categorically, I want to reject all these allegations," Rijiju said.

Speaking on 'Waqf by User', the Minority Affairs Minister said properties already registered with proper documentation will not be dealt with retrospectively.

"In Waqf By User, the properties already registered and cases that have already been settled, we won't go prospectively and deal with that. It would be with a prospective effect.

"However, if there is any disputed land or any matter that is sub judice, then we cannot do away with the right

of the courts. So all the Waqf properties which are registered with proper documentation, they will remain so," Rijiju said.

He stressed that the entire exercise was aimed at bringing in the three pillars of transparency, accountability and efficiency.

"We are not here to damage anybody's religious affiliation," Rijiju said.

Citing a previous court judgment, the minister said it makes it clear that Waqf is a statutory body and not a representative body of Muslims.

"In the amendment, we have made it clear that any person practising Islam for more than five years can dedicate properties to Waqf. There is no iota of doubt in who can create Waqf," he said.

"The new provisions that we have brought in, is that all the recognised sects of Muslims will constitute the Waqf Board -- there will be Shias, there will be Sunnis and other backward classes will also be there in the Waqf Board as members so that the interests of all would be taken into account and I don't think there should be any opposition to that. We are making it so inclusive," Rijiju informed.

He further said out of 22 members in the Central Waqf Council, not more than four will be non-Muslims including ex-officio members, besides three members of Parliament who can be of any religion. The Council must include two women members, he added.

The question of the majority being non-Muslims does not arise, he reiterated.

"If we develop a Waqf property properly in the next few years, Muslims will prosper," said the minister, appealing to the members in the Upper House to engage in a productive discussion and extend support to the bill.

Rijiju said 31,999 cases are pending in the Waqf Tribunal and more than 14,000 litigants are Muslims, adding that the right to appeal has also been added.

"We have not done this for any personal gain," said the minister, as he emphasised that the intent behind the proposed legislation was to put an end to the malpractices of people grabbing other people's property.

"We should not say anything which creates a furor or gives rise to a conflict," Rijiju said, urging members to share perspectives on the bill in a manner that enhances the quality of the debate.

He expressed the hope that all members would extend support to the proposed legislation.

Waqf Bill Violates

"You saw more than 200 MPs opposed the Bill in the Lok Sabha because this Bill is a violation of Article 25 of the Constitution which guarantees freedom of religion. I see it as an unnecessary interference in Muslim personal law," Rather told reporters in the Chadoora area of the Budgam district.

Rather said the government claimed that the Waqf Bill was brought for the benefit of the Muslim community.

"What is the point of bringing a Bill which you claim will benefit the Muslim community but the Muslims are against it?" he asked.

He claimed the Waqf Amendment Bill has hurt the sentiments of the Muslim community, which was evident in Parliament with more than 200 MPs opposing it.

"I do not think it (Waqf Bill) was a right step," he said.

NC MLA Seeks

an urgent debate on the Bill. "It's a direct interference into the religious places and properties of Muslims. I have appealed to the Speaker that my Private Member Resolution be accepted and a discussion be held on April 7," he said, adding, "I believe no one other than Muslim understands these properties. The bill is against the minorities and NC opposes it."

Sadiq said that he has sought the support of all the MLAs. "I want every

member to support the resolution and send a message that the bill was incorrect and has been opposed in the J&K Assembly," he added.

Notably, Lok Sabha passed Waqf Amendment Bill after hours of heated debate on Wednesday night. As many as 288 votes were in favour and 232 votes were against the Bill.

About the Chief Minister chairing a meeting of NC Legislative Party and alliance partners on Friday, Sadiq said that "it is not a normal meeting but an emergency meeting, which will be chaired by Omar Abdullah himself. The details and discussions will be shared accordingly."

However, he said that the public mandate must be respected and it should not be insulted by anyone. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have congratulated the people of J&K from time to time for participating in the 2024 assembly elections. It stands the responsibility of everyone including the leaders to respect the mandate. Undermining the elected government is tantamount to insulting the voters and their mandate," he said. (KNO)

Wet Spell Likely

follow traffic advisory by the authorities.

Also, the weather department advised farmers to continue farm operations for now.

J&K Govt Enhances

month after the beneficiary enters the next age bracket (i.e.60-79 years or 80 years & above), as the case may be.

Marriage Assistance

The order also states that the financial aid will be directly transferred to the beneficiary's bank account through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) before the marriage.

The scheme applies only to eligible AAY and PHH ration card holders, ensuring that economically weaker sections receive support for marriage expenses.

Tensions Rise

concerns over the LG's alleged interference in administrative matters that constitutionally fall within the jurisdiction of the elected government.

The Abdullah government considers the move a violation of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, arguing that the transfers and postings of officers outside the All India Services cadre was the exclusive prerogative of the elected government.

Chief Minister Abdullah has formally requested the LG to review the decision, emphasizing in his letter

that such unilateral actions undermine the authority of the government. Additionally, he has reached out to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, voicing concerns that repeated interventions by the Raj Bhavan are eroding the legitimacy of the elected leadership.

Although tensions between the LG and the government have been simmering for some time, Sinha's latest directive has deepened the rift between the two power centers in the Union Territory.

Abdullah has directed Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to halt the transfer of the 48 officers and ensure that no future postings of non-All India Services officers occur without his direct approval.

Friday's meeting is expected to convey these grievances to both the LG and the Centre. Announcing the gathering, NC Chief Whip Mubarak Gul urged all legislators to prioritize attendance, highlighting its significance in the ongoing power struggle.

Political analysts believe that the LG's recent move signals an attempt to assert greater control over the bureaucratic machinery, particularly at a time when the elected government awaits approval from the Union Home Ministry for its proposed governance rules.

The order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on Tuesday came at a time when the elected government was waiting for a nod from the Union home ministry for the business rules it framed about a month ago and sent to the lieutenant governor (LG) for approval to facilitate smooth governance without confusion.

During a recent Assembly session, Abdullah stressed the need for clarity in governance, stating, "Until we receive statehood, it is essential to establish business rules." He has previously criticized the dual governance model in J&K, calling it a "recipe for disaster."

Congress leaders have also criticized Sinha's decision. Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Ghulam Ahmed Mir argued that the LG should have awaited the approval of the new governance rules before proceeding with officer transfers. He warned that such actions could undermine public confidence in the administration.

"The LG knew well that the proposal for business rules is under consideration in Delhi, yet he took this step. It sends the wrong message that all is not well within the administration," Mir stated.

As political tensions mount, all eyes will be on Friday's meeting and how the Abdullah government navigates its power struggle with Raj Bhavan in the days to come.

Aga Ruhullah Slams

further revealed that he had raised the issue with the Home Ministry but had received no response. Expressing frustration over the lack of accountability, he urged the government to intervene and uphold legal principles.

"Even the High Court has issued directions on this matter. The law must be followed, and justice must be ensured. This is violation of law and justice," he asserted.

8 More Kashmiri

reached 15, with 07 crafts having already been granted GI registration.

Highlighting the benefits of the registration, the spokesman exuded confidence that these 8 new products will provide much needed boost to exports and gain greater access in international markets, leading to increased demand. "The registration, followed by GI labelling, will also help prevent unauthorised use, ensuring consumers get access to genuine products," he added.

Referring to the stiff challenges faced by the department over a period of three years, the spokesman highlighted various steps taken for earning GI registration. "After filing of applications online, the department had to go through the onerous task of preliminary scrutiny and examination of the applications filed, followed by issuance of show-cause notices and publication in GI Journal. Only after no objections were received, the GI registration was granted by Geographical Indication (GI) Registry Chennai, in favour of the 8 new products," he explained.

The spokesman further stated that the department shall now shift focus to 6 more crafts for GI registration, which shall go a long way in revival of certain lost crafts and also boost their saleability in niche global markets. These include Copperware (Kandkari), Silverware, Houseboat, Tapestry, Kashmiri Tilla and Aari Staple Embroidery.

Identifying testing and QR labelling as a corollary to the GI registration of unique Kashmir products, the spokesman said the department has already submitted proposals for upgradation of its testing labs in IICT, CDI and Quality Control Division.

"In view of the increased demand for GI testing and labelling, the department shall upgrade its testing labs by acquiring state-of-the-art equipment like OFDA (Optical Fibre Diameter Analyzer), SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope) and high-resolution Digital Microscopes, which shall ensure genuineness of the products tested and weeding out sale of machine-made counterfeit products, which are sold in the garb of hand-made products," he added.

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Kathua Operation Enters 12th Day



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The multi-tier operation to track down three infiltrating terrorists, who escaped three encounters and are believed to be hiding in a forested area in Kathua, has entered its 12th consecutive day with security agencies also cracking down on terrorist supporters and setting up ambushes.

Additional troops have been deployed to beef up the multi-tier cordon and set up ambushes over a 6-7 km radius in the region.

"The combing operation has been going on. It is underway to track down terrorists on the run," said an officer.

The search operation was intensified with aerial surveillance, including the use of choppers, UAVs, and sniffer dogs. Teams comprising joint operations of the army, NSG, Police, SoG, CRPF, and BSF are combing all areas to cover the region, officials said.

They said additional troops have been deployed in the rugged terrain and dense forested areas to ensure that terrorists do not escape towards upper reaches.

The troops have established multiple ambushes in a large area to apprehend the terrorists. They have further expanded the area of operation to include Billawar, Bhaddu, Ghatti, and Kog-Mandli.

To dismantle the underground network supporting terrorists, security agencies are focusing on OGWs and cracking down on them to cut off the supply of food, shelter, and guidance in the hills, the officials said.

Over 27 individuals have been questioned for gathering information about the terrorists' movements. Terrorists have entered two houses to get away with food too during the

operations.

Security agencies emphasise that it is difficult for terrorists to survive without a network of overground workers who provide them with food, shelter, and guidance from the International Border (IB) to the hills of Kathua and other districts like Doda, Kishtwar, and Udhampur.

The forces have detained six individuals, including three females from a single family, for questioning. It is alleged that they provided assistance to terrorists operating in the region, officials said.

The detained persons belong to the family of suspected overground worker Mohammad Latief, who is already in jail under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for aiding terrorists in Malhar during an attack on an Army truck last year, resulting in the deaths of six soldiers.

It is believed that the slain terrorist Abu Tala also stayed at Latief's house.

Officials said the three terrorists are believed to be part of a group that first engaged security forces in the Nursery area near the International Border on March 23. All terrorists managed to escape after a brief encounter, during which a girl was injured.

Four days later, security forces encountered them in a forested area of the Sanyal belt in Kathua. Two terrorists were eliminated, while the rest escaped. During the exchange of fire, three policemen were killed and three others were injured.

With the hiding terrorists constantly changing their locations in the jungle, security forces are maintaining a high level of pressure in a multi-agency operation to track them down. This led to an encounter with terrorists in the Panjirthi-Juthana on March 31, but they managed to escape.

3,090 MW Hydropower Under Construction: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of Power, Manohar Lal informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday that Jammu and Kashmir has five under-construction hydroelectric projects with a total installed capacity of 3,090 MW.

The projects include Ratle (850 MW), Pakal Dul (1,000 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kwar (540 MW), and Parnai (38 MW). No under-construction hydroelectric projects were reported in Ladakh.

The information was provided in response to a question raised by Sanjay Uttamrao Deshmukh and Arvind Ganpat Sawant.

The four major projects in Kishtwar district—Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kiru and Kwar—are being developed under a mix of central and joint venture models.

Ratle Hydroelectric Project, initially stalled, has been revived through an MoU between



NHPC, JKSPDC, and PDD, J&K.

Meanwhile, the Parnai Hydroelectric Project (38 MW) in Poonch is being implemented under the J&K State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).

The minister also outlined several government measures aimed at ensuring the timely completion of hydroelectric projects, including IT-based monitoring, dispute resolution mechanisms, and policies to minimize delays and cost overruns.

393 Villages To Benefit From Tribal Development Initiative: GoI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs outlined its collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir administration and other stakeholders to ensure the implementation of the expanded Dharti Aaba Mission in the Union Territory.

Members of Parliament Dr Hemant Vishnu Savara and Shankar Lalwani raised questions about the government's strategy for the smooth execution of the initiative.

In response, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Ukey said the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan includes 25 interventions led by 17 ministries, aimed at addressing infrastructural gaps in 63,843 villages.

The programme focuses on improving access to health, edu-

cation, Anganwadi facilities and livelihood opportunities across 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 states and union territories, including 393 villages in 112 blocks of 20 districts in Jammu and Kashmir, he said, adding that each ministry has been assigned a budget and targets for its respective interventions.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also requested state and district administrations, including those in Jammu and Kashmir, to organise awareness camps and assist in preparing essential documents such as Aadhaar cards and Jan Dhan bank accounts to enable beneficiaries to access government schemes.

Based on proposals from the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved projects worth Rs 8.77 crore under the mission.

Need To Link Innovation With Ethical Values Of The Society: LG

Addresses Balaji Foundation's 'Bharat Shiksha Summit' At New Delhi

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed 'Bharat Shiksha Summit' organised by Balaji Foundation at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Shri Brajesh Pathak, Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh also graced the occasion.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of Ethics, Values and National Identity in education and pointed out that Ethics and Values, guides us for the welfare of society and nation-building.

He said the deliberations and exchange of ideas during the Summit on overarching issues in education will explore challenges and opportunities and prepare a future roadmap for educational institutions.

"In the educational journey, students develop consciousness and their moral values become sharper. During this journey, students adopt life values like compassion, peace, truth, love, virtuous life, harmony and benevolence and collect all the experiences. All these physical, intellectual and emotional experiences together develop student's knowledge" the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the aim of National Education Policy 2020 is that students should become a living source of knowledge rather than a storehouse of memories obtained from books.

"National Education Policy promotes creative imagination, ethical values and a sense of determination to contribute towards building an equitable, inclusive and pluralistic society," he further added.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the educational institutions to focus on developing personalities that are perfect blend of compassion and innovation.

"Three 'H'- Head, Heart and Heritage- will help in this mission and they will also restore the broken moral link in the



education system.

We need students who are proficient in algorithms, talented in their chosen field, sensitive towards social issues and also realise their duty towards nation building.

Our students should be a selfless individual as well as a skilled researcher, writer or artist, deeply connected to their roots. This perfect balance in personality could be transformative for students, educational institutions and the society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the teachers need to integrate moral values with skills needed in the modern world so that qualities like strong character and intellectual curiosity can be nurtured. "Without unprecedented inventions, moral values alone will have no value. But it is also true that without ethics and values, cutting-edge education and skills would be aimless.

There should be conversations and not monologues in the classroom. There is a need to link innovation and growth with the ethical values of the society and integrate them with the course curriculum," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further called for encouraging hands-on, experiential and project-based learning. The young minds should be exposed to challenges of the real world. Now the time has come to take education out of the lab and into the real world, he said.

During an interactive ses-

sion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the educational reforms taking place in J&K, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the past few years. He said the innovative programmes launched in the UT have ensured inclusive and quality education for all.

"The talent pool within Jammu Kashmir is being provided with better opportunities. Dedicated efforts have been made to promote multidisciplinary learning, and skill development of youth. We have also actively initiated campaigns to bring dropout students back to school. Through Mission Yuva, we have prepared a blueprint to foster entrepreneurship culture at college and university level.

Schools, colleges and universities are functioning without any disturbances. Earlier practice of hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now. Today, J&K, with its full potential, is moving ahead towards a prosperous and brighter future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the prominent personalities and institutions are also conferred with the Bharat Shiksha Samman for their valuable contribution in the field of education.

Shri Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament; Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities; Ms Rajshri Rai, Chairperson, Balaji Foundation; educationists, experts, heads of various institutions, teachers and youth in large numbers were present.

OUR STUDENTS SHOULD BE SELFLESS INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS A SKILLED RESEARCHER, writer or artist, deeply connected to their roots. This perfect balance in personality could be transformative for students, educational institutions and the society"

'Lack Of Awareness About Autism A Serious Concern'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A significant portion of Kashmir's population remains unaware of neurodevelopmental conditions like Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), leading to stigma, discrimination, and inadequate support, experts say.

Dr Nisar Ahmad, a psychologist, said that ASD affects individuals differently, with varying symptoms such as communication deficits, sensory sensitivities, and repetitive behaviours.

He said there is a need for a spectrum-based understanding rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. "Autism should not just be viewed through its challenges but also for the strengths it brings—like creativity, attention to detail, and problem-solving abilities," he said, citing global figures like Albert Einstein and Bill Gates as examples.

However, awareness in Kashmir is still lacking, often leading to misconceptions and delayed interventions, Dr Nisar said, adding that many parents dismiss early signs, assuming children will "grow out of it", which hampers proper management.

He stressed the importance

of autism acceptance, noting that creating a supportive environment can transform lives.

Dr Nisar said patience, structured interventions and celebrating small achievements help autistic individuals thrive. "No two people with ASD are the same. The condition affects multiple areas of life, and individuals may have varying degrees of strengths and weaknesses. Despite these challenges, many people with autism lead fulfilling lives," he added.

Dr Wani, another psychologist, said that diagnosing ASD involves comprehensive assessments by a range of professionals, including educators, parents, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and medical practitioners.

He added that symptoms of autism include lack of response to their name, difficulty following gestures or multi-step instructions, absence of pretend play, limited use of communicative gestures, unusual speech patterns or tone and reduced efforts to seek attention.

"ASD is a brain-based disorder that affects thinking, learning, sensory processing and social interactions. Communication between different

areas of the brain is disrupted, impacting motor skills, executive functions, emotional regulation, and overall development," he added.

Another psychologist Dr Chand Trehan said that children with autism may struggle with restlessness, sleep disturbances, speech delays, seizures and sensory overload, which can lead to meltdowns.

Dr Trehan stressed that parenting a child with autism can be demanding, often leading to stress, social stigmatization, sensory overload, and feelings of isolation. "Parents need support systems, guidance, and access to therapy to help their children navigate daily challenges," she said.

"Despite the difficulties, early intervention and appropriate therapies can significantly improve the quality of life for individuals with ASD. Increased awareness and acceptance can help create a more inclusive society for autistic individuals and their families," she added.

Experts urged society to challenge stereotypes, foster inclusion, and provide the necessary support to ensure autistic individuals reach their full potential—(KNO)

Karra, Mir To Skip 'Emergency Meeting' Called By CM Omar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra and senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir are set to skip the "emergency meeting" of ruling alliance legislators convened by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday.

Sources confirmed that both leaders will be in New Delhi due to prior engagements. "They are scheduled to attend a crucial central-level meeting where district presidents from across the country are participating in phase-wise discussions," sources said.

Despite their absence, Congress legislators from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to be present at Omar Abdullah's meeting. The discussions are likely to focus on recent administrative developments, which, sources indicate, have caused discomfort within the elected government.

A senior Congress leader stated that the party has reservations over the recent bureaucratic reshuffle, particularly questioning the rationale behind the transfers ordered by the Lieutenant Governor's



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They are scheduled to attend a crucial central-level meeting where district presidents from across the country are participating in phase-wise discussions,”

administration. "The Congress party has consistently opposed this dual control system that sidelines elected representatives. Recent transfers of KAS officers by the LG administration undermine democratic governance," the leader said.

Reaffirming the party's stand, he added, "The Congress remains committed to its demand for the restoration of statehood. Governance must rest with elected representatives rather than bureaucrats. If bureaucrats are to run the administration, what is the point of holding elections?"

Pulwama Leads India's Tulip Revolution



Observer News Service

PULWAMA- In a major breakthrough for India's floriculture sector, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, has successfully expanded indigenous tulip bulb production at its Bonera Field Station in Pulwama. The initiative, which began in 2022 with just 10,000 bulbs, has now surpassed one lakh bulbs within two years, marking a significant step toward reducing India's reliance on tulip bulb imports.

The experimental tulip garden at Bonera, developed under CSIR's Floriculture Mission, was recently opened to the public, attracting thousands of visitors from across the Kashmir Valley.

With eight tulip varieties under research, the project aims to develop agro-technological protocols, assess morphological traits, and enhance resistance to environmental stresses.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, emphasized the economic and strategic importance of the initiative, stating that domestic tulip production will create new opportunities for farmers and strengthen India's self-sufficiency in high-value floriculture.

The initiative aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and the Prime Minister's call for self-reliance, aiming to position Jammu and Kashmir as a future hub for tulip cultivation and bulb production.

Cyber Police Cracks Down On SM Handles Spreading 'Extremist' Content

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Cyber Police Kashmir had identified 200 social media handles over the past three months allegedly spreading extremist content.

Police said the handles were identified in a major crackdown on online anti-national propaganda, radicalization, and the glorification of terrorism.

"The operation identified 200 adverse social media handles engaged in spreading misinformation and extremist content, with 100 of these accounts managed from outside the country," police said.

"Several of the identified accounts have been blocked, and legal action has been initiated against key propagators, including multiple FIRs under relevant criminal laws," they said, adding security proceedings have also been started against

several individuals involved in such activities.

"At the same time, Cyber Police Kashmir remains committed to counter-radicalization efforts. Many individuals influenced by such online propaganda have been counseled and handed over to their families as part of a de-radicalization initiative," police said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding national security in both physical and digital spaces. Jammu travel guide

"Cyber Police Kashmir will continue its proactive monitoring of online platforms to disrupt terrorism-linked narratives and prevent the misuse of cyberspace for extremist purposes," police said.

The police has urged citizens to remain vigilant and report suspicious online activities to the authorities.

Over 1.88 lakh Street Lights Installed In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over 1.88 lakh LED street lights have been installed across Jammu and Kashmir under Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) till March 31, 2025, the Government of India informed Lok Sabha on Thursday.

In a reply to a question, Minister of Power, Manohar Lal said that the Government of India launched the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) in 2015 to improve energy efficiency in public lighting by installing LED streetlights across urban and rural areas. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of



Power, is responsible for implementing the initiative.

"As of March 31, 2025, a total of 1,88,860 LED streetlights have been installed across Jammu & Kashmir, while Ladakh is yet to be covered under the programme," he said.

SLNP has significantly reduced power consumption nationwide, resulting in an estimated 8.8 billion kWh of annual electricity savings and financial savings of Rs 6,178 crore for municipalities and local bodies.

The SLNP is a self-financing initiative executed by EESL, with no direct budget allocation from the central government. The programme oper-

ates on a revenue-sharing model with state governments and urban local bodies.

While implementation has been largely smooth, EESL faces outstanding payments of Rs 2,700.54 crore from various states and urban local bodies, which remains a challenge. The Ministry of Power is actively engaging with concerned authorities to ensure the timely release of dues.

Although Ladakh has not yet been covered under SLNP, the future expansion is expected to focus on strategic urban and rural areas, ensuring enhanced connectivity and energy efficiency in the region.

IPL 2025: Spotlight On Rohit, Pant As MI Take On LSG

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Two stalwarts of Indian cricket -- Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant -- will be hoping to overcome their lean patch when Mumbai Indians face Lucknow Super Giants in a clash between two struggling teams in the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians have not really clicked so far this season, with just two points from three games.

India captain Rohit's form with the bat has put the MI team management in a tight spot. The same is for LSG skipper Pant whose extended dry run is not helping matters for the home side.

With both the teams almost



identically placed with a solitary win each in three games, the contest could boil down to who exploits the conditions better on the day.

Given that the curators

haven't been providing tailor-made pitches to the home sides -- something that has caused frustration of the coaches and players in some franchises -- the team that gets a head-start

with the bat or ball in the power play overs could call the shots.

With MI finally giving a commanding performance against KKR at the Wankhede, it was South African keeper-batter Ryan Rickelton, who guided them to victory in the chase of a sub-par total. Rohit and 'Mr 360 degrees' Suryakumar Yadav will have big roles to play in a side that doesn't really bat deep but has an array of slow and fast bowlers who can deliver.

Lucknow Super Giants, placed sixth behind MI, have not really hit their strides following their demoralising one-wicket defeat to Delhi Capitals in the IPL opener at Visakhapatnam.

While West Indies' Nicholas Pooran has been in sublime form and is leading the scor-

ing charts with 189 runs from three games, including two half-centuries, his exploits have not rubbed off on other LSG batters, except Australian Mitchell Marsh, who too has two half-tens so far in this edition.

Much of their woes are due to their bowling, led by Shardul Thakur and Ravi Bishnoi, and the poor form of their charismatic captain Pant with the bat.

After not being in the playing eleven during India's Champions Trophy campaign, with KL Rahul wielding the big gloves, Pant's form would be a cause for concern in the busy season ahead.

With scores of 0, 15 and 2 in the three games so far, the LSG skipper is clearly struggling. But one innings can change all that. Match starts at 7:30 pm.

Short TAKES

Rabada Returns Home From IPL Due To Personal Reasons

South African pace bowler Kagiso Rabada has returned home from the IPL due to personal reasons, his franchise Gujarat Titans announced on Thursday.

The Titans, though, have not specified the duration of Rabada's absence from the IPL 2025, where he has played two matches.

"Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa to deal with an important personal matter," the Gujarat outfit said in a statement.

Rabada appeared against Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians, grabbing 1 for 41 and 1 for 42 respectively in those matches.

The 29-year-old was not picked for Gujarat Titans' match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday.

In the absence of Rabada, GT could be relying on his South African teammate Gerald Coetzee or Afghanistan all-rounder Karim Janat.

PCB Chief Mohsin Naqvi Takes Charge As ACC President

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday assumed charge as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding Sri Lanka Cricket supremo Shammi Silva.

The ACC presidency is rotated among the member nations and it was turn of Pakistan to take charge. Naqvi will remain president till 2027.

Naqvi's first challenge will be smooth conduct of the men's Asia Cup, which will be held in T20 format. The tournament set to be held in September but venue is yet to be announced.

Naqvi promised to work collectively to accelerate game's growth in the region.

Thursday's ACC meeting was held virtually. The BCCI was represented by vice president Rajeev Shukla, who is also ACC Board member.

Mourinho Grabs Galatasaray Coach's Nose After Defeat

Fenerbahce manager Jose Mourinho could be in trouble again after grabbing the nose of the Galatasaray manager at the end of another fiery Istanbul derby in which his side lost 2-1 at home in the Turkish Cup quarter-final on Wednesday.

Victor Osimhen scored twice for the visitors, his second coming from the penalty spot, and Sebastian Szymanski pulled one back for the hosts on the stroke of halftime, but tempers flared late on, with police entering the pitch to restore calm.

A mass scuffle had broken out between both sets of players, with the referee sending three players off, two from Galatasaray, and after the final whistle Mourinho appeared to pinch Okan Buruk's nose who then fell dramatically to the ground.

After Wednesday's win, Galatasaray poked fun at Mourinho, posting a photo of the Portuguese manager with Buruk and the caption 'You should not attack, you should digest' on social media.

Mourinho's side are six points behind Galatasaray in the league standings, with a game in hand.

Shami's Sister, Relatives Implicated In Alleged MNREGA Fraud



Press Trust of India

A district-level investigation into an alleged fraud involving Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) has named several individuals, including relatives of India cricketer Mohammed Shami, officials said in Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, on Wednesday.

District Magistrate (DM) Nidhi Gupta Vats announced late Wednesday evening that a preliminary investigation confirmed the allegations of fraudulent MNREGA

wage disbursement.

Consequently, orders have been issued to suspend implicated workers listed as workers with MNREGA, register a formal police report and initiate departmental action under the Panchayati Raj Act.

"The investigation by local officials revealed that 18 individuals received MNREGA wages without performing any work. Among those implicated include Mohammed Shami's sister Shabina, Shabina's husband Ghaznavi, Shabina's three

brothers-in-law Aamir Suhail, Nasruddin and Shekhu, along with sons and daughters of village head Gule Ayesha," said the DM. Gule Ayesha, the mother-in-law of Mohammed Shami's sister and the current village head, are at the center of the alleged scam.

According to officials, fraudulent entries were made in MNREGA job cards in January 2021, and payments continued into their bank accounts until August 2024-25 without any work being performed.

The DM also directed the recovery of the misappropriated funds and the seizure of the Gram Pradhan's accounts.

The investigation was launched following recent media reports about the fraud. Initial investigations suggest the involvement of the then Village Development Officer (VDO), Assistant Programme Officer (APO), operator, Gram Pradhan and individuals close to the Gram Pradhan. Further investigations are underway.

'Talent Has Finished In Pakistan'



Agencies

Former batter Basit Ali has expressed grave concerns over the deteriorating state of Pakistan cricket, boldly declaring that 'talent has finished in Pakistan.'

Pakistan's struggles on the international stage continue to mount.

After getting knocked out of the ICC Champions Trophy in the group stages, Pakistan's nightmare continued in New Zealand where they endured a 1-4 thrashing in the five-match T20I series, followed by a 2-0 defeat in the ODI series after losing the first two games.

Basit, who played 50 ODIs and 19 Tests for Pakistan during the 1990s, warned that if Pakistan's poor performances persist, they might soon find themselves competing in the ICC qualifying rounds to secure a place in major tournaments like the World Cup.

"If we don't make decisions and improve our base, otherwise we will have to play qualifying rounds. We lost all 10 wickets to pacers."

"Our top Bradman batters were out early. Talent has finished in Pakistan. Pakistan's cricket starts with the name of Babar Azam and ends with it," Basit said on his YouTube channel.

He believes Pakistan's decline began after suffering a 228-run hammering at the hands of India in the Asia Cup in September 2023, when Virat Kohli and K L Rahul dominated Pakistan's bowling attack.

"The first match of the Asia Cup against India got washed out because of rain. The way Virat (Kohli) and (K L) Rahul hammered our bowlers, since then neither Pakistan's batting nor bowling has stabilised. In last year's T20 World Cup, we couldn't chase 119," he added.

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