

128 VOTES IN FAVOUR, 95 AGAINST

## Waqf Bill Passed After RS Nod



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Parliament early Friday approved the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, after the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the contentious legislation following an over 13-hour debate.

The discussion witnessed staunch objections from opposition parties, which termed the Bill "anti-Muslim" and "un-constitutional" with the government responding that the "historic reform" would benefit the

minority community.

The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was passed in the Lok Sabha early Thursday, with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

Parliament also approved the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025, with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod. The Lok Sabha has already given its assent to the Bill.

Participating in the discussion, Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju | More on P6



### Dark Era Of Brute Majoritarianism: Ruhullah

National Conference Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Friday said the BJP has no moral or political right to speak for Muslims, and by passing the Waqf Bill, the RSS-BJP regime has reaffirmed | More on P6

AS A MUSLIM VOICE FROM KASHMIR in Parliament, I was not even allowed to speak.

## I Am A Political Leader, Not Terrorist: Yasin Malik

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Jailed JKLF chief Yasin Malik on Friday said in the Supreme Court that he was a "political leader and not a terrorist" and claimed seven Prime Ministers had engaged in a dialogue with him in the past.

Appearing via video-conferencing before a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan,

Malik referred to the submission of solicitor general Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, that there were photos of him alongside terrorist Hafiz Saeed and it was covered by all national and regional dailies and television channels.

"This statement has created a public narrative against me. The union government has not listed my organisation | More on P6

### SC Refuses Physical Production Of Malik In Jammu

The Supreme Court on Friday refused the physical production of jailed JKLF chief Yasin Malik before a Jammu court but allowed him to cross-examine witnesses in a couple of cases through the | More on P6

TRANSFER ROW

## Our Silence Not Weakness: NC MLAs Pass Resolution Against Waqf (Amendment) Bill



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid escalating tensions between the Raj Bhavan and the ruling NC-led alliance over bureaucratic control, Jammu and Kashmir MLAs on Friday asserted that their silence should not be mistaken for weakness.

"We have said this repeatedly, and this is our final request—do not push us to the

wall," National Conference chief spokesperson and MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq told reporters after an emergency meeting of the ruling alliance's legislature party.

The meeting passed two resolutions: one condemning the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill by parliament, and the other calling for respecting people's mandate. | More on P6

MLAS OF RULING ALLIANCE pass resolution urging New Delhi to respect public mandate of J&K."

### People Didn't Vote NC to Fight Over Transfers: PDP

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti Friday lashed out at the ruling National Conference, saying it was focusing on who between them and the Lieutenant Governor is empowered to transfer officials rather than taking a stand on issues that really matter. Mufti accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government of "surrendering" before New Delhi. "People thought when the new government comes, it would protect their rights. Unfortunately, it has been six months, but it has not talked about the plight of the | More on P6

### I Know My Limits, Will Never Cross Them: LG

Says Actions Within Reorganization Act

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday defended his recent order of transferring 48 Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officials, saying he knows his limits and would never cross them.

Sinha made the remarks at an event in Delhi on a day Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a legislature party meeting here of his National Conference and its allies, including the Congress.

The meeting passed two resolutions, one of which called for all to



respect people's mandate, in an apparent disapproval of the Raj Bhavan issuing the transfer and posting orders.

In a short video clip recorded at his Delhi event, the Lt Governor is heard saying, "I would like to make it clear that the J&K Reorganisation Act was passed by the Parliament in 2019. And I am saying | More on P6

### NIT Pulwama Tree Felling J&K Govt, Director Get NGT Notice

Observe News Service

Srinagar: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the J&K Government and the Director of NIT Srinagar, seeking a detailed response regarding the proposed new campus of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Nawa, Pulwama.

The notice was issued following a petition filed by RTI and environmental activist Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat through his counsel, Advocate Saurabh Sharma. The petitioner has urged the NGT to intervene and prevent the large-scale felling of fruit and non-fruit-bearing trees across 4,500 kanals of Kewara land, which belongs to seven villages in Nawa and its adjoining areas.

Dr. Bhat's petition highlights the ecological importance of the site, stating that it serves as a habitat for migratory birds such as the European bee-eater, Kashmir flycatcher, White-capped bunting (Emberiza stewarti), Common Cuckoo, and Jacobin Cuckoo, as well as wildlife including the Himalayan Red Fox, porcupines, and leopards.

The case was listed before the Principal Bench of the NGT on April 1, 2025. The bench, comprising Justice Prakash Srivastava (Chairperson), Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi (Judicial Member), and Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati (Expert Member), issued notices to the Chief Secretary of J&K, Director of NIT Srinagar, Chairman of the J&K Biodiversity Council, Chief Wildlife Warden, and Deputy Commissioner Pulwama. | More on P6



Tourists enjoy spring blossoms at Badam Wari, Srinagar. KO Photo By Faisal Khan

## 4 Drunkards Sentenced To Community Service

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court here on Friday sentenced four Srinagar residents to community service for varying hours on four days after they were caught for public drunkenness.

The court of 1st Additional Munsiff Srinagar, Zirham Hamid, passed the order following a complaint under 355 BNS by police stating therein that police station Nowhatta received credible information on April 1 that some drunkard persons are causing annoyance and abusing general public at main road Sheikh Colony Nowhatta. Accordingly, the police party was deputed

and these persons identified as Manzoor Ahmad Malla, Javid Ahmad Qureshi, Parveez Ahmad Monchi and Shabir Ahmad Sheikh were apprehended and brought to police station in apparent drunken and intoxicating state. They were subsequently produced before medical board at SMHS Hospital for Medical Examination, police said. Upon examination it was found that these accused persons had consumed alcohol and caused annoyance to the general Public, police said.

"I am of the considered view that all the accused be directed to perform community service and to do the cleaning and maintenance | More on P6

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

## Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001





# After 'Brain Rot', Reels Now Leading To Eye Disorders: Docs Issue Urgent Warning

Press Trust Of India

After concerns about the impact of short-form videos on mental health, doctors are now raising an alarm about a new, growing crisis - 'reel-induced eye damage.' Excessive screen time, particularly binge-watching reels on social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube, is leading to a spike in eye disorders across all age groups, especially among children and young adults. This was shared by leading ophthalmologists during ongoing Joint Meeting of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology and All India Ophthalmological Society at the Yashobhoomi - India International Convention and Expo Centre on Tuesday. Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) 2025 Congress president Dr Lalit Verma issued a strong warning against the 'silent epidemic of digital eye strain' caused by excessive screen exposure. "We are seeing a sharp increase in cases of dry eye syndrome, myopia progression, eye strain, and even early-onset squinting, especially in children who spend hours watching reels," he said. "A student recently visited us complaining of persistent eye irritation and blurry vision. After examination, we found his eyes were not producing enough tears due to prolonged screen time at home watching reels. He was immediately put on eye drops and advised to follow the 20-20-20 rule -- taking a 20-second break every 20 minutes to look at something 20 feet away," the doctor said. Dr Harbansh Lal, chairman, Organising Committee, and president of All India Ophthalmological Society, explained the severity of the issue. Dr Lal said short, engaging



reels are designed to capture and hold attention for long periods. "However, this constant screen fixation reduces blink rates by 50%, leading to dry-eye syndrome and accommodation spasms (difficulty in shifting focus between near and distant objects). Experts warn that if this habit continues unchecked, it could result in long-term vision problems and even permanent eye strain," he said. Dr Lal further added that children who are glued to reels for hours daily are at risk of developing early myopia, which is progressing faster than ever before. Adults, too, are experiencing frequent headaches, migraine, and sleep disorders caused by blue light exposure. As per recent studies, by 2050, more than 50 per cent of the world's population will be myopic, which is the most common cause of irreversible blindness. Now with increased screen time, we are observing fluctuation of lens number till the age of 30, which was 21, a few decades back, Dr Lal stated. Studies show that an increasing number of people, especially students and working professionals, are struggling with digital eye strain, squinting, and worsening eyesight due to prolonged exposure to high-speed, visually stimulating content. Doctors also note a troubling trend of social isolation, mental fatigue,

and cognitive overload associated with constant reel consumption. Dr Samar Basak, president of AIOS and a senior ophthalmologist, highlighted the social and psychological toll of excessive screen time. "We are seeing a concerning pattern where people are so absorbed in reels that they neglect real-world interactions, leading to strained family relationships and a reduced focus on education and work." Dr Partha Biswas, senior ophthalmologist and incoming president of AIOS, said, "The combination of artificial lighting, rapid visual changes, and prolonged near-focus activity is overstimulating the eyes, leading to a phenomenon we call 'Reel Vision Syndrome.' It's time we take this seriously before it turns into a full-blown public health crisis." To combat the adverse effects of excessive reel-watching, ophthalmologists recommend following the 20-20-20 rule. Increasing blink rate, making a conscious effort to blink more frequently while watching screens, reducing screen time and taking digital detoxes such as regular screen breaks can help reduce dependency and prevent long-term damage. With eye disorders on the rise due to unregulated reel consumption, health experts urge parents, educators, and social media users to take immediate preventive measures.

## 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 Adyaan Ashfaq s/o Ashfaq Ahmad Yattoo R/o Goushugh Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 06/01/2019 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko\_r

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my daughter bearing No 636989227839 the name is entered as NOOR UL RAKEEN while her actual name is RUKAIN. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
**SHAKEEL AHMAD KUTAY**  
**F/O RUKAIN R/O KHAK**  
**CHOWK BAL GARDEN**  
**SRINAGAR PIN 190010**

mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My moth's name in my 10th and 12th certificates has been wrongly written as Haleema Begum while her name is Haseena Begum which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the JK BOSE New Campus Bemina within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.



Aaqib Nisar  
 Father's Name: Nisar Ahmad Mir  
 Mother's Name: Haseena Begum  
 Regd. No: 212100000250066  
 DOB 25-10-2007  
 Class 10th Roll No: 121009043, 12th Roll No: 221005004

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I am changing the name of my daughter from Aisha Khurshid Sheikh to Aishah Khurshid Sheikh. She is a resident of Bugam Batapora, Tehsil Chadoora, District Budgam. In future she will be known as Aishah Khurshid Sheikh for all official and legal purposes. If any body is having any objection he/she may contact the Passport Office, Srinagar, within 7 days from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be accepted. Contact Number: 60056 62260.

fsr

## HEALTH & MEDICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210

Email ID admsection.gmca@gmail.com | amcanantnaa2018@gmail.com

Subject: Conduct of Written Test for the posts of Speech Therapist and Multi Rehabilitation Worker (MRW) advertised vide Advertisement Notice No. 05 GMCA of 2024, dated: 15-07-2024.

It is notified for information of all the eligible candidates who have applied for Speech Therapist and Multi Rehabilitation Worker (MRW) posts in GMC Anantnag advertised vide Advertisement Notice No. 05 GMCA of 2024, dated: 15-07-2024, that the written examination (OMR Based Objective Type) shall be conducted as per the schedule given below:

S. No.	Name of the Post	Exam Date & Day	Timing	Roll Numbers	Allocated Centre
1.	Speech Therapist	20.04.2025 (Sunday)	(11:00 AM to 12:00 PM)	01 to 10	Lecture Hall I Main campus Dialgam
2.	Multi Rehabilitation Worker (MRW)			01 to 08	

- Candidates are advised to download the Admit Cards from 13.04.2025, which shall be made available on the official website of GMC Anantnag [www.gmcanantnag.net](http://www.gmcanantnag.net).
- Candidates can download their Admit Cards from the website using Form ID and D.O.B.

### Note:

- The candidates should read carefully all the instructions mentioned on the admit card.
- Candidates are also advised to report examination centre one hour before schedule time along with Admit Card, ID Proof (original) and recent Passport size photograph. No such candidate shall be allowed to appear in the examination who do not meet the above-mentioned pre-requisites.
- Only those candidates should appear in the written examination, who fulfil the eligibility criteria prescribed for the post as mentioned in the notification. However, permission to appear in the written examination is purely provisional subject to further verification of their documents/eligibility at any stage of selection process.
- The candidature of such applicants shall be rejected at any stage of process of selection, who are found to have misrepresented or concealed the material facts having a bearing on their eligibility.
- No electronic gadgets (Calculator, Mobile Phone, Smart Watch, Bluetooth devices, etc.) shall be allowed in the examination centre. If any such device is found with the candidate in the examination centre, his/her candidature will be cancelled and legal action under rules will be initiated against him/her.
- No TA/DA etc. will be given to appear in the written examination and the candidates should make their own arrangements.

No: GMCA/Estt/2025/ 2276- 81  
 DPK-75/25 dated: 04-04-2025

Principal/Dean,  
 Govk Medical College, Anantnag

No. 58/DAHK-Estb0EMW/37/2024-2-1/533660/2025; Dated: 03-04-2025.

## GOVT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY KASHMIR

(Gowkadal Srinagar - 190001)

Ph. No. 0194-2455091 E-mail:- est@jkanimalhusbandry.net Fax:- 0194-2470518

Sub:- Selection of candidates on the post of Veterinary Pharmacist in Animal Husbandry Deptt. Kashmir -- appointment thereof.

- Ref:- 1. Final Selection list issued by JK SSB received through Adm Deptt. vide letter No. ASHF-AHONGAZ /38/2024 (7540394) dated 13-08-2024.  
 2. Adm Deptt's letter No. ASHF-AHONGAZ/38/2024(7540394) dated 15-10-2024.  
 3. ASHF-AHONGAZ/38/2024 (C.No. 7540394) dated 06-02-2025

ORDER No.210-DAHK of 2025  
 Dated: 03 / 04/2025

Consequent upon his selection by the J&K Service Selection Board and pursuant to subsequent instructions issued by Administrative Department vide aforesaid reference and after receiving satisfactory Character & Antecedents verification report from Special DG CID J&K via EVS portal under Form No. 123557 dated 12-03-2025, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of Nadeem Ahmad War S/o Ghulam Ahmad War R/o 56 4 Lach-Mawar Langate Kupwara 193302 under RBA category as Veterinary Pharmacist in the Pay Level-4 (25500-81100) on temporary regular basis in District Cadre Ganderbal. The appointee shall report to Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ganderbal within a period of 21 days, where he shall be allowed on production of following documents in original:

- Date of Birth certificate.
- Academic qualification certificates.
- Domicile Certificate.
- Physical Fitness Certificate.
- Valid relevant Category Certificate
- if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Centre of the domicile District, he/she shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He/she shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMLs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his/her salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery. Further, the appointment shall be subject to:-
- probation for a period of two years during which he has to qualify the mandatory one-year Veterinary pharmacist Training Course at departmental Paravet Training Institute.
- governed by "New pension scheme" (NPS) as per SRO-400 of 2009 dt:-24-12-2009.
- verification of all the required documents from concerned quarters.
- outcome of any writ petition (s) if any pending before any court of law.
- the appointee shall tender an affidavit duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate to the effect that he will serve the Department at least for 03 years failing which the appointee shall refund the salary drawn by him.
- if failed to join within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of the appointment order, the appointee shall forego his right to appointment which shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio without further notice.
- Salary shall be drawn & disbursed only after satisfactory report of his qualification & allied documents and if at any stage, documents/ information submitted proved to be fake / fabricated, his appointment shall be cancelled forthwith, for which he shall also tender an affidavit.

The controlling officer after completing the formalities shall relieve the appointee to join at Principal Para-vet Training Institute Ganderbal for necessary Training with ensuing session.

(Dr. Parvinder Singh)  
 Director  
 Animal Husbandry Deptt. Kashmir

DIPK-74/25 DATED: 04-04-2025

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-IV PAMPORE, KASHMIR – 192121

Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com



NIT No: TLMD-IV/e-NIT/01 of 2025-26 Dt. 03-04-2025  
 TENDER NOTICE INVITING e-BIDS

The Executive Engineer, TLMD IV Pampore Kashmir, JKPTCL J&K, for and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir invites e-tenders from Registered contractor with Relevant Experience registered with Government of J&K UT contractors with qualification/ past experience

S No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money
01.	Construction of retaining and protection wall at Tower No 40 & 28 of 132KV Budgam-Chaora Transmission line	Rs.4.15	Rs.200/= in the shape of DD pledged to Executive Engineer, JKPTCL TLMD-IV, Pampore. Bidders can also upload counterfool copy/ bank receipt of above fee clearly mentioning name/no of E-NIT, Name of the bidder, Bank name and details, amount etc. which shall be remitted to <b>Account No: 001601020000105, Name: Executive Engineer, TLMD-4<sup>th</sup> Pampore Bank: J&amp;K bank, Branch: Pampore Pulwama, IFSC Code: JAKA08AFRON, MICR: 190051047</b>	(Rs.8300.00)

- Position of AAA/TS: Accorded Position of Funds: Demanded  
 01. The bidding documents consisting 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)

01. Date of issue of Tender Notice	03-04-2025
02. Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-04-2025 from 01PM to 24-04-2025 to 02PM
03. Bid submission start date	03-04-2025 from 02PM
04. Bid submission end date	24-04-2025 up to 02 PM
05. Deadline for receiving the hard copy, & CDR(EMD)	After opening the financial bid only, the lowest bidder (L1) is required to submit/furnish the hard copies of bid along with original copy of EMD & tender documents fee.
06. Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	25-04-2025 at 2PM

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in favour of "Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore" (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore for the works mentioned in the E-NIT(tender receiving authority).

The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the office of the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV Pampore for the works mentioned in the E-NIT(tender receiving authority)

No: TLMD-IV/ 14-15  
 Dated: 03-04-2025

--sd--  
 Executive Engineer  
 TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-37/25 DATED: 04-04-2025

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for a pesticides license under Name and style KISAN KHIDMAT GHAR Nadigam Shopian. If anybody has any objection, may contact Plant Protection Officer Lalmandi Srinagar within 7 days.  
 IFSHAN MALIK  
 S/o Mohd Maqbool Malik  
 Nadigam Shopian

FKO

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, IMRAN MALIK, Father of ZEHRAN ALI MALIK, R/o Saidapora Bala, Shopian, want to correct the Name and D.O.B of my son in Aadhar Record. Bearing Aadhar No 581283229847, which has been wrongly entered as ZERAN MALIK instead of ZEHRAN ALI MALIK, and D.O.B wrongly entered as 08-04-2012 instead of 20-04-2014. Now correction is required. If anybody has any objection, they may contact the Concerned Aadhar Centre, Jammu/Srinagar, or Concerned Authorities within 7 days.

FKO

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the name of my son from Aman Ullah Dar to Mohammad Amaan Dar in future he will be known with his new name Mohammad Amaan Dar. Further the DOB of my son is wrongly written in passport as 25-08-2015 instead of 25-08-2016, which is needed to be corrected His Passport no. is R9003824 If anybody has any object in this regard he/she may file them in the office of Passport office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**Bilal Ahmad Dar**  
**F/o Mohammad Amaan Dar.**  
**R/ Takan wari Pora.**  
**District Srinagar Pin code 190017.**  
**J&K. INDIA**

tu

## اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میرے ایک کنٹریڈیٹرز ہر خاص و عام کو 0078040150000466 ہوں جو کہ میرے ایک کنٹریڈیٹرز سے میرا نام MAHEENA BANO اندراج ہوا ہے جبکہ میرا اصل نام آدھار کارڈ پر MAYMOONA AKTHER ہے۔ اب اس کی درستی کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اپنا اعتراض براہِ نمائندگی میرے دفتر میں پیش کرے۔ بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

MAYMOONA AKTHER W/O GULZAR AHMAD LONE  
 R/O PUNCH GUND BEERWAH BUDGAM  
 CELL : 8825007118  
 mcb



# CM Inaugurates Almond Bloom Festival, Marking The Arrival Of Spring

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As spring arrives in Kashmir, the Valley has come alive with celebrations and an influx of tourists eager to witness nature's beauty. The much-awaited Almond Bloom Festival was inaugurated at Srinagar's historic Badamwari garden on Friday, officially marking the season's onset. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presided over the event, alongside key dignitaries including Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chowdhury, NC's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq, and Director of Tourism Raja Yaqoob.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Raja Yaqoob, announced that the department has scheduled a series of events across various locations to capitalize on the seasonal tourism boom. "The spring season has begun, and we've lined up multiple events across the valley to showcase its beauty. These were slightly delayed due to the holy month of Ramadan, but we are now beginning with events in Yousmarg, followed by wild tulip festivals in Pampore and cherry blossom shows," Yaqoob stated.

## A Spectacle Of Culture & Heritage

The Almond Bloom Festival witnessed an overwhelming response, with the garden echoing



PIC: Faisal Khan/KO

with the melodies of Kashmiri music. Renowned artists including Noor Mohammad, Irfan Bilal, and Zaid Sikandar captivated the audience with their live performances, adding to the cultural charm of the event. Stalls featuring local delicacies and crafts allowed visitors to indulge in Kashmir's rich heri-

tage, while families gathered for picnics under the breathtaking canopy of pink and white almond blossoms. Tamana, a resident of Hawal, expressed her excitement: "We wait for this bloom every year. It reminds us that winter is over and better days are coming. This festival brings life

back to the old city." Aqib Hussain, a college student, added, "Badamwari looks magical in spring, and today it truly felt like a celebration of Kashmir."

## Tourism Boom & Economic Impact

The tourism department has

noted a surge in visitors, with hotels operating at 80-90% occupancy and Srinagar Airport handling 54 daily flights, all at full capacity. "Ticket prices have soared past Rs 10,000, which is a clear indicator of heavy tourist inflow," Yaqoob remarked. He emphasized that such events not only entertain visitors but also promote peace and provide a platform for local artists.

He also highlighted the significance of cherry blossoms, calling them an underrated attraction. "We want to promote cherry blossoms as a signature feature of Kashmir's spring tourism," he stated.

Given the large turnout at Badamwari, security arrangements were tightened with personnel deployed from various police posts in Downtown Srinagar. Entry and exit points were closely monitored to ensure a peaceful environment, allowing visitors to enjoy the festivities without concern.

With the Almond Bloom Festival setting the tone, the upcoming events in Yousmarg, Pampore, and other locations promise to further enhance Kashmir's appeal as a prime springtime destination. The ongoing celebrations are not only a tribute to nature's splendor but also a testament to the Valley's growing allure among travelers, reinforcing its place on the global tourism map.

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

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

**RAILWAYS**

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 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**  
06 Shawwal  
1446

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	4: 48
ZUHR	12:34
ASR	5: 05
Magrib	6:57
ISHA	8: 20

## This Day In History

- 1609 - Daimyo (Lord) of the Satsuma Domain in southern Kyushu, Japan, completes his successful invasion of the Ryukyu Kingdom in Okinawa
- 1648 - Spanish troops and feudal barons strike down people's uprising in Naples
- 1739 - French emperor Karel VI sign secret treaty
- 1751 - Adolf Frederik of Holstein-Gottorp crowns himself king of Sweden
- 1792 - George Washington casts 1st presidential veto
- 1804 - High Possil Meteorite: The first recorded meteorite in Scotland falls in Possil
- 1806 - Isaac Quintard patents apple cider
- 1812 - British storm Badajoz fortress in Extremadura, Spain, held by French & Spanish
- 1814 - Netherlands Bank issues its 1st banknotes
- 1815 - Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies, has its first violent eruption after several centuries of dormancy
- 1818 - In the Battle of Maipú, Chile's independence movement - led by Bernardo O'Higgins and José de San Martín - win a decisive victory over Spain, leaving 2,000 Spaniards and 1,000 Chilean patriots dead.
- 1865 - Battle at Amelia Springs, Jetersville Virginia (Appomattox Campaign)
- 1879 - Chile declares war on Bolivia and Peru, starting the War of the Pacific.
- 1881 - Transvaal regains independence under British suzerainty

## CoF Holds Meeting To Combat Rising Forest Fires

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A meeting focussing on forest fire prevention and management was held under the chairmanship of Conservator of Forests, (CoF) Srinagar Circle, Tawheed Ahmad Deva at Sheikhbagh Forest Complex in Srinagar. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Forest Protection Force, Kashmir, all Divisional Forest Officers

of Srinagar Circle and all Deputy Directors of Forest Protection Force and Wildlife Wardens of Kashmir Region.

The primary agenda was to address the recent forest fires that have impacted various forest divisions within the Kashmir Region.

The meeting conducted a thorough review of the current situation, analyzed the causes of the fires, and strategized on enhanced prevention and

mitigation measures. "The protection of our forests is paramount," stated the CoF Srinagar. He added that the department is committed to implement proactive measures to safeguard these vital ecosystems and ensure the safety of our communities. During the meeting, it was emphasized that all forest fire control rooms across the districts are operating round the clock.

## Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee

chairman87jkspcb@gmail.com  
membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com  
0191-2472881,2476925

**Sub:- Appointment of Junior Environmental Engineer in the J&K Pollution Control Committee.**

- Ref:- (i) Letter No. FST-PCC/29/2023-02 F.D dated 24-12-2024 from Forest, Ecology & Environment Department and FST-PCC/29/2023-02 (Part-I) dated 21-03-2025.**  
**(ii) Letter No. JKSSB-SDOSECY/JMUJ/4/2024-03(E-7381434) dated 02-12-2024 from Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.**

**JKPCC ORDER NO. 46 OF 2025**  
**Dated: - 05-04-2025**

On the recommendations of the J&K Services Selection Board and approval conveyed by the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of the below mentioned candidate as Junior Environmental Engineer in the J&K Pollution Control Committee in the Pay Level-6D (35800-113200) with immediate effect:

S. No.	Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address	Selection Category
1	Mr Syed Moin Kazmi	Mr. Syed Mureed Hussain	Qazipora P.O Mohora Boniyar, Baramulla-193122	OM

The appointee shall report to the **Member Secretary**, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Head Office, Jammu, within a period of twenty-one (21) days from the date of issuance of this Order, failing which he shall forego his right to appointment, and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled *ab-initio* without any further notice.

The appointee shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:

- Academic/Qualification Certificates.
- Matriculation / Date of Birth Certificate.
- Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
- Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
- Valid relevant Category Certificate, if any, applicable.

The appointment of the above candidate shall further be subject to the following conditions:

- Appointee shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit to the effect that, if on verification, his qualification/date of birth/reserved category certificates from the concerned issuing authorities is found fake/forged, his appointment as Junior Environmental Engineer in the J&K Pollution Control Committee shall be deemed to have been cancelled *ab-initio* and legal action, as warranted under rules shall be initiated against him.
- That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District

Employment & Counselling Centre of the Domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprise and stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining Government service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.

- The salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed unless the satisfactory reports in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate are received from the concerned Authorities/Agency.
- The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years.
- The appointment of the candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
- The inter-se-seniority of the appointee in the J&K Pollution Control Committee shall be determined in accordance with the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.
- The appointment of the above appointee shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before Competent Court(s) of Law.

No: OCC.Estb./CO/SL/JEE/E-741294/2024/254-63  
DIPK-NB-59/25 DATED: 04-04-2025

(Vasu Yadav)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Deputy Chief Engineer/BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

S. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of Opening	Bidding Start Date on REPS	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Completion period of work
1.	OT-07-JRC-2025	Fabrication and Erection of side Pathway, Replacement of loose rivets of Br. No. 84 (20x30.5m) on JUC-FZR section of FZR division.	1,78,53,977.00	2,39,300.00	28.04.2025	14.04.2025 to 28.04.2025	0.00	10 Months

Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender: Up to 15:00 hrs. on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.

Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) and tender document is available on [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in).

No.: 80-W/30/Bridges/Invitation Dated: 04.04.2025 1034/2025  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**IN THE COURT OF LEARNED EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS (TEHSILDAR), ARNIA**  
**PROCLAMATION**

Whereas the application of the applicant namely Gurdas Chand S/o Late Sh. Thoru Ram R/o village Allah Tehsil Arnia Dist. Jammu, has filed the application in Tehsildar Office Arnia, for seeking Legal Heir Certificate of his deceased brother namely Devi Dass S/o Late Sh. Thoru Ram R/o village Allah Tehsil Arnia Dist. Jammu, who was the account holder with the J&K Bank B/o Arnia, vide Account No. 1209040100002852, and who expired on 04-01-2025. The details of the legal heirs of the deceased Devi Dass are as under:

S.No.	Name	Relationship with deceased
1.	Gurdas Chand	Brother
2.	Kishor Kumar	Nephew
3.	Deepak Kumar	Nephew

Now by the way of this proclamation, general public/interested person(s) are hereby informed that if any person(s) has/have any objection(s) with regard to the subject matter, they shall file objection(s) in the Tehsildar, Arnia on or before 07 days, failing which appropriate order shall be passed. Given under my hand and seal of this court today the 17th day of March 2025.

fko\_r Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Arnia

**PUBLIC NOTICE..**

It is for the information of general public that Electricity Connection Bearing Consumer I.D. No 0217010065966 which was earlier Registered in The Name of MUZZAMIL Ahmad Bhat S/o GH NABI Bhat R/o YARIPORA Kulgam is to be Transferred into New Name as ARIF Hussain MALIK S/o GULZAR Ahmad MALIK R/o MALIK GUND SHOPIAN. If any Body has any objection may Contact P.D.D. Office Sub Division SHOPIAN within 7 Days. fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE..**

I, Rayees Ahmad Khan S/o GH Mohammad Khan R/o Amshipora, Shopian, want to Register the date of Birth certificate of my Ward Namely Mohammad Huzaf Khan S/o Rayees Ahmad Khan R/o Amshipora, Shopian, born on 01-07-2015 at home. If anybody has any objection, they may Contact B.D.O. Ramnagri within 7 days. fko

**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 Hashim Ali Yattoo s/o Hilal Ahmad Yattoo R/o Kanloo Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 14/05/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko\_r Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**PUBLIC NOTICE..**

It is informed to the General public that i Shah Shahid Ashrif have lost my Passport bearing passport no.U 2522595 .File no. SG1064302716619 in during traveling Udipora to Langate . Now I am applying for its duplicate passport in passport office Srinagar / Baramulla. if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the Passport Office Srinagar / Baramulla within a period of seven ( 7 ) days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period. Shah Shahid Ashraf S/O. Mohammad Ashraf Shah R/O:- Udipora. Tehsil :- Langate . Distt : Kupwara . fko Post office Langate Pin Code 193302 .File No:- SG1064302716619

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 7884 3917 6847 from Jawahira Siraj (old name ) to Jawhara Jan (New name).If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Jawhara Jan R/O :- Naseem Bagh Hazratbal jvd

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 9200 8995 5193 from Jana Begum (old name ) to Janee (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Janee R/O :- sonawari Bandipore jvd



# Carelessness Turns Catastrophic in Kashmir's Forests

In dry weather conditions like these, even a burning cigarette bit left over negligently can result in the wildfire which could be very difficult to contain later on.

Dr Muhammad Sameer Shafi Siddiqui

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We the so-called literates and cosmopolitans must take lessons from the Gujjar, Bakerwaal and Chopan communities that how inspite of living in or adjacent to the forests for centuries together, these people have tried to conserve their natural settings in a much better way.

From the past few days, forest fires have erupted in many parts of the Valley, most particularly in the multifarious compartments of Lidder Forest Division in South Kashmir. These fires have created a huge concern among the people living adjacent to these forests and also among the environmentalists and nature lovers alike. Although dry weather conditions and scanty snowfall during winters provide an essential backdrop for comprehending the phenomenon, yet the most intriguing question in the minds of all those concerned with preservation and conservation of our forests pertains to the simultaneity of these fires at multiple yet isolated locations with large distances to traverse in between; a phenomenon that has seldom been witnessed in the past.

Anyways, a huge mass of pine needles and cones gets accumulated in our forests throughout the year, thus forming a thick layer on the ground. Due to precipitation, the substratum of this layer alongside the soil beneath remains moist and eventually the moist foliage gets decomposed under the weight of newly formed layers of pine needles. But when dry, this thick layer of pine needles on ground sprinkled with highly inflammable resin dripping down the coniferous trees has high vulnerability of catching fire, and even a meagre negligence or mischief on someone's part can wreak a havoc within the vast stretches of the forest cover. So the most important thing to remember while visiting the forests is to keep combustibles away from vulnerable patches of the woods.

It has been observed that there is a growing trend of youngsters visiting forests for adventure and recreational purposes. While doing so they often light up the bonfires in the forests and when they are done, they negligently leave the fire burning which has maximum potential of being converted into a fullscale forest fire.

In dry weather conditions like these, even a burning cigarette bit left over negligently can result in the wildfire which could be very difficult to contain later on. Unfortunately, we often come across the spectacle that how during picnics and family outings people often leave behind the litter mostly plastics scattered all around the forests which further adds to the vulnerability of forest fires and deterioration of our already fragile ecosystem. No doubt a little bit of moral consciousness and environmental awareness on our part can create a huge difference by way of saving these precious natural and environmental resources.

In this context, we the so-called literates and cosmopolitans must take lessons from the Gujjar, Bakerwaal and Chopan communities that how inspite of living in or adjacent to the forests for centuries together, these people have tried to conserve their natural settings in a much better way.

One more factor, albeit a lesser known one as regards the forest fires is the belief or experience of some people that cedars and mushrooms grow much better in the moist ashes of burnt pine needles during the rainy nights accompanied with thunderstorms and lightning. Thus to make bucks out of it, they occasionally set pine



needles and bushes to fire in the upper reaches of our forests which can eventually lead to wildfires.

In a way we can say that human greed and insatiable lust for wealth too is one of the prime causes for these calamities and therefore some semblance of moral and responsible social behaviour on our behalf can prove to be of great help in minimising these disasters.

One important factor which minimised the otherwise hectic efforts undertaken by the forest employees to contain the recent fires pertains to the lack of proper equipments. My personal observations while dousing the flames in the company of Khanqah e Hydari volunteers alongside the forest department officials in the forests of our vicinity was that all of us were fighting the fire with bare hands and traditional agricultural implements. Government needs to enhance the budgetary efficiency of the department so that it may procure useful and modern gadgets like co2 cylinders and much more to deal with such kinds of eventualities.

Community involvement is also necessary so that people living adjacent to forests may play their role in the preservation and protection of our forests. Even religious leaders have a role to play by way of educating masses that religious obliga-

tions are not restricted to mere formal acts of worship. Our consciousness towards maintaining ecological balance and preserving the resources that God has created for the benefit of the entire humanity too needs to be included in their religious discourses. Likewise social media users in general and professional media personnel in particular too have their role to play for making a lasting impact upon the society vis a vis our collective responsibility for preserving our forests.

Last but not least, we the Kashmiris in the capacity of being the inheritors of our rich spiritual legacy must ponder upon the fact that these forests have from times immemorial served as spiritual retreats for our sages and Rishis. Our village mendicants, friars and Rishis have always pondered upon the vexed problems of Being and Existence in the din of these woods and that is why the refrain "Haa faqero saani janglich lai chayo" still reverberates in our hearts and minds. We the inheritors of our rich Rishi legacy must bear witness to the words of wisdom by our patron saint Nund Rishi wherein he says "Ann poshi teli yeli wann poshi" means "Food is subservient to the preservation of forests."

The author is a reputed scholar based out of South Kashmir.

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

There has been a long-standing debate in the literary publishing world about whether an author should have the freedom to send his works to more than one magazine. While editors are free to publish or not publish any work, and no time limit is imposed on them, why should not an author have the right to send his work to as many places as he wants? This question has become even more relevant in today's digital age, where the speed of dissemination of information and content has become extremely fast.

Most editors believe that the credibility and reputation of a magazine depend on the fact that the material published in it is original and unique. If a work has already been published in another magazine, then the readers would have already read it, which may affect the uniqueness of the new magazine. Editors also believe that if the same work is published in many places, then the readers may lose trust in the magazine.

In addition, another important argument from the editorial point of view is that if an author submits the same work to multiple places and it is accepted by multiple editors, it may create confusion between journals. Therefore, many journals follow the policy that they will accept only those works that have not been published elsewhere before.

From the point of view of the authors, this policy sometimes seems unfair. When the editor has the freedom to choose the best material for his magazine, the author should also have the right to increase the chances of publication by sending his work to as many places as possible.

Sometimes editors hold on to articles for months and eventually reject them. This wastes the author's valuable time, and their work remains unpublished for a long time. Many authors wait for months or years just to submit their work to a magazine, but if it is finally rejected, their options are limited.

Also, every magazine has its own readership. If a work is published in many places, it can be beneficial for the author as his work reaches more and more readers. It has also been observed that different magazines focus on different topics so that the author's work can reach the right readers on different platforms.

In today's digital age, where there are

## Authorship Versus Editorial Policy

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Editors seek unique works for exclusivity, while writers should have the freedom to submit to multiple outlets, and with transparency and balance, both can contribute to the true purpose of literature—disseminating ideas.

plenty of blogs, online magazines, and social media platforms, this debate has taken on a new form. While earlier writers had to struggle to get published in print magazines, now they can publish their works on various online platforms.

Many online magazines and blogs are providing platforms where writers can publish their works without any restrictions. This is not only giving more freedom to the writers but also increasing the availability of content for the readers.

Many big media houses and digital publishing groups are also adopting the process of 'content syndication,' where the same content is republished on different platforms. This gives writers an opportunity to reach more viewership and readers.

Eventually, the solution to this debate lies in establishing a balance. But is a perfect balance possible?

The answer to this question is not easy, but this debate can encourage transparency and dialogue in the literary community. If journals respect authors' rights and authors understand and act in accordance with editorial policies, a better publishing culture can be created.

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh is a freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panellist. Views expressed are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.

## Kashmir's Troubled Trainers

For vocational trainers, who play a pivotal role in equipping students with practical skills essential for future employment, the current situation is deeply demoralizing.

Iqbal Gashi

A wave of discontent has swept through the vocational training community in Jammu and Kashmir as educators, crucial to the skill development of students, have taken to the streets to demand fair treatment from the government. Their primary grievances include the lack of a clear and equitable job policy, the controversial practice of outsourcing their positions through third-party agencies, and a significant disparity in salaries compared to their general line teacher counterparts.

For vocational trainers, who play a pivotal role in equipping students with practical skills essential for future employment, the current situation is deeply demoralizing. Despite their instrumental contribution to the education system and the skill enhancement of young individuals, they report being paid a meagre Rs 20,000 per month. This starkly contrasts with the approximate salary earned by general line teachers, highlighting a glaring inequality in compensation for educators within the same system.

The trainers are also vehemently protesting against the government's reliance on third-party outsourcing for their employment. This arrangement often leads to job insecurity, lack of benefits, and a diminished sense of belonging within the educational institutions they serve. The demand for a direct and transparent job policy that recognizes their value and secures their professional future has become a central point of their agitation.

Driven by these pressing issues, the vocational trainers initiated a peaceful protest to voice their demands and seek the attention of the concerned authorities on the day of Eid ul Fitr. They hoped to engage in a dialogue with the government to find amicable solutions to their 10 years long-pending grievances. However, their efforts to exercise their democratic right to protest were met with forceful intervention by the police.

The protesting trainers were detained by law enforcement officials, effectively suppressing their demonstration. This action has raised serious concerns about the freedom of speech and the right to peaceful assembly in the region guaranteed by Art. 19(A) and 19(B) of the Indian Constitution. Critics argue that instead of addressing the legitimate concerns of the educators, the authorities resorted to heavy-handed tactics to silence their voices.

The detention of the vocational trainers has drawn condemnation from various quarters, including education activists and civil society groups. They argue that a democratically elected government has a responsibility to listen to the grievances of its employees, especially those who are actively contributing to the future of the youth through skill development. The suppression of their protest is seen as a setback for democratic values and a disincentive for educators who are striving for a fair and just work environment.

The situation in Jammu and Kashmir underscores the urgent need for the government to address the demands of vocational trainers with empathy and fairness. A comprehensive job policy that ensures job security, the elimination of exploitative third-party outsourcing, and a significant and justifiable hike in their salaries are crucial steps toward recognizing their invaluable contribution to the education sector.

Furthermore, the manner in which the protest was handled raises serious questions about the respect for fundamental rights. In a democratic society, peaceful protests are a legitimate means for citizens to voice their concerns and engage with the government. The forceful suppression of such demonstrations not only stifles dissent but also undermines the principles of freedom of speech and assembly.

As the detained vocational trainers remain in custody de-facto, the focus now shifts to the government's response. Will they engage in meaningful dialogue with the educators to address their legitimate demands, or will they continue to rely on suppressive measures? The outcome of this situation will not only impact the livelihoods and morale of the vocational trainers in J&K but will also have broader implications for the state of democracy and the rights of citizens to voice their concerns peacefully. The crucial role these trainers play in shaping the future workforce of the region cannot be understated, and their grievances deserve to be heard and addressed with the urgency and respect they warrant.

The author is a vocational-trainer based out of valley. Views expressed are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.



# Cashless Kashmir: The Digital Wallet Revolution

The signs are clear. The phone screens lighting up with payment notifications, the vendors proudly displaying their QR codes, the farmers receiving instant payments — they are all part of this shift.

Gowher Bhat

Kashmir is changing. In the bustling markets of Lal Chowk, the quiet corners of Anantnag, and the apple orchards of Sopore, a different kind of transaction is taking place. There was a time when people moved through these spaces with thick wallets in their pockets, careful with each note. Now, they carry phones. Payments happen with a few taps. A beep, a flash of light, and the money moves.

For many, it feels like progress. Cash shortages and long bank queues once made daily transactions inconvenient. Digital payments offer a simpler way. QR codes are everywhere — taped to shop windows, printed on cardboard, even scribbled on pieces of paper. The old tin cashboxes beneath the counters are still there, but they're rarely opened now. This is Kashmir's digital wallet revolution. And it didn't happen overnight.

For years, cash was the preferred way. The sight of rupees exchanged across the counter, the shopkeeper running his thumb over the notes to check their authenticity — it was part of the transaction. People trusted what they could see and feel.

Then came the gradual introduction of mobile wallets. Platforms like Paytm, PhonePe, and Google Pay gained traction. At first, people hesitated. The concept of transferring money through a phone screen felt unfamiliar. "What if the money just disappears?" some would ask. Trust had to be built.

But slowly, the convenience began to outweigh the doubts. Vendors saw how they could complete sales without worrying about keeping change. Families found it easier to send money to loved ones, even across distant districts. Business owners appreciated the safety — no more carrying large sums of cash after a day's work.

The real shift happened with the rise of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Unlike other mobile wallets that needed funds to be loaded beforehand, UPI linked directly to bank accounts. It was simple. Scan, pay, and receive — all within seconds. Even the smallest tea stalls embraced it. "I used to keep a cash drawer at my shop," said Nazir, a grocery



store owner in Baramulla. "Now, I just check my phone. The money comes straight in."

Vendors like Nazir have stories to tell. Stories of how they no longer lose business because a customer doesn't have exact change. Stories of how tourists, especially, prefer paying digitally. Even the artisans — the shawl weavers, carpet makers, and walnut wood carvers — now have a presence on digital platforms. They sell their crafts across India, sometimes even overseas, accepting payments with ease.

But it's not just the merchants. In the remote villages of Kupwara and Gurez, where bank branches are sparse and distances are long, UPI has brought banking to people's fingertips. Farmers who once traveled miles to deposit or withdraw money now receive payments directly in their accounts. "I used to spend an entire day traveling just to collect money for my apples," said Bashir Ahmad, an orchard owner. "Now, I get a message on my phone. Payment received."

Even during the harsh winters, when snow blankets the Valley and movement becomes difficult, the cashless economy remains ac-

**I used to spend an entire day traveling just to collect money for my apples," said Bashir Ahmad, an orchard owner. "Now, I get a message on my phone. Payment received."**

tive. Mobile phones, charged and ready, serve as virtual wallets. For many, it's a lifeline.

For the younger generation, digital payments have become second nature. College students pay their tuition fees online.

Friends split bills using mobile apps. E-commerce is flourishing, with small businesses in Srinagar running online stores and accepting payments from across the country.

Even traditional services are adapting. Houseboat owners on Dal Lake, who once relied heavily on cash, now display QR codes for easy payments. Guests prefer the convenience, and owners appreciate the security. "It's better this way," said one houseboat owner. "No bundles of cash. No worries about change. Just a beep, and it's done."

Yet, trust remains a complicated thing. For every successful digital transaction, there's a story of fraud. Phishing messages, fake payment links, and disappearing funds have made people cautious. Some shopkeepers demand to see the confirmation screen before handing over goods. Others rely on their children or younger relatives to help navigate the apps. "I've heard of people losing their money," said Faisal, who runs a small electronics store. "That's why I check everything twice. Once it's in my account, then I let the customer go."

Banks and fintech companies are working to address these

fears. Financial literacy programs are more common. Advertisements on local radio stations explain how to spot scams. Workshops teach people — especially the elderly — how to use digital wallets safely.

Yet, for some, the comfort of cash remains. Elders often hold onto small bundles of notes, tucked inside woolen shawls or hidden in old wooden drawers. They view the phone screens with suspicion. The weight of money in hand is still reassuring. "My son tells me I should use UPI," said Ghulam Nabi, a retired teacher. "But I like my money where I can see it. Maybe one day I'll change."

Despite the skepticism, the road to a cashless Kashmir seems inevitable. Banks are expanding their digital services. Mobile internet is more accessible than before. Younger generations, raised with smartphones in hand, are already fully immersed in the digital economy. Government initiatives supporting financial inclusion are also making a difference. Women in rural areas, once excluded from formal banking, now receive payments for their handicrafts directly to their accounts. Daily wage laborers get paid digitally, avoiding the need to stand in lines at banks. "I never had a bank account before," said Mehak, a seamstress from Banipora. "Now, I have one. I get my payments on my phone. It feels like I have control."

E-commerce is also on the rise. Young entrepreneurs in Srinagar run online stores, selling traditional Kashmiri clothing, spices, and handicrafts. With digital wallets, they reach customers far beyond the Valley. Some even export their products internationally.

While the shift towards a cashless Kashmir offers numerous advantages, it's important to consider the potential drawbacks, as pointed out by various reputable sources. Not everyone has access to the necessary digital tools, such as smartphones and bank accounts. This digital divide leaves some people behind, particularly in rural areas. As reported by The Times of India, individuals without access to digital payment systems are at a disadvantage, widening existing socioeconomic gaps. According to a 2021 study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), rural areas still lag in mobile

phone and internet penetration, limiting the benefits of digital payments for these populations.

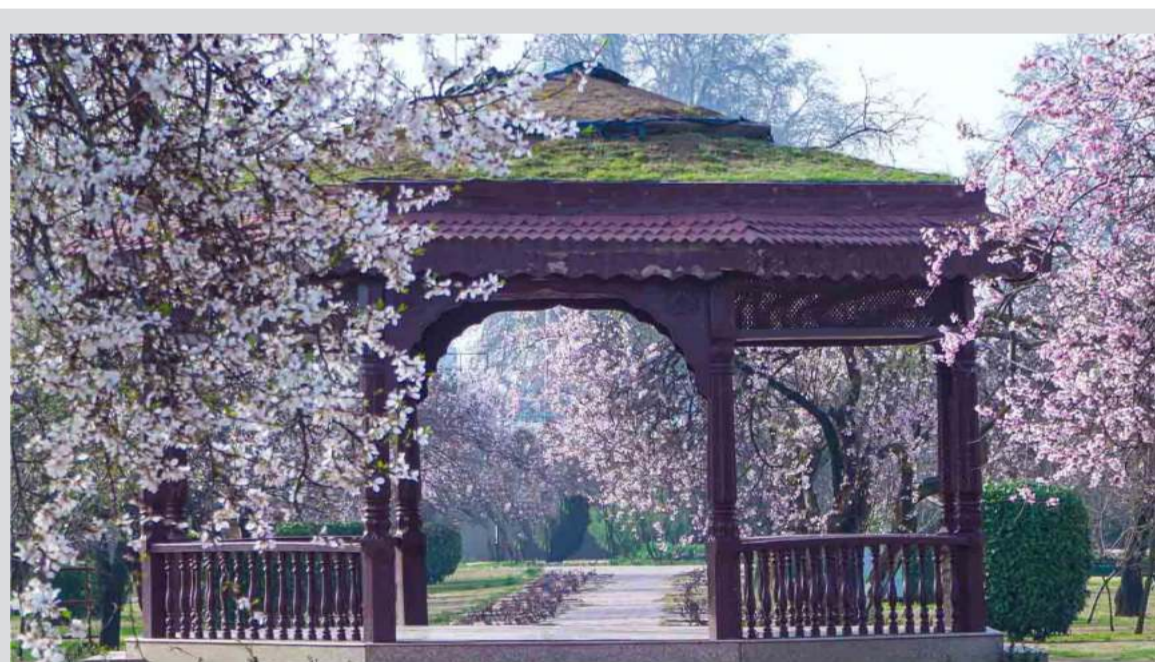
The reliance on digital platforms for transactions increases the risk of cyber threats, including hacking and fraud. Instances of disappearing funds, phishing scams, and fake payment links are becoming more common. The Hindu mentions that these risks have led many people to hesitate before fully embracing digital payments, particularly when trust in these platforms has not been fully established. A report by NASSCOM highlighted that over 45% of digital payment users have encountered fraud attempts at some point.

Reliable internet connectivity is a prerequisite for seamless digital transactions. However, certain areas of Kashmir still experience unstable internet access, as noted by The Times of India. Without robust infrastructure, the digital economy cannot function optimally, hindering the growth of cashless transactions in remote areas. According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Kashmir's internet penetration and speed lag behind the national average, which could delay the full transition to digital payments.

The informal sector, which relies heavily on cash transactions, faces difficulties adapting to digital payments. As The Times of India points out, workers in small industries continue to operate in cash, which limits the potential of cashless initiatives. A World Bank report also states that approximately 80% of the workforce in rural regions is part of the informal sector, underscoring the challenges of full digital integration.

A fully cashless Kashmir may still be a few years away. Network connectivity remains unreliable in some areas. Many still feel safer with cash. And the emotional connection to physical money lingers. But the signs are clear. The phone screens lighting up with payment notifications, the vendors proudly displaying their QR codes, the farmers receiving instant payments — they are all part of this shift.

*- Gowher Bhat is a Pulwama based writer and skilled English language instructor.*



## Bahar in Badamwari

Mohammad Hanief

Badamwari Garden is a piece of heaven tucked away in Srinagar city. After braving the vagaries of harsh winter, this urban wonder is the first to reverberate with life on the onset of spring season in Kashmir. Locals assemble inside the almond garden and announce the arrival of spring with music and mirth. Apart from almonds, different varieties of flowers present a scintillating view.

The recreational spot also has trails carved for tourists to walk on. During spring, the delicate pink beauty of the flowering almond trees looks like a fairytale. They offer breathtaking views and have become a source of attraction for nature lovers and tourists, alike.

Situated on foothills of Koh-e-Maran, the 300 kanals garden existed even before the rule of Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin in the 14th century. A well-covered dome in the garden is named after an Afghan ruler, Warris Khan. Traditionally, the almond bloom

heralded the spring and marked the New Year for Kashmiris. But with the passage of time, particularly during the past three decades, it has lost its glory. As part of its Heritage Trust, the garden was revived by the JK Bank and formally thrown open for public in 2008.

Between mid-March and mid-April, the almond bloom transforms the garden into a colourful canvas. The air is filled with a gentle fragrance, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in the serene beauty of their surroundings. The garden's strategic location near significant cultural landmarks, including the revered Hazrat Makhdoom Sahib shrine and Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi, adds to its allure. This combination of natural beauty and historical significance makes it a favoured destination for both locals and travelers seeking a peaceful retreat amid the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Kashmir's spring season, notably, is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, with lush greenery and vi-

brant blooms transforming the region into a veritable paradise. Badamwari Garden stands as a testament to this beauty, offering an idyllic backdrop of almond blossoms, historical architecture, and peaceful pathways.

Recognising its growing popularity, the Floriculture Department has undertaken initiatives to enhance its charm. Thousands of lavender trees have been planted on the upper side of the garden, and plans are underway to develop it into a theme garden. This move is expected to attract even more visitors in the future, adding a new dimension to the garden's appeal.

But the main reputation of the garden rests on the spring season—associated with folksongs, beginning of farming activities, and family picnics. The season attracts a large number of tourists from different parts of the country who visit the region to make their time colorful and memorable.

*- The author can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com.*

## Crisis in Young Minds

Mehvish Shakeel

In the modern world, mental health issues are rapidly escalating, particularly among young people. With increasing societal pressures, academic stress, and digital overexposure, youth are becoming more vulnerable to psychological disorders. One such alarming condition is schizophrenia, which has seen a notable rise in recent years.

During my internship at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Kashmir, I observed that schizophrenia constituted the majority of cases among patients. This observation aligns with recent research highlighting that schizophrenia is becoming a dominant mental health concern in the region.

The Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Kashmir is experiencing a significant increase in schizophrenia patients, with an average of 20 individuals visiting the outpatient department (OPD) daily.

Recent studies suggest that up to 90 percent of individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia can lead productive lives at home if the disorder is detected early and treated appropriately. Mental disorders, including schizophrenia, are among the top causes of disease burden worldwide, particularly in the 15-44 age group. Understanding its causes, symptoms, and remedial measures is crucial to addressing this growing crisis.

Schizophrenia is a complex and severe mental disorder influenced by various factors. Some of the primary causes include: Genetic Predisposition, Neurochemical Imbalance, Environmental Triggers, Substance Abuse, Social and Psychological Factors.

Although schizophrenia is a chronic condition, proper treatment and support can significantly improve the quality of life for affected individuals. Some effective



**Schizophrenia is a complex and severe mental disorder influenced by various factors. Some of the primary causes include: Genetic Predisposition, Neurochemical Imbalance, Environmental Triggers, Substance Abuse, Social and Psychological Factors.**

interventions include: Antipsychotic Medications, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT), Social and Psychological Support, Social Skills Training, Community Rehabilitation and Lifestyle and Preventive Measures. The rising prevalence of schizophrenia among youth is a pressing issue that requires immediate attention. Addressing its causes, recognizing early symptoms, and implementing effective treatment

strategies can help in reducing the burden of this mental disorder.

Mental health should not be a neglected aspect of our well-being, and society must work collectively to remove stigma, promote awareness, and support those affected. By taking a proactive approach, we can ensure a healthier and brighter future for our youth.

*- The author is pursuing Masters in Clinical Psychology*



Waqf Bill Passed

accused the Congress and other opposition parties of scaring the Muslim community with the Bill and asserted that the central government worked for all with the motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

Congress member Abhishek Singhvi said the Bill has omitted the concept of 'Waqf by user', at least prospectively, by disallowing Waqfs to be created based on uninterrupted usage over a significant period.

Transaction of Business Rules, which were approved by the cabinet on March 6, and wrote the delay in issuing these rules is contributing to the current administrative friction.

this because as soon as the government was formed, they surrendered saying they do not want any confrontation with Delhi".

patch with dense tree cover, including almond, apple, and walnut trees, along with acacia and willows," Dr. Bhat stated.

Srinagar shootout case, from Jammu to New Delhi.

John Brittas of the CPI(M) said the Bill was an attack on the Constitution.

Expressing his strong disapproval of the transfer order, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, LG Sinha and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, asserting these orders were issued without any 'lawful authority' and undermine the authority of the elected government.

"We do not talk about the real problems, but about who will transfer Patwaris? Who will transfer village level workers? I think this is very bad," she said.

"Who is telling them to fight?" she asked.

Referring to Abdullah's remarks that the Union Territory government does not want to have a confrontation with the Central government, the PDP president said the NC dispensation is "afraid" to even talk about the issues people voted it to power on.

When they came (to power), they said they do not want a confrontation with the Central government. Nobody wants a confrontation with Delhi. But, you have already surrendered. You are afraid to even talk about the issues for which people voted for you," she added.

Advertisement for Kashmir Observer internship program. Includes text: 'Write, Create, Innovate', 'Join KASHMIR OBSERVER', 'Kashmir Observer is calling passionate storytellers, sharp writers, and creative multimedia enthusiasts to join our Editorial & Multimedia Internship Program!', and 'What's in it for you?' with bullet points: 'Hands-on newsroom experience', 'Learn from media professionals', 'Work on real stories & creative projects', 'Build a portfolio that stands out'. Contact: 'If you've got the talent, send your resume to onlineko@outlook.com and take the leap into the world of media!'.



Nasha Mukht J&K

IEC Campaign Against Drug Abuse Kicks Off In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** District Administration Ganderbal launched the Information Education and Communication campaign against drug abuse under Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir, with a mega awareness event held at the Auditorium Hall of Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS), Ganderbal.

The event was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, as the chief guest. Among other dignitaries present were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Faheem Bihazi, District Social Welfare Officer, Deputy CEO, and a large gathering of locals and students.

The objective of the program was to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and promote healthy living, and engage youth in community building. Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the grave threat posed by drug abuse, particularly to the youth and their families.

Highlighting the ill effects of drug abuse, the DC said that the drugs destroy lives and once someone falls into the trap, it becomes very difficult to come out.

He emphasized that the campaign isn't just about warnings or statistics, it's about building a compassionate society that treats addiction as a health cri-

sis rather than a moral failure.

Emphasizing the importance of empathy and support, he said that we must change our mindset towards addicts and need to stand beside those who are suffering and help them rehabilitate.

He maintained that the district administration is committed to making Ganderbal drug-free and our collective efforts should ensure this message reaches every nook and corner of the district.

The ADC, while addressing the gathering, pointed out that students, especially those in vulnerable age groups are most at risk. He called for collective vigilance, urging parents and teachers to recognize the subtle signs and take preventive steps before it's too late.

The ADC implored students to act as ambassadors of the campaign and appealed to them to become our mouthpieces and share this awareness with your families and friends.

Resource persons from Education, Social Welfare and Health at the event also delivered informative sessions, educating the audience about the ill effects of drug abuse and sharing practical preventive measures.

The campaign aims to spread awareness, encourage rehabilitation, and mobilize community support to eliminate the menace of drugs from Ganderbal district.



AN ELDERLY MAN SELLING ROCK SALT at his small shop in Old Srinagar, surrounded by sacks of essential goods. KO PHOTO, FAISAL KHAN

Sajad Lone Vows To Support Any Bill On Waqf In Assembly

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference chief Sajad Lone on Friday said his party is ready to unconditionally support any bill brought in the Assembly pertaining to Waqf.

"We will unconditionally support any bill brought in the J-K Assembly pertaining to Waqf. If NC (National Conference) has any such intention, we will support it," Lone said in a post on X.

Lone's remarks came after a meeting of the legislators of the National Conference and



its allies that condemned the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament. However, the People's Conference chief asked why the National Conference MPs were "apologetically servile" in Parliament (during the debate on the Waqf Bill).

"But can they (NC) answer one simple question? Why on earth was their delivery in Parliament so lacklustre and so apologetically servile."

"J-K is the only Muslim majority province in India. The parliamentarians from J-K should have roared like a lion not meowed like a cat," he said in the post.

The meeting of J-K's ruling alliance was convened in the backdrop of the row over the transfer of 48 JKAS officers by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, which the National Conference claimed "undermined" the elected government's authority.

J-K IS THE ONLY MUSLIM MAJORITY PROVINCE IN INDIA. The parliamentarians from J-K should have roared like a lion not meowed like a cat," he said in the post.

Northern Railway Makes New Record In Scrap Sale

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager, Northern Railway informed that Northern Railway stands at No.1 in scrap sale amongst all Zonal Railways and Production Units of Indian Railway by disposing off scrap worth Rs. 781.07 Crores in FY 2024-25. With the close of e-auction for FY 2024-25, Northern Railway recorded a total sale of Rs. 781.07 Cr. upto the month of March-25, which is the highest ever sale.

With this, Northern Railway has once again created a record in the field of scrap disposal by generating revenue worth Rs. 781.07 Crores during the FY 2024-25 against Railway Board's Annual Sale Target of Rs. 530 Cr which is 147.36% of the sale target and stands at Rank-1 amongst all Zonal Railways and Production Units (PUs) of Indian Railways. Northern Railway is the only Railway to cross the mark of Rs. 700 Cr. in scrap sale this year.

This is the fourth consecutive year in which Northern Railway surpasses the total sale of Rs. 600 Cr and attained Rank-1 for 4 years back to back among all Zonal Railways & PUs. In the process, Northern Railway has sold 3244 Nos. of Lots in 592 E-Auctions from 8 locations. Scrap disposal



is an important activity. Besides generating revenue from Scrap, it also helps to maintain the working premises neat & tidy. Availability of Scrap like Rail pieces, Sleepers, Tie Bars etc. nearby Railway lines is a potential safety hazard.

Northern Railway has also taken the task of disposal of abandoned structures like staff quarters, cabins, sheds, water tanks etc. in a mission mode. This helped not only in generating revenue but also resulted in valuable space being available for better use and avoiding possible misuse of old structures by miscreants. Their quick disposal has priority and monitored at the highest level. Scrap PRC/PSC Concrete Sleepers which have also accumulated in large quantity over Northern Railway are also being disposed off to release the valuable area for Railway activities besides generating revenue. In the current financial year, Northern Railway has

become the only Railway to dispatch ERC (Elastic Rail Clip) clips which were lying idle in various sections over NR to Rail Wheel Factory-Bengaluru/Rail Wheel Plant-Bela (Bihar) for use as raw materials for manufacturing new Wheel & Axles.

Details of Revenue generated are as follows, Northern Railway has disposed P-Way Scrap of 81570 MT worth Rs. 304.76 Cr including 37049 MT of ferrous scrap worth Rs. 128.37 Cr. along with 2016 MT of Non-Ferrous Scrap worth Rs. 53.13 Cr. Besides, condemned rolling stock having total worth Rs. 33.62 Cr has been sold which includes 600 Nos of Wagons, 114 Nos of Coaches & 6 Nos of stripped, unserviceable Locomotives. 25 Nos of Accidental Wagons & 06 Nos of Accidental Coaches have also been disposed off in quickest time.

In addition to this, 12706 MT of Wheel & Axles Scrap worth Rs. 30.63 Cr along with 1259 MT of ERC worth Rs. 4.18 Cr has been dispatched to PUs i.e. Rail Wheel Factory, Bengaluru and Rail Wheel Plant, Bela (Bihar) in this Financial Year.

Further, total 77,453 Nos of scrap PRC/PSC Concrete Sleepers worth of Rs. 3.27 Cr and Abandoned Structures comprising of 2127 Units worth Rs. 9.30 Cr. have been sold through E-Auction.

B'la Admin Bids Farewell To Outgoing ADC, Welcomes New Officers



Observer News Service

**BARAMULLA:** The District Administration Baramulla organized a farewell function at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to honor the outgoing Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina and to welcome the newly appointed ADC, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gulmarg, Mir Jaleel Ahmed.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, presided over the event and lauded the exemplary service of Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, acknowledging his dedication, efficiency, and commitment to public welfare. He highlighted Dr. Raina's instrumental role in ensuring smooth governance, timely execution of development projects, and effective public grievance redressal. The DC also praised Dr. Raina's contribution to revenue administration, particularly in land acquisition cases, dispute resolution, and strengthening revenue records. Additionally, his efforts in overseeing election-related duties, ensuring smooth conduct of polling, and maintaining coordination with various departments were appreciated. The DC expressed gratitude for Dr. Raina's contributions and wished him success in his future endeavors.

On the occasion the outgoing Additional Deputy Commissioner

Baramulla, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina spoke on the occasion, expressing gratitude for the support and cooperation received during his tenure in Baramulla. He acknowledged the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, describing him as an inspiring and dynamic leader under whom the district administration has made significant strides in governance and public service.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Sapore S.A. Raina, newly appointed ADC Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, Joint Director Planning Javed Ahmad, and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Arshad Ahmad Khan, Dy SP HQ Baramulla, Altaf Ahmad Khan also lauded the dedicated services of Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina. They commended his professionalism, administrative acumen, and people-centric approach, highlighting his pivotal role in addressing public grievances, handling revenue matters efficiently, and ensuring seamless coordination between departments.

Earlier, Joint Director Planning Baramulla, Javed Ahmad, welcomed the participants, while Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Baramulla, Arshad Ahmad Khan, delivered the vote of thanks. As a mark of appreciation, mementos were presented to both the outgoing and incoming officers by the district officers and officials.

Admin Directs Maintenance, Beautification Of Shopian Public Park

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta visited a recreational Park at Shopian town to re-view the available facilities, assess its maintenance besides review security and sanitation measures.

The visit aimed to take stock of the management of park in order to promote its recreational purpose for the residents of the district.

During the visit, DC inspected various attractions and directed concerned authorities of Revenue, Police, MC Shopian and Floriculture departments for argumentation of amenities & beautification of park.

He also directed them for installation of CCTVs and street lights around the park.

DC emphasized the need for developing the recreational area to boost its leisure options for residents especially children.

ADDC, Dr Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar, ASP, Showkat Wani, District Floriculture Officer and other district officers were accompanying him.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION- GANDERBAL**  
Email: Edgbl123@gmail.com Tel No. 0194-2416237 Fax No. 0194-2416237

**e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE**  
e-NIT No. EDG/V/003 of 2025-26, dt:03.04.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-Ganderbal invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Electrical Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	Maintenance/Repairing/ Overhauling of available DG sets/ Gensets/ inflatable lights and LED Lights/High Mast Towers in view of SANJY (Company Overhauling of 2x62.5 KVA DG Sets).	9.02

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenders 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. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	03.04.2025; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	23.04.2025; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	03.04.2025; 16:00 Hrs to 23.04.2025; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	24.04.2025 at 13:00 Hrs
v)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vi)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website- <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Treasury Receipt/Demand Draft]
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.18,100/- (Rupees Eighteen Thousand One Hundred Only)

DIPK-NB-34-25  
DT: 04/04/2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Electric Division Ganderbal

AIIMS Vijaypur Serves Over 1.6 Lakh Patients

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of India has revealed that while AIIMS Vijaypur in Jammu has become functional and treated over 1.6 lakh patients, the AIIMS project in Kashmir's Awantipora continues to face delays due to land and regulatory hurdles.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSY), two AIIMS institutions were sanctioned for Jammu and Kashmir. Of these, AIIMS Vijaypur has seen a total patient footfall of 1,61,461, while the Kashmir counterpart remains under construction.

According to the ministry, AIIMS Vijaypur has been allocated Rs 1,963.54 crore, and AIIMS Awantipora has received Rs 2,160.84 crore. The completion timeline is said to depend on factors such as the transfer of encumbrance-free land by the UT government, regulatory clearances, and other site-specific conditions.

The ministry also shared data regarding patients from J&K and Ladakh seeking treatment at AIIMS Delhi. In the past



AIIMS Vijaypur has been allocated Rs 1,963.54 crore, and AIIMS Awantipora has received Rs 2,160.84 crore. The completion timeline is said to depend on factors such as the transfer of encumbrance-free land by the UT government, regulatory clearances, and other site-specific conditions.

six years, 61,033 outpatients and 7,882 inpatients from Jammu and Kashmir have availed treatment at the premier institution. From Ladakh, 5,866 outpatients and 1,623 inpatients were recorded.

AIIMS Delhi currently offers various patient-care amenities, including over 1,500 beds at Vishram Sadans, clean water, charging stations, cafeterias, and rest facilities. The institution also operates services such as the Online Registration System (ORS), Smart Lab Facilities, Jan Aushadhi Kendras, e-shuttle facilities, and accessibility ramps, the ministry added.

Jammu & Srinagar Near Smart City Goals; 23 Projects Still Await Completion

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has announced that 288 Smart City projects have been completed across Jammu and Kashmir, while 23 projects remain under execution as of March 2025.

This update was shared in the Lok Sabha by Minister of State Torkhan Sahu in response to a query on the Smart Cities Mission (SCM). Both Jammu and Srinagar were chosen under the mission, while no city from Ladakh has been selected so far.

The minister noted that in Jammu, 118 out of 127 projects have been completed, with a to-

tal expenditure of Rs 2,779 crore. The remaining 9 projects, worth Rs 190 crore, are in progress.

Meanwhile, Srinagar has seen the completion of 147 out of 161 projects, incurring Rs 3,387 crore in expenditure. 14 projects, valued at Rs 240 crore, are still underway.

On a national scale, the government reported completion of 7,504 projects worth Rs 1,50,306 crore under SCM, while 559 projects amounting to Rs 14,239 crore are ongoing.

However, the Centre clarified that no additional cities will be included under the Smart Cities Mission beyond the originally selected 100

PUBLIC NOTICE

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+91-6005362398 AZ

GENERAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the orders passed by the Hon'ble Munsiff court Magam it is for the information of general public that a civil suit has been filed on behalf of Inhabitants Of Town Magam through Shafat Hussain Mir (Advocate) against UT through Commissioner secretary Revenue and Ors, it is for the information of general public that said civil suit has been filed in representative capacity in which public interest is involved, therefore through the medium of this publication general public especially any interested person/persons belonging to town Magam can join himself as party to the suit as plaintiff or defendant. The scheduled date of hearing of said civil suit is 07/04/2025 before Junior Division Munsiff Magam. -Sd- Shafat Hussain Mir (Advocate) BTmag

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 Iqra Akber D/o Mohammad Akbar Lone R/o Mian Mohalla Pattan with verified date of birth 25/11/2007 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.. SD FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub: issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ibaad Khursheed Sheikh S/o Khursheed Ahmad Sheikh R/o Rasraypora with verified date of birth 31/05/2023 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. SD FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Arfat Tariq S/o Tariq Ahmad Bhat R/o Buran Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 05/04/2009 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 FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan



# IPL 2025: Focus On Jaiswal's Form As RR Aim To Out-Bat PBKS

Press Trust of India

**MULLANPUR:** An out-of-sorts Yashasvi Jaiswal would want his on-field exploits to make headlines rather than his off-field decisions as Rajasthan Royals, led by regular skipper Sanju Samson, will aim to keep a marauding Punjab Kings batting lineup in check in their IPL clash here on Saturday.

Jaiswal, Indian batting's heir apparent to Virat Kohli, recently made news for switching from Mumbai to Goa reportedly due to differences and ego clashes with an ageing, out-of-favour India star in his state team.

The stylish left-hander has also looked scratchy in his three knocks with scores of 1, 29 and



4 and is expected to shoulder a lot more responsibility in this line-up where Samson does most of the heavy-lifting.

One reason for Jaiswal's poor form could be the lack of game time since his ODI debut against

England in February, after which he was dropped from the Indian Champions Trophy squad.

It also remains unclear how Jaiswal has taken Rajasthan Royals' decision to appoint Riyan Parag as the stand-in skipper,

despite the Assamese all-rounder not even being close to him in terms of sheer cricketing quality.

That Jaiswal is desperate for bigger leadership role in national and IPL set-up has become an open secret after his Goa switch but every move will prove to be counter-productive if he doesn't get back among runs quickly. In IPL universe, the form can turn from bad to worse in no time.

Also in the three matches that Riyan led the side, no one exactly saw any special leadership spark which would make him stand out despite his relative inexperience.

While Royals under an inexperienced Riyan didn't look convincing even as they managed to beat an equally out-of-

sorts Chennai Super Kings, the victory will certainly keep them in good stead against a Punjab side which is being led well by a seasoned Shreyas Iyer.

For the Royals' bowling attack, the challenge will be tough against Punjab, whose skipper has been leading from the front with back-to-back half-centuries, both knocks in which he stamped his authority over the opposition.

His batting has been top-notch, with noticeable improvement in his power-hitting. One statistic underscores this transformation -- while he hit 13 sixes in 16 games during IPL 2024, he has already matched that tally in just two matches this season.

Match begins at 7:30 pm.

## Short TAKES

### I-League: Real Kashmir Among 4 Teams In Title Contention

The winner of the 2024-25 I-League season will be decided on the last match day on Sunday. Four teams -- Churchill Brothers, Gokulam Kerala, Real Kashmir and Inter Kashi are in title contention.

Points-table leaders Churchill are the only team among the four with everything in their hands. A win against Real Kashmir in Srinagar on Sunday will ensure the trophy for Churchill, irrespective of any result in the two other matches, which start at the same time (4pm) on the same day.

But winning against Real Kashmir in their den at the TRC Turf Ground is easier said than done. The Red Machines will have their task cut out, especially against a Real Kashmir side, who also have their sights set on making history. The Snow Leopards can bring the trophy to the valley by beating Churchill with a three-goal margin, and hoping Gokulam Kerala don't beat Dempo in another match on Sunday at Kozhikode.

### IPL: Spinners Noor & Kuldeep To Impact CSK v DC Game

Noor Ahmed's guile will meet its perfect match in Kuldeep Yadav's artistry as two wrist spinners will drive the narrative during under-par Chennai Super Kings' important Indian Premier League match against an impressive Delhi Capitals here on Saturday.

It will be an afternoon game in sapping Chennai heat and the kind of tracks on offer will certainly make it a 50-50 match. Kuldeep with an economy rate of 5.25 is the best in terms of quality among the four spinners expected to be in action during the game.

Afghanistan spinner Noor has so far got nine wickets at an equally impressive economy rate of 6.83 and he can certainly prove to be a handful during the middle overs with balls expected to grip the surface.

It will be an engaging contest as both wrist spinners are very different in nature. While Noor bowls at a quicker pace and mostly takes the ball away from the right handers, wily customer Kuldeep has perfected the art of using the angles of the crease and varying the pace of his deliveries.

Match starts at: 3:30pm.

### 'Time To Say Goodbye': Kevin De Bruyne To Leave Man City

Kevin De Bruyne says he will leave Manchester City -- confirming these are his "final months" with the Premier League champion.

The 33-year-old Belgium playmaker, who is out of contract this summer, announced the news in an emotional post on his social media channels on Friday.

"Nothing about this is easy to write, but as football players, we all know this day eventually comes. That day is here," he wrote.

De Bruyne joined City from Wolfsburg for around \$71 million in 2015 and has gone on to win every major honor with the club, including six Premier League titles and the Champions League.

In all he has helped City win 16 major trophies -- including the Club World Cup -- and established himself as one of the all-time Premier League greats.

## All India University Powerlifting Championship Begins In Srinagar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma on Friday declared open the All India University Powerlifting Championship 2025 at University of Kashmir here.

The event is being organised by the University of Kashmir in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities. More than 1200 athletes from around 150 Universities from across India are participating in the tournament.

Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir Professor Nilofer Khan presided over the event, while VC CUK Professor Ravinder Nath, VC IUST, Professor Shaheel A. Romshoo and VC CUK Professor Mohammad Mubeen were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister asserted that this championship will set a new benchmark in promoting inclusivity, equality and sports excellence in J&K. He exhorted



that presence of so many athletes reflects the growing enthusiasm, commitment and discipline of our youth towards fitness and competitive sports.

The Minister emphasized that Powerlifting is not just a physical test, but, a symbol of inner resilience, mental grit and determination. "It teaches us that even the heaviest challenges can be lifted with consistent efforts and perseverance", he added.

The Minister said that the government believes in transformative power of sports in shaping charac-

ter, instilling discipline and fostering excellence. He reiterated that J&K has witnessed a huge resurgence in sports in recent past and the government under the leadership of Chief Minister is committed to strengthen the sports ecosystem.

The Minister commended the University of Kashmir for organising this grand event. He said that hosting national level championships is not only a matter of pride but also a testament to the University's determination in promoting youth engagement, sportsmanship and national integrity.

## Final Selection Trials For J&K Football Team Underway

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The final selection trials for the J&K Men's Football Team, set to compete in the prestigious Swami Vivekananda Under-20 Men's National Football Championship 2025, are in full swing at Mini Stadium, Parade Ground here.

A total of 45 shortlisted players from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, carefully selected from a large pool of talented athletes, are showcasing their skills and determination in the trials. The process is being conducted under the expert supervision of technical specialists from the J&K Sports Council, ensuring a high standard of evaluation.

Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, has directed officials to maintain fairness and transparency throughout the selection process. She has also emphasized the importance of providing state-of-the-art facilities,



proper infrastructure and technical assistance to help athletes perform at their best.

Following the completion of the trials, the final squad will undergo a rigorous coaching camp, designed to refine their techniques, enhance their fitness levels and prepare them for the high-intensity matches ahead.

This training period will continue until the team departs for Narainpur, Chhattisgarh, where

they will represent J&K in the Swami Vivekananda U-20 National Football Championship scheduled for later this month.

With J&K's stellar performance in the recently concluded Santosh Trophy, expectations are high for another impressive showing at the national level. Football enthusiasts and sports authorities are hopeful that the selected squad will rise to the occasion and make J&K proud on the national stage.

28<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

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OR SCAN



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