

Waqf Uproar Ends J&K Assembly Session In Chaos

Observer News Service

Jammu: Uproar over the demand by non-BJP parties for a discussion on the new Waqf Act paralysed proceedings for the third consecutive day in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Addressing the members in the House, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather defended his action of disallowing the adjournment motion by National Conference (NC) members and its alliance partners on the Waqf issue.

He also did not admit a notice for a no-confidence motion moved against him by three opposition members led by Peoples Conference leader Sajad Gani Lone, citing business rules and technicalities.

"The last three days witnessed uproar and the reason was the Waqf amendment law. A majority of the members expressed their resentment against it... I examined the rule book and disallowed the adjournment motions to discuss the issue," the Speaker said.

Pointing to the protesting



members, he said that speeches do not make any difference but "your argument that your concerns should be recorded has already been done".

"You vociferously raised the issue in the House and the message has reached the people," he said.

As the presiding officer of the House, Rather said, he had fulfilled his responsibility in accordance with the rule book. "I am not a dictator and I respect

your sentiments," he said.

Rather spoke unhindered for more than 15 minutes for the first time in the past three days as the House had been rocked by protests from treasury and opposition members who were demanding a discussion on the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Earlier when the House met this morning, the NC members started demanding a discussion on the Waqf Act. The BJP members also | [More on P6](#)

AAP MLA Alleges Assault by BJP, PDP Members

Observer News Service

A scuffle broke out between BJP members and AAP MLA Mehraj Malik in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly premises on Wednesday after he allegedly made some objectionable remarks. The lone AAP legislator was also involved in a heated exchange with PDP members led by Arif Amin, who were present outside the House, after they objected to his remarks against former chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, prompting the security personnel to intervene to prevent a physical clash. Malik criticised the police for allowing PDP workers inside the Assembly complex and asserted he was a leader and "could say anything deems fit". | [The | More on P6](#)



Budget Session Adjourned Sine Die



Observer News Service

Jammu: Speaker of the J&K Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather Wednesday adjourned the House sine die.

The 21 days assembly session commenced on 3rd March with LC's address and culminated today on 9th April 2025 afternoon.

According to the revised calendar, Wednesday was the last day of the Budget Session.

The Speaker lauded the contribution of the members in the smooth conduct of the 21-day-long budget session and said

HOUSE STATS & LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

- 1,355 questions received
- 154 main questions, 353 supplementaries addressed.
- 3 government bills passed
- 33 Private Members' Bills listed.
- 85 of 109 resolutions admitted
- 78 calling attention motions received, 23 listed.
- 39+ hours utilized

it was the second longest in the country this year. A total of 1,355 questions were | [More on P6](#)

No Floor Test, No Exit Speaker Survives No-confidence Motion

The Speaker of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, on Wednesday said that the no-confidence motion brought against him by Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone and PDP MLAs cannot proceed, as the Assembly wouldn't be in session when it has to be listed in the business. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, Rather explained that he had thoroughly examined the notice submitted by Lone and other MLAs regarding the no-confidence motion against him. "As per Rule 215(2), the Speaker has to fix the date for listing of the motion to seek leave of the House 14 days after the notice is given," he said.

He further said the House would not be in session when the resolution has to be listed. "You submitted the notice on April 8, and if you add 14 days, the House would have already adjourned sine die by then," he added. Rather said that the notice requires | [More on P6](#)

NC To Challenge Waqf Amendment Act In SC

The National Conference (NC) will soon approach the Supreme Court to challenge the Waqf Amendment Act, party chief spokesperson and legislator Tanvir Sadiq said on Wednesday.

Sadiq, who represents the Zadibal constituency in Srinagar, said the party considers the Act a constitutionally "alarming interference" in the religious affairs of the Muslim | [More on P6](#)

JJM Under Lens: Probe Panel Formed

Press Trust Of India

Jammu- Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Wednesday formed an 11-member house committee to probe into alleged irregularities in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The committee will be headed by National Conference legislator and former High Court judge Hasnain Masoodi with CPI(M), BJP, Congress, PDP leaders, and an independent, as its members.

On March 22, the Speaker announced the formation of a House committee to probe alleged irregularities in the implementation of JJM in view of persistent demand from the members since the start of the budget session on March 3.

"In view of the pressing demand of the Members on the floor of the House for constitution of a House | [More on P6](#)

Power Generation In J&K Increases By 44%

Agencies

Srinagar: With the frequent rainfall and improvement in weather, the hydel power generation in Jammu and Kashmir has increased by 44 percent in a month.

Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department was facing 84.17 percent dip in power generation owing to the low water level and was generating only 16 percent of energy.

A top official informed that the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC) recorded a peak

hydel power generation of 721 Megawatts (MWs) from the local plants.

"From the power plants of the Kashmir region, the department is currently able to produce 110 MWs of power and in case of power plants in Jammu, the peak generation is 611MW," the official said.

The official further said that the department is likely to produce more power in the coming weeks keeping in view the water level and improvement in weather.

"Currently, we are able to produce more than 60 percent of power against | [More on P6](#)



BJP Ties, Waqf Act, & Tulip Selfie Omar, Mehbooba Trade Barbs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti launched a scathing attack on the ruling dispensation and National Conference (NC) leaders, accusing them of remaining silent on issues impacting Muslims across the country, and turning the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly into a stage for distraction.

Speaking to media persons, Mehbooba Mufti said, "What has happened over



the last three days inside the Assembly is a shameful drama by the ruling party. Outside the Assembly, what happened

in Tulip Garden was equally disgraceful, especially when the country's Muslim population is facing | [More on P6](#)

Just A Coincidence: Rijiju Clarifies

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju Wednesday sought to clarify the controversy surrounding his meeting with

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his father Farooq Abdullah at Tulip Garden, saying the interaction was just a coincidence.

"A beautiful morning walk became a political discussion, echoed even in J&K Assembly too! I briefly came across CM, Omar Abdullah sahab and | [More on P6](#)

J&K Issues 83K Domicile Papers To Outsiders



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday revealed that 83,742 domicile certificates have been issued to non-locals in the Union Territory over the past two years.

In a written reply to MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para, the government stated that a total of 35,12,184 domicile certificates were issued during this period across J&K.

Out of these, 83,742 were granted to | [More on P6](#)

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Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
The registrar birth BDO Singapora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ayaan Bashir Sheikh D.o.B 14/01/2018, Farhan Bashir Sheikh D.o.B 14/01/2018 S/o Bashir Ahmad Sheikh R/o Trikbal Hanjwera Tehsil Pattan occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..
SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hafsa D/o Abdul Hamid Rather R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 08/06/2021 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..
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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 Fatima Ferooz D/o Ferooz Ahmad Lone R/o Ussan kohie pattan with verified date of birth 05/07/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..
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اسٹینس کی گمشدگی
میری ڈرائیونگ لائسنس زبیر نے JK0420100007935 کہیں گم ہوئی ہے۔ اس کی ڈپلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر آرٹو ڈیگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازیں معاو کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
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ساکن دریا گام پورہ ڈیگام۔
فون نمبر۔ 9541204057
mcb

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Public Notice..
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Rabiya Hilal D/o Hilal Ahmad Ganie R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 26/02/2021 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..
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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 Shahan Ali Mir S/o Waseem Raja Mir R/o Bohripora sopore with verified date of birth 16/05/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..
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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 Maryam Mudasar D/o Mudasar Ahmad Lone R/o Hathlangoo sopore with verified date of birth 31/05/2021 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..
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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 Salim Dawood Mir s/o Dawood Rashid Mir R/o Janwara Dangerpora Sopore with verified date of birth 05/08/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..
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From Office of the Advocate F.A. Malla and Associates Lic No. 359/14
In the case of Ab Razak Ahanger S/o Mohammad and sonallah S/o Rashi Ahanger Residents of Goom Ahmaddora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla (Caveators)
V/S PUBLIC AT LARGE (Non-Caveators)
In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C. The caveators have landed property under Survey/khasra no. 840 khewat no. 73 and khata no. 308 situated at Chichloora and Caveators have to construct a shopping complex over the said land and have reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground of Distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveators are given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
bmg

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 Sheena Aijaz D.o.B 09/09/2017, Usman Aijaz D.o.B 09/07/2021 s/o Aijaz Ahmad Teli R/o Kripalgrah Matipora Pattan 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..
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fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan
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Public Notice..
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Rasim sofi S/o Imtiyaz Ahmad sofi R/o Badam bagh sopore with verified date of birth 03/07/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..
SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hurairah D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Navoo R/o Gohal Tangpora Pattan with verified date of birth 28/06/2021 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..
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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGAER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE SRINAGAR
Email: srinagardic@gmail.com / gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in
PUBLIC NOTICE
M/s Muneer Industries. I/E BANK Srinagar stands formally registered with this office under No.: 07/09/01093/PMT/SSI dated 01-03-1980 for the line of activity "Weaving of raffal cotton and silk fabric on power looms" as proprietorship concern of Syed Mohammad Nazim S/o Syed Mohammad Qasim R/o Barakh Pora Nowshera Srinagar. The proprietor of the unit had inducted three partners namely 1. Peer Ali Mohammad Makhdoomi S/o Peer Ghulam Rasool Makhdoomi R/o Gojwara Srinagar. 2. Fayaz Ahmad Malik S/o Habib-Ullah Malik R/o Firdous Colony Eidgah Srinagar and 3. Rafiq Ahmad Malik S/o Habib-Ullah Malik R/o Firdous Colony Eidgah Srinagar as per partnership executed on 22-06-2015
Later on, one of the partners of the unit namely Syed Mohammad Nazim S/o Syed Mohammad Qasim R/o Barakhpora. Nowshera, Srinagar expired on 01-05-2017 as per the death certificate issued by the Registrar of Births & Deaths, Srinagar Municipal Corporation vide registration No.: 7065 dated 24-05-2017 and as per the legal heir certificate issued by the Additional Deput Commissioner. Srinagar vide No.: 391/SM/ADC/7482 dated 10-08-2017. the deceased promoter has the following legal heirs:
1. Masooda W/o late Syed Mohammad Nazim.
2. Syed Omer Rasool S/o late Syed Mohammad Nazim
3. Syed Obaid Ullah S/o late Syed Mohammad Nazim
4. Syed Misbah D/o late Syed Mohammad Nazim.
Now, the above listed legal heirs of Late Syed Mohammad Nazim have approached this office for transferring the lease hold rights in their favour to the extent of share of the deceased.
Any person having any objection for the change of constitution in favour of local heirs shall report to the office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained
DIPK-241/25 dated: 09-04-2025
Sd/- General Manager District Industries Centre Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDEBAL
NOTICE
Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr./Mrs./Miss MANISH KUMAR S/D/W of RAM BILASH Resident of: 656 SECTOR 4 RK PURAM NEW DELHI 110092 in Respect of LMV/Three wheeler / Motor Cycle/ MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. DL12CK7839, Chassis No MAJAXMRKACY68358, Engine No. GY68358 In favour of: AB KHALIQ MIR, S/D/W of: AB SATAR MIR Resident of: KACHAN TULLAMULLA GANDEBAL KASHMIR (Transferee).
Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Leading Papers to the address of undersigned.
No representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.
No. JK/ARTGO/343/IND/Gbl
Dated: 07/04/25
Sd/- Authorized Signatory Assistant Regional Transport Officer Ganderbal
inf

PUBLIC NOTICE
I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 8031 8337 4810 from Shufugta (old name) to Shuguftha Akhtar (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shuguftha Akhtar
R/O :- Sanat Nagar Srinagar jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE
I Ashiq Hussain Ahangar want to change my son's name in his aadhar card bearing no 2515 3550 6887 from Mohd Suhaib Ahangar (old name) to Mohammad Suhaib Ahangar (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Ashiq Hussain Ahangar
F/o :- Mohammad Suhaib Ahangar jvd
R/O :- Sopore Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to General Public that We, SHAHEEN AGRO CHEMICALS AND AGROTEC are applying for the PESTICIDE/Fertilizer License. In this regard, if anybody has any objection he/she may contact PLANT PROTECTION OFFICER LAL MANDI SRINAGAR within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, no objection shall be entertained there after.
Prop. Ishfaq Nabi Shah bs
R/O Larkipora Awantipora Pulwama 192122
Company Name: Shaheen Agro Chemicals And Agrotec.

From the office of Adv M. Afzal and Associates
In the case of 1. Ghulam Ahmad Para 2. Mohd Abdullah Para Sons of Late Habibullah Para 3. Mohd Sadiq Para 4. Ghulam Ahmad Para Sons of Abdul Khaliq Para 5. Shabir Ahmad Para S/o Mohd Ramzan Para 6. Abdul Rehman Para S/o Habibullah Para all Residents of Par Mohallah Pattan Tehsil Pattan Distt Baramulla Kashmir 7. Younis Hamid Baba S/o Abdul Hamid Baba R/o Sheerpura Bangil Tehsil Pattan Kashmir
Caveators
Versus public at Large
In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators are given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
fko Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE
I want to apply for a pesticide marketing licence under the name Ratnakar India Limited, at Shopora Magam. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may submit it to Plant Protection Officer, Lal Mandi Srinagar within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
Abrar Hussain Shah
S/o Gh. Mohd Shah
R/o Kachhama - Budgam
Contact: 7006433327 bmg

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DISTRIBUTION), O&M DIVISION BIJBEHARA,
E-mail:- exenedbij@yahoo.in
NIT: - EDB/e-tender/11 of 2025-26
Dated:-09-04-2025
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders (Single-Cover) are hereby invited from reputed Agencies/ Registered Grocery Shop establishments with valid food license for supply of food items like Cereals/Grains, Pulses Spices, Oil,vegetables, Milk, Bread, Butter, Eggs etc at various padavas enroutte holy cave from Chandanwari for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024.
S. No Name of Work Adv. Cost. (Lacs) Cost of tender document EMD @2%
1 Mess Expences for Staff/ officials on duty at various Padaws. Rs 8.00 Rs. 500 Rs 16000
1 Publishing Date & Time 09-04-2025 (1700 Hrs)
2 Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time 09-04-2025 (1700 Hrs)
3 Seek Clarification Start Date & Time 09-04-2025 (1700 Hrs)
4 Seek Clarification End Date & Time 26-04-2025 (1300 Hrs)
5 Bid Submission Start Date & Time 09-04-2025 (1700 Hrs)
6 Bid Submission End Date & Time 29-04-2025 (1300 Hrs)
7 Bid opening date & Time 30-04-2025 (1300 Hrs)
8 Venue of opening Bids Electric Division Bijbehara
Position of Funds = Demanded
Please Read Document Carefully
The tender document is available on website. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table above. The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted. All the bids must be supported by the Instrument of EMD of the exact amount as mentioned in the above table and shall have been issued post tender publication date. Moreover, any deviation in the EMD amount is liable for rejection.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, O&M Division Bijbehara
No. EDB/TS/89-96 DIPK-NB-147/25 Dated:-09-04-2025

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In double cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/ Central Governments for the following works
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1. Upgradation/ Macadamization of Road Networking of University of Kashmir 591.68 8500/- 11,83,360/- 10-04-2025 to 30-04-2025 (6.00 PM) 01-05-2025 (12:00) "AAY/ Special Class" Civil having MoU with registration HMPO
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.
Executive Engineer
NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/03/25
DIPK-NB-142/25
DATED:- 09/04/2025.

Thousands Attend Fateha Majlis Of Aga Syed Abdul Baqi

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The congregational Fateha of noted Shia cleric Aga Syed Abdul Baqi Rizvi was held on Wednesday at Astana Haj Syed Hasan in Nabdi-pora, Hawal Srinagar. A large number of people gathered at his resting place at Baba Mazar soon after Fajr prayers to offer Fateha and later the service continued through the day at the Astana.

The morning congregation was addressed by noted cleric Maulana Sheikh Ghulam Rasool Noori, who paid glowing tributes to Aga Syed Abdul Baqi's lifelong commitment to faith, spirituality, and community service.

"As his name 'Abdul Baqi' signifies—the servant of the Everlasting—so too shall he,

to and others.

Aga Syed Abdul Baqi, the custodian of the revered Astana Haj Syed Hasan, passed away peacefully on Sunday morning at the age of 88. A deeply respected figure in Kashmir's Shia community, he was known for his piety, humility, and unwavering dedication to religious and social causes.

Throughout his life, Aga Sahab played a pivotal role in guiding the community through both spiritual and societal challenges, becoming a source of solace and wisdom for many. His contributions to religious education, inter-community harmony, and social justice were widely acknowledged.

He is survived by his daughter and five sons, including Syed Gazanfar Hus-



by virtue of his noble deeds, remain alive. Though he has left this mortal world, his essence endures in the hearts of his students, in the voices of scholars he nurtured, and in the sacred mission of propagation he carried forward with unwavering devotion throughout his life," Noori said.

Those who attended the Fateha Khawani, included Aga Syed Hadi, Maulana Khurshed Ahmad Qanungo, Syed Salim Geelani, Aga Syed Yusuf, Aga Syed Hussain, Aga Syed Mujtaba, Maulana Firdousi, Aga Syed Liyaqat, Sheikh Ghulam Hussain Mat-

sain and Aga Syed Aijaz. He was also the father-in-law of senior Shia leader Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari.

Earlier, thousands joined his funeral prayers on Sunday at Alamgari Bazar Chowk before he was laid to eternal rest at his ancestral graveyard, Baba Mazar in Zadibal.

His demise has created a deep void in the religious and social fabric of the Valley. Condolences have poured in from religious leaders, scholars, and members of the community from across Jammu and Kashmir, all mourning the loss of a guiding spiritual light.



Tulip Garden Sees 4.46 Lakh Visitors In 15 Days, Surpassing Previous Records

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar has set a new benchmark by drawing over 4.46 lakh visitors within just 15 days of the ongoing Tulip Show 2025, surpassing last year's total footfall.

Featuring a breathtaking display of 1.7 million tulip bulbs in 74 vibrant varieties, the garden continues to attract tourists in large numbers, with several days of the show still remaining.

This year, two new tulip varieties imported from the Netherlands have been added, further enriching the floral spectacle.

Opened to the public on March 26, the garden recorded an impressive 17,259 visitors on the very first day. The overwhelming response reflects the garden's rising global appeal and its vital role in promoting tourism and highlighting the natural beauty of Jammu & Kashmir.

Around 100 gardeners and casual labourers worked tirelessly

to prepare the garden for this year's event. The Tulip Garden had already earned international recognition in 2023 when it was listed in the World Book of Records (London) as Asia's largest.

In 2024, the garden witnessed a remarkable 4.45 lakh visitors, including nearly 2,000 international tourists. The ongoing surge in footfall this year points toward another record-breaking season, reaffirming the garden's place as a must-visit destination.

SMC Ward-33 Launches Plantation Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Ward 33, Humhama, today initiated a plantation drive aimed at enhancing greenery and improving the environment in the area.

The drive was officially launched near Peerbagh along

the Airport Road, where a variety of plant species and saplings were planted. The initiative continued at Humhama Chowk, with active participation from administrative staff and local attendants under the supervision of the concerned Ward Officer.

Speaking on the occasion, the Ward Officer emphasized

that the initiative is not only intended to beautify the surroundings but also to promote a cleaner and healthier environment for residents. "Planting trees contributes to restoring the city's pristine glory and aligns with our mission for a cleaner and better Srinagar," the officer said.

Barzulla's Bone & Joint Hospital Lacks Echo Facility

Agencies

Srinagar: The Bone and Joint Hospital in Barzulla, Srinagar — one of Kashmir's premier orthopedic government hospitals — continues to lack a critical medical facility: the echocardiogram (Echo) test, causing immense hardships for patients, especially those in critical condition.

Due to the non-availability of the Echo test, even emergency and surgical patients are forced to travel in ambulances to associate hospitals like Shireen Bagh in Karan Nagar to get this basic cardiac examination done. The absence of this facility in a tertiary care hospital has raised serious concerns over the government's healthcare planning.

"When the government is claiming to provide the best facilities in public hospitals, how can such an essential test be missing from a critical hospital like this?" asked a visibly distressed patient who had to undergo

the ordeal late last night.

Jamsheed Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar, narrated his recent harrowing experience to KINS, "My mother is admitted here. She was scheduled for surgery yesterday. Before the procedure, the doctors recommended an Echo test because she is a heart patient. I was shocked to learn that the facility is not available here," he said.

"We were told to take her in an ambulance — with oxygen support — to Shireen Bagh Hospital just for the test. She was in pain and could barely move. Another critical patient was also in the same ambulance. Is this what we call patient care?" he questioned.

Multiple patients and attendants confirmed that this has been a regular practice. "Patients requiring Echo are routinely shifted to other hospitals, even though this is a major orthopedic center," another attendant said.

When reached out to Principal Government Medical College Srinagar,

Dr. Iffat, for her comments, she abruptly said, "Visit my office, we will discuss it," and hung up the phone. The hospital's In-charge Medical Superintendent, Dr. Altaf, acknowledged the problem.

"Yes, the Echo facility is not currently available in the hospital. We have written for the procurement of the Echo machine and have also arranged a cardiologist," he said. "We are shifting into a new building soon, and we are hopeful that the facility will be available there. Until then, patients who need the Echo are being shifted."

He admitted it is a priority issue and said, "We understand how difficult it is for our staff and patients to manage this situation. But we are hopeful that the facility will be available very soon."

Former Medical Superintendent, Dr. Nazir Ahmad, who retired recently, also confirmed the absence of the facility.

"We had placed an order for the Echo machine. It was supposed to arrive soon," he said. (KINS)

CRPF Observes Valour Day At GC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In conformity with the cherished tradition and supreme sacrifice of Brave hearts in reverence, the "VALOUR DAY" celebrated at Group Centre, CRPF, Srinagar by firstly paying homage to those Brave hearts, who laid down their lives at the altar of duty.

Rajesh Kumar, ADG J&K Zone paid the tribute to the Martyrs of the CRPF by laying a wreath at the "Shaheed Samarak". A Sainik Sammelan was also organized on this occasion wherein Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG, Srinagar Sector felicitated th martyr's fam-

ily and recipients of DG's Disc & DG's Commendation Certificate for their outstanding contribution during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024 and General Parliamentary Election-2024 in an investiture ceremony, a statement issued to Kashmir Observer reads.

Valour day is celebrated every year on 09th April to commemorate the saga of exemplary valour, unparalleled courage and phenomenal fortitude displayed by four companies of 02 Bn, CRPF on 09th April 1965 at Sardar Post and Tonk post of Rann of Kuchh, Gujarat against a full-fledged Brigade attack perpetrated by Pakistan Army.

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department,
Zonal Office Anantnag
Bakshiabad, Anantnag-192101. email: amid.zoksou@jkbmail.com

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Nasrullah Hakeem (Chief Manager), as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 18.01.2025 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Sheeraz Ahmad Wani S/O Farooq Ahmad Wani R/O Upper Bazar Qazigund et-al to repay an amount of Rs.7,37,473.47 (Rupees Seven Lacs Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three and Forty Seven Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.12.2024 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 3rd April, 2025

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 7,37,473.47 (Rupees Seven Lacs Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three and Forty Seven Paise Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.01.2025 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Land Measuring 04 Kanal situated at Drien Dawlatabad Qazigund, as per Revenue records falls under Khasra no 765/299/51, (03Kanal) khawat no 157, khata no 384 and Khasra No.454/299/51 (01 Kanal), Khata No.385 & Khawat no.157 of Estate Dawlatabad, Tehsil Qazigund District Anantnag, Kashmir standing in the name of Sheeraz Ahmad Wani S/O Farooq Ahmad Wani R/O Upper Bazar Qazigund

Dated: 03.04.2025

Authorized Officer

Place: Qazigund

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488, 2452222, 2452155
CAPD: 1800180701
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
BIBHERA: 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
10 Shawwal
1446

PRAYERS
FAJR 4: 41
ZUHR 12:32
ASR 5: 08
Magrib 7:01
ISHA 8: 25

This Day In History

- 837 - Comet 1P/837 FI (Halley) approaches within 0.0334 AU's of Earth
- 1589 - Spanish troops conquer Geertruidenberg
- 1815 - Mount Tambora in Indonesia experiences a cataclysmic eruption, one of the most powerful in history, killing around 71,000 people and causing a global volcanic winter
- 1877 - 1st human cannonball act performed in London
- 1887 - US President Abraham Lincoln's re-buried with his wife in Springfield, Illinois
- 1913 - President Woodrow Wilson throws out 1st ball, Senators beat Yankees 2-1
- 1923 - Hitler demands "hatred & more hatred" in Berlin
- 1938 - Austria becomes a state of Germany
- 1944 - Soviet forces liberate Odessa from Nazis
- 1946 - 1st election for Japanese Parliament
- 1964 - Iranian motor launch catches fire & sinks killing 113 (Persian Gulf)
- 1972 - 7.0 earthquake kills 1/5 of population of Iranian province of Fars
- 1973 - Pakistan suspends constitution
- 1979 - Soyuz 33 launched with a Russian & a Bulgarian
- 1981 - Computer glitch keeps Space Shuttle Columbia grounded
- 1986 - Benazir Bhutto returns to Pakistan
- 1989 - Intel corp announces shipment of 80-486 chip
- 1991 - Rare tropical storm develops in the Southern Hemisphere near Angola; first to be documented by satellites
- 1996 - Fastest wind speed ever recorded (not a tornado) 408 km/h (220 kn; 253 mph; 113 m/s) during tropical cyclone Olivia on Barrow Island, Australia
- 2006 - Hundreds of thousands protest H.R. 4437 (aka the "Sensenbrenner Bill") in the United States.
- 2010 - Polish Air Force Tu-154M crashes near Smolensk, Russia, killing all 96 people on board including President Lech Kaczy ski
- 2012 - United Nations deadline for Syrian troop withdrawal passes as violence continues
- 2012 - Apple Inc claims a value of \$600 billion making it the largest company by market capitalization in the world
- 2013 - Japan and Taiwan sign an agreement on fishing rights around the Senkaku Islands
- 2014- 88 civilians are killed by barrel bombs from Syrian war planes in Aleppo, Syria
- 2014- The Council of Europe suspends Russia's right to vote
- 2016- Explosions and a fire caused by fireworks at Puttungal Temple in Kerala, India, kills more than 100 and injures nearly 400
- 2016- Hong Kong pro-democracy political party Demosist established by Nathan Law, Joshua Wong and Agnes Chow
- 2018- Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg begins testifying before US Congress about data use and security
- 2019- First home delivery service by drone begins in Canberra, Australia by Wing, part of Google's Alphabet company
- 2019- First-ever photo of a black hole announced, taken by The Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration in 2017 in galaxy M87, 6.5 billion times the mass of earth, 55 million light-years away
- 2019- Four tiny sweat bees removed alive from a woman's eye in world's first operation of its kind at Fooyin University Hospital, Taiwan
- 2019- New species of human announced named Homo luzonensis, 3ft tall, remains dated 50-60,000 years old found in cave on island of Luzon, Philippines
- 2021- China orders Alibaba pay a record fine of 18.2 billion yuan (\$2.8 billion) after anti-trust regulations say it has been acting as a monopoly
- 2022- Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan removed from power after losing a no-confidence vote in
- 2023- The Dalai Lama apologizes for a video showing him asking a boy to suck his tongue, after widespread criticism

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KO VIEW

Statehood Can't Wait

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir culminated in a clear directive to security forces: sustain the gains made post-Article 370's abrogation and intensify the crackdown on terrorism. He called for inter-agency coordination, area domination, and a "zero terror" goal to consolidate the relative peace achieved in the region in recent years. If anything, this shows that the security still remains top of the priority for the centre in Kashmir, and it doesn't want to take any decision that might be deemed to undermine this focus. Hence, perhaps the lingering delay in the restoration of statehood. But who knows, like the Assembly polls last year, the central government may pleasantly surprise the people of J&K on this score as well.

As of now, however, the centre hasn't revealed its cards. Both the prime minister Narendra Modi and the home minister Amit Shah have time and again promised the restoration of statehood at an appropriate time. What they have not given so far is the timeline. This is because the existing arrangement is seen as ideal from the centre's standpoint and the union government might be loath to alter this favourable arrangement by granting an early statehood to J&K. More so, when there also are far bigger reasons to withhold it. Centre, it is believed, is unlikely to let go of control on the security agencies and the allied security related matters, lest it unravel the gains made in recent years. The recent rise in militancy-related violence is likely to further dissuade the central government from handing over complete control over the region to an elected government. At the same time, it would be increasingly difficult to ignore the aspirations for statehood in the UT, as this will only deepen alienation. Best available option for the centre is to trust the elected government with running the state of affairs and make it accountable for its actions.

Also, the logic of the security can perpetually hold hostage a political call on the grant of statehood in the near to medium future. It is true that Kashmir has come a long way in recent years and since the assumption of office by the elected government the gains have been further built on. At the same time, for all the existing prolonged stability, Kashmir remains an unpredictable place. An occasional spurt in the violence can be an endless point of bother, even though it may not detract from the larger normalcy. So, the centre shouldn't delay statehood further and trust the elected government with doing its job, in turn giving people of the region a sense of empowerment.



Did You Know?

Why Timing Matters in Kashmir Markets

Irshad Mushtaq

In the world of investments, every asset class has its own rhythm and timing when it comes to returns. Observing the last decade of financial history reveals fascinating patterns. For instance, there have been periods where gold, despite its value as a stable investment, has not shown any significant returns for several years. Yet, in recent years, particularly over the past two, the returns on gold have been nothing short of remarkable.

Similarly, the equity market, or stock market, has its own ebb and flow. Over the past ten years, there were phases where returns were non-existent, leading investors to question their decisions during those downturns. Notably, during market crashes, stock prices can plummet, wiping out profits and reverting to values seen in the distant past. However, when markets recover, the returns can be incredibly rewarding.

Looking ahead, it's crucial to remember that no asset class offers consistent returns indefinitely. For example, September 2024 might mark a shift for some asset classes. Gold might perform poorly in some years and excellently in others. The same applies to equities, real estate, and other investment vehicles. Recently, real estate in regions like Kashmir—specifically in urban areas such as Srinagar—has seen varied returns based on tourism and local developments, hinting at the nuanced nature of real estate investments.

One fundamental truth holds across all investment types: they are subject to the forces of demand and supply. High demand with limited supply often leads to significant returns, while the opposite can result in declining profits.

Investors must understand that every investment has its own time. Successful investment strategies often involve diversified asset allocations, including gold, silver, real estate, mutual funds, and international ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds). Whether investing in emerging markets like China or in established economies like the USA, or exploring debt funds, diversification remains key.

Equities, in particular, are best approached with a long-term perspective. Although short-term investments in the stock market require excellent money management techniques to be profitable, the most successful investors typically understand that equity markets are not designed for quick gains. Long-term holding generally reaps the most substantial rewards.

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Assembly or Akhada?

From the scuffle between rival party members to the storming of the Well of the House and even an attempted manhandling of marshals, the events have shaken public confidence in legislative propriety.

Ahmad Ayaz

“People don't vote to send gladiators. They elect representatives to solve problems, ask tough questions, and drive meaningful change. When legislatures descend into drama, the real casualty is public trust—and ultimately, the common citizen.”

Assemblies and Parliament are not about muscle power. They are meant to represent the will of the people, frame laws, and hold the government accountable. These institutions are platforms for open debate, discussion, and informed decision-making on issues that shape our collective future.

They uphold democratic governance by checking executive overreach, allocating public resources, and safeguarding the rights and interests of the people. The strength of these institutions lies not in noise or aggression, but in the calibre, vision, and knowledge of those who occupy them.

Yet, over the last three days, what the people have witnessed in the J&K Assembly is nothing short of a dangal. Physical assaults by legislators, verbal chaos, and disorderly conduct have taken center stage. From the scuffle between rival party members to the storming of the Well of the House and even an attempted manhandling of marshals, the events have shaken public confidence in legislative propriety. Time that should have been used to address critical public issues has been squandered. Precious hours and taxpayer money have been wasted in theatrics rather than in thoughtful legislation.

When shouting matches, personal barbs, and physical scuffles take over, the sanctity of these institutions is eroded. The Assembly begins to resemble an akhada—a wrestling pit—where the goal seems to be domination, not deliberation.

People don't vote to send gladiators. They elect representatives to solve problems, ask tough questions, and drive meaningful change. When legislatures descend into drama, the real casual-

ty is public trust—and ultimately, the common citizen.

This recent spectacle in J&K should raise serious concerns about the quality of political culture and legislative behavior. It reflects a worrying trend where substance is being replaced with showmanship, and governance is becoming a stage for personal vendettas and ego battles. Such behavior not only weakens the legislative process but also diverts attention from the real issues facing the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The region has its share of challenges: unemployment, infrastructural deficiencies, rising cost of living, an uncertain business climate, and long-standing political grievances. The Assembly must function as a forum to find solutions to these problems, not to deepen divisions or distract from duties.

A mature democracy requires mature leadership. Lawmakers must rise above petty politics and personal rivalries. They must set an example of civility, reason, and responsibility. It is only through focused deliberation and policy-making that the aspirations of the people can be fulfilled.

In this context, the role of political parties is equally critical. They must ensure that their members understand the gravity of their responsibilities. Internal party discipline, regular training on legislative norms, and mechanisms to curb unruly behavior are essential. Moreover, party leaderships must not glorify aggression as strength. Instead, they should reward constructive debate and sincere representation.

The Speaker of the Assembly, too, has a pivotal role in maintaining order and decorum. The chair must act impartially and firmly to ensure proceedings do

not devolve into chaos. Suspension or penalties for unruly members may sometimes be necessary to uphold institutional dignity.

Media also plays a significant role in this dynamic. While reporting such incidents is necessary, sensationalism must be avoided. The focus should be on accountability, not just entertainment. Civic discourse must evolve, and the electorate should be made aware of their representatives' behavior within the Assembly.

This episode is a moment of reckoning. It calls for introspection among politicians, political parties, institutions, and the public. Governance is serious business, and the Assembly must reflect that seriousness.

Ultimately, democracy is not just about elections alone; it's about daily conduct, choices, and the spirit of service. If our legislative spaces turn into akhadas, we risk losing the very essence of representative governance. The real dangal is not fought in the well of the House, but in the arena of ideas, accountability, and public service.

As voters, people expect more—not just flashy speeches and tall promises, but dignified conduct, clarity of purpose, and competence. The real dangal isn't between political opponents—it's between governance and gimmickry. And it's a contest where we, the people, must always be the referees.

Ahmad Ayaz is a political analyst and national television debater. He can be reached at ahmadayaz08@gmail.com.

Views expressed in this article are author's own and do not necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

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Tulips Take Over Kashmir

As the snow melts and spring breathes life into the valley, Srinagar transforms into a vibrant canvas of colours. Among its many breathtaking sights, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden stands out as a wonderful marvel. Nestled in the foothills of the Zabarwan Range, this garden is a spectacle of nature that attracts lakhs of visitors every year. The tulip

that blooms from mid-March to April, makes it the perfect time for travellers to witness this floral extravaganza and immerse themselves in the beauty of Kashmir's spring.

Every year, this grandiose festival draws a huge attraction as it offers a breath of fresh air to the discord-dented region. In fact, the London-based World Book of Records has included the garden for a record

of 1.2 million bulbs bloomed in 2018. It has also been judged among the top five tulip gardens of the world by the World Tulip Summit Society in Canada.

Indeed, the promising petals of tulip flowers bloom in Kashmir around this time every year against the snow-capped mountains, lure the locals and tourists back to a land torn by years of turmoil. With its rich his-

tory and cultural significance, Tulip garden has become a must-visit destination for those seeking quietude and inspiration amidst the stunning landscapes of Kashmir.

Ranganathan Sivakumar
Chennai

The Kashmiri Scholar the System Keeps Discarding

In Kashmir and beyond, countless men and women silently endure a daily death — their hearts turning into graveyards of crushed dreams, unmet desires, and fading joy.

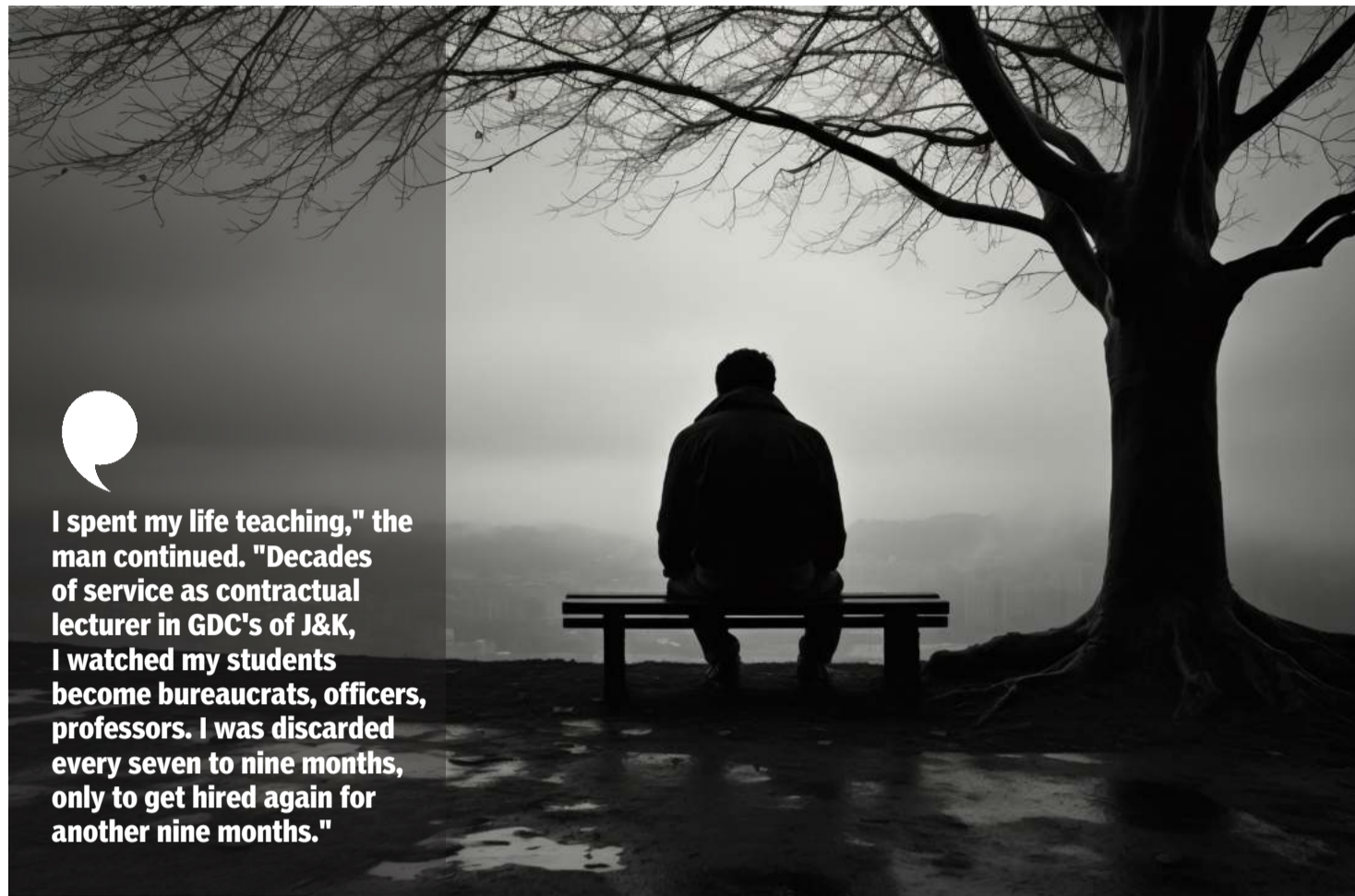
Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Altaf Lala (name changed) has buried countless desires and ambitions in the depths of his heart. His life, though outwardly composed, tells a far more complex and poignant story beneath the surface.

Recently we both were in Srinagar hospital to attend a common friend. After the rasm-e-khabar, we went on a stroll to Dal Lake. It was a cold winter evening in Srinagar. The mist curled around the streetlights, and the air carried the familiar scent of burning wood from distant chimneys. Dr. Altaf and I walked slowly along the boulevard, his hands deep in his jacket pockets, his thoughts heavier than the damp winter sky. To any passerby, he looked like any other man lost in thought. But beneath his quiet demeanor lay a graveyard of buried aspirations, unspoken pain, and silent struggles.

For over a decade, Altaf had devoted himself to academia. A PhD, a postdoctoral fellowship, research papers in reputed journals—each a testament to years of sacrifice. He had cleared NET and SET, proving his merit, hoping that one day, all this effort would translate into a secure, dignified career. But in Kashmir, where bureaucracy and unpredictability rule, that hope was an illusion. He missed regular appointments two times by a fraction of points — by decimals 0.10 and 0.40 respectively.

Now he is working as a contractual lecturer in one of the GDC's of Kashmir. He gets hired and fired every seven to nine months at the whims of officials who had never set foot in a classroom. Each year ends in uncertainty, his contract renewal hanging in the air like a death sentence waiting to be issued. There were no guarantees, no stability—only endless waiting, only new policies that seemed designed to keep



I spent my life teaching," the man continued. "Decades of service as contractual lecturer in GDC's of J&K, I watched my students become bureaucrats, officers, professors. I was discarded every seven to nine months, only to get hired again for another nine months."

people like him in limbo.

At home, the stress took its toll. His parents, once proud of his achievements, had grown weary of his unstable career. His father would sigh in frustration, "What was the use of all those degrees if you can't even secure a proper job?" His mother, though kinder, could not hide her worry. She had seen other young men—less qualified, less ambitious—settle into government jobs, buy homes, start families.

Marriage had been another battlefield. The first proposal fell through when the bride's family

learned he had no permanent job. The second ended in a bitter argument between relatives—"What kind of future can he offer?" they had whispered. And the third, the one that had actually turned into marriage, quickly collapsed under the weight of financial instability and societal pressure. His wife, once understanding, grew resentful. The love that had once united them eroded under the constant stress of uncertainty. Eventually, she left.

Relatives weren't any better. They measured success in government salaries, land ownership, and social status. In their eyes,

Adil was a failure. The whispers at family gatherings, the casual taunts from uncles and cousins—"So, still waiting for that job? Maybe it's time to start a business instead." They laughed, unaware—or perhaps indifferent—to the damage their words inflicted.

The locality was no different. Neighbors who once admired his academic achievements now spoke of him with pity. The fruit vendor outside his home greeted him with, "Doctor Sahib, any news yet?" The tone wasn't one of respect, but of quiet mockery.

But the worst part of it all was

what it did to him. The sleepless nights, the stress-induced headaches, the gnawing anxiety that never left him. His health had deteriorated—gastric issues from constant stress, migraines that made it impossible to focus, and a weight loss that everyone noticed but no one spoke about.

That evening, as we sat by the Dal Lake, we noticed an elderly man feeding pigeons. Something about his solitude drew Altaf in. Without thinking, he sat beside him.

"The pigeons always come back," the old man said, breaking the silence. Altaf glanced at

him, unsure how to respond. "But people, they leave. And sometimes, they take parts of us with them." Man continued. Altaf felt his throat tighten.

"I spent my life teaching," the man continued. "Decades of service as contractual lecturer in GDC's of J&K, I watched my students become bureaucrats, officers, professors. I was discarded every seven to nine months, only to get hired again for another nine months." Altaf looked away, his own future flashing before him. "You are too young to let your heart turn into a graveyard," the old man said, his voice soft but firm.

With this brief conversation we left the elderly man feeding the pigeons. We reached our homes. I called Altaf next morning to enquire about him. He informed me, that night he sat at his desk, staring at his research notes, the ones he had abandoned in despair. He picked up his pen, not to write another job application, not to prove his worth to those who would never see it—but to reclaim what was his.

Because if the system refused to see his value, he would not let it bury him alive. His battle was not just for a job—it was for dignity, for self-respect, for the right to exist beyond the rules of a game rigged against him. Some battles are not won overnight. Some struggles stretch across lifetimes. But as long as a voice remains, as long as a mind refuses to surrender, no matter if heart becomes a graveyard of emotions. And in that defiance, in that refusal to be silenced, lies the hope of something greater.

Today, Altaf and thousands like him in Kashmir aged forty and above, not eligible and worthy by the definitions set by the system, are sailing the same boat.

- The author is a Chadoora-based teacher-researcher, and Advisor at The Nature University, Kashmir.

Love, Loans & Lehengas: The Great Kashmiri Wedding Trap

Marriage shouldn't be a life-threatening event. It shouldn't bankrupt families or shatter dreams.



Aliya Manzoor

In Kashmir, marriage is no longer just about love, companionship, or commitment. It's about wealth, status, and extravagance. The emphasis has shifted from building a life together to proving a point to society, neighbors, and social media followers.

For a middle-class groom, the road to marriage is no less than a battle. He's expected to carry the weight of societal expectations, financial burdens, and outdated customs. He's doing all this while trying to start a new chapter in life.

It begins with the pressure to secure a government job. Without it, the boy is labeled unworthy and incapable of supporting a wife. But that's just the beginning. He must also have a car, a large home, a thriving business, and an untarnished social image. And then comes the crushing blow: the dowry.

Despite religious teachings that emphasize mercy and simplicity, dowry or Maher has become a symbol of prestige, not compassion. In many cases, the demand isn't less than ten lakhs,

turning what should be a sacred obligation into a humiliating transaction. It reduces marriage to a business deal, a price tag, an unspoken auction.

Often, the Nikah and Rukhsati are separated by years, giving families more time to inflate expectations. The groom, caught in this storm, turns to desperate measures. He takes loans from friends, uses his mother's jewelry, mortgages the family home, or dips into his father's retirement savings. He may even drain his business account just to meet the crushing demands of a single event.

We've turned a simple life event into an extravagant spectacle. Weddings, once joyous and personal, have become intimidating, unaffordable, and often destructive. The result? Delayed marriages, emotional trauma, financial ruin, and a generation unable to move forward. Children are growing up in households weighed down by debt and stress. Young men buckle under pressure. Young women, disillusioned by society, either turn away from marriage or fall into toxic patterns: drug use, unhealthy relationships,

depression.

If one wedding costs twenty lakhs, the next must cost fifty. We are not just competing; we are destroying. Parents fuel this madness too, pushing their sons to earn more, achieve more, and throw a wedding that becomes the talk of the town, no matter the cost.

This race for grandeur has erased the soul of marriage. The pressure has become unbearable. We are being merciless to our boys and blind to the consequences. We talk about change, but no one dares to act. We speak of simplicity, but fail to practice it. We celebrate extravagance and shun humility.

The truth is, marriage shouldn't be a life-threatening event. It shouldn't bankrupt families or shatter dreams.

It's time we stop turning weddings into a contest and start honoring them as the sacred, beautiful bonds they are meant to be. If we don't break this toxic cycle now, we will leave behind a legacy of burden for the generations to come.

-A Sociology postgrad, the author writes incisively on social dynamics.

Anantnag's Ace Educator Who Moved Generations

Muneera Mushtaq Shah retires, but not before transforming Anantnag's schools through three decades of visionary leadership and impactful educational reform.

Dr. Mushtaq Rather

It was a fanfare farewell to a campus coach who as a leader lit up learning amid darkness. That's how Muneera Mushtaq Shah was remembered while given sentimental sendoff. For those wondering about this lowkey educator, a dive into her decadal services becomes worth considering.

The effable tutor's leadership abilities have shaped the fate of innumerable schools in Anantnag. She motivated and inspired huge chunk of her colleagues to leave an everlasting impression in the lives of their students. Muneera worked tirelessly to ensure the execution of academic policies at the grassroots level and took every challenge as an opportunity and designed multipronged strategies to mitigate those challenges.

The successful evolution of an educational institution is hugely influenced by the proactive role executed by the head of the institution. All the important policy documents like NEP 2020, National Curricular Framework for School Education 2023 (NCF 2023) lay strong emphasis on leadership role.

The central competency cited in NEP 2020 is the collaborative approach - the defining skill to be imbibed both by the educators and the modern era learners. Individualized efforts would not suffice and the role of the heads of institution is actually that of a nerve centre to manage the human resource at their disposal.

Muneera Shah had this inbuilt quality to take every staff member on board. This transformed her as an undisputed successful team leader.



She has literally been the engine of change. Her innovative leadership qualities has ensured the steady rise in enrolment. In one of her place of postings as a team leader, the enrolment of the kindergarten section swelled to more than 90 students and was thus successful in winning the trust and faith of the parents and community.

Muneera infused a degree of accountability in her institution: be it the punctuality of the teacher, ensuring the framing and execution of lesson plans by the teachers, monitoring classroom activities, cordial rapport even with the students, and active engagement with parents, especially mothers through regular parent-teacher meet.

One of the root causes and serious issues plaguing the government-run schools is the lack of public

ownership. People hardly bother to work towards the betterment of these institutions and are escaping from shouldering their responsibilities to transform them. There is a serious disconnect between the school and the society. Both school administration and society are to be equally blamed.

The school administration need to honour and accommodate the genuine reservations of School Management Development Committee Members in decision-making process. The society too need to reciprocate by taking the ownership responsibilities of these schools. What rendered Muneera Mushtaq Shah as an inspirational team leader was her well-knit social-connect strategy.

She extended due regard to people from different shades of life and grossly engaged them in core de-

cision-making process vis-a-vis development of the educational institution. This certainly raised the bar of the educational institution in the public domain.

Irrespective of impediments and challenges, Muneera's unique working style needs to be imbibed and replicated by the rest of the heads of institutions to transform their respective institutions as thriving learning centres. The department of education should make it mandatory for the heads of the institutions to undergo leadership building programs to orient themselves with latest trends in the field of leadership administration. This will go a long way in enabling the execution of academic policies at grassroots level in real spirit.

-The author is a Mattan, Anantnag based educator.

RCB v DC: Intriguing Battle With Personal Match-Ups On cards

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Drama and mayhem is on the cards when fearless Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Delhi Capitals take on each other in a high-stake IPL match, where the outcome will be governed by a clutch of intriguing personal match-ups, here on Thursday.

The Capitals have three wins from as many matches, and the Royal Challengers bagged three victories from four games. That record testifies their wonderful shapeshifting ability according to opponents and conditions.

Royal Challengers have mastered conditions as distinct as Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai and their lone stumble came at home against Gujarat Titans.

It was more to do with a rather out of character Chinnaaswamy pitch taking them by surprise than any sudden erosion in skills.

The RCB will be wiser for that experience against the Delhi side, who have



wins at varied Visakhapatnam and Chennai tracks.

But the hosts will be a confident group as star batter Virat Kohli made a return to run-making ways after an all too brief blip.

If the 22-yard strip here retains its nature from that GT match, then Kohli's form will be crucial for RCB.



Kohli v Starc & Kuldeep

The 36-year-old Indian star will have two formidable foes to negate in this match — pacer Mitchell Starc and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

Kohli has an edge over Starc in T20s as he has scored 72 runs off 31 balls, but the Aussie is in fine fettle this season taking

nine wickets from three matches at an average of 11.

So, Kohli's battle with Starc in the Power Play will have a massive influence on RCB's initial charge. Kohli will come up against Kuldeep (6 wickets at an economy of 6) if he bats a bit deeper, and it will be an interesting battle.

Kohli is a much-evolved batter in T20s after shedding his reticence to play lofted and sweep shots against spinners.

It has allowed him to bat with more liberty against slow bowlers, and Kuldeep's endless bag of tricks will challenge the senior pro, especially the one the slides away from the right-hander.

Here, in-form RCB skipper Rajat Patidar too will have a big role to play as he is a superb player of spin, and, in that context, DC will hope for a heavier contribution from left-arm spinner Axar Patel.

The Delhi captain has bowled just eight overs across three matches, and is yet to take any wickets.

Match starts at 7.30 pm.

Short TAKES

Goa Crime Branch Arrests 34 In IPL Betting Racket

Acting on complaints filed by Police Inspectors, two FIRs were registered against illegal betting operations, which were being carried out from two rented premises — one at R&A Business Hub behind Punjab National Bank in Pirni, Nagoa-Salto, and another near Holy Cross, Curca in Panaji.

The accused were using betting apps such as Reddy, Lotus, and Lionking247.BET to solicit bets from members of the public. By impersonating account holders and luring users to deposit money into fraudulent bank accounts, the accused are alleged to have defrauded the public of approximately Rs 40 lakh.

The police seized 18 mobile phones, 5 laptops, 3 Indian passports, 11 bank passbooks, 8 cheque books, 54 SIM cards and 363 ATM cards from different banks.

Among items recovered by the police were 83 mobile phones, 6 laptops, 12 desktop computers, 6 CPUs, 3 routers, 84 bank passbooks, 27 cheque books and 109 ATM cards.

PBKs' Glenn Maxwell Fined, Handed One Demerit Point

Punjab Kings all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has been fined 25 per cent of his match fee and handed one demerit point for breaching IPL Code of Conduct during the match against Chennai Super Kings here.

The 36-year-old Maxwell has admitted to the Level 1 offence under article 2.2 which relates to abuse of fixtures and fittings during the match which was played here at the New PCA Stadium on Tuesday.

Maxwell, who has been struggling for form both with the bat and the ball, fell for one run, giving a return catch to CSK spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on the second ball he faced to be dismissed for one.

Punjab Kings, however, went on to win the high-scoring match by 18 runs and are placed fourth on the points table with three wins and one defeat in four matches so far.

England's Fifth Entry In Next Champions League Guaranteed

Arsenal's win over Real Madrid conclusively sealed England's long-expected fifth guaranteed entry in the Champions League next season.

In the new 36-team Champions League format, UEFA awards bonus places to the two nations whose sides collectively perform the best over the three European club competitions this season.

England, which has led the rankings since early in the season, has the most teams — five — left playing across the three competitions. It now cannot be caught by third-place Italy.

The English Premier League confirmed its fifth entry in the Champions League after Arsenal's stunning 3-0 win over the defending champion on Tuesday in the first leg of the quarterfinals.

Spain is second in the UEFA rankings though still can be caught by Italy.

Real Kashmir Hosts 2 More Matches Of AIFF Junior League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC on Wednesday hosted two matches of the U-15 Junior League 2024-25 at the TRC Ground in Srinagar.

In the first fixture, Sreenidi Deccan FC outplayed the host team Real Kashmir to secure a win. The second match saw Corbett FC emerge victorious against Inter Kashi in a competitive clash.

The league, organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), granted

RKFC the hosting rights for the matches in Srinagar. Visiting teams lauded RKFC for their commendable arrangements and hospitality throughout the event.

RKFC expressed gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Health Department, J&K Police, and other allied departments, sponsors, for their continuous support and cooperation in ensuring the smooth conduct of the matches.

The U-15 Junior League aims to promote grassroots

football and nurture young talent across the country through structured competition and exposure.

Real Kashmir Thanks J&K Sports Council & YSS Secy

In a statement on Wednesday, Real Kashmir thanked J&K Sports Council Secretary Nuzhat Gull and Department of Youth Services & Sports Secretary Sarmad Hafeez.

The club thanked JKSC and its Secretary for "their unwavering support and dedication to the development of football in the region."

Real Kashmir also thanked Sarmad Hafeez for "his continued support and contribution to the growth of sports in Jammu and Kashmir."

The club said it looked forward to "continued collaboration in nurturing football talent and promoting a vibrant sporting culture" across the region.

DYSS Holds Sports Events Across 8 Srinagar Zones

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services & Sports has set the stage for a thrilling season of camaraderie and athleticism as intra-school sports competitions kicked off on Wednesday, energizing all eight sports zones of Srinagar district.

Hundreds of students from the Government and private schools are diving into the action, turning playgrounds into hubs of excitement and competitive play.

From spirited track events to team sports, the competitions are designed to celebrate physical fitness while nurturing teamwork and resilience among young participants.

"This isn't just about winning medals—it's about discovering passion, building confidence, and fostering lifelong healthy habits," said Director General of Youth Services and Sports Rajinder Singh Tara.

Zone Batamalo emerged as an early standout, with schools hosting lively opening ceremonies and students showcasing remarkable talent.

"Seeing kids from all backgrounds unite through sports is heartwarming. These events are shaping tomorrow's leaders, both on and off the field," shared District Youth Services and Sports Officer Srinagar Gh Hassan Lone.



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