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Scholarships This Week

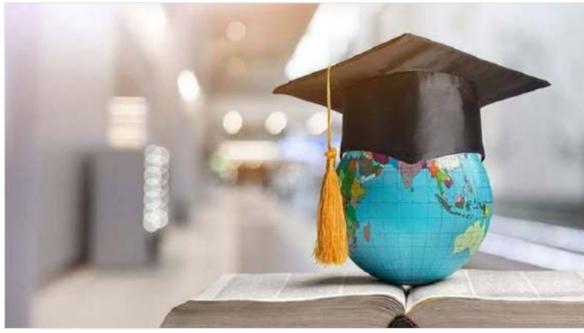
Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1 The Cadence Scholarship Program 2025-26

Description: The Cadence Scholarship Program 2025-26 provides financial assistance to Indian nationals pursuing undergraduate and professional courses in select regions (Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad, or Hyderabad).

Eligibility: Must be an Indian national residing and studying in one of the eligible regions. For undergraduate courses, applicants should have passed Class 12 with a minimum overall score of 60% (current Class 12 students may apply based on previous records). Must come from a lower-income group. Preference will be given to STEM students, female students, and eligible specially-abled or transgender candidates.

- Prizes & Rewards: Financial support for covering key educational expenses.
- Last Date to Apply: 30-04-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TCSP5
- QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qk10r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/2025-261742806712.png>



income families across India, ensuring the continuity of their education. **Eligibility:** Open to Indian students belonging to SC and ST categories pursuing a master's or postgraduate course (any year) at a premier university or college outside India. They should have secured at least 75% marks or above in their previous academic year, with a gross annual family income of up to INR 6,00,000.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 20,00,000 or 50% of course-related expenses (whichever is less)
- Last Date to Apply: 30-04-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SBIFS12
- QR Code: [https://d2w711p59qk10r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/2024-251739532940.png](https://d2w711p59qk10r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sbif-asha-scholarship-program-for-overseas-education-2024-251739532940.png)

Description: UQ International High Achievers Award - India 2025 is offered by the University of Queensland, Australia to students pursuing undergraduate/postgraduate courses at the university.

Eligibility: Open for students of selected countries including India holding a valid passport. Applicants must have received an offer to pursue full-time undergraduate or postgraduate coursework at the University of Queensland. Students must have English language proficiency, relevant program entry rank, and competitive scores as determined by the University.

- Prizes & Rewards: 20% reduction in tuition fees per semester.
- Last Date to Apply: Round The Year
- Application mode: Online Applications Only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UQ1
- QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qk10r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/20251743482473.png>

Scholarship Name 3 UQ International High Achievers Award - India 2025

Scholarship Name 2 SBIF Asha Scholarship Program for Overseas Education 2024-25

Description: The SBIF Asha Scholarship Program for Overseas Education Students, one of India's largest scholarship programs, is an initiative of the SBI Foundation under its education vertical - Integrated Learning Mission (ILM). This scholarship aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from low-

Selling Your Old Laptop Or Phone? You Might Be Handing Over Your Data Too

The Conversation

You're about to recycle your laptop or your phone, so you delete all your photos and personal files. Maybe you even reset the device to factory settings. You probably think your sensitive data is now safe. But there is more to be done: hackers may still be able to retrieve passwords, documents or bank details, even after a reset. In fact, 90% of second-hand laptops, hard drives and memory cards still contain recoverable data. This indicates that many consumers fail to wipe their devices properly before resale or disposal. But there are some simple steps

you can take to keep your personal information safe while recycling responsibly.

The data security risks

Discarded or resold electronics often retain sensitive personal and corporate information. Simply deleting files or performing a factory reset may not be sufficient. Data can often be easily recovered using specialised tools. This oversight has led to alarming incidents of data leaks and breaches. For example, 42% of used storage devices sold on eBay still contained sensitive data, despite sellers following methods to erase data. This included passport images, school records, and corporate documents.

Another 2022 study found that improperly erased internet-connected devices stored private data, making them vulnerable to exploitation. European e-waste exported to Ghana also contained classified corporate and government files, exposing security risks beyond personal identity theft. A major wireless provider in the United States failed to securely decommission storage devices. This led to a data breach affecting 14 million customers. Similarly, in 2021 improperly discarded medical hard drives exposed over 1,00,000 confidential patient records. Why standard factory resets are not enough Many people believe performing a factory reset fully erases their data. But this is not always the case.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Bilal Ahmad Gilkar want to change my daughters name in her aadhar card bearing no 5769 5124 1150 from Shymaa Bilal (old name) to Mahirah Bilal (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.
 Bilal Ahmad Gilkar F/o :- Mahirah Bilal
 R/O :- Lal Nagar Zakura jvd

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

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

Public Notice

The registrar Death EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to Death of Mughli Begum W/o Gh Mohi ud din sofi R/o Aram Mohalla Pattan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of death 02/04/2024 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 Jasim Javid Mir s/o Javid Ahmad Mir R/o Andergam Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 30/08/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD 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 Farhan Mohammad Bhat s/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Malpora Buran Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 06/12/2011 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Farhan Mohammad Bhat s/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Malpora Buran Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 06/08/2009 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..

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the school records, the name of my son has been mentioned as Shyman Shakeel who is presently studying in class 7th Section, Yellow in Minto Circle School, Allochi Bagh, Srinagar whereas his Correct name is Shaymaan Shakeel Punjabi. Now, I have applied for the correction of the same in his school records. In this regard, anybody having any objection may contact the office of the Principal, Minto Circle School, Allochi Bagh, Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shakeel Ahmad Punjabi
 F/o:- Shaymaan Shakeel Punjabi
 R/o:- Hamza Colony Near grid Station Ellahi bagh
 Contact no: 788937475 Media line Ads

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE BANDIPORA

Present: Khalil Ahmad Choudhary

- In the case of:
1. Khadija Begum W/o Late Abdul Khaliq Shah
 2. Rubeeha Begum W/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah
 3. Ajaz Ahmad Shah S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Shah
 4. Ulfat Rashid D/o Ghulam Mohammad Shah
 5. R/o Sumbal Sonawari District Bpr.

(Petitioner)

V/S Public at large

(Respondent)

In the matter of: Petition for grant of Succession Certificate with respect to the amount Rs. 20,60,290/-. Whereas the case above titled is sub-judice before this court and through the medium of this newspaper the general public is informed that if any person/persons has/have any objection to the aforementioned case, they are hereby directed to appear before this court on dated fixed, i.e., 16/04/25, failing which appropriate proceedings will be followed.

Principal Distt. Judge, Bandipora fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohd Shafee to Mohd Shafi Sofi. In future I will be known as Mohd Shafi Sofi. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact the Passport office, Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted

ss

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my service book as Abdul Hamid Parray S/o Gh Mohd Parray S/o Gh Mohd Paray R/o Bandgam Magam which needs to be corrected. 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.

Ab Hameed Paray S/o Gh Mohd Paray R/o Bandgam Magam bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Zareena Akhter D/o Ab Rashid R/o Dunapoo Pahalipora Shopian want to correct my name and DOB on adhaar record which has been wrongly written as Zareefa instead of Zareena Akhter also my DOB is wrongly entered as 12-08-1998 instead of 05-03-2000. Now Correction required if anybody has any objection may contact concern Adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar or Concerned authorities within 7 days.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Shamim Ahmad Wani Father Of Seerat Shamim R/O Kanipora Shopian Want To Correct My Ward's Name In Adhaar Records Which Has Been Wrongly Written As Seerat Jan Instead Of Seerat Shamim. If anybody has any objection may contact concern Adhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar or Concerned authorities within 7 days.

fko

اطلاع عام

میں ہلال احمدی ولد غلام حسن وانی ساکن موضع چک تحصیل ضلع بڈگام پڑیا شہنشاہ ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ جولائی 11000 HT زینٹی ازرقیہ جات ہلال احمدی سے وہاں ہے کہ وہ ان زینٹیہ جات سے زرا نفاذ کے سبب کار سے نصب کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ اس ضمن میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کسی قسم کا کوئی نذر اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر نفاذ میں آجائے گا۔ ورنہ پھر میں پیش کریں۔ یہاں تک کہ اس کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

بشمول ہلال احمدی ولد غلام حسن وانی ساکن کھوار چک بڈگام۔ فون۔ 9149611951

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the school records, the name of my Daughter has been mentioned as Mayedah Shakeel who is presently studying in class 10th Section, Green in Minto Circle School, Allochi Bagh, Srinagar whereas her Correct name is Mayeedah Shakeel Punjabi. Now, I have applied for the correction of the same in her school records. In this regard, anybody having any objection may contact the office of the Principal, Minto Circle School, Allochi Bagh, Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shakeel Ahmad Punjabi
 F/o:- Mayeedah Shakeel Punjabi
 R/o:- Hamza Colony Near grid Station Ellahi bagh
 Contact no: 788937475 Media line Ads

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT) Office of the Block Medical Officer Hajan

Phone No/FAX: 01954265335/265220
 Email ID: bpmuhajan@gmail.com

Short Notice Inviting Tender

E-Tenders are invited through jktenders.gov.in from eligible and experienced suppliers for entering into an Annual Rate Contract for the supply of drugs, consumables, and laboratory reagents to various health institutions of Health Block Hajan for the financial year 2025-26, on an item-rate, as-and-when-required basis. The tender has been published vide NIT No: 2025_HME_275555_1 bearing Tender Reference No: BMOH/Drugs-Tender/2025/521-22 dated: 11-04-2025. The list of items is detailed in the BOQ and tender document. Bidders are required to quote rates for each item and upload all necessary documents including GST registration, PAN, experience certificates, Drug License, and an EMD of 100,000/- in favour of Block Medical Officer, Hajan. Only technically qualified bidders with prior experience in supplying to government hospitals shall be considered for financial evaluation.

For complete details, interested bidders may visit: www.jktenders.gov.in
 DIPK-340/25 dated: 12-04-2025

Sd/-
 Block Medical Officer
 Hajan

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION URI

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

eNIT No. 02 of 2025-26/190-96/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 11-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, e-quotation on percentage basis is invited from the approved tour & travel agencies/ vehicle owners/Driver having licence for engagement of vehicle for office use of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri for the year 2025-26 as per BOQ.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Notice	11.04.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.04.2025 from (05:00 PM) to 17.04.2025 (2:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	11.04.2025 from (05:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	17.04.2025 (2:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17.04.2025 (3:00PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Valid Treasury Receipt/challan under Major Head 0059 PWD for an amount of Rs. 300/- in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (Tender Inviting Authority) and Earnest Money /Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR for an amount of Rs. 5000/- pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (Tender Receiving Authority).

Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids
 - a. Copies of registration documents including insurance certificate, pollution clearance certificate, fitness certificate.
 - b. Copy of earnest money deposit & tender document fee indicating name of work therein.
 - c. Pan Card & Aadhar Card.
 2. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents.
 3. The rates quoted by the bidder should be per month including wages of Driver but excluding fuel charges.
 4. The vehicle should be properly insured and should have all the documents registered with RTO (J&K)
 5. The driver of the vehicle should be valid licence holder issued in his favour by the competent authority.
 6. That in case of any damage caused during its utilization/ use in the department, the department shall have no responsibility for its repairs for any kind of compensation.
 7. Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B I.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of the latest quarter/ latest Month
 8. The vehicle along with driver should be available for 24hours during working days as well as holidays.
- Price escalation & taxes: The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the job unless otherwise, specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the successful bidder on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery if required.
- All other terms & conditions shall remain same as in vogue in PWD

No: 2025-26/190-96
 DIPK-326/25 Dated:- 12-04-2025

Sd/= Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

DC Flags Off Walkathon To Raise Awareness On TB Elimination

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud Din Bhat flagged off Walkathon and Shikarathon from Nehru Park to SKICC here today as a part of the outreach activities of the 52nd Annual National Conference of the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSMCON 2025).

Prominent Health functionaries and experts including Chairman of the National Task Force on Tuberculosis, Dr. Ashok Bharadwaj; Chairman of IAPSMCON 2025 and HoD Department of Community Medicine, GMC Srinagar, Dr. S. M. Salim Khan; District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Abdul Rouf and other dignitaries and delegates of the National Conference graced the occasion.

DC while interacting with the participants underscored that community participation and public engagement is vital in disease prevention, health promotion and strengthening collective resolve to eliminate TB from district.

Dr Bilal said that the outreach activities are aimed at strengthening the collective re-

solve to eliminate tuberculosis, in line with this year's theme: "Yes! We Can End TB — Commit, Invest and Deliver."

The Walkathon and Shikarathon were the joint initiatives of the Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Tuberculosis Control Society Srinagar and Directorate of Health Services Kashmir.

During the events, participants wore specially designed T-shirts bearing the theme message, symbolizing solidarity and shared commitment in the fight against TB.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from medical professionals, students, health workers, and community members, highlighting the importance of public engagement in disease prevention and health promotion.

It is worth mentioning that, the 52nd IAPSM Annual Conference is a prestigious event that brings together public health experts from across the country to discuss pressing health issues, share research, and collaborate on strategies for advancing preventive medicine.

LD Hospital Marks 'National Safe Motherhood Day-2025'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government Lal Ded (LD) Hospital, in collaboration with the Safe Motherhood Committee of FOGSI observed 'National Safe Motherhood Day-2025' with a series of awareness activities themed 'Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures.'

The event highlighted the critical importance of accessible and high-quality maternal care from the preconception period through pregnancy and the postpartum phase. The theme reflects the urgent need for inclusive maternal healthcare to ensure safe, healthy outcomes for mothers and their newborns.

Prof. (Dr.) Syed Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology emphasized maternal rights as a cornerstone of public health. She called for increased investment in women's health, stressing its vital role in sustainable de-

velopment and the well-being of future generations.

Prof. Masuma further emphasized the importance of regular antenatal check-ups for early detection and management of complications, ensuring vaccinations such as influenza and tetanus for pregnant women, focusing on maternal nutrition, including adequate iron and calcium supplementation besides promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months to enhance newborn immunity and bonding.

Dr. Muzaffar Jan, Medical Superintendent of LD Hospital, spoke on the foundational pillars of safe motherhood, family planning, timely antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric response, and comprehensive postnatal services. He also highlighted the significance of investigation and health screening prior to pregnancy to identify and manage risk factors early.

Div Com Reviews Arrangements For Baisakhi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of the celebration of Baisakhi festival by Sikh Community, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri chaired a meeting of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and officers of line departments to review overall arrangements of basic amenities at Gurdwaras and habitations of the community across Kashmir.

While reviewing the facilities, Div Com directed DCs to ensure uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply at all religious places of the community, and laid special emphasis on encompassing arrangements at Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi, Rainawari Srinagar. He asked SMC to ensure sanitation and cleanliness at Gurudwara at Rainawari and surroundings besides other prime religious places to facilitate devotees.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed the traffic department to ensure availability of adequate space for vehicles of participants of Baisakhi festival at Chatti Padshahi, Rainawari and impressed for meticulous arrangements for hassle-free movement of transport. Besides, Bidhuri issued a slew of

Market Inspections Conducted Within Peripheries Of Gurdwaras

Srinagar: Following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud Din Bhat, teams of the Food Safety & Drug and Food Control Organization undertook an intensified markets checking in City areas particularly around Gurdwaras and Mughal Gardens, aimed to safeguard public health by ensuring the quality and safe food items are sold in City markets on the eve of Baisakhi festival.

During the drive led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, as many as 10 Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded under Section 69 and Food Safety & Standards Act for violating Food Safety and Standards Act. A collective penalty of Rs 11,000 was also realized from the 4 FBOs on the spot.

directions for ensuring availability of fire tenders, medical facilities, repairs of streetlights, and emphasized on close coordination among departments for executing smooth arrangements.



Srinagar Police Launch QR Code-Based Feedback System

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday launched a QR code-based feedback system named BHAROSA QR in Srinagar to enhance public trust and citizen engagement, an official said.

In a step towards further promoting transparency, accountability, and strengthening public trust, Srinagar Police has launched a QR code-based feedback management system named BHAROSA QR to collect real-time feedback from the general public regarding the functioning and services rendered by the police, a police spokesman said.

He said this "citizen-friendly" initiative allows individuals to scan QR codes placed at all police stations, police offices, and prominent public locations such as bus stops, marketplaces, and major institutions.

Once scanned, users are redirected to a secure feedback page where they can share their experiences, suggestions, and concerns related to police behaviour, responsiveness, and overall service delivery. The



In a step towards further promoting transparency, accountability, and strengthening public trust, Srinagar Police has launched a QR code-based feedback management system named BHAROSA QR to collect real-time feedback from the general public regarding the functioning and services rendered by the police.

process is quick, simple, and takes less than a minute, the spokesman said.

He said Srinagar Police

has also introduced a dedicated WhatsApp number 8899112888, where citizens can send feedback directly through text, voice messages, photos, or videos.

The system is anonymous, and designed for accessibility, encouraging inclusive participation from all segments of the society, the spokesman added.

A dedicated feedback management cell at SSP Srinagar office will regularly monitor the feedback, ensuring prompt action on grievances and recognition of commendable conduct by police personnel, the spokesman said.

This initiative is part of Srinagar Police's ongoing efforts to modernise policing and deepen community engagement, he said.

This is the latest in a series of initiatives, which include dedicated helplines for police verification queries and reporting drug-related activities, the spokesman said.

Citizens are encouraged to make full use of the platform and contribute to building a safer, more transparent, and trustworthy policing environment in Srinagar, the spokesman added.

HELP

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
14 Shawwal
1446

FAJR	4:36
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:10
Magrib	7:03
ISHA	8:28

This Day In History

- 989 - Battle at Abydos: Byzantine emperor Basilus II beats Bardas Phocas
- 1204 - Crusaders occupy Constantinople
- 1367 - Battle at Nájera Spain: Castile & England beat Aragon & France
- 1517 - Ottoman army occupies Cairo
- 1759 - French beat European Allies in Battle of Bergen
- 1796 - First elephant arrives in US from India
- 1796 - Battle at Millesimo Italy: Napoleon beats Austrians
- 1849 - Hungarian Republic proclaimed
- 1868 - Abyssinian War ends as British and Indian troops capture Magdala and Ethiopian Emperor commits suicide
- 1869 - Steam power brake patented (George Westinghouse)
- 1904 - Battle at Oviumbo Africa: Hereros chase away German army
- 1904 - A squadron of the Russian fleet is decoyed out of Port Arthur by Japanese maneuvers, when they realize they are sailing into a trap; their battleship Petropavlovsk hits a mine and sinks, with a loss of 700 men
- 1919 - British troops open fire on demonstrators in Amritsar, India, killing 350
- 1940 - 2nd battle of Narvik; 8 German destroyers destroyed
- 1941 - Pact of neutrality between the USSR and Japan is signed.
- 1944 - Diplomatic relations are established between New Zealand and the Soviet Union.
- 1959 - USAF launches Discoverer II into polar orbit
- 1959 - Vanguard SLV-5 launched for Earth orbit (failed)
- 1960 - France becomes 4th nuclear nation exploding an A-Bomb in Sahara
- 1981 - Pulitzer prize awarded to Beth Henley for "Crimes of the Heart"
- 1981 Wash Post Janet Cooke wins Pulitzer Prize (later admits story a hoax)
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1984 - 11th Space Shuttle Mission (41C)-Challenger 5-returns to Earth
- 1984 - India beat Pak by 58 runs to win 1st Asia Cricket Cup in Sharjah
- 1985 - "TASS" denounces US boycott of Moscow Olympics
- 1985 - Space Shuttle Atlantis ferried to Kennedy Space Center via Ellington AFB, Texas
- 1985 - Katrin Dörre wins 1st female World Cup marathon (2:33:30)

From KO Archives

Gone Are The Days When We Would Be Dismissed: Farooq

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah today ridiculed threats of dismissing his government saying the National Conference was governing the state with massive support of the people who were the real fountain of power.

Nobody can; dismiss us, gone are such days, Dr. Abdullah declared at a largely attended rally organised to felicitate the newly elected member to Rajya Sabha, Mirza Abdul Rashid at Zanana Park here this afternoon.

Without naming Mufti Sayed's People's Democratic Party, the chief minister said some parties were roaming in villages saying that their stand on holding talks with militants has been vindicated. Truth is that decision of releasing Hurriyat Conference leaders was taken after consultations between the state and central governments". He said he was not against holding talks with anybody provided these are held within the constitution.

(Kashmir Observer 13 April, 2000)



OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ... but... did I clean it enough? Wash it again? Is it clean now?

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN, myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMER Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research in collaboration with **HPVT** (Help Poor Voluntary Trust), is initiating a **free 8 weeks Group therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of I & K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral, simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar

9070806160

The Business of Birth in Kashmir

Cesarean deliveries are surging at an alarming rate in Jammu and Kashmir, triggering concerns over medical ethics, institutional practices, and the urgent need for patient awareness.

Er. Haya Aijaz

“
In earlier times, women gave birth without complications on roads, in tongas, in caravans, and even while migrating from one place to another. Nomadic women delivered babies anywhere, anytime, without hospitals or technology, and often without medical issues.

In recent years, Kashmir has witnessed a massive surge in cesarean section deliveries, raising serious concerns among public health experts baring concerned surgeons.

With a steady increase in test driven C-sections, many healthcare professionals are reportedly steering patients toward surgical births often for convenience or profit, turning this into a disturbing trend. Many expecting mothers report feeling pressured into cesarean deliveries.

Doctors frequently cite vague or questionable reasons such as the baby's size, low amniotic fluid, potential distress, or hypothetical complications to push for surgery. They often claim, "It's safer for the baby," or "We don't want to take a risk," without giving women full information or viable alternatives.

Ironically, the advancement of technology in healthcare, rather than making childbirth more natural and safe, has made it harder for women to deliver normally. In earlier times, women gave birth without complications on roads, in tongas, in caravans, and even while migrating from one place to another. Nomadic women delivered babies anywhere, anytime, without hospitals or technology, and often without medical issues.

Even today, in villages and far-flung areas where modern technology has limited access, normal deliveries are still common. Women in these regions often remain healthier and stronger than their urban counterparts, despite not undergoing frequent scans or clinical followups. This contrast raises an important question: Has technology truly improved maternal health, or has it enabled a trend of unnecessary surgical interventions?

What's unfolding now borders on a butcher's business cutting women open without valid medical grounds. Many women go through a full nine months of pregnancy, strictly attending follow-up appointments, undergoing all necessary tests, and maintaining active lifestyles,



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Despite having more than six children, our grandmothers remained active, healthy, and mentally strong, often living long, fulfilling lives. Today's women, in contrast, are facing reproductive and physical health challenges earlier in life.

only to be wheeled into the OT at the last moment for a cesarean procedure. This not only undermines the essence of childbirth but also puts women's longterm health at risk.

Interestingly, C-sections were originally introduced as lifesaving interventions during life-threatening conditions. Unfortunately, in many urban and semi urban settings, they are now being promoted and preferred even in normal cases, often without justified cause. This issue is not just medical, it is becoming a modern social evil. It is alarming and deeply concerning, yet often overlooked. The overuse and abuse of cesarean deliveries threaten not only physical health but also emotional and psychological wellbeing.

Raising awareness is no longer optional, it's a necessity. Women must be educated about their rights, childbirth choices, and the longterm consequences of surgical deliveries. By questioning medical recommendations, seeking second opinions, and pushing for evidence based practices; patients can reclaim

their autonomy and dignity in the childbirth process.

Many doctors today don't even wait for the onset of labor pain, which is medically important for a woman's body to naturally prepare for delivery. Labor pain is not just a sign, it is a crucial physiological process that signals readiness and helps the body transition smoothly through birth.

Natural delivery through the birth canal plays a vital role in developing a baby's immunity. As the baby passes through the canal, it encounters beneficial maternal bacteria that help build the child's immune system. However, in cesarean births, often done 10 to 15 days before the due date, this essential step is skipped. Babies are taken out through the lower abdomen, without any natural exposure.

This unnatural entry into the world can lead to serious complications. In many cases, the baby is rushed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) just minutes after birth, deprived of the warmth and comfort of the mother's chest. What

should have been time spent in the mother's womb becomes time in an incubator.

Complications like Acute Respiratory Distress (ARD), neonatal infections, and respiratory failures are now frequently observed. ARD in particular is a life-threatening condition that affects the baby's ability to breathe properly, often requiring ventilatory support. Such complications not only pose immediate risks but can also lead to long-term developmental delays, poor immunity, and prolonged dependence on medical care. Often, these babies spend 10 to 15 days in NICU and are later discharged with a long list of care instructions. In unfortunate cases, complications worsen, sometimes becoming untreatable.

We need to understand that women of this era are already older, biologically and functionally, than our grandmothers ever were even in their youth. One of the key reasons is that their deliveries were extremely natural without unnecessary surgical interventions. Despite having more than six children, our grandmothers remained active, healthy, and mentally strong, often living long, fulfilling lives. Today's women, in contrast, are facing reproductive and physical health challenges earlier in life.

This issue demands urgent attention, not just from the healthcare sector but from society at large. Women must reclaim their choices, and families must support informed decisions over fearful ones. It is high time we see childbirth not as a profit-making opportunity, but as a natural, empowering experience that deserves respect, patience, and dignity.

It's time we stand against this silent crisis. The health and future of our women deserve more.

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

The Other Side of Marriage

'If good husbands are ignored and emotionally wounded, the future will be filled with broken homes, broken hearts, and broken generations.'

Syed Majid Gilani

Marriage is supposed to be a peaceful bond, a safe place where two people share love, respect, and emotional comfort. It should be built on daily care, mutual understanding, and kindness. But today, many honest and caring husbands suffer quietly. Their love, loyalty, and hard work often go unnoticed. Their patience is seen as weakness, and their silence is taken as satisfaction. Slowly, this emotional emptiness begins to damage the relationship.

Think about a man who works hard all day, physically, mentally, or both, and comes home each evening hoping for some warmth, maybe a kind word, or even a simple smile. But instead, he's met with coldness, silence, and no interest. His wife doesn't ask how his day was, doesn't show concern, and gives no comfort. The home, which should bring peace, becomes a place where his heart quietly breaks.

In some situations, this distance is not a mistake, it's a tactic. Some wives create it on purpose, using emotional coldness to stay in control. They return love with silence, not always because they don't feel anything, but to keep their husband unsure, insecure, and always seeking approval. He starts to feel like a stranger in his own home, not asking for luxuries, just for attention, a few words, and a little love.

When a man gives his heart unconditionally and gets only indifference, something inside him begins to break. His emotional needs are ignored, and the repeated rejection slowly tears at his soul.

What began as a beautiful journey full of love and hope becomes a dull routine. The colors fade, the warmth is gone. Trust begins to die. Respect disappears. What remains is just a shared space filled with silence and sadness.

Sadly, instead of choosing empathy, kindness, and togetherness, some wives start using emotions as weapons. In doing so, they lose something priceless, the heart of the man who once loved them beyond words.

Problems, no matter how painful,

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When a man gives his heart unconditionally and gets only indifference, something inside him begins to break. His emotional needs are ignored, and the repeated rejection slowly tears at his soul.

can be solved with patience, maturity, and honest conversation. Anger, emotional games, or revenge only make things worse. Turning to elders, seeking guidance, and involving sincere relatives can help repair the damage, if both partners are willing.

When a wife treats her husband with respect, includes him in decisions, and expresses care in small ways, she strengthens the home. But when she lies, insults his family, spreads false stories, or disrespects his place in the home, the foundation cracks. Just like a tree cannot survive with broken roots, a marriage cannot survive if one partner's value is ignored.

Marriage is a lifelong journey. It needs love, effort, patience, and forgiveness. If we want peaceful homes and a strong society, we must recognize the quiet pain of many sincere husbands. Because love, care, and respect must go both ways for a marriage to grow and last.

Strong families make strong societies. But if this trend continues, where good husbands are ignored and emotionally wounded, the future will be filled with broken homes, broken hearts, and broken generations.

The author writes about human relationships and moral values. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.

Valley's Thought Prison

In Kashmir, traditional mindsets and social pressures are quietly discouraging independent thinking and personal growth, affecting both individuals and the community.

Arshid Qalmi

It's heart-breaking to witness how societal rigidity and mental stagnation still pervade our schools, families, and public discourse. Across communities, we see how judgmental attitudes, prejudice, and jealousy quietly grow, not as isolated flaws, but as inevitable outcomes of deeper psychological and social constructions. Narrow-mindedness, fixed mind-sets, and inherited societal norms are the invisible chains that hold back not only individuals but also the progress of Kashmir.

Narrow-mindedness is not merely a lack of exposure to diversity; it is a conditioned resistance to it. In our schools, for example, students are too often discouraged from asking uncomfortable questions. In households, conformity is sometimes mistaken for respect. And in social circles, someone who dares to think differently is easily branded as rebellious. Such rigidity leaves little space for nuance or empathy and reinforces the tendency to judge others quickly, often harshly.

Closely tied to this is the fixed mindset, the belief that intelligence, morality, or social value is fixed and unchangeable. This mind-set leads to a poisonous comparison culture where the success of others feels like a threat. If a student excels, jealousy brews instead of inspiration. If a peer breaks out of traditional moulds, gossip follows. Our youth, especially, suffer under this weight. Instead of being encouraged to grow, evolve, or fail gracefully, they are conditioned to measure their



worth against societal expectations and the achievements of others.

Reinforcing these tendencies are deeply ingrained social constructs. In many parts of Kashmir, one's value is still measured by outdated metrics: grades, family reputation, government jobs, material wealth. Girls and boys are assigned roles that leave little room for individuality. Mental health is often dismissed as weakness, and non-conformity is stigmatized. These constructions create an atmosphere where jealousy festers, not because people are inherently envious, but because they

are taught to view life as a zero-sum game.

Jealousy, in such a context, becomes almost inevitable. It stems not from greed but from a sense of inadequacy, shaped by constant comparison and societal pressure. In school staffrooms, between relatives, or even on social media, one can feel the subtle undercurrents of competition and resentment. Success becomes a source of isolation instead of joy. Authentic relationships are sacrificed for appearances.

This is a dangerous pattern. When judgment replaces dialogue, prejudice replaces curiosity, and jealousy replaces

self-reflection, we begin to lose our sense of community. We stop listening to each other. We stop growing.

But this can change. It must. The way forward is through a cultural and psychological shift, one that begins with our classrooms, our homes, and our policy spaces. Teachers must be trained not just in curriculum delivery but in emotional intelligence. Parents must be encouraged to nurture individuality instead of comparison. And our education policies must move beyond grades and marks to include well-being, critical thinking, and intercultural awareness.

We must ask ourselves: Are we raising children to think or to obey? Are we encouraging our peers to grow or to conform? Do we celebrate success or silently resent it?

In the end, the most radical and healing act in our time may be to remain open-minded, to allow ourselves and others to evolve, and to view difference not as danger but as depth. Kashmir has long been a land of poetry, mysticism, and reflection. Let us not allow our social rigidities to strangle its intellectual and emotional future.

Let educators reflect. Let parents introspect. Let students dare to dream beyond the boxes society hands them. Only then can we dismantle the mind's cage and create a society where compassion outshines comparison, and where every individual is free to bloom.

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The Matriarch of Change

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

For more than 20 years, Nighat Shafi Pandit has quietly but powerfully shaped the social landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. From championing women's empowerment to promoting education and harmony, her work speaks of deep commitment and quiet resilience.

As the founder of HELP Foundation and an advisor to several state and national bodies, Nighat has helped build initiatives that touch lives—whether through microfinance, cultural preservation, or grassroots development. Her contributions haven't gone unnoticed: a Nobel Peace Prize nomination, the Stree Shakti Award, and the Asian Peace Award are just a few honors in recognition of her impact.

In this conversation with Kashmir Observer, Nighat reflects on her journey, the changing realities for women in Kashmir, and why culture continues to be a vital force for connection.

It's a pleasure to speak with you today. Your journey and accomplishments are incredibly inspiring. To start, could you share what inspired you to dedicate your life to social work and community development?

I was driven by the cries for help in my community. In 1997, Kashmir was going through a difficult time, marked by turmoil and conflict, and I felt compelled to act. The incident that truly sparked my journey into social work was my husband's attack in an ambush. Witnessing the suffering and challenges faced by those around me, I realized that I had to do something meaningful to help. Additionally, my mother's legacy played a significant role in inspiring me. She was a kind and compassionate person who always put others before herself, dedicating her life to helping those in need. Growing up, I saw her selflessly serve our community, and I wanted to carry on her work and make a difference in the lives of those around me. Her example of kindness and compassion deeply influenced my decision to dedicate my life to social work and community development.

You've been involved with numerous esteemed organizations, including the Ford Foundation and the J&K State Women Commission. How have these roles shaped your approach to social work and community development?

My involvement with the Ford Foundation and the J&K State Women Commission has been instrumental in shaping my approach to social work and community development. Working with the Ford Foundation taught

me the importance of community engagement and participation in development initiatives. I learned how to design and implement projects that are responsive to the needs of the community and how to build partnerships with local organizations to amplify impact. My experience with the J&K State Women Commission showed me the power of women's empowerment in transforming communities. I saw how economic empowerment, in particular, can have a ripple effect, leading to increased confidence, improved health, and better education outcomes for women and their families. These experiences have informed my approach to social work, and I now prioritize community-led initiatives and women's empowerment in my work.

As the Founder and Chairwoman of the HELP Foundation, you've achieved remarkable milestones. Can you tell us more about the foundation's mission and its impact on the community?

Our mission is comprehensive development through education, livelihood, and women's empowerment. We've made a significant impact in districts like Kupwara, Budgam, and Srinagar, supporting over 30,000 women in various skills and initiatives. We've established schools, vocational training centers, and microfinance programs across the valley. Our initiatives have led to self-sustaining businesses, improved education, and increased economic independence for women.

One of the notable initiatives under the HELP Foundation is the establishment of a Women's Credit Cooperative Bank for micro-financing. Can you tell us more about it?

This initiative was actually spearheaded by the cooperative department, which approached me due to my prior experience working with women. When I joined, the bank had 500 members, and through our collective efforts, it grew to 2,200 members. Despite the challenges we faced, the initiative has been a resounding success, providing easy access to loans and empowering women to take control of their financial lives.

The credit cooperative society has been a game-changer for women's empowerment in our community, enabling them to start their own businesses, invest in their children's education, and achieve financial independence. We recognized that women were often excluded from formal financial systems and lacked access to capital to start or grow their businesses. The cooperative bank addresses this gap by providing microfinance loans to women,



enabling them to invest in their livelihoods and improve their economic stability.

The Impact has been profound, with women reporting increased confidence, improved economic security, and better healthcare and education outcomes for their families. Moreover, the bank has created a sense of community and solidarity among women, who now support and encourage each other in their entrepreneurial endeavors. This initiative has not only provided financial empowerment but also fostered a sense of sisterhood and collective growth.

What are some of the most impactful success stories that have emerged from the Women's Credit Cooperative Bank initiative, and how have they contributed to the empowerment and economic growth of women in the community?

The Women's Credit Cooperative Bank has been a catalyst for transformation in the lives of many women. Take, for instance, the story of one of the girls, who used her loan to establish a thriving coil-making center, now employing five others. Then there's another girl, who turned her passion for horticulture into a successful orchard, supplying fresh fruit to local markets. Our support for education and scholarships has also led to the creation of self-sustaining businesses, enabling women to break the cycle of poverty. Furthermore, our milk production plant and sheep distribution program have empowered women across the valley, providing them with a steady source of income and a sense of financial security. These success stories are a testament to the power of economic empowerment and the impact it can have on individuals, families, and communities.

Another vital aspect of your

work at the HELP Foundation—cultural preservation through Baitul Meeras. What's the story behind Baitul Meeras' creation?

Baitul Meeras was created to preserve our cultural heritage and provide a platform for children to learn about their roots and express themselves. We've collected old items, set up looms, and started heritage walks. It's a place where children can breathe freely and divert their energies into positive activities. We want to recreate the lost laughter and joy in our community and preserve our rich cultural heritage for future generations.

How does it align with the HELP Foundation's mission, and what specific objectives do you want to achieve through it?

Baitul Meeras aims to preserve cultural heritage and provide a platform for children to express themselves, aligning with the HELP Foundation's mission of empowerment and development. We want to empower children to take pride in their culture and heritage, just as we've empowered women through our other initiatives.

In today's globalized world, why do you think it's so important to preserve cultural heritage?

Preserving cultural heritage defines our identity. Baitul Meeras contributes by providing a space for children to learn about their heritage and culture. In a globalized world, it's easy to lose touch with our roots. We want to ensure that our children know where they come from and take pride in their heritage.

In what ways does Baitul Meeras support and advance this mission?

We're working to preserve our heritage through looms, heritage walks, and cultural programs. We're trying to preserve our lan-

guage, heritage, and culture for future generations. We're also documenting our cultural practices and traditions so they're not lost over time. You will be happy to learn that we did the first of its kind exhibition of Persian manuscripts. It was for one week and held in Amar Singh Club. Again, asking people to showcase their treasures for the benefit of our future generation.

Can you share some stories or examples of how Baitul Meeras has positively impacted young people's lives and transformed individuals within the community?

Baitul Meeras has provided a platform for children to express themselves through various creative outlets, including comedy shows, story writing programs, theater, and music initiatives. This environment has allowed many talented individuals to come forward and showcase their skills, which might have otherwise remained hidden. The impact of these opportunities has been significant, fostering a sense of confidence and pride in their cultural identity among the young participants. It's heartening to witness these children, once perhaps shy or uncertain, now standing tall, eager to share their heritage and talents with others. This transformation has been truly inspiring, as it not only enriches their lives but also strengthens the cultural fabric of our community.

How does Baitul Meeras engage with the local community? Also, what kind of feedback do you receive?

We engage with the local community through a range of initiatives, including cultural programs, heritage walks, and community events. We also partner with local schools and organizations to promote cultural education and

awareness. The feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing gratitude for the preservation of cultural heritage and the creation of a safe space for children to learn and express themselves. Community members have also shared stories of how Baitul Meeras has helped to revitalize cultural practices and traditions, and how it has provided a platform for intergenerational dialogue and knowledge sharing. One community member told us, "Baitul Meeras has given us a sense of pride and ownership over our cultural heritage. We feel seen and heard, and our children are learning about their roots in a fun and engaging way."

What challenges have you faced in running Baitul Meeras, and how have you overcome them?

Initially, people were hesitant due to the location. We overcame this by actively engaging with the local community and securing support from relatives and well-wishers. Financial challenges have also been a significant hurdle, but we've managed to secure support from donors and partners who believe in our mission. Additionally, we've faced challenges in terms of resources and infrastructure. However, through innovative solutions and continuous community engagement, we've been able to navigate these obstacles successfully.

Looking ahead, what are your plans for the future of Baitul Meeras?

We plan to connect Baitul Meeras with all districts in Kashmir, creating a network of heritage places where children can learn about their culture and express themselves. We also want to establish a place for discussions, sharing, and implementing ideas. Our vision for Baitul Meeras is to become a central hub for cultural preservation and community empowerment, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our heritage across the entire region.

On a personal level, what keeps you motivated and inspired to continue your work?

My motivation comes from my parents, who taught me to care for others. Seeing a smile on someone's face who is in need or pain motivates me to continue. I'm also inspired by the resilience and strength of the women and children I've worked with over the years. They've faced incredible challenges, but they've never given up. That's what keeps me going.

Mam, it was pleasure talking to you!

Pleasure was all mine.

Kashmiri Poet's Debut Turns Silence Into Power

Aliya Baba emerges as a poet of considerable depth and promise, one who honors the unsaid while offering language as a sacred gesture toward the ineffable.

Badrunissa Bhat

Aliya Mushtaq Baba's Ode to Silence marks an arresting and thoughtful debut in the world of contemporary poetry, one that is deeply attuned to the inner landscapes of womanhood, the eloquence of nature, and the existential weight of death.

In a literary tradition where silence has often been imposed upon women, Baba reclaims it as a space of articulation, contemplation, and profound resonance. Her poetry is a restrained and contemplative meditation, one that resists spectacle in favor of quiet intimacy, and treats stillness not as absence but as a deliberate and radical form of presence.

The collection unfolds like a series of quiet epiphanies. Through spare yet emotionally textured verse, she crafts a poetics that privileges nuance over noise, and ambiguity over resolution. Silence, as the title suggests, is not merely a theme but a method. Her lines often trail into ellipses of suggestion, allow-

ing the unsaid to throb with its own meaning.

The opening poem "A Room of My Own", for instance, explores the contours of solitude and memory, evoking the emotional landscapes of a woman who listens more than she speaks, and feels deeply in a world that too often demands performance. This poem serves as a poignant reinterpretation of Virginia Woolf's famed dictum, grounding the need for a woman's space not in intellectual abstraction but in the visceral reality of domestic life.

Baba invokes the kitchen not just as a literal space but as a metaphysical enclosure, a place where her speaker's womb and her hearth become indistinguishable. This spatial entrapment is further deepened by the lines "I know not how to write, / I paint signs / on split milk on the floor," which render a haunting image of a woman creating meaning through impermanence, making art out of what disappears.

Baba's voice emerges not through loud declarations,

but through a quiet assertion of presence within erasure, aligning with her larger poetic gesture: an ode not to speech, but to the charged, expressive density of silence.

One of the striking aspects of Ode to Silence is its unflinching attention to the bodily and spiritual dimensions of feminine experience. Baba writes of the female body not only as a site of love and labor, but also as a vessel of ancestral memory, trauma, and sacred intuition. Her voice is neither overtly confessional nor deliberately opaque; rather, it occupies a liminal space between vulnerability and restraint. The reader is invited not to consume the speaker's pain, but to stand beside her in silent recognition.

Nature plays an essential role in this collection—not as mere backdrop, but as an interlocutor. Baba's imagery is richly environmental: skies murmur with withheld truths; sunsets become a bearer of unspoken longing; a bagful of chinar leaves becomes a study in impermanence and sorrow. There's a sensibility here, reminiscent

of classical Eastern poetic traditions—echoes of Persian mystics and Japanese haikuists are palpable—but refracted through a distinctly modern, Kashmiri lens. The landscape is both external and interior; it reflects the speaker's emotional states while also offering her a kind of spiritual companionship.

The theme of death permeates the anthology with a gentle yet persistent presence. Baba meditates on loss without ornamentation. Her elegies resist melodrama and gesture towards the vastness of the unknown with humility, grounding the metaphysical in the sensory and the immediate.

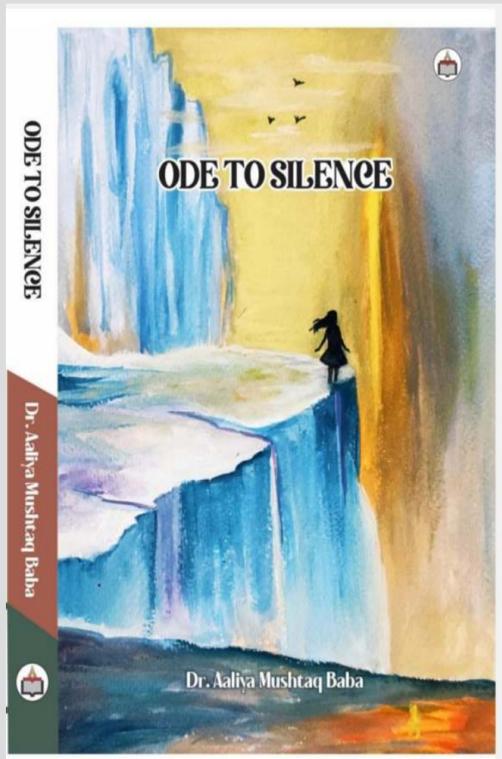
In the latter section of Ode to Silence, Aliya Baba turns to the distilled form of micro-poems: epigrammatic, breath-length utterances that carry the weight of entire emotional worlds. Formally minimalist yet philosophically expansive, these poems draw from the aphoristic tradition of lyrical brevity, where silence is not a void but the medium through which meaning

gathers and radiates.

In one moment, Baba evokes the descent into madness as a kind of sacred unraveling; in another, she meets sorrow not with ornament, but with stark, unflinching clarity. But stylistically, Ode to Silence demonstrates a disciplined lyricism. Baba's lines are carefully measured, her diction simultaneously earthy and ethereal.

I also had the honor of contributing the cover artwork for Ode to Silence. The painting was created in response to what the poet, Aliya Baba, shared with me about her vision for the book. She wanted the cover to reflect the quiet strength and emotional depth of her poems. I tried to translate those feelings into visual form, keeping the tone gentle and reflective, just like her poetry. It was a deeply meaningful experience to bring her words into image, and to be a small part of this beautiful debut.

The author is an artist and a research scholar at the University of Kashmir.



Leverage NABARD funding to accelerate critical public infra development across JK: CS

JAMMU, APRIL 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the High Powered Committee (HPC) meeting to assess progress on Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) projects of NABARD taken up across different sectors in the districts of J&K.

The meeting besides CGM, NABARD was attended by ACS, Jal Shakti Department; Principal Secretary, APD; Principal Secretary, Finance; DG, Resources; Director, Resources besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the officers to make concerted efforts for timely completion of all these infrastructure development projects so that new ones are taken up for funding.

Dulloo asked the officers to expedite the submission of Project Completion Certificates (PCCs) by the executing agencies

as per the set norms to enable release of more funds by the organisation. He called upon the concerned administrative heads to act tough against the officers delaying the same without any plausible reasons.

The Chief Secretary also deliberated with other committee members for leveraging these funds for expansion of rural infrastructure like bridging the gap between command and canal area for augmentation of irrigation facilities across the UT.

The meeting also took note of different tranches released by NABARD to different departments including PWD, Jal Shakti, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture and Health during different departments. It further deliberated over the methodology to squeeze the timeline for raising of infrastructure like bridges and other critical infrastructure works executed



through funding extended by the NABARD.

The meeting also discussed about increasing the pace of projects taken up under previous tranches of RIDF and smooth execution of projects under RIDF-XXX.

ACS, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, gave a detailed outlook of the projects completed by the Department and those under execution. He also

gave his insights about further utilizing these funds for achieving irrigation facilities to the last farm at the tail end besides irrigating thousands of hectares of un-irrigated land in different parts of the UT.

Principal Secretary, APD, Shailendra Kumar, said that the Department is contemplating to further upgrade the Mandi infrastructure through the funds earmarked for development of

Horticulture. He made out that such steps coupled with others are going to bring better returns to the farmers in J&K.

In his presentation, the Chief General Manager (CGM) NABARD briefed the Chief Secretary on the transformative initiatives aimed at advancing rural infrastructure across the Union Territory (UT).

The presentation spotlighted the achievements and challenges

of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), its financial achievements and opportunities ahead. The presentation provided an in-depth analysis of the RIDF's performance from tranche XXV (2019-20) to tranche XXX (2024-25), showcasing significant strides in rural infrastructure financing.

The meeting was apprised that a total of 1,425 projects were sanctioned with a net RIDF loan of Rs6,246 crore for which disbursement to the tune of Rs3,069 crore, leaving a draw-able gap of Rs 2,212 crore, signalling untapped potential for further development.

In addition the sanction trends under RIDF with notable peaks such as Rs 1,542 crore sanctioned in RIDFXXVII against an allocation of Rs 800 crore was highlighted during the meeting thereby showing the unflinching commitment of NABARD towards development of rural

infrastructure across J&K.

Giving the departmental breakdown of projects, it was divulged that the Public Works Department (PWD) leads with 1,144 projects sanctioned with a net loan of Rs4,666 crore over the years and disbursements of Rs2,366 crore. Other key departments, including Jal Shakti and Agriculture Production Department, showed varying levels of utilization across these departments.

Moreover, recognizing the limitations of RIDF, such as restricted activities and fund availability, NABARD introduced the Rural Infrastructure Acceleration Scheme (RIAS), a flexible and ambitious financing model designed to fast-track rural development. The same features a loan tenure of up to 20 years with a 5-year moratorium and expanded scope of activities that could be undertaken as that of RIDF.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Students' Trip

Medical College (GMC) Handwara.

The deceased were identified as Mymoonaa Ali, a final-year student, and Asiya Rashid, a third-year undergraduate. According to officials, the bus carrying 27 students skidded off the road, reportedly after the driver lost control of the vehicle.

"We had just waved her goodbye," said Mymoonaa's cousin. "She was excited to see the tulips. We never imagined that would be our last moment with her." The family received a call about the accident around 8:30 am—an hour after she had left home. In a desperate search that ended in heartbreak, they were informed that Mymoonaa had been severely injured, before receiving a second call: She was no more.

As news of the tragedy spread, shock and grief gripped the Valley. Social media was flooded with tributes, prayers, and questions. Classmates recounted the horror, many too traumatized to speak. "I sat behind Asiya. She was taking selfies and laughing. Moments later, I heard screams and saw blood," one shaken student recalled.

Amid the mourning, questions began to surface: Was the crash caused by speed, mechanical failure, or official negligence? Locals alleged that the college bus had an expired fitness certificate and should not have been on the road in the first place. "If true, someone must be held accountable," said a Handwara resident.

Medical Superintendent, GMC Handwara, Dr Aijaz said 23 students were injured in the mishap, most of whom are in stable condition. "We referred two critically injured students to Srinagar for specialized treatment. Unfortunately, one of them could not survive," he said.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident and also announced an ex gratia of Rs 1 lakh for each of the deceased. (inputs from KNO)

LG, CM, Others

said on X.

Abdullah said the government was closely monitoring the situation and ensuring all necessary assistance.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also expressed deep anguish over the accident. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed to the almighty to give the bereaved families strength to bear the loss.

"The news of the death of two young students in the Handwara college bus accident is extremely heartbreaking. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the bereaved family members. Praying for the early recovery of the injured," Sinha said on X.

Kashmir's chief cleric, Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Umar Farooq, too expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the accident. Terming the incident heartbreaking, he said the loss of such young, promising lives is a great tragedy that has shaken the entire community.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength and patience for them to bear this irreparable loss. The Mirwaiz also prayed for the speedy and complete recovery of all the injured students and expressed solidarity with the families and the entire college community.

He said such tragic accidents were a reminder of an urgent need to ensure the safety and security of students during educational outings and public travel.

Nasir Aslam Wani, an advisor to the chief minister, and Jammu and Kashmir Minister Javed Dar visited the injured at Government Medical College Hospital, Handwara.

Speaking to reporters after the visit, Wani said the chief minister has sanctioned an ex gratia of Rs 1 lakh each for the families of each of the deceased, Rs 50,000 for those severely injured, and Rs 25,000 for the other victims of the accident.

A magisterial inquiry has also been ordered into the circumstances that led to the accident, he added.

Handwara MLA Sajad Lone visited the Government Medical College Hospital, Handwara, to meet the injured students.

"My thanks to the doctors and the paramedics who have been working tirelessly. Thankfully all the students admitted to GMC Handwara at the moment, are safe. My prayers for their recovery. Two students who had been

referred to Srinagar have lost their lives. May Allah grant them heaven," Lone said on X.

The Health and Medical Education minister Sakina Itoo said, "Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident involving students of GDC Sogam that claimed the lives of young Asiya Rashid and Maymoonaa Ali and injured several others. My heartfelt condolences to their family. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured."

"I've directed Director SKIMS, Principal GMC Handwara, Principal GMC Srinagar, CMO Kupwara and other health officials to ensure the best treatment for the injured," she posted on X.

Similarly, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone, MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshid and others extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured.

ANTF Deploys

checkpoints, airports, border areas, and during raids on suspected drug hubs, the official said. This initiative underscores ANTFs commitment to eradicating the drug menace and ensuring a safer, drug-free society in the region, the official added.

2 More Terrorists

said the operations, started on April 9, continues. The aim is to maintain peace and stability in the region, he said.

"A total of three terrorists was eliminated in the operations while the troops displayed great tactical acumen and swiftness, and ensured zero casualties on our side. Despite the weather and the night-time challenges, the troops displayed great professionalism and also gave the topmost priority to the security of the local population," Brigadier Rathii told reporters in Kishtwar.

He said the operations also brought to the fore the seamless coordination between India Army and police, especially its Special Operations Group (SOG).

"After the first contact on April 9, rapid reinforcements were deployed in terms of special forces with the help of the Indian Air Force, and also to carry out realtime surveillance of the area the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, drones and the night visions were employed basically to ensure that terrorists do not escape from the area," the army officer said.

He said the operation reaffirms the Army's commitment to maintain peace and stability in the south of Jammu, especially in the Pir Panjal Range.

"Certain security measures have been instituted in terms of the rapid force response capabilities, technological integration and inter agency seamless coordination to maintain peace and stability in the region. We are thankful to White Knight Corps and the General Officer Commanding of Delta Force for their guidance and support," he said.

The DIG said the operation is in its final stages after it was first launched on Wednesday following interception of the terrorists.

"Our operations will continue till all the terrorists present in the area are eliminated," Patil said, adding the most important thing during the operations was the special care taken for the safety of the local population and "I appreciate them for their support to security agencies".

He said the coordination and synergy witnessed during the operation will continue and "anyone coming here (from Pakistan) to indulge in terror activities will face the same fate".

In response to questions on the killing of Saifullah, the DIG said, "We are not in a stage to confirm the identity of any dead terrorist. We will identify the bodies during our investigation and reveal it once it is established."

On the number of active terrorist groups in the Chenab valley region, he said the numbers are not important and "as I said our operations will continue till all of them are neutralized".

Brigadier Rathii also added that the number does not matter. "Whosoever comes with the aim of disturbing the peace and tranquility in the region will be eliminated."

Patil said a large quantity of war-like stores including M-4 Carbine rifles and AK series rifles were recovered from the dead terrorists.

Asked about the local support enjoyed by terrorists, he said it is part of investigation and will be shared once it comes forth.

Earlier, the Army's White Knight Corps took to X to inform about the killing of two more terrorists in the ongoing operations.

"In the ongoing operations at Chhatru, Kishtwar, despite bad and inclement weather, two more Pakistani terrorists have been eliminated. A large quantity of war-like stores including one AK and one M4 rifle have been recovered," the Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps said.

One ultra was killed Friday morning when security forces established a contact with terrorists during the operations which were launched on Wednesday.

The officials said a separate operation to track down terrorists has also been underway in Basantgarh and Ramnagar areas of Udhampur district since Wednesday.

While there has been an encounter between security forces and search parties in Ramnagar forests on Wednesday, a local villager reported the presence of three terrorists after they visited him in Basantgarh forest on Wednesday night.

JCO Killed In

White Knight Corps (Lt Gen P K Mishra) and all ranks salute the supreme sacrifice of braveheart Sub Kuldeep Chand of 9 PUNJAB. He laid down his life while gallantly leading a counter-infiltration operation along the LoC in the Keri Battal area of Sunderbani on the night of 11 Apr 2025.

"His team's valour and Sub Kuldeep's ultimate sacrifice foiled an infiltration attempt by terrorists. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," the Jammu-based White Knight Corps, also known as XVI Corps, posted on X. A wreath-laying ceremony for the JCO was held at military garrison Tanda in Akhnoor this afternoon and later his mortal remains were despatched to his family for last rites, officials said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday paid tributes to a junior commissioned officer. A wreath-laying ceremony for Subedar Kuldeep Chand was held at military garrison Tanda in Jammu's Akhnoor in the afternoon and his mortal remains were despatched to his family in Himachal Pradesh for last rites, officials said.

Chand is survived by his son, daughter, wife and elderly parents. His body would be cremated at his native village on Sunday.

They said senior Army, police and civil officers led by General Officer Commanding of 10th Infantry Division Major General Sameer Shrivastava and Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Joginder Singh laid wreaths at the body and saluted the sacrifice of the junior commissioned officer (JCO).

Subedar Chand lost his life in a gunfight with terrorists attempting to infiltrate into India from the Pakistan side in the Keri-Bhattal area of the Akhnoor sector late on Friday night.

In a condolence message, Lt Governor Sinha said, "I salute the supreme sacrifice of our Army braveheart Sub Kuldeep Chand who laid down his life in the line of duty. His valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The entire nation stands firmly with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief."

Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army, in a post on X, said the Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi and all ranks of the Indian Army salute the supreme sacrifice of the braveheart.

"The Indian Army offers deepest condolences and stands firm with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," it said.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has expressed grief over the death of Kuldeep Chand and said, "The news of Kuldeep Kumar ji, a resident of Kohlvi village of my assembly constituency Naudan, being martyred is very sad.

"His unforgettable contribution to the service of the country will always be remembered with respect. I pray to God to give peace to the departed and give strength to the bereaved family," he added.

LG Greets People

Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji.

"On this sacred day, let us resolve to uphold the principles of selfless service, righteousness, courage, unity, equality and devotion exemplified by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. May Baisakhi this year usher in peace, prosperity and happiness

for all."

Ruhullah, Aga Hassan

payout of 38.20 lakh, resulting in a significant loss to the state exchequer.

Accused Public Servants The government, after granting sanction for prosecution, allowed the ACB to file charges against the following former officials:

Abdul Majid Akhtar, S/O Abdul Ahad Akhtar, R/O Saraiballa Srinagar (currently residing in Chanapora Srinagar) – then Patwari, Rakhs and Farms Department (now retired)

Zaffar Ahmad Hakak, S/O Ghulam Ahmad Hakak, R/O Dokani Sangeen, Fatehkadal (now at Habib Colony, Baghat Barzulla Srinagar) – then Assistant Director, Rakhs and Farms Department (now retired)

Manzoor Ahmad Rather, S/O Ghulam Hassan Rather, R/O Dehrana Dooru, District Anantnag – then Senior Circle Inspector, Rakhs and Farms Department (now retired)

Ali Mohammad Wani, S/O Abdul Gani Wani, R/O Habbak Naseembagh, Hazratbal Srinagar – then Girdawar, Rakhs and Farms Kashmir (now retired)

Hafiz-ullah Shah, S/O Peer Ghulam Mohammad Shah, R/O Khiagang, Pulwama – then Collector, LAWDA (now retired)

Mohammad Hussain Mir, S/O Qasim Ali Mir, R/O S.K. Colony, Sector 3, Qamarwari Srinagar – then Collector, LAWDA (now retired)

Accused Beneficiaries The private individuals who allegedly benefitted from the fraudulent compensation include:

Aga Syed Mussa, S/O Aga Syed Hussain, R/O Budgam

Aga Syed Aqueel, S/O Aga Syed Hussain, R/O Budgam

Aga Syed Mohsin, S/O Aga Syed Mustafa, R/O Budgam

Aga Syed Ali, S/O Aga Syed Mustafa, R/O Budgam

Aga Syed Hassan, S/O Aga Syed Mustafa, R/O Budgam

Aga Syed Ahmad, S/O Aga Syed Mustafa, R/O Budgam

Aga Syed Rohullah, S/O Aga Syed Mehdi, R/O Budgam

Mohammad Sadiq Wani, S/O Hassan Wani, R/O Durbal, Bemina

Mohammad Talib Wani, S/O Hassan Wani, R/O Durbal, Bemina

Ali Mohammad Wani, S/O Hassan Wani, R/O Durbal, Bemina

Ghulam Hussain Wani, S/O Hassan Wani, R/O Durbal, Bemina

Abdul Rahim Wani, S/O Hassan Wani, R/O Durbal, Bemina

Hyder Ali Wani, S/O Hassan Wani, R/O

Durbal, Bemina

Nazir Ahmad Wani, S/O Ghulam Ahmad, R/O Durbal, Bemina

Ghulam Rasool Wani, S/O Ghulam Ahmad Wani, R/O Durbal, Bemina

Ahamadullah Dar (deceased), S/O Ghulam Mohammad Dar, R/O Kolipora, Bemina

Judicial Proceedings Underway

The chargesheet, filed on April 12, 2025, marks a significant step forward in the long-pending investigation. The ACB has stated that the inquiry has established clear misuse of official position, criminal conspiracy, and tampering with official records to embezzle government funds.

The case is now before the Special Anti-Corruption Court for judicial determination.

Amarnath Yatra

three major bridges under construction have been completed, while work continues on the Sanat Nagar Bridge. "The Roads and Buildings Department along with NHAI are closely supervising engineering standards across all projects."

The Divisional Commissioner also outlined special arrangements being made for upcoming Baisakhi celebrations, with enhanced security at prominent religious sites including Tral, Charar-e-Sharif and Baramulla.

Asked about the government directive of installing CCTV cameras inside school buses, the Div Com said that the timeline has been set for the installation and the measure has been taken keeping in view the security and safety of the school going kids.

J&K Misses

The funding includes Rs 8 lakh from MGNREGA, Rs 2 lakh from the 15th Finance Commission or other local funds, and another Rs 2 lakh from the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The funds are shared between the Centre and respective states or UTs.

However, J&K has not received approval for any new centres because it did not send any proposal to the Centre, officials said. In contrast, several other states have already secured approvals.

Bihar has received clearance for 6,155 AWCs, Uttar Pradesh for 7,013, and Telangana for 2,279. Even smaller states like Mizoram and Meghalaya are on the list.

The central government has also advised all states and UTs to look for funds from multiple sources, including MP and MLA development funds, and contributions under Corporate Social Responsibility, to help with the construction of AWCs. (KNO)

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5.8-Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Kashmir, No Damage Reported

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- A moderate intensity earthquake with epicentre in Pakistan struck Jammu and Kashmir at around 1 pm on Saturday, an official said.

Tremors were felt in many parts of the Valley, but there were no reports of loss of life or damage to property, he said.

The 5.8 magnitude earthquake occurred at a latitude of



33.63 degrees North and longitude of 72.46 degrees East in Pakistan at a depth of 10 kilometres, the official said.

'First 1000 Days Crucial For Child's Growth, Cognitive Development'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The first 1000 days of the child are the most vital window for ensuring long-term health, growth and cognitive development, doctors said on Saturday.

Dr Rubina, a pediatric nutritionist in Kashmir said that the first 1000 days are marked by rapid brain development, organ formation and physical growth and up to 80% of a child's brain develops in this period.

"The right nutrition during this time ensures that the child's body and mind develop to their fullest potential," she said.

According to UNICEF and WHO, this phase lays the biological foundation for a lifetime. Proper nutrition, health care, and emotional support during this time significantly shape a child's ability to learn, resist disease, and thrive physically and mentally.

Dr Rubina said children who receive adequate nutrition during this window are not only healthier but also perform better in school and have a lower risk of chronic illnesses later in life.

Dr Showkat, another paediatrician, said several factors play vital roles in better outcomes during this window period of 1000 days. He said pregnant women should receive iron, folic acid, calcium and other

essential nutrients as the malnutrition in mothers can lead to low birth weight and developmental delays.

"For the first six months, breast milk alone is the best source of nutrition and immunity for infants," Dr Showkat said, adding that for six months onwards, children should receive age-appropriate, nutrient-dense foods along with continued breastfeeding up to two years or beyond.

"Parents must ensure protection against common diseases that can affect growth and brain development and prevent infections like diarrhoea, which can interfere with nutrient absorption. Safe water and hygiene practices are a must," he said, adding that interaction, love, and attention help with emotional development and cognitive growth.

Doctors warned that if proper care is not taken during the first 1000 days, the consequences can be severe and often irreversible.

They said it can lead to stunting that is below average height, wasting and underweight, higher risk of infectious diseases and long-term health complications like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity and poor bonding and lack of stimulation can result in behavioural and emotional difficulties—(KNO)

GDA Asks Schools To Avoid Visiting Gulmarg On Weekends

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) has issued an advisory to all the government and private schools, asking them to avoid organizing student visits to Gulmarg on Saturdays and Sundays due to increased crowding during weekends.

According to the circular, a copy of which lies Kashmir Observer, the tourist rush has caused traffic congestion and raised safety concerns, particularly on weekends.

In view of this, schools have been asked not to plan educational tours, excursions, or picnics to Gulmarg on these days until further notice.

The circular also makes it mandatory for schools to seek

prior permission at least five working days in advance. The request must be approved by the Head of the Institution or Department and submitted to the GDA via email (gulmarg-gda@gmail.com).

The application must include the date of visit, number of students, details of staff in charge, transporter details, and an emergency contact number to facilitate coordination with local authorities.

The school management is also required to ensure proper parking of vehicles and maintain cleanliness in the area before and after the visit.

Use of plastic or disposable items during the visit has been prohibited. It also warned that any violation of the advisory will invite action.

ACB Registers Case Against Ex-Tehsildar Vijaypur, Others

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) registered a case against the former Tehsildar Vijaypur, District Samba and others for illegal mutation.

A spokesman in a statement said that Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a case FIR No. 03/2025 u/s 5(1)(d) r/w Section 5(2) of J&K PC Act, Svt. 2006 & 120-B, RPC at Police Station ACB Jammu against revenue officer/official namely Tarseem Lal, then Tehsildar Vijaypur and Zassin Malik then Patwari, Patwar Halqa Gurha Slathia as well as beneficiary namely Rameshwar Singh and others.

"The instant case was registered on the outcome of a verification conducted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau into the allegations that the concerned revenue officer/official, attested illegal mutation no. 1102 (Sehat Kasht Indraj Girdawari) of Village Rajinder Singh Pura, Tehsil Vijaypur, in favour of Rameshwar Singh as tenant (Gair Maroosi), for land measuring 81

Kanals 19 marlas, contrary to the provisions of Agrarian Reforms Act 1976 and guidelines notified in the circulars/notifications by the Govt. pertaining to the protection of state land besides procedures adopted in the proprietary land etc," the spokesman said.

"During verification, it surfaced that the land in some khasra numbers is recorded as state land, but instead of evicting encroacher from state land, the same has been entered in mutation No. 1102 (Sehat Kasht Indraj Girdawari) in order to confer undue benefit to beneficiary. Similarly, the land in some khasra numbers is recorded as proprietary land but as per Jamabandi of 1995-96, the said land in same khasra numbers are recorded as state land, whereas in mutation no. 1102 dated 06.04.2015 (Sehat Kasht Indraj Girdawari), the land of one khasra number is entered as proprietary land, the land in other two khasra numbers is entered as state land. The concerned Patwari has not mentioned these facts in his report in the mutation report in question."

Separatist Ideology Now Irrelevant In Kashmir: BJP's Sunil Sharma

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Leader of the Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly and senior BJP leader, Sunil Sharma, on Saturday declared that separatist ideology in Jammu and Kashmir has become "irrelevant," claiming that the Hurriyat Conference has lost all influence in the region.

"Hurriyat had 40 offices in Raj Bagh alone. Today, you won't find even 40 Hurriyat supporters across Kashmir," Sharma said, attributing this shift to the strong and consistent policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "There is no space for separatism in the current Kashmir policy," he asserted.

He noted that many former separatists are now abandoning their ideology and joining the mainstream. "Hurriyat has realized it cannot survive. Their surrender is welcome. Only peace can lead Kashmir towards progress," he added.

On the recent Kishtwar encounter, Sharma termed the killing of three militants in the Naidgam forests of Chatru a major success. "Terrorists had been hiding in the upper reaches for the past year. This breakthrough is significant in dismantling their network," he said.



Criticism of National Conference

Sharma also launched a sharp attack on the National Conference (NC), accusing it of disrupting the Assembly during the final days of the budget session. "The NC didn't let the House function. They staged chaos to avoid debate on the Waqf Amendment Bill and people's pressing issues," he said.

He criticized the NC's past handling of militancy, alleging that thousands of their own workers were killed during the tenures of Farooq and Omar Abdullah. "Since law and order came under Amit Shah's Home Ministry, not a single NC worker has been harmed," he claimed, urging an investigation into the past killings.

Sharma also accused NC and PDP of appeasing separatist elements by failing to invoke the

Public Safety Act against miscreants. "Their negligence led to civilian deaths, unlike the BJP government, which acted decisively to maintain order," he said.

Statehood, Peace and Development

Dismissing NC's call for immediate restoration of statehood, Sharma clarified that the issue remains part of BJP's long-term commitment. "Omar Abdullah should stop misleading the public. Statehood will be restored at the right time," he said.

He also condemned alleged attempts by NC leaders to provoke religious sentiments in the Assembly. "The House is meant for legislation, not communal sloganeering," he said, adding that NC's past, including their celebration of Masrat Alam's release, reflects their double standards.

Sharma concluded by reaffirming BJP's commitment to peace and security. "Terrorism has been pushed back to forests. Normal life has returned—schools are open, hartals are over, and downtown Srinagar is peaceful again," he said. "Even the graves of NC and PDP leaders are protected by our security forces today," he quipped.



HURRIYAT HAD 40 OFFICES IN RAJ BAGH ALONE. Today, you won't find even 40 Hurriyat supporters across Kashmir," Sharma said, attributing this shift to the strong and consistent policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah

BUS ACCIDENT AFTERMATH

Sakeena Itoo Visits Kalaroos, Sogam Areas Of Kupwara

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo visited Kalaroos and Sogam areas of Kupwara district to express heartfelt condolences to the families of young students who tragically lost their lives in a road accident today morning.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; former Minister, Choudhary Mohammad Ramzaan; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Jahangir Bakshi; Director Colleges, J&K, Dr. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir and other senior officers of district administration also accompanied the Minister.

During the visit, Sakeena met the grieving family members of deceased students and expressed deep sorrow over the incident. She assured the families of every possible support from the government during this difficult time.

"This is not just a personal loss for the families but a tragic moment for the entire area. The loss of such promising young lives is deeply painful", Sakeena stated.

The Minister also said that the Government has announced ex-gratia relief to the victims' families, besides a magisterial inquiry has also been ordered to probe this fatal road accident.

She further added that as soon as the news of this tragic accident came, Director SKIMS, Principal GMC Srinagar, Principal GMC Handwara, Director Health Services Kashmir and CMO Kupwara were alerted by the government to ensure best possible treatment for the injured students. She highlighted that the administrators of all hospitals receiving the injured students were directed to personally monitor the injured students at their respective facilities to ensure their effective treatment.

The Minister, while expressing deep grief over the lives of those young students, said that due to prompt response of medical authorities to this tragic incident, several lives have been saved and injured students were swiftly shifted to required medical facilities for advanced treatment.



Dr. Seema Naz Condoles Demise Of Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Professor Seema Naz, Nodal Principal of Kashmir Division Colleges, has expressed profound grief over the tragic demise of two students from Government Degree College (GDC) Sogam in a devastating road accident that occurred earlier today at Vodhpura, Handwara.

In her condolence message, Dr. Seema Naz extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and the entire college community.

"I am deeply saddened by the untimely demise of these young students. It is an irreparable loss, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families in this difficult time," she stated.

Dr. Naz further expressed solidarity with the GDC Sogam fraternity and emphasized the need for collective strength and courage to cope

with this tragic loss.

In a compassionate gesture, Dr. Naz also visited the hospital to personally check on the injured students, inquiring about their condition and offering prayers for their swift and full recovery.

The entire fraternity of Higher Education Department stands united in profound grief and extends heartfelt condolences to the families and friends affected during this tragic time.

We share in your sorrow and remain in deep solidarity with all those mourning this immense loss.

On behalf of the Higher Education Department, we extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated doctors and medical teams who are providing exceptional care and support to our injured students. Your compassion and commitment are deeply appreciated. She added.



This is not just a personal loss for the families but a tragic moment for the entire area. The loss of such promising young lives is deeply painful"

Later, the Minister also visited GMC Handwara and enquired about the well being of the students.

During the visit, she met the injured students as well as their attendants and assured them all possible assistance and support from the government.

Interacting with the medical staff during the visit, she

asked the Medical Superintendent and other staff to prioritize the medical care of the injured students and offer all necessary support to the victims and their families. She further directed the Medical Superintendent to personally monitor the treatment facilities of the injured students and keep sufficient staff available round the clock for their effective treatment.

On the occasion, the Medical Superintendent informed the minister that most of the injured students have been discharged from the hospital after proper medical treatment and currently three students are undergoing treatment at GMC Handwara, one each at SMHS and SKIMS Srinagar.

Sarthal, Bani Gets Mobile Connectivity, Draws Tourists



Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the picturesque Sarthal valley in Bani region of Kathua district has finally been connected to the mobile network, paving the way for its emergence as a vibrant tourist destination.

With the recent arrival of foreign tourists and increasing domestic footfall, hopes are rising among the local population for the area to be developed on modern lines.

Sarthal, known for its green meadows, pine forests and tranquil surroundings had long remained isolated due to the lack of basic connectivity.

The locals said that the new mobile network coverage has brought a sense of inclusion and optimism to the area as for local residents, it is more than just a technological leap as it is a doorway to opportunities.

"This is the first step toward integrating our beautiful land with the rest of the world," said Abdul Latief, a local shopkeeper.

"For years, this area was cut off from even making a phone call. Now, with mobile connectivity, tourists can discover this place and stay connected, which adds to their comfort," he said.

The rollout of mobile services as per locals has already had a noticeable impact.

They said that a group of foreign tourists recently visited the area, charmed by the region's unspoiled nature and authentic rural life. "Their visit has sparked hope among the

youth and tourism stakeholders, who believe that Sarthal can now be promoted internationally," they said.

"Foreigners coming here is a good sign," said Mudasar Ali, a local social activist. "They are sharing pictures and stories on social media, and this will naturally attract more people here. We just need the infrastructure to match the beauty of the place," he said.

Despite the positive developments, Sarthal still grapples with a lack of essential infrastructure, he said.

Meanwhile, the residents here have appealed to the government for the construction of public toilet facilities along the road, as well as lodging arrangements for night stays.

The absence of such facilities, they say, may discourage tourists from returning or staying longer, they said.

"If this tourist spot is developed with proper amenities, it can provide jobs and small business opportunities to our people. This place can turn into a hub for eco-tourism and cultural tourism if given a little push," locals said.

The people of Sarthal have urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah concerned MLA and the Director of Tourism to personally visit the region and assess the potential it holds.

They are hopeful that on-ground assessments will fast-track the implementation of developmental schemes tailored for the area—(KNO)

Govt Accepts Safina Baig's Resignation As Hajj committee Head

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has accepted the resignation of Safina Baig as the head of the Hajj Committee.

According to an official order, a copy of which lies Kashmir Observer, her resignation has been accepted with effect from August 24, 2024.

Safina Baig was elected as the chairperson of the Hajj Committee in 2022 after being nominated as a member by the administration led by the Lieutenant Governor.

Her nomination for the chairperson's post was proposed by former Member of Parliament Choudhary Talib Hussain and seconded by Muhammad Rafiq Chashti. Both were associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the time.

In the 2024 Assembly elections, Safina Baig contested from the Wagoora-Kreeri segment and secured 1,699 votes, finishing sixth. Her husband, Muzaffar Hussain Baig, contested from Baramulla and received 5,872 votes, finishing third. Both lost their deposits.

Kashmir Railway Police Returns Bag With Rs 30,000 Cash To Owner

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an exemplary display of dedication and integrity, the Railway Police wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police successfully traced the owner of an unclaimed bag and returned it along with Rs 30,000 cash.

As per a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the incident occurred yesterday when SPO Umar of the RSB section of Railway Police Kashmir discovered an unattended bag in the last down train.

Demonstrating prompt action, SPO Umar immediately

secured the bag and initiated efforts to identify its owner.

Following due procedure, potential claimants were contacted. The efforts paid off when Iftikhar Naseem contacted the Railway Police to claim the bag.

Upon verification of his identity and rightful ownership, the bag was formally handed over to Naseem by the In-Charge RSB Section in the presence of the SHO Railway Police Station Srinagar ensuring transparency and adherence to protocol.

Naseem expressed his profound gratitude to the Railway Police team.

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in (HSE-I/HSE-II) (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No. 321003000 Session: Regular 2025 Year: 2025 through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the GOVT. Bhrihath Secondary S.S. Gagan in my Name and Mother's name Aaqib Nisar & Halema Begum instead of Aaqib Nisar Mir & Haseena Begum

I have now applied for correction in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary Certificates New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice; after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public.

The correct particulars be recorded as under:

Name: AAQIB NISAR MIR
Father's Name: NISAR AHMAD MIR
Mother's Name: HASEENA BEGUM
Date of Birth: 25-10-2007
Residence: KANTER BUGH
Mobile No.: 6005124557





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