28 year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR OBSERVER® Tuesday 15 April 2025 | Srinagar | Vol: 28 | Issue: 88 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

USBRL Inauguration

J&K Gears Up For PM Modi's Visit



Observer News Service

Srinagar: With just a week remaining, the Railway Ministry and Jammu and Kashmir administration have been verbally instructed to prepare for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to inaugurate the historic Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project on Saturday, April 19.

While formal communication from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is still awaited, multiple departments have started groundwork at key locations including Katra Railway Station and the iconic Chenab Bridge in Reasi district.

"We have been verbally informed to begin preparations. As soon as the official

SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED ACROSS CRITICAL locations, and additional personnel are being stationed at Udhampur, Katra, and Chenab Bridge."

J&K Fire Dept Trains Over 8 Lakh In Fire Safety

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Fire and Emergency Services Department (FESD) has given training in fire prevention, protection and first aid firefighting to 8.23 lakh persons under the 'Har Ghar Fire Fighter' programme. Between August 2022 and March 2025, the department conducted 7,551 public awareness programmes, covering 3,949 educational and 1,057 health institutions and 2,555 other establishments. Alok Kumar, director. J&K Fire and Emergency Services, said on Fire Services Day. "These programmes aim to

educate students, teachers, medical staff, and support personnel on fire prevention, safe evacuation procedures and first aid response actions in case of a fire, to act as first responders in domestic fire incidents," Kumar said. He called upon people to do a ire service check on their resi

confirmation comes, we will

move to final execution," said a

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo recently

visited Chenab Bridge and Katra

town to assess on-ground readiness. He held detailed discus-

sions with officials from the

Railways, police, civil adminis-

tration, and other departments.

"Everything must be in place

well in advance," he directed, in-

structing departments to main-

tain high alert until the PMO's final nod, media reports said.

Director General of Police

(DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday

chaired a high-level meeting

here to review the security sce-

According to | More on P6

nario in Jammu region.

senior railway official.

Saudi 'Cuts' Indian Pvt Hajj Quota By 80% CM, Mehbooba Urge Centre To Intervene for pilgrims. The Saudi au-thorities cancelled Mina Zones 1 and 2, which had

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Over 52,000 Indians who had booked for their Hajj pilgrimage through private tour operators are likely to face a major setback. The Ministry of Minority Affairs has issued a fresh circular stating that only 20 percent of the private quota that was booked earlier will be confirmed initially. It means that 80 percent of the people who registered under Combined Hajj Group Organisers (CHGOs) may not be able to perform Hajj 2025. It is important to note that



the decision comes after the the Nusuk portal-a manda-Saudi Ministry of Haj and

tory online platform used to finalise contracts and services

Umrah shut down access to

s part of introducing new regulations for Umrah, accompany their parents to perform Umrah. The HCol added that whatever amount the parents had paid for the children would be reimbursed. A statement issued in this regard said parents can proceed for Hajj without their children or cancel in full through the Haj Committee website. "Parents may proceed [More on Po

4 Killed, 30 **Injured In Road** Accidents

Agencies

Srinagar: At least four people lost their lives while over 30 persons were injured in multiple road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir in the past 24 hours, officials said.

In Ramban, a pre-dawn ac-cident on Monday near Banihal claimed the life of one person and left nine others injured.

The accident occurred when a Tata Mobile vehicle carrying members of two Bakarwal families from Rajouri's Teryath area overturned and crashed into a railway bridge wall.

A baby girl among the passengers, however, was unharmed, the officials said.

The injured were taken to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Banihal and later referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for further treatment.

A minor tourist lost her life after being struck | More on P6

J&K Eyes Rs 5,500 Cr Funding For 9 Tourism Spots: CM

Observer News Service

Visa For

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said his government is planning to develop nine new tourism destinations across the Union Territory, expressing hope that the World Bank will put aside its "traditional sort of reluctance" to fund any project in I&K.

Seeking support of tourism players in promoting





NC Blocked Waqf Debate To Please BJP: Lone

Not Surprised By Farooq Supporting Speaker **Observer News Service** the Waaf (Amendment) Act

Seeks End To **Negative Travel Advisories**

hief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the Ministry of External Affairs should influence western countries to withdraw advisories asking their citizens not to visit Jammu and Kashmir, saying it will be the biggest proof that the situation has changed for the better in the region. He said | More on P6

WAOF ACT SC Won't Enter Legislative Domain: Rijiju

KO Web Desk

been allotted to CHGOs, due

to the delays in payments and

non-finalisation of service

agreements. The remaining zones (3, 4 and 5) have also

been held up, further worsen-

Ruling and Opposition par-

ties in J&K have come together to voice their concern after

the reported cancellation and

urged the central government

to take up the matter with

"The reported | More on P6

ing the situation.

their leadership.

New Delhi: Minority Affairs minister Kiren Rijiju, referring to the legal challenge to the amended Waqf law, said that he is "confident" that the Supreme Court would not "venture into legislative matter". He also said Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's declaration that the amended law will not be implemented in the state raises questions on whether she has any moral authority or the constitutional right to occupy that position. The minister's comment comes amid an escalating row



challenged in the Supreme Court by multiple individuals and organisations, and the staunch assertion of Banerjee in Bengal. The Supreme Court will hear the petitions on Wednesday. | More on P6

LG Credits Policies For Investor Optimism Says J&K's Manufacturing Push Will Create Jobs, Empower Communities

over the law, which has been

Observer News Service



inaugurated the manufacturing unit of Superior Polymer India Pvt Itd in Kathua district said "UT's manufacturing ecosystem is growing, and today's project dedicated to industrial development will give momentum to the mission of Aatmanirbhar J&K." He said the commencement of this greenfield project is an important milestone, promising a positive impact on the local economy | More on P6

Children Under 12 Cancelled

the industry back home, Abdullah highlighted the challenges posed by "ridiculous prices" of | More on P6

dences and establishments as a part of the proactive measure.

The department observes the day to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who had laid down their lives in the line of duty. A solemn ceremony was also held in Jammu, where officers and jawans paid homage to the | More on P6

Srinagar: Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone on Monday said he was not surprised by National Conference (NC) chief Farooq Abdullah supporting Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather's decision to disallow discussion on

On the NC's plans to challenge the legislation in the Supreme Court, Lone said while the courts will adjudicate according to legal principles, the emotional appeal that could have been conveyed through the Assembly has been squandered. "They have | More on P6

Jammu: Lieutenant Covernor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated a manufacturing unit of a private company in the region and said the manufacturing ecosystem is growing to give momentum to the mission of an "Aatmanirbhar Union Territory".

The LG said the progressive industrial policy and several key interventions in the last few years have strengthened investors' confidence in J&K. Sinha. who virtually

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

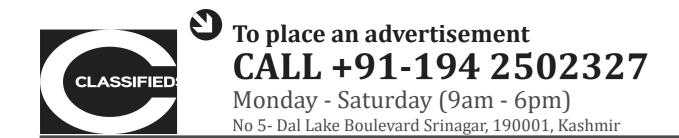
Achieve financial freedom

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

Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

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





KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Tuesday | 15-04-2025

Untimely Heart Attacks: Doctors, Public Health Experts Say 'Preventable, Go For Routine Check-Ups'

Press Trust Of India

eports of people getting heart attacks while dancing, driving or taking a walk, have increased in recent months raising concerns over the condition's unpredictability. Doctors and public health experts, however, say it is preventable, urging individuals to go for routine health check-ups.

Dr Ajay Kaul, chairman of Cardiac Sciences, Fortis Hospital, Noida, told PTI, "A sudden heart attack is usually a sign of underlying heart disease, such as coronary arteries disease or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which can be detected through routine health check-ups.' Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is an inherited heart condition.

"Exercise can trigger fatal arrhythmias in these individuals. Undertaking strenous physical activity -- such as gymming -- without knowing what one's heart is capable of, can increase stress on the walls of ventricles, potentially decreasing blood flow and oxygen supply, and contributing to sudden

cardiac death, " Dr Kaul said. "Therefore, I strongly advise a medical check-up before embarking on a gym regimen to know which exercises are suitable and which are not," he added.

Instances of heart attacks at a gathering or while driving surfaced over the past weeks. This week, in Uttar Pradesh's Ba-

reilly, a 45-year-old man died while dancing with his wife during their

25th wedding anniversary celebrations. Earlier this month, a 35-yearold suffered a heart attack while driving a state-run bus in the Mysuru district of Karnataka, according to a report by The Hindu.

Public health researcher Vikash Keshri, a senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales, Australia, said, "Even as risk factors for heart attacks remain the same for both the young and old, the trend of more youths being affected is reflective of an early onset of these risk factors."

"However, the urban population pays little attention to public health systems and does not go for regular check-ups," he added. Doctors insist on following healthy lifestyle practices which should include effective destressing mechanisms for dealing

with everyday pressures. Some reasons, such as a family history and polluted urban environments, are not preventable. However, what is preventable is resorting to unhealthy behaviours, including a lack of exercise, eating junk food, smoking and consuming alcohol. This is what is driving a high incidence of coronary artery disease," Dr Kaul said.

Indians are genetically predisposed to heart disease, compared to the Europeans and those in the US, which is why we tend to get them about 10 years earlier and also at a lower body weight, said Dr Saptarshi Bhattacharya, senior consultant, department of Endocrinology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi.

'Emissions Could Be Making Rainfall



Even as risk factors for heart attacks remain the same for both the young and old, the trend of more youths being affected is reflective of an early onset of these risk factors

"So, while we may not appear obese or overweight, we still have a higher fat percentage, especially in the abdominal area, setting us up for multiple complications, including diabetes," he said.

A poor quality of sleep -- the body's natural 'repair' mechanism - can add to the troubles, said Dr Sanjay Saxena, principal director and head of the Neurology Department at Max Hospitals in Patparganj, New Delhi and Vaishali, Ghaziabad

He added that not being able to sleep beyond six hours or honour one's circadian rhythm (sleepwake cycle) can result in increased blood pressure and heart rate, inflammation in blood vessels and also cause insulin resistance.

Dr Saxena advised one having obstructive sleep apnea -- a common sleep disorder -- should look to get the condition treated, else it too can heighten the risk of heart attacks. The experts called for a stricter

implementation of government

programmes. The 'National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke' (NPCDCS) was launched in 2010 with a focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and early diagnosis.

Keshri pointed out that the urban outreach of the public health programme needs to be improved. So, even when robust procedures for screening, diagnosis and treatment have been detailed for an individual in the rural community, up to district hospital or medical colleges, where a facility for emergency cardiac care is available, there is no similar primary infrastructure in urban areas," the researcher explained. Further, at an individual's level, one can introduce more movement into their daily routines by

de-boarding at an earlier metro station and walking to work, and using stairs instead of elevators, Dr Kaul said. Awareness about being physically

active needs to be reinforced in childhood and teenage, the experts added.

'It is important we start right in childhood. Lifestyle lessons and healthy behaviours need to be reinforced in schools and colleges because when someone is diagnosed with a condition, there are almost 20-30 years of metabolic problems in the background which have predisposed them to the condition," Dr Bhattacharya said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son DILAWAR ABASS SHEIKH who was born on 10-09-2017 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. NAZIR AHMAD SHEIKH F/o DILAWAR ABASS SHEIKH Resident of Mulashulla, Beerwah, Budgam msl

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned in Aadhaar Card as Mohd Iqbal Bhat while my actual name is Mohammed Iqbal Bhat. Now I want to correct the same. If any body have any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After seven days no objection shall be entertained. Mohammed Igbal Bhat S/o Abdul Rehman Bhat

Gund Tankipora Devsar Distt Kulgam

inf

inf

Public NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned in Aadhaar Card as Amina Banoo while my actual name is Aamina Akhter. Now I want to correct the same. If any body have any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After seven days no objection shall be entertained. Aamina Akhter

W/o Mohammed Igbal Bhat Gund Tankipora Devsar Distt Kulgam

Public NOTICE

AABID Ahmad Ganie S/O Mohammad Maqbool Ganie R/O Chitragarn Tehsil CHITRagam District Shopian want to correct my Name and D.O.B in Aadhar Record which has been wrongly entered as Abid Maqbool instead of AABID Ahmad Ganie and D.O.B wrongly entered as 04-01-2008 instead of 06-04-2007. Now correction required to anybody has any objection may contact Concerned Aadhaar Centre Jammu / Srinagar or Concern Authorities within 7 days. fko_r

Public NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my service book as Abdul Hamid Parray S/o Gh Mohd Parray while my correct name as per 9th pass School certificate is Ab Hameed Paray S/o Gh Mohd Paray R/o Bandgam Magam wwhich 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 bmg_r R/o Bandgam Magam

Public NOTICE

I zareena Akhter D/o Ab Rashid Awan R/o Dunaroo Pahalipora Shopian want to correct my name and DOB on Aadhaar records which has been wrongly entered 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 objecton may contact concern aadhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar or Concerned Authorities within 7 days. FKO R

More Acidic Over Past Three Decades'

Press Trust Of India

ir pollution could be making rainfall more acidic in cities such as Vishakhapatnam, Allahabad, Mohanbari (Assam), while dust from the Thar could be making rain more alkaline in Jodhpur, Pune and Srinagar, according to an analysis. The study by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, analysed the pH value -- which measures acidity or basicity -- of rainfall of ten cities in India.

The data recorded at GAW stations from 1987 to 2021 were analysed. The findings are published by the IMD as a 'met monograph', a comprehen-



They attributed acidity in rain in Vizag to emissions from the oil refinery, power plant and fertiliser facility, and that in Mohanbari to acidic nature of soil and charged particles coming from vegetation. However, dust from the Thar desert could be countering the acidic nature of rainwater of Jodhpur and Srinagar, thereby raising the pH value of rains in these cities, the team said. Season-to-season changes too could play a role, the authors said, as they

found that rainfall during dry season tends to be slightly more acidic compared to that during wet season.

This is because most of the acidic particles in the air would be washed at the first rainfall event, resulting in lower pH values, the team explained.

However, rainfall across most of the ten cities was found to become more acidic over time.

Further, nitrates were found to be the most dominant charged particles in cities with vehicular and industrial activities, while charged particles of calcium were dominant in Jodhpur, Pune and Srinagar, suggesting an influence of dust and soil.

"The analysis of precipitation chemistry across India shows that urbanisation and industrialisation have a sig-

Public NOTICE

My name has been wrongly recorded as Jawahara Bano in adhaar card bearing number:- 980848944777 while my correct and actual name is Raja Bano. Now I have applied for the correction of the same 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. Raja Bano W/o Mohd Shafi Parray R/o Wailoo Kralpora

Public NOTICE

My name has been wrongly recorded as Aisan Sadiq in adhaar card bearing number 8346-7541-8262 while my correct and actual name is Ahsanul Haq. Now I have applied for the correction of the same 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. Ahsanul Haq S/o Mohammad Sadiq Hajam R/o Khawaja Bagh Tehsil Baramulla fko

Public NOTICE

fko

fko

inf

NOWHATTA

sive analysis of a meteorological topic. The study suggests that atmospheric conditions and local emissions can affect the chemistry or pH of rainfall. Both acidic and alkaline rain can have toxic effects, affecting aquatic and plant life, even as the study's authors said "acid rain does not currently pose a major and immediate threat to our region".

nificant impact on the composition of rainwater," the authors wrote.

"Stations such as Vizag, Mohanbari and Allahabad exhibited more acidic mean pH values, while Jodhpur and Srinagar had more alkaline values. This suggests variability in atmospheric conditions and local sources affecting rainwater chemistry," they wrote.

TANTRAY NEWS

AGENCY

RAJ BAGH

My name has been wrongly recorded as Shaistha Akther in adhaar card bearing number:- 2051-9933-8878 while my correct and actual name is Shayista Mohi Ud Din. Now I have applied for the correction of the same 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.

Shayista Mohi Ud Din D/o Gulam Mohi Ud Din Mir R/o Nihalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

BASHIR NEW AGENCY

My DOB has been wrongly writte in my adhaar card bearing NO: 8837 0759 6739 as 05-10-2012 while my correct DOB as per school records is 25-05-2013 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. Kamil Bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Hajam bmg R/o Tarhama Kawarhama

NOTICE OF SALE OF VEHICLE

I, Fayaz Ahmad Zargar, hereby declare that I have sold my vehicle bearing registration number DL12CK0507 to Mudasir Mehraj. As of today, all liabilities and responsibilities associated with this vehicle are transferred to the buyer, and I disclaim any further involvement or liability in case of any unforeseen events or incidents.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed in 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. Higher Secondary School Gund khawaia Qasim in my Name and Mother's name as Aagib Nisar & Haleema Begum instead of Aagib 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 BEGLIM Date of Birth: 25-10-2007 Residence: KANTER BUGH Mobile No.: 6005124557

fko_r

		KASHMIR	
	<'Η'Υ	$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{H}\mathbf{R}$	
UD	JLU	V ĽK	
IS AVAILA	ABLE IN SRIAN	GAR AT FOLLOWING PLA	CES
ABDULLAH NEWS AGENCY	AMIRA KADAL	BUDSHAH NEWS AGENCY	AFTAB MAR- KET
SIKENDER NEWS ANGENCY	AMIRAKADAL	RASHEED GAZALA	LAL CHOWK
GUPKARI NEWS AGENCY	LAL CHOWK	RAFIQ NEWS AGENCY	BATMALOO
KHAN NEWS AGENCY	REGAL CHOWK	MEHRAJ NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE
RASHEED NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE	ASHIQ NEWS AGENCY	GAGRIBAL
IMRAN NEWS AGENCY	KOHNKHAN	SAMA NEWS AGENCY	SHALIMAR
KOHINOOR NEWS Agency	NISHAT	WANI NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA
SHEIKH NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA	AL NOOR NEWS AGENCY	NOWGAM
FAIRDEAL NEWS AGENCY	AIRPORT	BISMILLAH NEWS AGENCY	BAGH E MEHTAB
AL FALAH NEWS AGENCY	NATIPORA	FIDA NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH
FIRDOUS NEWS AGENCY	PIRBAGH	HARMINDER NEWS AGENCY	GOGJI BAGH

ARIF NEWS AGENCY	JAWHAR NAGAR	AGA NEWS AGENCY	ALI KADAL
MUSHTAQ KALASH- PURI	KALASHPORA	HABBAKADAL NEWS AGENCY	HAB- BAKADAL
ALTAF NEWS AGENCY	FATEHKADAL	FAROOQ NEW AGENCY	GOJWARA
JEELANI NEW AGENCY	KHAWAJA BAZAR	DAR NEWS AGENCY	QAMAR- WARI
NAZIR NEWS AGENCY	RAINAWARI	CHANDER NEWS AGENCY	BEMINA
KHALID NEWS AGENCY	HAMDANIYA COLONY	JONSON NEWS AGENCY	SEKIDAFAR
BHAT NEWS AGENCY	JAMALLATTA	SHAFAT NEWS AGENCY	HAWAL
BILAL NEWS AGENCY	KAK SARAI	KHALIQ NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH RA
MUZAFFAR ALI NEWS AGENCY	ALAMGIRI BAZAR	BILAL NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH RA
TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	BUCHPORA	BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BA
AIJAZ NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL	YASIR NEWS AGENCY	ZAKOORA
FO	R ANY QUERY DEPTT. : 0	, CALL CIRCULATION 194-2502327	

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Tuesday | 15-04-2025 🔾

CME Held At LD Hospital

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Postgraduate Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, successfully organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on the theme 'Hope after Loss', focusing on the "Challenges And Clinical Management Of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL)".

The event was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr) Iffat Hassan Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, who highlighted the significance of ongoing education in improving patient outcomes and enhancing societal well-being.

Prof. (Dr) Syed Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department, underlined the importance of such academic engagements in empowering young doctors and promoting collaborative strategies to address the emotional and medical complexities of RPL.

Renowned faculty members

by eminent specialists such as Prof. Shahida Mufti, Prof. Syed Masuma Rizvi, Prof. S.M. Saleem Khan, Prof. Shagufta Rather, Prof. Rakesh Koul, Prof. Hina Bashir, Prof. Nighat Firdous. Prof. M. Maqbool Dar, and Prof. Samina Sultana.

Highly interactive panel discussion, moderated by Prof. (Dr) Samiya Mufti, Organising Secretary, brought together leading experts to deliberate on practical strategies, interdisciplinary approaches, and case-based scenarios, fostering dvnamic exchange of ideas and enhancing learning.

Distinguished guests including former Heads of Department Prof. Farhat Jabeen, Prof. Nighat Firdous and Prof. Rizwana Habib, and senior faculty members from GMC Srinagar. SKIMS Medical College, and LD Hospital such as Prof. Ambreen Qureshi, Prof. Shylla Mir, Dr. Anjum Malik, Dr. Syed Naseer and Dr. Muzaffar Jan, Medical Superintendent LD hospital

shared valuable insights into

hospital-based and community-

oriented management practices.

participation from postgradu-

ate students, faculty, and medi-

cal professionals, making it a

significant academic milestone

in advancing care for patients

experiencing recurrent preg-

nancy loss

The CME witnessed active



including Prof. Samiya Mufti, Prof. Arshid Hussain, Prof. Ajaz Hakeem, Dr. Asifa Ali, Dr. Rukhsana Sami, Dr. Aashiq, Dr. Saima Wani, and Dr. Farzana Bashir delivered insightful lectures covering various clinical aspects related to the Etiology, diagnosis, and evidence-based management of recurrent pregnancy loss.

The sessions were chaired

Sgr Police Urge Women To Report Harassment

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As a part of a move aimed at ensuring the safety and dignity of women in public spaces. Srinagar Police on Monday appealed to women to report any form of harassment, bullying, eve-teasing, or unsolicited comments.

The police also publicized dedicated helpline numbers to encourage swift and accessible grievance redressal

A public awareness post shared by the Srinagar Police said they remain committed to protecting women and girls in



At Kashmir University

570 Positions, Including Over 200 Key Teaching Posts, Remain Unfilled

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir is grappling with a significant human resource crisis, with nearly 20 percent of its sanctioned teaching and administrative positions lying vacant-an issue that is reportedly impacting both the academic and administrative functioning of the institution.

As per details revealed through a Right to Information (RTI) query filed by Jammubased activist Raman Kumar Sharma, and accessed by Observer News Service, a total of 570 out of 2,859 sanctioned posts remain unfilled at the varsity as of February 29, 2024.

In response to the RTI, the university's Public Information Officer (PIO) disclosed that a staggering number of vacancies exist across crucial categories. Of the 56 sanctioned professor positions, only 9 have been filled, while 47 continue to lie vacant. Similarly, the university has managed to fill just 29 of its 120 associate professor posts, leaving 91 posts unoccupied. Additionally, 80 out of 371 assistant professor positions are

The shortfall is not limited to

vet to be filled

Technical and specialist positions including assistant programmers, auditors, Hindi typists, and junior engineers are currently unoccupied-hindering the delivery of essential support services within the institution

faculty alone. The RTI response reveals that only two of the seven sanctioned director-level positions are currently occupied. Moreover, pivotal positions such as the Dean of the College Development Council and the Dean of Students' Welfare remain unappointed. The lack of academic coordinators and research fellows is further affecting academic planning and coordination.

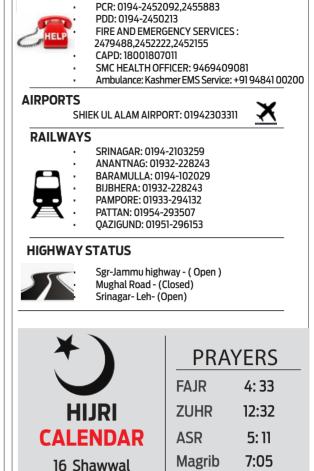
The university's non-teaching departments are also under strain. A total of 110 out of 180 sanctioned junior assistant posts are vacant. Technical and specialist positions including assistant programmers, auditors, Hindi typists, and junior engineers are currently unoc-



out two deputy directors and three assistant directors. Likewise, the Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) is running short of one deputy director and three assistant directors, raising concerns about the quality monitoring mechanisms in place.

The Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA) is functioning without a principal, and only three out of seven senior instructor positions are currently staffed. The Nursing Department is also facing a faculty crunch, with key posts including a professor-cum-principal, two assistant professors, and three tutors yet to be filled. Additionally, nine assistant librarian posts are vacant, indicating gaps in the university's library and information services.

The significant number of unfilled posts-particularly in teaching and leadership roles is raising serious questions about the university's ability to maintain academic standards and deliver quality education to its students.



TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686

This Day In History

1446

1632 - Battle of Rain; Swedes under Gustavus Adolphus defeat Count Tilly of the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years' War.

ISHA

8:30

- 1654 England & Netherlands sign peace treaty
- 1689 French King Louis XIV declares war on Spain 1697 - Charles XII succeeds Charles XI as King of Sweden
- 1788 Britain, Netherlands & Prussia sign peace treatv
- 1858 Battle of Azimghur, Mexicans defeat Spanish loyalists
- 1865 Abraham Lincoln dies 9 hours after he is shot attending the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington
- 1892 General Electric Company formed by merger of Thomas Edison's General Electric Company with Thomson-Houston Electric Company, arranged by J. P. Morgan and incorporated in NY





Police has also set up Women

Helpdesks in police stations and deployed a 'Mobile Women Safety Squad' to respond to real-time emergencies or distress calls. Also, a police spokesperson

shared, women should feel safe and supported, whether they're commuting, shopping, or working. "We want to create an environment where no woman hesitates to speak up against any misconduct," they said.

Meanwhile, locals also appreciated the move, especially women who often feel vulnerable in crowded public spaces like markets, buses, and streetsparticularly after dark. A university student said this is a much-needed step. Harassment is often normalized or ignored. "Having a direct helpline where we can report without fear is reassuring," she said. "We hope the police also take quick and visible action once a complaint is made," said another working professional from Srinagar. Similarly, Srinagar Police reiterated its commitment to ensuring that no woman feels isolated or powerless in the face of harassment and urged citizens to work together to build a respectful and secure environment for all.

the city.

"Respected Women: If you face harassment, unsolicited comments, bullying, or feel unsafe in public spaces in Srinagar, don't hesitate to reach out. Srinagar Police is here to help,"

Also, the dedicated helpline numbers shared, to ensure prompt assistance, the following helpline numbers have been made operational are as: Women Helpdesk (WhatsApp): 9596770601, Women Helpdesk (Call): 9596770602, PCR Helpline: 9596222551 and Women Safety Squad: 7006740755.

In the meanwhile, as part of their broader strategy to curb crimes against women, Srinagar

Two Critically Injured In Motorcycle Collision

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two persons were injured in a road accident involving a motorcycle collision near the Radio Kashmir flyover in Srinagar on Monday.

The victims were quickly rushed to SMHS Hospital by the Dial 112 police response

team, whose timely intervention ensured immediate medical care.

The injured have been identified as 25-year-old Abrar Ali, son of Ghulam Ali from Balhama, and 32-yearold Irfan, son of Mushtaq Ahmad from Khrew Shar.

Police have registered a case in this regard.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have Lost my HSRP Number Plate of my Pulsar 150 under Vehicle number JK05G-1681 from Rabbit Farm Ussan to Palhallan Pattan, now i apply for its duplicate, if anyone have any objection he/she can contact concerned department within the period of seven days from this date. Bike Owner: Sharik Showkat S/O: Showkat Ah Mir Second Owner Name: Nayeem Ahmad Lone S/O: Ab Khaliq Lone R/O: Ussan Pattan fko Vehicle Number: JK05G-1681



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

ammu- History of sorts was created here state legislative assembly here today, with at least fifteen people including seven legislator sustaining injuries in a clash between watch and ward staff of the Assembly and opposition MIAs in the course latter's forcible removal as ordered by the Speaker Ali Mohammed Naik. Barring Dilawar Mir (JD), Yusuf Tarigami (CPM) and Bhagat Ram Chand (BSP) entire opposition was expelled for the rest of the current session.

The Speaker's order followed unprecedented pandemonium that broke out in the house, soon after today's session started, with Naik an-nouncing the question hour. The agitating members left their seats and assembled in the well of the house demanding suspension of the question hour and asking for a discussion over the situation arising of the agitation of Jammu students against the alleged "injustice" done to the students from that division. The opposition members also demanded that the list of selected candidates for MBBS and BDS courses be scrapped. The trouble started immediately after Speaker resumed his seat

when members the BJP, Congress and Janta Dal got up to raise the issue of "large scale bungling, irregularities and corruption" in the re-cently released selection list of MBBS and BDS. The speaker Ali Mohd Naik however ignored the shouts of opposition and instead named the member, on top of the list of questions slated for today, to ask his ques-tion. But the agitated opposition continued with slogan shouting and amidst unruly noisy scenes in the house, nothing was audible. As the protest continued, CPM member Yusuf Tarigami was heard inviting the attention of the speaker about the "environment of the house" saying "we want to speak about environment of the state but the environment inside the house is not well"

When the speaker disallowed all pleas of the opposition, the agitated members walked to well of the house and staged a dharna shouting slogans against ministers and ruling party members. Harsh Dev Singh (NPP) Mohd Yusuf alias Kuka Parrey (AL) Satpal Lakhitra and Jagdish Dubev (JD) also joined the dharna and continued shouting slogans demanding scrap of list. The BJP and Congress members including Meh-booba Mufti, Ashok Sharma, Balbir Singh, Lal Singh. Searing Dorjay, and Tara Chand also joined the BJP legislators headed by Shiv Charn Gupta and demanded suspension of question hour and a reply from the government. At one stage some opposition members were seen rushing towards the Speaker's podium amidst shouts of slogans.

At this stage Law minister PL Handoo, who also hold Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, moved a motion seeking expulsion of all the members for rest of the session. The motion was seconded by Finance Minister Mohd Shafi carried by a voice vote and then followed Naik's order expelling all the 17 members, indulging in "uncalled for behaviour" for remaining period of the current session of the assembly. After the motion was adopted and Speaker gave his ruling, the members were asked to leave the house. However as the members defied the repeated orders of the chair, the Speaker adjourned the house for half an hour. But the opposition members continued their dharna and slogan shouting in the well of the house. As the house re-assembled, after stipulated time, the opposition

was there in the well busy in slogan shouting and making it impossible for the Speaker to go ahead with the proceedings. The Speaker at this stage ordered the Marshall of the house to re-

move the expelled members physically with the help of watch and ward staff, this resulted in violent clashes between the members and the watch and ward staff with the former offering stiff resistance. Chairs and microphones were used in the melee that followed leading to multiple injuries to Ashok Sharma, Ch. Lal Singh, Shiv Charn Gupta, Prithvi Chand, Bali Bhagat, Ch Chuni Lala, Ch

Piara Singh and Satpal Lahotra. Seven members of the watch and ward staff also received injuries. The Chief Minister and his ministerial colleagues did not respond

to opposition members' demand for scrapping the list or discussion over the issue

(Kashmir Observer, 15 April, 1998)

Think Opinion, Analysis, Essays

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com





KASHMIR OBSERVER[®]

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo News Editor: Farzana Nisar Online Editor: Syed Hamid Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen, Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah Business & Sales Head: Namisha Raj Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali RNI Registration No: 69503/98 Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705 Editorial: (0194) 2502327 Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Caesareans On Rise

ore and more women are giving birth not in the throes of natural labor, but under the bright lights of operating rooms, cut open before their bodies are even allowed to do what they were built to do. On paper, cesarean section deliveries are meant to save lives - when things go wrong, they can be a blessing. But in recent years, far too many women across Jammu and Kashmir are undergoing C-sections not because they need them, but because they're being nudged, hurried, or frightened into them.

As a report in this newspaper reveals, it often begins with a phrase: "It's safer for the baby." Or, "We don't want to take risks." A doctor might mention a slightly large baby, or not enough "amniotic fluid"—medical terms that sound alarming, even if they're not backed by urgency. And just like that, a pregnant woman who comes in prepared for a normal delivery finds herself on an operating table, robbed of the chance to labor.

These aren't isolated incidents. Health experts now warn of a disturbing trend—a systemic drift toward surgical births, driven less by genuine medical need and more by convenience, control, and, in some cases, profit. For hospitals, C-sections are faster, more predictable, and more lucrative. For women, the cost is their health.

Women from rural or remote areas, ironically, are faring better. With less medical surveillance and more trust in natural processes, many go on to deliver healthy babies naturally. Urban women, on the other hand, despite access to advanced care, are increasingly caught in a spiral of overmedicalization.

This has been proven to have health consequences for the babies born via unnecessary C-section: They miss out on critical exposure to maternal bacteria that kickstart their immune systems. Many of these newborns end up struggling with breathing issues or infections.

For mothers, the emotional toll is no less severe. Recovery from major abdominal surgery is painful and slow. Breastfeeding becomes harder. So women should not be scared into surgery. The growing commercialization of childbirth demands urgent scrutiny. People have a right to know whether cesareans are rightly warranted at the scale they are conducted or just driven by a pursuit of profit by a multitude of nursing homes.

However, the issue is not as simple. The question is how people are supposed to know and who will tell them? Here, we are dealing with the medical profession and the doctors prescribing the C-Section can always claim an expert knowledge, something others can't. At the same time, this doesn't mean that the disproportionate rise in C-Section births is normal. It needs to be scrutinized and the government is in the best position to do so.

Kashmir's Other Drug War

Partial anti-narcotic enforcement is blocking access to essential psychiatric drugs, affecting over 45% of adults with mental health disorders.



Mirza Sharafat Hussain Beigh



A strict balance

is required to be maintained by the enforcing agencies in view of 'the doctrine of proportionality,' so that the consequences of partial antinarcotic drives never impede the access of Scheduled H1 medicine. sified, with central and state agencies ramping up efforts to protect the youth from addiction and secure a healthier, more promising future. But emerging trends are disturbing, with increased involvement of men and women in the racket. On 4 August 2023, a parlia-

he war on drugs has inten-

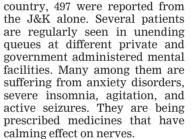
mentary standing committee estimated that Jammu and Kashmir has around 1.35 million drug users. The government is primarily responsible for blocking the supply chain of drugs, yet the major stakeholders are those who consume the same without any care for self and society.

On the other hand, J&K Police have made 536 arrests in 415 cases filed under NDPS Act in north Kashmir alone in the year 2024. Srinagar Police also arrested 156 drug peddlers in the previ-

icymakers

at Davos

Global



These prescribed medicines are mainly listed in schedule H1 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 2013. And significantly, the supply of a drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be recorded in a separate register at the time of the supply, noting the name and address of the prescriber, the name of the patient, the name of the drug and the quantity supplied. Such records for denying medicines, yet the practice needs a thorough check, and overhaul at administrative level. The denial of such prescribed medicines by registered druggists is posing a serious challenge to the patients.

This drug denial is bound to escalate Kashmir's mental-health crisis, if left untreated. It may even force many patients to seek alternate routes for getting required supplies of medicines. That means, it's likely to bypass registered chemists and create illicit drug supply chain.

So, while cracking whip on drug peddlers, the state administration should never compromise the rational access of prescribed medicines for neuropsychiatry patients. A strict balance is required





hildhood is a crucial time for learning, especially when it comes to financial education. Understanding earnings, savings, and investments from a young age can prevent future generations from falling into financial traps. Traditionally, cultures like the Kashmiri have encouraged saving by using penny boxes, a practice that can be modernized today.

It's essential to educate children about the value of money and the principles of saving and investing. By introducing concepts like savings, earnings, and investments in their formative years, children can grow up with a strong financial foundation.

Today, technology simplifies financial education and investment. With smartphones, people can easily manage investments, even opting for Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) in mutual funds—affordable and adaptable products. Asset Management Companies provide the tools needed, without the necessity of traditional custodians.

Educating children about the value of patience in investing is crucial. Understanding that investments like equities and markets may fluctuate in the short term helps in developing resilience. Teaching them to focus on long-term goals, such as 10 or 15-year investment plans, will shield them from volatility's shortterm impacts.

It's vital to introduce young minds to diversified investment strategies, including equities, global markets, gold, and silver, through asset allocation funds. Understanding different asset classes provides the flexibility to create balanced portfolios.

By nurturing a culture of savings and wise investments from a young age, we can prepare upcoming generations to face financial challenges confidently. Early education about financial management is more critical than ever, and starting the conversation now will ensure a financially savvy generation in the future.

The author is reputed financial advisor based out of Srinagar.



some sort of trauma.

The study was conducted before 2017, and since then mental health cases have been growing drastically across the region. Meanwhile, a recent report of the National Crime Records Bureau (December 2023) clearly indicated that Jammu and Kashmir had the highest number of reported cases of attempted suicide in 2022.

Out of total 1,769 cases recorded by the Bureau across the

tropic drugs.

Simply, to avoid the methods, as expressed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, chemists have not just adopted a practice of denying medicine, but they're compromising the "access to medicines - a fundamental element of the right to health". Such a practice sabotages the key element of universal health coverage.

There may not be specific laws and rules to hold chemists liable ists, so that the medicines are dispensed without evasion and circumvention, as per the valid prescription of registered medical practitioners.

The author is Television and Radio News Professional from Srinagar. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001 *email: editpage.ko@gmail.com*

The Voice of Baramulla Deserves to Speak

hrough your esteemed publication, I wish to draw attention to the continued imprisonment of Member of Parliament Sheikh Abdul Rashid, widely known as Engineer Rashid. His captivity is a matter of deep concern for many of us in Kashmir, particularly the people of Baramulla, who recently re-elected him to represent them in the Lok Sabha.

Engineer Rashid, a native of Mawer Handwara, has long exemplified genuine public leadership. From his early days as a civil engineer to his entry into politics in 2008, he has consistently placed people's welfare at the core of his work. He won the hearts of voters as an independent MLA from Langate twice, later founding the Jammu Kashmir Awami Itehad Party (JKAIP) in 2013. Even while incarcerated under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act since 2019, his landslide victory in the 2024 general election speaks volumes about the trust and hope people continue to place in him. What makes Engineer Rashid stand out is his tireless commitment to public utilities and social justice. He has been a vocal advocate for improving hospitals, roads, courts, and above all, education. His compassion for the downtrodden, especially students, and his dedication to guiding the youth is both inspiring and sorely missing in today's political landscape.

Honest leaders like him are crucial for fostering economic growth, promoting civic engagement, and upholding the ideals of justice and democracy. Keeping such a voice behind bars not only undermines the democratic mandate of his constituents but also robs society of a leader who could help build a more inclusive and equitable future.

I appeal to the concerned authorities to release Engineer Rashid at the earliest and allow him to fulfill the duties entrusted to him by the people who chose him as their representative.

Basharat Ahad Qureshi, Handwara

Justice Prevailed Through Wisdom and Words

In a moving tribute, Raja Tasleem Abbass's niece honored her uncle as a man of unwavering integrity and profound influence, whose mentorship and legacy continue to shape her life and the lives of many others.

Sama Zehra

Growing up, my childhood was mostly scarred by turmoil and conflict. The turbulence of those years made it impossible to rely solely on school for an all-around education - I badly needed someone to guide me through.

The guidance finally came from my uncle, Raja Tasleem Abbass. When I was in sixth grade, my uncle started taking regular twohour classes for my cousins and I, where he helped us brush up on our writing skills and taught us the basics of English Grammar. These teaching duties he placed upon himself beyond his long and exhausting hours at court.

My uncle was deeply passionate about teaching and equally worried about our education. He considered education to be a formative part of one's moral compass and principles. Naturally, the lessons were often centred on ethics and values. Every day at 8:30 at night, he began each class with a 30-minute lecture on moral virtues. Thereafter, we were instructed to write our opinions and takeaways from it. That was when I first began to write.

I remember when I was once asked by a school teacher to prepare an essay on 'responsibility'. Înstinctively, I rushed to my uncle to take his immediate and "urgent" help (It did feel very urgent then). He started the essay with the sentence, "Sense of responsibility has a paramount role in our lives". From that day on, for an entire year, I devised a shortcut method from that sentence - I used to replace the word "re-sponsibility" with whatever topic my teacher would me to write an essay on. Be it loyalty, sincerity or any other virtue, the shortcut method always worked - it was a little trick up my sleeve that helped me excel in my writing. Did it make any sense? Perhaps not. But did the teachers absolutely adore my essays? Of course! I was so proud of what my uncle taught me once that I kept using it everywhere.

As time passed and my writing evolved, I realised that it was my writing but his words, my ideas but his style, my opinion but his syntax. The greatest appreciation I ever received - and perhaps the greatest anyone could receive from their mentor - was when, after reading something I had written for college he said. "It feels



This pen has honoured me - to deliver justice, to gain knowledge, and to share it with so many people. My soul doesn't allow me to get rid of it so easily."

task. Yet missing the exams would delay his education — something he simply couldn't afford. So, he decided to figure something out.

At that point, two thoughts weighed heavily on his mind: firstly, how disheartened his mother would be if his education were delayed; and secondly, that his sister had asked him to bring back a Tibetan tea-saucer set. Putting all his faith in God, covering his head with his arms and clutching the porcelain tea set he had just bought, he jumped off the snow-covered Zojila Pass - risking everything for a better life and a brighter future. Surprisingly, he made it to Srinagar - bruised here and there, but well enough to sit the exam and pass it with flying colours. Thinking about it today, one might find it hard to believe such determination exists. But that was Raja Tasleem Abbas for you - a man full of determination

and faith. My grandfather, too, was part of the legal fraternity - a well-known figure, admired for his honesty and work ethic. It was he who passed on the legal legacy to my uncle. After completing his bachelor's degree, my uncle initially joined the Bar and practised with the law firm of Hakim Ishtiyaq Hussain - a man he would praise and speak of fondly, even years after his sad demise. On one occasion, both he and Hakim Ishtiyaq Sahab had gone to court for a case, only to return disheartened by the judge's conduct. At that moment - a mix of despair and hope - Hakim Sahab earnestly encouraged my uncle to consider sitting the judicial services examination. Though initially hesitant and lacking confidence, my uncle eventually agreed. Together, they went to collect the application form and filled it out then and there. That precise moment marked the beginning of his journey to the bench. The bench he always deserved. The bench he never left. According to the stories I've been told by my grandparents and by my uncle himself, he studied relentlessly for six months - day and night, without a single break. The only pauses he allowed himself were for the five daily prayers. He had devised a personalised study routine. Each morning, he would wake up at Fajr, offer his prayers, and begin his day by placing five books on one side of the table. His daily goal was simple: read and understand all five, then move them to the other side. Every single day, without fail, he met this goal. At the time, he didn't have much guidance. His language skills were not particularly strong either, so whenever he encountered a difficulty, he had no choice but to sit with it until he figured it out himself. I remember one story in particular - while studying the Law of Torts, he came across the case of Rylands v. Fletcher. At first, he couldn't quite grasp the reasoning and legal analysis behind it. Confused, he read and re-read the case until he understood every detail. That was his way - no room



for confusion, not even an inch of doubt. He loved the law in its entirety: the intricacies, the differing opinions, and the elegance.

On the day of the KCS examination, the exam hall was filled with anxiety and silent, sincere prayers. It was then that my uncle looked down at his clothes and realised, "I'm wearing my torn night T-shirt - and I didn't even notice." After writing each paper, he would self-assess all his answers and give himself a score. Surprisingly, when the results came out, his self-assessment almost perfectly matched his official marks.

Being the polymath that he was, during the brief time be-tween completing the exam and officially joining the legal fraternity, he served in the J&K Police as a Prosecuting Officer. He was appointed alongside his close friend, Khursheed-Ul-Islam Sir (now a Sessions Judge), and the two of them trained at a base camp in Udhampur. He once told me that while waiting for the results at the training camp, he would often imagine hypothetical cases, write judgments based on his legal reasoning, and sign them off with "Raja Tasleem Abbas, Sub-Judge.' The wait didn't last long. One day, someone at the camp shout-ed, "Raja judge ban gaya!" Both he and his friend had passed the examination successfully and were set to join the legal fraternity. He had cleared what once felt like an impossible exam and made a quiet promise to himself - to use this opportunity to help as many people as he could, to spread the message of peace and justice, to become a beacon of hope for the poor, and to deliver justice to every corner of Kashmir. And that is exactly what he did. He became the candle that lit the dark paths of so many. During the 23 years he served as a judge, beyond his remarkable judgments, he was known for his integrity, honesty, and fearlessness. He never bowed to higher authorities and always stood firmly by his decisions, without hesitation or fear. He distanced himself from any sense of entitlement - avoided entourages, disapproved of flaunting authority, and was firmly against the use of workplace services for personal matters. His principles ran so deep that they extended to the smallest of things - the kind most people would simply overlook. Recently, I was surprised to know that for even the simplest of tasks - like writing an essay for us, drafting a letter to his children's school administration or simply, jotting down a phone number - he would never use the pen provided by the Court. He had two sets of pen holders, one holding all the office pens which he used strictly for writing court orders or for official purposes and another set, which was bought by him solely for personal use. He was a firm believer in the sanctity of a pen. He would never throw away his empty pens, often saying, "This pen has honoured me - to deliver

justice, to gain knowledge, and to share it with so many people. My soul doesn't allow me to get rid of it so easily."

It was this same reverence for purpose that helped shape my own journey. Our mentor-mentee bond began in my childhood. but it grew even stronger in 2019 when he advised me to sit the All India Law Entrance Examination. He had just returned from a twoweek training programme at the Delhi Judicial Academy, hosted at NLU Delhi. At the time, I had no idea what a National Law University was or what it could mean for my future. We discussed it at length, and the very next day, he bought me the Manorama Yearbook, 2019 edition, and instructed me to start covering current affairs as soon as possible. I was confused, a little lost - but under his guidance, I began to explore a completely new path for my career. Studying for an entrance exam at home, especially without proper resources, was incredibly challenging. But he supported me every step of the way. From clearing my countless doubts to explaining complex legal concepts in simple, everyday language - he became the pillar of support I never realised I needed.

break down the distinctions, and clear every iota of doubt I had. The more questions I asked, the more excited he became to answer them. I was thrilled to finally understand, and I even shared a voice recording of our call with my friends. I vividly remember him, sipping tea and laughing as he said, "This ideally should be a privacy breach. But the law hasn't reached there yet."

Sometime in August 2020, on the night before my entrance exam for NLU Delhi, he told me something that I carry with me to this day. He said, "You've tried your level best, there is nothing more that you could have done, from now onwards leave everything to God. If this works out, then it was meant for you; however, if it doesn't God surely has bigger plans for you." These words have stayed with me every since and have guided me every time I have faced a difficulty.

Once college started, he became an integral part of my life, more than he was before. I used to study cases and assigned readings with him. Honestly, back then I had no idea how to read cases but his sentence by sentence (what he'd call "spoon feeding" approach) helped me go through my initial semesters in law school. I remember that I had a course on where we read the entire Speluncean Explorers case together - sentence by sentence, partly agreeing and disagreeing, arguing throughout the 10/15 pages of the course. Our disagreements would reach another level while reading the Constitutional Law. For instance, I used to be a staunch J. Iyer fan and he would critique him for not writing to the point judgements and diverting in poetry and lengths of legal jargon. I would give an opinion, he'd question its originality (and rightly so) and say, "This idea is the impact of westernisation and colonisation." I did not understand anything when he mentioned "Critical Legal Studies" - but nothing stopped the difference in opinions. We would go back and forth. until everyone would stare at us out of boredom, and I would agree to his point tangentially somewhere. Then I would say, "But you agree that my opinion is at least 50% right" and he'd say, "That's the sign of weakness, you are not confident in your argument anymore." Finally, in public interest we would stop, and everyone would divert to some other topic. For as long as I can remember, visiting him every day, random conversations and life advice had become part of my life. I wouldn't even call it part of my routine - it was my life. Going back home, sitting in the garden on Sundays, sipping tea, laughing and chatting were our ideal afternoon. Every weekend I would confirm at dinner, "Would you be home tomorrow?" He would nod, and then we'd sit together for as long as we could.

even more surprising, I have seen him happy and satisfied while working. I would be so pissed when on weekends he would have people coming home, I would ask "Don't you have court for this?" He'd smile and say, "No, they need my help and advice and they are not very comfortable coming to the court."

When I say he was a self-made man, I mean every ounce of it. He wasn't a man of inherited privilege. He was the embodiment of hard work and self-made success. He truly earned his authority and his seat. Wherever he was posted, he left the fraternity in awe with his disposal rates. He truly invested himself in people's cases. He would often say, "Do Justice considering it to be a part of worship."

of worship." On 15th Feb, when he was admitted in emergency, the first thing he told me was, "Today I completed writing an order and was about to release someone who was in jail for the last 15 years, but due to my ailing health, I had to leave early." He regretted terribly that he had to leave court before passing that order. This is the first conversation we had at the critical care unit, how does one reach this level of determination?

I often think that (aware of the backstory of how he became a judge) normally a person would be swimming in a pool of hubris. But I never once saw him act superior or as better than the rest. Ego had no space in his world. He would always advise us, never to bow down before money or power. He was the pillar of optimism and would always encourage and motivate everyone to follow their interests and use their potential to the fullest. Nothing was as important to him as self-respect, he would repeatedly say, "Don't ever let anyone scratch your selfrespect, honour it and treasure it." He wanted to deeply instill in us the principles he always clung to - the principles of fearlessness, self-respect and honesty.

I thought I knew the person he was, but after his passing, I am now discovering, "Who he really was?" I am so proud of the person he was. I am so rejoiced at the fact that he actually "lived" his life and followed the path that he promised to himself at the inception of his legal career.

Though this story is his and not mine - I doubt my story would even exist without him in it. Had he not been my mentor and guiding angel since the very start, I would be in the middle of nowhere. He practically raised me and made me the person that I am today, guided me towards Law then towards better opportunities, and then finally served my future to me on a silver platter. I would not be a fraction of the person that I am today, had he not been by my side calling me, "Jaana" and being the solid rock of support that he was. Though, fate decided to cut short our mentorship cycle and he may not be there with me physically, he will always live in my writing. His presence will echo in my writing. His words that I continue to steal - and my writing style (which is inherently his) will carry him forward with me, always. However, he doesn't need anyone to keep him alive. A personality like his is immortalised in the hearts of thousands of people he has helped, in the hearts of numerous students he has mentored, in the hearts of the accused who found light through his work and everyone who ever had the privilege of knowing him. I have always been fond of Agha Shahid Ali and his book "Veiled Suite". However, I never understood his poetry as deeply as I can today. He says, "It rains as I write this. Mad Heart Be Brave." Today I completely understand it and I hate that I understand it. Agha, it does rain as I am writing this, but I don't know if my mad heart has enough strength to be brave. My mad heart is just constantly reminded of these lines from my uncle's favourite song:

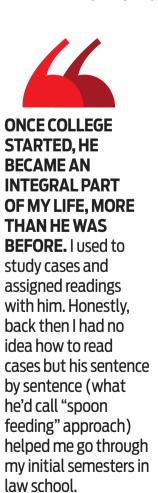
like I'm reading something written by myself."

While my journey of writing initially began entirely under his shadow, over time, my writing process gradually shifted to a more collaborative effort - where I would write and then wait for his comments and feedback, always in awe of his overarching presence in my writing. Thereafter, ever since I began my journey of becoming an advocate, I had hoped to start legal writing from scratch, again under his continued guidance - I had hoped to rely on him completely to come up with new writing tricks - completing another full circle of mentorship and learning. Little did I know, an unfamiliar storm was quietly waiting at the doorstep of our lives.

Faced with the inescapable grief of losing him and the context of him teaching me the very art of writing, it felt that there would be no other way of honouring him but by bidding him a final goodbye with one a piece of writing. Today I am writing on my own, already aware that this piece won't be perfect without his comments and feedback, but here's to hoping that this piece somehow captures the depth of his personality. Had he been here today, he would have jokingly accused me of stealing all his favourite words - but here's to using his words to write his own story.

The legal career of my uncle began with his position as a Junior Assistant at the District Court in Bandipora, and he was eventually transferred to Kargil. His career started even before he had graduated. He managed a full-time job while simultaneously pursuing a bachelor's degree in Law at the University of Kashmir. During his final year, end-semester exams were scheduled for December/ January. However, reaching Srinagar meant navigating roads buried under 4-5 feet of snow, which was almost an impossible

I remember being completely



perplexed about the difference between murder and culpable homicide. I couldn't quite grasp the nuances between the two. Despite his demanding schedule, he would call me on his way home, walk me through examples,

Though office hours were technically Monday to Saturday, I have always seen him working. And Gham aur khushi mai faraq na mehsoos ho jahaan

Mai khud ko uss maqam pe laata chalagaya

Mai zindagi ka sath nibhata chalagya.

- The author is student of final year at NLU Delhi

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

J&K Gears Up

the details, the DGP took a detailed review and directed the officers to ensure fool proof security.

Meanwhile, the Special Protection Group (SPG), tasked with the Prime Minister's security, has taken over the control of the security at the venue in Katra, where the Prime Minister is scheduled to flag off the first train to Kashmir on April 19.

As per the tentative schedule, PM Modi is expected to land at Udhampur, take an aerial survey of the Chenab Bridge, proceed to Katra to flag off the first direct train to Kashmir, and later address a massive public rally at the Katra Sports Stadium.

The Vande Bharat Express, specially built for operations in sub-zero temperatures of the Kashmir Valley, is already stationed at Katra. The train consists of eight fully air-conditioned coaches, cab heating, HVAC systems with 9kW heating, sealed gangways, infotainment displays, CCTVs, LED lighting, mobile charging ports, plug doors, and electro-pneumatic brakes. While the train can run at 160 km/h, its operating speed between Katra and Srinagar has been limited to 85 km/h as per CRS approval.

The USBRL project spans 272 km, including 119 km of tunnels, and connects Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, and Baramulla. Among the standout features of the project are the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge. The Chenab Bridge, standing at 467 me-tres, can withstand earthquakes of up to magnitude 8.

PM Modi had described the Chenab bridge as an "unparalleled" example of engineering. Moreover, the flagging off the commercial operation of the first train between Kashmir and Jammu will mark the beginning of full rail connectivity from the Valley to the rest of the country. To start with, the national transporter will operate one Vande Bharat train between Katra and Srinagar, which will enable travelers to cover the stretch in just over three hours. Currently, it takes around 6 to 7 hours.

The Northern Railway has been conducting the trial run of trains between Kashmir and Jammu for more than two months. At present, train services in Kashmir are limited to the Sangaldan-Baramulla section, while longdistance trains terminate at Katra.

The bridge over the Chenab river is 35 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower.

Officials said around 29,000 tones of steel has been used in the construction of the bridge. They added that construction of the bridge was challenging because the area falls in earthquake-prone region and so its design and construction were done in such a way that even if an eight-magnitude earthquake occurs it will not affect the bridge

Approved in 1994-95 and declared a National Project in 2002, USBRL has seen phased completion over the years. Key stretches such as Qazigund-Baramulla (2009), Banihal-Qazigund (2013), Udhampur-Katra (2014), and Banihal-Sangaldan (2020) have already been inaugurated. A MEMU train trial run was also conducted last year on the electrified Reasi-Sangaldan section.

As security is expected to be a top priority for such a high-profile event, arrangements are being made to ensure a smooth visit. Security forces have been deployed across critical locations, and additional personnel are being stationed at Udhampur, Katra, and Chenab Bridge. Special measures are being implemented to ensure the safety of the PM and other dignitaries attending the event, with authorities taking

of pilgrims and ensuring organized preparations for the upcoming Hajj season.

The authorities have also banned hotels from taking in visitors who do not own a valid Hajj permit. This also includes those who only have work entry permits or residents. However, this is applicable only during the annual pilgrimage season.

Saudi Arabia had also slashed India's Private Hajj Quota by 80%, from the earlier Haj quota of 175, 025. The kingdom had also announced a temporary suspension on issuing new shortterm visas, including tourist and business, for citizens of 14 countries, including India.

4 Killed, 30 Injured

by an unknown vehicle in Pahalgam area of Anantnag district. According to an official, the accident occurred near the selfie-point in Pahalgam, where the vehicle hit and injured the young girl.

In Anantnag, a separate road accident took place in Sinthan Top area involving an Intra-v (chota hathi) vehicle, resulting in injuries to eight people.

The injured were taken to PHC Larnoo, with some among them being referred to GMC Anantnag and SDH Kokernag. All the injured are stated to be stable, the officials said.

In Srinagar, two motorcyclists were critically injured in a collision near the All India Radio Kashmir flyover. They were quickly transported to SMHS Hospital by the Dial 112 police team.

A three-year-old boy was killed in Ganderbal after being hit by a vehicle in the Kullan Gund area. The boy, identified as Mohammad Hussain, was declared dead on arrival at SDH Kangan.

In Bandipora, a tractor plunged into a gorge in the Duban area of Onagam, resulting in one fatality and leaving another injured.

The deceased, Mohammad Yaseen from Malangam, was confirmed dead at the scene, while the injured, Bilal Ahmad was taken to a District Hospital for further treatment.

Police have registered cases and launched investigations into these incidents.

Meanwhile, a senior traffic police official advised drivers to exercise extreme caution, obey speed limits, and remain alert at all times.

"It is crucial for all road users to exercise extra care to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Prioritize life over reckless, high-speed driving," the officer said.(KNO)

J&K Eyes Rs 5,500 Cr

air tickets to and fro Kashmir and hoped for a relief by the inauguration of direct train by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in coming days.

"We have nine new destinations in mind that we hope to get funded through a multilateral agency. We hope these destinations will ease some sort of pressure on Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg in the valley and also open up areas of Jammu hitherto undiscovered for tourism.

"Until those new destinations come up, the valley as we see it today is pretty much saturated. The moment the tulip garden is open, Srinagar for all intents and purposes grinds to a halt," the chief minister said while addressing a tourism-related event here.

Later, answering the queries of some of the participants including K B Kachru, Chairman Emeritus and Principal Advisor, South Asia for the Radisson Hotel Group, Abdullah said his government has already worked on these nine destinations.

"Before we open those destinations to private investment like yours (Radisson) in the hotel industry and other things, we need to make sure that the amenities are in place, including connectivity, electricity, water, etc. And that is where the multilateral funding comes in that I talked about," he said. The chief minister said the World Bank has already agreed to fund the project report preparation. "So that now will kick off and the moment that is done, we are then going to approach the same agencies. Hopefully, the World Bank will put aside its traditional sort of reluctance to fund anything in J&K." He said it is about Rs 5,500 crore investment that the J&K government is looking at for raising the basic infrastructure at these nine destinations.

said. The chief minister said his government will have focused attention on electric vehicles and is also open to helicopter service to link tourist destinations.

"We are open (to introduce helicopter services). If anyone is interested, by all means, come forward. Currently, all we have is the subsidized service for local people in the winter to connect the disconnected areas," he said.

On the introduction of more cable car services, he said "we need to be selective and careful as to where we locate them, so that they actually survive and make money, rather than sort of disappear."

Seeks End To

his government would be working with the Centre, particularly the MEA, to focus on those countries that have "very firm" travel advisories.

Attending a tourism event in the national capital, Abdullah, who also holds the Tourism portfolio in the Union territory government, said he is increasingly of the view that I&K needs to be repositioned, not as a destination for "volume tourism", but one for "value tourism".

"First, we will review the tourism policy in light of whatever has happened in Jammu and Kashmir in terms of the tourist arrivals. As I said earlier, the need to reposition Jammu and Kashmir and whether that means that we need an entirely new tourism policy or the tourism policy that we already have just needs to be tweaked a bit," the chief minister said.

He said the central government has been saying that J&K is now entirely normal. "I think the proof of the pudding is in the eating. We have to convince the international community that Jammu and Kashmir is normal and there is no point telling us as we see what Jammu and Kashmir is like.'

Abdullah, however, said he doubts whether people sitting in the White House are going to be reading Indian newspapers.

"It is the MEA that needs to use its diplomatic might to actually now start getting these travel advisories written down. I think that will be the single biggest proof acknowledged internationally that Jammu and Kashmir has changed for the better," he said.

The CM said so far it has just been the government saying that the situation in J&K is normal but one needs the international community to acknowledge it.

"And that acknowledgement will come in the form of those travel advisories being written down and finally done away with," he said. Abdullah said his government would be working with the Centre, particularly the MEA,

to focus on those countries that have very firm travel advisories. "The US, the EU, the United Kingdom, Australia and get them to start sort of writing down and watering down their advisories.

The CM said all foreign visitors coming to J&K having to show some sort of identity proof is nothing new

"All foreign visitors to Jammu and Kashmir ever since I can remember have always had to register upon arrival. Most of them fly in. And there is a dedicated counter in Srinagar airport for foreign visitors registration. So, this is not something new," he said.

"Traditionally, this has been the case. And it was there even before 1989 (when militancy erupted in the valley)," he added.

Abdullah said there were "thousands and thousands of foreign visitors" in Kashmir before 1989, and added that it was not a deterrent then and it will not be a deterrent now.

"What stops them (foreign tourists) is not ne registration. It is the fact that you

KASHMIR OBSERVER® SRINAGAR | TUESDAY | 15.04.2025

both of these things," he said. SC Won't Enter

"I am confident that the Supreme Court will not venture into a legislative matter," the minister told NDTV. "We have to respect each other. If tomorrow the government interferes into judiciary, it won't be nice. The separation of powers is well defined," he said.

"I have not seen any other bill being scrutinised so much ... one crore representation, maximum sittings of the JPC (Joint Parliamentary Committee) and a record in Rajya Sabha while debating the bill," he added.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had made it clear that it would not trespass into the domain of the legislature. But as the final arbiter on issues involving constitution, it has agreed to hear out the petitioners, who claim the amended law tramples on several fundamental rights, including the right to equality and the right to religious freedom.

In Bengal meanwhile, Mamata Banerjee -- who refused to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act, National Register of Citizens and Uniform Civil Code last year -- has now announced that the amended Waqf law will also join that category.

Asked about her stance, Rijiju said it could indicate that Banerjee does not believe in the Constitution of India.

"What kind of bizarre statement is that?" Rijiju said.

"Does Mamata or anybody not care for the people? They treat Muslims as mere vote bank. It will be a black day, the moment they defy... Anybody who says they will not obey the act passed by the Parliament of India does he or she have any moral authority and Constitutional right to occupy that position and hold the Constitution book? Do they respect Ambedkar? What kind of message do they want to send? Very unfortunate," he added.

While the implementation of the law rests in the hands of the state governments, the BIP has said the states have no power to bypass the Central laws

"We want to make it clear that after the 73rd and the 74th amendments in the Constitution, powers of the Centre, state and district-level governments are clearly defined. No district panchayat can go beyond the law passed by the state assembly and no state can bypass the law passed by the Centre (Parliament)," said BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi.

The Opposition has called the amended law unconstitutional, pointing to the several contentious provisions that include mandatory inclusion of two non-Muslim members in the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards, and the stipulation that individuals who practiced Islam for at least five years only can donate properties to Waqf.

Also, under the proposed law, government property identified as Waqf will cease to belong to it and the local Collector will determine its ownership.

The BJP has said the bill was drawn up after consulting a large section of people and it has the support of non-Muslim minorities. The bill has also passed the scrutiny of a Joint Parliamentary Committee and many amendments suggested by the members have been included.

The government has contended that the bill is about property and its management, not religion.

Huge lands and properties have been taken over by Waqf and there were largescale irregularities that did not allow Waqf property to benefit the economically deprived sections of the Muslim community, which the amended

law would do, it said.

release of a fire safety documentary, awareness lectures, essay writing and painting competitions, health checkups for jawans and the public and a medical first aid training programme.

The director urged citizens to partner with the department in building a fire-safe India by practising basic safety measures, reporting hazards promptly, and participating in awareness activities.

NC Blocked Waqf

50 MLAs and the Speaker belongs to their party. I fail to understand against whom they were protesting and raising concerns within the Assembly.

"And now Farooq Abdullah comes out in support of the Speaker. This is a tremendous mockery," Lone said.

The former minister emphasised that a "historic opportunity" was missed to either pass a resolution or at least conduct a meaningful discussion on the contentious amendments to the Waqf Act.

"It could have sent a powerful message from the only Muslim-majority province in the country. Instead, it appeared as though NC was fighting against itself merely to sabotage the iscussion and to appease New Delhi," he said.

"As a sole Muslim-majority province, our collective voice would have carried significant weight but now even if thousands of individuals approach the court separately, the matter will be decided purely on legal grounds rather than reflecting the sentiments of the people," he said.

Lone alleged that this situation arose because NC wanted to please the BJP MLAs, he added

Notably, Farooq Abdullah has defended J&K Assembly speaker Abdul Rahim Rather not allowing a discussion in the House on the act, saying "the discussion on Waqf Amendment Act did not happen in the Assembly as the matter is already in the Supreme Court".

"The Speaker already gave his verdict and it was right on his part because when we are approaching the Supreme Court, there is no point talking about it," he said.

On opposition calling the pandemonium witnessed in the last three days of the budget session in Jammu from April 7 to 9 as a "fixed match", the NC president said "has the opposition ever introspected?"

"Who is responsible? Who converted Augaf into the state Waqf Board? It was the property of Muslims living here. Article 370 would not have been abrogated had they not shaken hands with the Centre (BJP)," he said without naming the People's Democratic Party (PDP) headed by Mehbooba Mufti.

The NC president was referring to changing the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Auqaf Trust to state-owned Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board during the chief ministership of PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in 2003.

LG Credits Policies

and employment generation, and a significant push to the industrial development of the region.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the administration is committed to the advancement of the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have ensured a workforce prepared for industrial jobs. We have empowered marginalised sections of society to broaden the skilled workforce. Our handloom and handicraft exports surged after building the industrial ecosystem," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the progressive industrial policy and several key interventions in the last few years have strengthened investors' confidence in the UT of J&K and attracted private investment.

proactive steps to avoid any disruptions.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched full-scale preparations to ensure a massive turnout during the Prime Minister's visit. Party workers across multiple districts are being mobilised, logistics are being finalised, and plans are being laid out for a grand public reception at Katra Stadium. (inputs from agencies)

Saudi 'Cuts' Indian

cancellation of Hajj slots for over 52,000 Indian pilgrims, many of whom have already completed payments, is deeply concerning. I urge Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs @ DrSJaishankar to engage with the Saudi authorities at the earliest to explore a resolution in the interest of all affected pilgrims. This measure is crucial to ease the distress of thousands hoping to undertake the sacred pilgrimage this year," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted on his official X handle.

Ruling National Conference president Farooq Abdullah appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak to the Saudi leadership in this regard.

"I appeal to the Prime Minister to raise the issue with the Saudi government and ensure that the Hajj quota for Indian pilgrims is not reduced," he added.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said the sudden decision to reduce the Hajj quota has caused immense distress for both the pilgrims and tour operators.

"Disturbing news emerging from Saudi Arabia. Reports indicate that 80% of India's private Haj quota has been cut abruptly. This sudden decision is causing immense distress for pilgrims and tour operators across the country. Urge the Ministry of External Affairs to immediately intervene by taking up this matter with the Saudi government to seek a resolution. @ MEAIndia @DrSJaishankar," she posted on X.

Visa For Children

with their Haj Pilgrimage as per the schedule. However, if they opt for full or partial cancellation of their Cover(s), they may do so online through the Haj Committee of India website or Haj Suvidha App by Monday, April 14, 2025," the committee said.

No cancellation charges will be applied till April 14, the statement added.

Besides the cancellation of visas for children below 12, the Saudi Government has also imposed additional norms, including new travel restrictions that prevent Umrah visa holders from entering the country after the 15th day of Shawwal. This is aimed at managing the influx

"The moment that starts, then parallel to that, we will be asking people like you to come forward and invest in hotels and other tourism related infrastructure," the chief minister said.

Abdullah said his government is going to work with tourism bodies and others to see how "we can move Jammu and Kashmir up the value chain in terms of tourism that is not so much volume-based".

"As it is value-based and for that obviously the experience has to improve the quality of what we provide our tourists has to get better in terms of hotels, in terms of the experiences that we provide and in terms of the feel-good factor that they have when they come back. What we need to try and ensure is that tourists leave Jammu and Kashmir with a sense that they want to come back," he said.

Admitting that the government has not been able to grow tourism in Jammu, he said even though one crore pilgrims come for 'darshan' of Mata Vaishno Devi annually, "you need to divert 10-15 per cent of them to other pilgrimage sites and destinations".

Tourism in Jammu region is unique, the chief minister said, adding Jammu's positioning needs to be built around its heritage, around its history, around the religious side of it and the border part of it.

"And that is something which is going to get focused attention. All nine proposed destinations are not in the valley. Part of these are in the valley and part in Jammu," he said.

Highlighting the exorbitant rates of air tickets to and fro Kashmir valley, he said PM Modi is visiting the UT to flag off the Vande Bharat train that will connect Jammu to Srinagar, thus integrating the rail network of the valley with the rest of the country.

"Therein again that will bring its own challenges linked to what I had said earlier. Rail normally means volume. The easy availability of access into the valley means volumes will go up. So how do we balance the increased volumes on account of the train with our need to move up the value chain and make tourism in Jammu and Kashmir more value-based," he

travel advisory that makes their insurance null and void. They will have insurance and they do not travel without health and other insurance. The moment they visit J&K, their insurance policy is rendered sort of invalid. That is what needs to be changed," Abdullah said.

In response to a suggestion for outsourcing golf courses, the chief minister said the matter is under active consideration of the government.

"That said, we have to tread carefully here

because I do not want to give the impression that we are looking to sell the crown jewels. whatever Therefore, we do with regard to a private investment into these, we have to do in a way in which we maintain ownership.

Perhaps a long-term lease solution might be the answer, he said, adding there are various models are under active consideration.

On film tourism, the chief minister said the private market that gets sort of developed through Bollywood is already well taken care of in J&K. "North India,

Maharashtra, Gujarat are areas where I do not think we require much more promotional activity. The areas where we find we are lacking is southern India. We neither get very many south Indian movies and they have much larger budgets these days than perhaps Bollywood movies do," he said.

Abdullah said south Indian tourists generally do not travel as far north as J&K and south Indian movies are not shot in the UT that frequently.

Therefore, we will be looking to see what we can do to tap into

J&K Fire Dept

martyrs of the 1944 Bombay dock explosion and reaffirmed their commitment to public safety.

This year's theme, "Unite to ignite a fire-safe India," emphasises collective responsibility and community involvement in fire prevention.

As part of the fire service week starting today (Monday), the department launched several public engagement initiatives, including the

Write, Create, Innovate Join

KASHMIR **OBSERVER**

Kashmir Observer is calling passionate storytellers, sharp writers, and creative multimedia enthusiasts to join our Editorial & Multimedia Internship Program!

What's in it for you?

Hands-on newsroom experience

Learn from media professionals

Work on real stories » & creative projects

Build a portfolio that stands out

If you've got the talent, send your resume to onlineko@outlook.com and take the leap into the world of media!

'We have been successful in creating a conducive environment for the growth of industries, enabling overall development. Our efforts are now yielding positive dividends, with many industrial units having started their operations and many more investment proposals in the pipeline," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The unit, set up with an investment of Rs 75 crore, will generate hundreds of employment opportunities.

Azad Dissolves All Units Of DPAP spokespersons. He said these

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has shut down all parts of his party, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), after it failed to win even one seat in the recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

After the party's poor per-formance, many of Azad's close supporters left DPAP and went back to the Congress party.

An insider of DPAP said that all levels of the party-state, district, and local-have been dissolved, including the party's

Dy CM Pays Homage To Dr Ambedkar

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Monday attended two programs at village Dabber and Naniyal (Nowshera), organised to observe the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Paying homage to the legend, the Dy CM described him as one of India's foremost politicians, jurists and social reformers. The Dy CM extended greet-

ings to the people and remarked that this day holds great significance in honouring the remarkable contributions of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to our nation, particularly in the field of social justice, equality, and the drafting of the Indian Constitution.

He said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar dedicated his life to the fight



will be set up again later. Azad had left the Congress par-

ty in August 2022 after more than

40 years, due to disagreements

with its leadership. He launched

DPAP a month later, promising it

would be a democratic party, not

move to completely reorganize

of 90 Assembly seats but didn't

win any. Some people believed

the party had a secret deal with

the BJP, which may have hurt its

Sources say Azad made this

DPAP had contested 23 out

run by one person.

chances.

and rebuild the party.

against social discrimination and worked tirelessly to secure equal rights for women, laborers and marginalized communities. His vision laid the foundation for a just and inclusive society, as reflected in the Constitution of India, which he was instrumental in drafting, he added.

The Dy CM added that Ambedkar believed in equality for every citizen, no matter which caste, religion or community they belonged to and government is committed to build J&K of Ambedkar's dreams.

Cyber Police Kashmir Busts Network Of Fraudulent Proxy Bank Accounts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a continued crackdown on cyber fraud and illicit financial activity, Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, SH POLICE ST

Srinagar, has launcher a sweeping operation targeting proxy bank accounts being used to facilitate scams and money laundering across the Valley. In a major develop-

REINTIR ZONE SRIT ment, preventive legar action has been initiated against 50 individuals linked to such accounts, with two key masterminds arrested and several others placed under surveillance. These front accounts, often opened or handed over by local residents in exchange for quick commissions, are being exploited by cybercriminal networks-some operating from overseas-to reroute stolen money through phishing scams, fake investment platforms, and illegal betting websites.

Dot Com. "Anyone who knowingly, or even carelessly, allows their bank account to be used in this way will face strict legal action.

The Cyber Police is employdigital forensics, dvanced financial tracing, and national-level collaboration to break down these networks. The unit is also issuing a strong advisory to the public: protect your financial

credentials and never allow your bank account to be used

USBRL Project Boosts Connectivity & **Development In J&K**



opened in February 2024. These

connections have brought life

to remote corners of the state,

previously cut off from main-

Beyond its engineering mar-

vel, the USBRL project has been

a catalyst for employment and skill development. Over 14,000

jobs were created during the

construction phase, with 65

percent going to locals. The

Railways also provided gov-

ernment jobs to 804 families

who lost more than 75 per-

cent of their land. Additionally,

more than 525 lakh man-days

of employment were gener-

ated, fostering a pool of skilled

artisans now working on na-

tional infrastructure projects.

Over 215 km of approach roads

have been built, connecting 70

remote villages with around

1.5 lakh residents to the rest

of the country. Previously reli-

ant on treacherous footpaths,

villagers now enjoy access to

The project's socio-economic ripple effects are evident.

stream development.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (US-BRL) marks a historic milestone in India's infrastructural journey, transforming a centuryold vision into a powerful en-gine of socio-economic growth across the Kashmir Valley. First envisioned in 1892 by

Maharaja Pratap Singh and lat-er reinforced by the British, the dream of connecting Kashmir with India's railway network languished for decades due to harsh terrain, climate, and limited resources. The project gained momentum in 1994-95 when the final rail link between Udhampur, Srinagar, and Baramulla was sanctioned and declared a National Project in 2002.

In the decades since, major milestones have been achieved-from the Jammu-Udhampur link in 2005 to the recent Banihal-Sangaldan section



FIRST ENVISIONED IN 1892 BY MAHARAJA PRATAP SINGH AND LATER REINFORCED BY THE BRITISH, the dream of connecting Kashmir with India's railway network languished for decades due to harsh terrain, climate, and limited resources. The project gained momentum in 1994-95 when the final rail link between Udhampur, Srinagar, and Baramulla was sanctioned and declared a National Project in 2002.

PDP Criticises Centre, JK Govt For Rejection Of Two Key Tunnel Projects

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday criticised the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir government for turning down two key tunnel projects on the Anantnag-Chenani corridor, saying the works were proposed to enhance connectivity in the mountainous Doda and Kishtwar districts of the union territory.

"The decision of the Public Investment Board (PIB) to turn down the proposals

Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels was long recognised by the previous PDP-led governments. leader said.

"It was (former chief minister) Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who first envisioned these tunnels as a transformative step to connect the Chenab valley with Kashmir and the rest of the Jammu division. His government initiated key surveys and brought the issue to the national planning forum.

"During Mehbooba Mufti's tenure as the chief minister, the project proposals were

ect reports prepared and envi-

ronmental clearances sought,"

valley reached New Delhi.

momentum was lost, Tak said.

Tak said.

effectively for the interests of the Chenab valley," the PDP

markets, schools, and health

services, spurring local busi-

nesses and setting up work-

Improved rail access to shrines

like Amarnath, Hazratbal, and

Charar-e-Sharif is expected to

boost religious tourism. Local producers of saffron, apples,

and handicrafts now benefit

from faster access to national

Strategically, the railway enhances national security by

enabling faster troop and re-

source mobilization, while its

electrification contributes to

environmental sustainability

by reducing carbon emissions.

completion, it promises not

just enhanced connectivity

but a transformative impact-

uniting communities, enabling

economic growth, and raising the quality of life in Jammu &

Kashmir, long seen as India's

crown yet disconnected from

its heart

As the USBRL nears full

Tourism is another gainer.

shops and eateries

and global markets.

Both parties remained "silent spectators" while the Union government shelved projects that are critical for this region's development, he added.

He contrasted the treatment of Chenab valley with other regions like Jammu-Srinagar, which benefited from landmark infrastructure such as the Chenani-Nashri tunnel, a project that revolutionized travel by avoiding the avalanche-prone areas. "Today, 33 tunnels are being Highways, with detailed projtalked about by the Centre for J-K. Fifteen have already been completed. Yet, two of the most essential ones for Doda and He claimed that despite po-Kishtwar have been left out. It's clear where the priorities lie -litical instability, Mehbooba Mufti's government ensured and sadly, Chenab valley is not that the voice of the Chenab on that list," Tak said. He also urged people across But sadly, after 2018 when party lines to unite and demand accountability and jusher government collapsed, all tice for the region, warning "The J-K BJP leadership that continued neglect could and the National Conference, only deepen the sense of marwhich is heading the present ginalisation and frustration government, are equally reamong the youth and the comsponsible. They failed to lobby mon citizens.

Handwara ACCIDENT Aftermath **Students Join J&K Police To Promote Road Safety**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In the aftermath of the tragic Handwara college bus accident that claimed two lives, the students across the Kashmir valley joined hands with the J&K Police to promote traffic awareness and road safety.

Students were seen assist-ing cops from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, pleading with motorists to wear helmets, avoid overspending and respect traffic rules in several townships across the valley, including Handwara, Sumbal and Anantnag.

"Road safety is not just a rulebook issue, it is about valuing lives. We have seen what happens when negligence goes unchecked," the participatory students said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, who facilitated the initiative, believed that the participation of students has sent a strong message about the role of civic responsibility in

preventing such incidents. Earlier, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravinder Pal Singh at Kupwara had a few days back stated that despite the awareness drives, the ini-

tiative will only bear fruits if motorists truly understand and cooperate with the rules.

"We try our best to reach rural areas with a thrust to control accidents, fatalities, but this is only possible when people consider whatever we advise them," SSP Singh said.

He also pointed out that wrong-lane driving is a major contributor to road accidents and cautioned against teenagers driving without proper licenses. The SSP, in the meanwhile,

added that they will be strict with the school buses found to be overloaded. "They need to follow the guidelines of the Supreme Court. We will distribute stickers displaying the guidelines and traffic department contact numbers."

He further noted that installing CCTV cameras in school buses would become mandatory, adding that they are going to seize the vehicles that violate these parameters.

Pertinently, on April 12, two young female students lost their lives while 23 other received injuries after a college bus carrying students en route to a picnic met with a severe accident in Vodhpora, Handwara in north Kashmir–(KNO)

Dr Farooq Seeks PM's **Intervention To Prevent Reductions In Hajj Quotas**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate dialogue with Saudi officials to prevent reductions in the Hajj pilgrim quotas.

Dr Abdullah said, "Saudi Arabia's recent suspension of new short-term visas to citizens of 14 countries, including India ahead of Hajj pilgrimage is a matter of concern.'

Appealing to PM Modi to intervene, he said, "I urge the Prime Minister to initiate dialogue with Saudi officials to prevent reductions in the Hajj pilgrim quotas.'

He said that I also appeal to the Prime Minister to speak with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and urge them not to reduce our quota (of Hajj pilgrims). There is also the question of jobs here. I will ask Omar (Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister) to write to the PM on this." Meanwhile, the NC Pres

criticized the Waqf Amendment Act but backed the J&K Assembly Speaker's decision against its discussion, pending Supreme Court review.

Dr Farooq commended the J&K Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather for disallowing a debate on the newly amended law, on grounds that the matter awaits resolution in the Supreme Court.

'This Bill is against the Constitution. The Speaker (of the J-K Assembly) made a good decision of not allowing discussion on this, as the matter is in the Supreme Court. We can talk about this after the Supreme Court's decision. The Opposition here is only meant to oppose; it is not a healthy criticism

taken forward with the Ministry of Road Transport and

"These accounts may appear normal on the surface, but they form a critical part of a digital crime trail," said the Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime Kashmir, speaking to Kashmir

"If you've been tricked or convinced to let someone use your account, or suspect it's been misused-come forward. Help us help you. If you notice suspicious online activity, report it. Combating cybercrime requires collective vigilance," the SP urged.

by others

Authorities are emphasizing that participation in such frauds-willingly or not-by allowing one's account to be used as a third-party channel for illegal transactions is a punishable offense. Citizens can contact Cyber Police Kashmir through their helpline to report any fraudulent activity or seek assistance.

for the Singhpora-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels was a betrayal of the aspirations of the people living in these remote areas. "These tunnels were not just

construction projects, but were essential for the socio-economic upliftment of Doda and Kishtwar," senior PDP leader and former legislator Firdous Tak said in a statement.

Without all-weather road access, he said, the region remains cut off for months, isolating people and obstructing education, healthcare and trade. Tak recalled that the need

for the Singhpora-Vailoo and

New Waqf Law An Assault On Rights **Of Muslim Minority: Tarigami Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: CPI(M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami on Monday said the Waqf (Amendment) Act is an assault on the rights of the Muslim minority community.

"During the party Congress in Madurai, delegates from across the country, including those with deep associations with the faith, writers and people who have dedicated their lives to political and social matters unanimously concluded that the Waqf (Amendment) Act is a serious infringement on the rights of the Muslim minority community," Tarigami, the MLA from Kulgam, told reporters here.

He said such measures threaten the democratic framework and constitutional values of the country.



"This is what we highlighted there. Because of such actions, the democratic fabric and constitutional structure of our country are being weakened," he said.

Tarigami appealed to civil society, parliamentarians, legislators, writers and the media to raise their voices.

"Whether it is an attack on minorities, on democracy, on institutions or constitutional rights, one never knows what will be targeted next. Before it's too late, voices must be raised," he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 5712 1405 5235 from Shafeega Bano (old name) to Shafiqa Bano (New name).

> Shafiqa Bano *R/O* :- *Noorbagh Srinagar*

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Shabir Ahmad Kumar want to change my son's name in his aadhar card bearing no 8541 6581 3903 from Faizan Ahmad Kumar (old name) to Danish Ahmad Kumar (new name)

> Shabir Ahmad Kumar F/o : Danish Ahmad Kumar R/O: Batpora Ganderbal

Kashmir Orchardists Turn To Unapproved Growth Regulators

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Orchardists across Kashmir are increasingly turning to plant growth regulators (PGRs) in hopes of improving fruit set in their apple orchards-despite these chemicals lacking official approval or scientific backing from either the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K) or the Department of Horticulture.

As spring arrives in the valley, farmers are investing crores of rupees into spraying growth regulators across thousands of acres of fruit orchards. Many believe these synthetic hormones help in better fruit formation and higher yields. Yet, amid the rush, voices of caution persist among both seasoned growers and horticultural scientists.

"There are more than two brands of growth regulators currently available in the local market," a senior SKUAST scientist said. "But none of them have been officially recommended for use by SKUAST or the horticulture department."

Veteran fruit grower Mo-



hammad Yousuf from Shopian remains unconvinced by the growing popularity of these substances. "I have tried growth regulators in the past," he said. "Yes, the initial fruit set looks promising, but most of those fruits drop prematurely-around June or July. It's a short-lived benefit that ends up being a waste of both time

and money." Yousuf warned that longterm use of these chemicals could be detrimental to the

orchards. "Continuous use year after year may leave the trees exhausted and non-productive. The yields eventually drop sharply," he said.

On the other hand, growers like Javid Ahmad offer a contrasting view. Having used growth regulators for several seasons, he claims to have witnessed a remarkable increase in production. "My yields have almost doubled," Javid said. "In a competitive market, I have to take chances.'

poorly developed seeds. Such fruits are likely to fall prematurely, leading to significant post-set losses," Amid these differing experiences, orchardists are

They artificially induce

fruit sets, which often

results in fruits with

urging the government and research institutions to step in and issue clear guidelines. "The silence from authorities is confusing," said one grow-er. "We need to know whether using these chemicals is safe for the long-term health of our orchards.

They said that due to less yield last year, the majority of the growers have been spraying PGRs to witness better results this year.

Experts, however, advise extreme caution.

Dr Tariq, a pomologist at

SKUAST-K' said PGRs are not suitable for regular use in the valley's temperate climate. 'These chemicals are designed to address specific stress conditions, such as poor pollination caused by adverse weather during flowering," he explained. "In normal climatic conditions like those in Kashmir, their use is not only unnecessary but potentially harmful."

He said if SKUAST may have recommended it, then it would have been mentioned in the spray schedule but you won't find it in the schedule.

He outlined several risks associated with these synthetic hormones: "They artificially induce fruit sets, which often results in fruits with poorly developed seeds. Such fruits are likely to fall prematurely, leading to significant post-set losses," he said.

Dr Tariq said that trees treated with growth regulators tend to bear excessive fruit loads, which the plants are unable to support naturally. "This stresses the tree, disrupts nutrient balance, and results in small, poor-quality fruits," he warned—(KNO)

SPORTS

IPL 2025: Pitch Dilemma For Under-Pressure PBKS v Upbeat KKR

Press Trust of India

MULLANPUR: A beleaguered Punjab Kings need to pick up pieces after being blown away by 'tornado' Abhishek Sharma as they face yet another challenging opposition in Kolkata Knight Riders, here Tuesday.

It is a rarity that a team loses after putting on board a mammoth score like 245 but Punjab Kings had to endure a hard-to-digest defeat due to Abhishek Sharma's whirlwind knock of 141 off just 55 balls in their previous match against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

A helpless Shreyas Iyer, who himself smashed a 36-ball 82, could only laugh at the end of the match after watching his bowlers torn to shreds by Ab-



hishek's blazing blade. The carnage unfolded in Hyderabad, where the flat Uppal track resembles a 'national highway' where no total is safe. On Tuesday, though, Punjab will play at their home in Mullanpur where the pitch is also conducive for batters and the team management needs to decide what kind of conditions it would prefer going forward. In the two matches at Mullanpur, 200-plus scores were man-

aged by team batting first. The bowling unit's confidence must have been shaken, especially of the two spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Glenn Maxwell, who gave away 96 runs in seven overs between them.

And herein lies the dilemma. If Punjab goes for a flat deck, there is no guarantee that the bowling unit can defend anything in the 220 range, especially when KKR have the likes of Sunil Narine, Rinku Singh, and Venkatesh Iyer in their rank.

One piece of statistics that head coach Ricky Ponting wouldn't like to look at, is Punjab bowling unit's economy rate. None of the bowlers has gone below nine runs an over. In the KKR corner is the coun-

try's most improved T20 spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who loves to bowl on these kind of surfaces and Sunil Narine, who despite being past his prime, can be more than a handful in slower conditions.

KKR is a unit which can be equally dangerous on both flatter decks and the slow spinfriendly tracks since they have all their bases covered.

Also the severe thrashing they handed the Chennai Super King at Chepauk would have done a world of good to their confidence.

The Punjab Kings batting is heavily dependent on skipper lyer (250 runs), who has scored three fifties in five games so far. Match starts: 7.30pm.

Short TAKES

IPL Umpires Carry Out Bat Checks To Prevent Unfair Advantage

n a departure from the norm, on-field umpires have started making random checks on the dimensions of the bats during the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) to prevent players from gaining an unfair advantage.

Checking the bat dimensions is a prevalent protocol but till the last edition, the process was followed inside the confines of the dressing room.

However, the BCCI, in its bid to stay more vigilant in times of brutal power-hitting, has allowed the match officials to check any piece of willow if they deem required, even during a live game.

As per specified dimensions, the width of bat face should not exceed 4.25 inches (10.79 cm). The thickness of the middle of the bat (bulged part) can't exceed 2.64 inches (6.7 cm).

The maximum width of the edge can't surpass 1.56 inch (4 cm). The height of the bat can't be more than 38 inches (96.4 cm) from top of handle to the base.

ICC Creates Fund For Afghanistan's Displaced Women Cricketers

A fghanistan's exiled women cricketers received a major boost on Sunday with the game's governing body announcing a fund and task force to support them.

Afghanistan had 25 contracted women cricketers in 2020, most of whom have resettled in Australia with humanitarian visas due to restrictions at home under the hardline Taliban government.

The International Cricket Council said after its board meeting in Harare that it had joined with the cricket boards of India, England and Australia to sustain their careers.

Australia and England have ruled out bilateral cricket with Afghanistan over the women's rights issue and play them only in ICC events like World Cups and Champions Trophy.

Real Madrid Needs Epic Champions League Comeback v Arsenal

Record 15-time winner and defending champion Real Madrid will have to produce another of its famous comebacks to overturn a 3-0 first leg loss to Arsenal.

If anyone can, Madrid can - but it goes into Wednesday's game at the Bernabeu after a run of unconvincing results. Carlo Ancelotti's team has only won one of its last four games in all competitions - Sunday's 1-0 victory against Alaves.

The defeat to Arsenal could have been even heavier after being dominated at the Emirates Stadium and came after Madrid needed a penalty shootout to overcome Atletico Madrid in the round of 16.

But Madrid's history is built on producing special performances in Europe. Its run to the title in 2022 was filled with dramatic comebacks - none more so than the semifinals win against Manchester City when trailing 5-3 on aggregate going into the 90th minute of the second leg.

Madrid simply never knows when it is beaten.

J&K Wins 3 Medals In Thangta; **Emerges Runners-Up At 68th NSG** brilliant achievement.



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K's Thangta athletes bagged three medals, including a gold, at the 68th Natiknal School Games in the discipline of Thangta Under-19 boys and girls at Imphal, Manipur.

Hammad Bashir of Pulwama bagged Gold, while Ajaz Ahmad Sofi of Kupwara and Murieza Igbal Lone of Pulwama claimed Bronze medals.

Commissioner/Secretary Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, and Director General Youth Services & Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara, congratulated the winners and support staff for this

"J&K is leaving no stone unturned in carving a space on the country's sports map, is all set to win a record haul of medals in the National School Games this season, as a total of 52 medals have already been clinched by our athletes in various sports disciplines," said Tara.

He further said that 1800 athletes drawn from various districts have already taken part in the NSG in this season, while 400 more are expected to participate in various disciplines.

J&K has so far won 16 medals in Fencing with 3 Gold, 5 Silver and 8 Bronze; 15 medals in Wushu with 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 Bronze; 7 medals in Judo with 4 Silver and 3 Bronze; 4 medals in Taekwondo with 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze; 3 medals in Soft Tennis with 1 Silver and 2 Bronze; 3 medals in Thangta with 1 Gold and 2 Bronze: 2 medals in Gymnastics with 2 Bronze; and 2 medals in Weightlifting with 1 Gold and 1 Bronze medal.

Inter Zonal National Softball **Championship Begins In Srinagar**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 10th Inter Zonal National Softball Championship (Men & Women) kicked off on Monday at Bakshi Stadium here. MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Khan declared the tournament open.

In all, athletes from across the country are taking part in the championship. All the arrangements for the visiting players and officials have been made by the J&K Sports Council and J&K Softball Association.

The championship is being organised by J&K Softball Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council under the aegis of Softball Association of India. The championship will continue for three days and will witness tremendous competition. The championship will conclude on April 16.

The MLA welcomed the participating teams and expressed hope that all the players will exhibit their sports

favourite venues for the national camps and championships for different sports, will definitely give a unique experience to the visiting players, said the MLA.

Prominent personalities present on the inaugural ceremony were Dr. Praveen Anaokar, Secretary General Softball Association of India, and other office bearers and member units of the SBAI. The championship is being sponsored by J&K Sports Council.



28 year of publication

skills to the fullest. J&K, being considered as one of the

SFRVF YouTube

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TVs across the world. Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

VISIT

https://www.youtube. com/c/kobserver

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

VOX POP

INKISHAF

THE OTHER SIDE

28 year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR OBSERVER® Tuesday 15 April 2025 | Srinagar | Vol: 28 | Issue: 88 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

USBRL Inauguration

J&K Gears Up For PM Modi's Visit



Observer News Service

Srinagar: With just a week remaining, the Railway Ministry and Jammu and Kashmir administration have been verbally instructed to prepare for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to inaugurate the historic Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project on Saturday, April 19.

While formal communication from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is still awaited, multiple departments have started groundwork at key locations including Katra Railway Station and the iconic Chenab Bridge in Reasi district.

"We have been verbally informed to begin preparations. As soon as the official

SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED ACROSS CRITICAL locations, and additional personnel are being stationed at Udhampur, Katra, and Chenab Bridge."

J&K Fire Dept Trains Over 8 Lakh In Fire Safety

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Fire and Emergency Services Department (FESD) has given training in fire prevention, protection and first aid firefighting to 8.23 lakh persons under the 'Har Ghar Fire Fighter' programme. Between August 2022 and March 2025, the department conducted 7,551 public awareness programmes, covering 3,949 educational and 1,057 health institutions and 2,555 other establishments. Alok Kumar, director. J&K Fire and Emergency Services, said on Fire Services Day. "These programmes aim to

educate students, teachers, medical staff, and support personnel on fire prevention, safe evacuation procedures and first aid response actions in case of a fire, to act as first responders in domestic fire incidents," Kumar said. He called upon people to do a ire service check on their resi

confirmation comes, we will

move to final execution," said a

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo recently

visited Chenab Bridge and Katra

town to assess on-ground readiness. He held detailed discus-

sions with officials from the

Railways, police, civil adminis-

tration, and other departments.

"Everything must be in place

well in advance," he directed, in-

structing departments to main-

tain high alert until the PMO's final nod, media reports said.

Director General of Police

(DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday

chaired a high-level meeting

here to review the security sce-

According to | More on P6

nario in Jammu region.

senior railway official.

Saudi 'Cuts' Indian Pvt Hajj Quota By 80% CM, Mehbooba Urge Centre To Intervene for pilgrims. The Saudi au-thorities cancelled Mina Zones 1 and 2, which had

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Over 52,000 Indians who had booked for their Hajj pilgrimage through private tour operators are likely to face a major setback. The Ministry of Minority Affairs has issued a fresh circular stating that only 20 percent of the private quota that was booked earlier will be confirmed initially. It means that 80 percent of the people who registered under Combined Hajj Group Organisers (CHGOs) may not be able to perform Hajj 2025. It is important to note that



the decision comes after the the Nusuk portal-a manda-Saudi Ministry of Haj and

tory online platform used to finalise contracts and services

Umrah shut down access to

s part of introducing new regulations for Umrah, accompany their parents to perform Umrah. The HCol added that whatever amount the parents had paid for the children would be reimbursed. A statement issued in this regard said parents can proceed for Hajj without their children or cancel in full through the Haj Committee website. "Parents may proceed [More on Po

4 Killed, 30 **Injured In Road** Accidents

Agencies

Srinagar: At least four people lost their lives while over 30 persons were injured in multiple road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir in the past 24 hours, officials said.

In Ramban, a pre-dawn ac-cident on Monday near Banihal claimed the life of one person and left nine others injured.

The accident occurred when a Tata Mobile vehicle carrying members of two Bakarwal families from Rajouri's Teryath area overturned and crashed into a railway bridge wall.

A baby girl among the passengers, however, was unharmed, the officials said.

The injured were taken to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Banihal and later referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for further treatment.

A minor tourist lost her life after being struck | More on P6

J&K Eyes Rs 5,500 Cr Funding For 9 Tourism Spots: CM

Observer News Service

Visa For

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said his government is planning to develop nine new tourism destinations across the Union Territory, expressing hope that the World Bank will put aside its "traditional sort of reluctance" to fund any project in I&K.

Seeking support of tourism players in promoting





NC Blocked Waqf Debate To Please BJP: Lone

Not Surprised By Farooq Supporting Speaker **Observer News Service** the Waaf (Amendment) Act

Seeks End To **Negative Travel Advisories**

hief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the Ministry of External Affairs should influence western countries to withdraw advisories asking their citizens not to visit Jammu and Kashmir, saying it will be the biggest proof that the situation has changed for the better in the region. He said | More on P6

WAOF ACT SC Won't Enter Legislative Domain: Rijiju

KO Web Desk

been allotted to CHGOs, due

to the delays in payments and

non-finalisation of service

agreements. The remaining zones (3, 4 and 5) have also

been held up, further worsen-

Ruling and Opposition par-

ties in J&K have come together to voice their concern after

the reported cancellation and

urged the central government

to take up the matter with

"The reported | More on P6

ing the situation.

their leadership.

New Delhi: Minority Affairs minister Kiren Rijiju, referring to the legal challenge to the amended Waqf law, said that he is "confident" that the Supreme Court would not "venture into legislative matter". He also said Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's declaration that the amended law will not be implemented in the state raises questions on whether she has any moral authority or the constitutional right to occupy that position. The minister's comment comes amid an escalating row



challenged in the Supreme Court by multiple individuals and organisations, and the staunch assertion of Banerjee in Bengal. The Supreme Court will hear the petitions on Wednesday. | More on P6

LG Credits Policies For Investor Optimism Says J&K's Manufacturing Push Will Create Jobs, Empower Communities

over the law, which has been

Observer News Service



inaugurated the manufacturing unit of Superior Polymer India Pvt Itd in Kathua district said "UT's manufacturing ecosystem is growing, and today's project dedicated to industrial development will give momentum to the mission of Aatmanirbhar J&K." He said the commencement of this greenfield project is an important milestone, promising a positive impact on the local economy | More on P6

Children Under 12 Cancelled

the industry back home, Abdullah highlighted the challenges posed by "ridiculous prices" of | More on P6

dences and establishments as a part of the proactive measure.

The department observes the day to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who had laid down their lives in the line of duty. A solemn ceremony was also held in Jammu, where officers and jawans paid homage to the | More on P6

Srinagar: Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone on Monday said he was not surprised by National Conference (NC) chief Farooq Abdullah supporting Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather's decision to disallow discussion on

On the NC's plans to challenge the legislation in the Supreme Court, Lone said while the courts will adjudicate according to legal principles, the emotional appeal that could have been conveyed through the Assembly has been squandered. "They have | More on P6

Jammu: Lieutenant Covernor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated a manufacturing unit of a private company in the region and said the manufacturing ecosystem is growing to give momentum to the mission of an "Aatmanirbhar Union Territory".

The LG said the progressive industrial policy and several key interventions in the last few years have strengthened investors' confidence in J&K. Sinha. who virtually

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

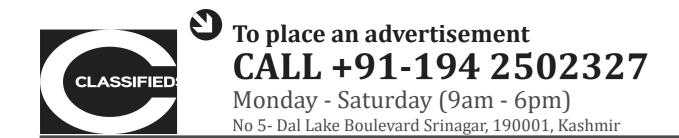
Achieve financial freedom

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

Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

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





KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Tuesday | 15-04-2025

Untimely Heart Attacks: Doctors, Public Health Experts Say 'Preventable, Go For Routine Check-Ups'

Press Trust Of India

eports of people getting heart attacks while dancing, driving or taking a walk, have increased in recent months raising concerns over the condition's unpredictability. Doctors and public health experts, however, say it is preventable, urging individuals to go for routine health check-ups.

Dr Ajay Kaul, chairman of Cardiac Sciences, Fortis Hospital, Noida, told PTI, "A sudden heart attack is usually a sign of underlying heart disease, such as coronary arteries disease or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which can be detected through routine health check-ups.' Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is an inherited heart condition.

"Exercise can trigger fatal arrhythmias in these individuals. Undertaking strenous physical activity -- such as gymming -- without knowing what one's heart is capable of, can increase stress on the walls of ventricles, potentially decreasing blood flow and oxygen supply, and contributing to sudden

cardiac death, " Dr Kaul said. "Therefore, I strongly advise a medical check-up before embarking on a gym regimen to know which exercises are suitable and which are not," he added.

Instances of heart attacks at a gathering or while driving surfaced over the past weeks. This week, in Uttar Pradesh's Ba-

reilly, a 45-year-old man died while dancing with his wife during their

25th wedding anniversary celebrations. Earlier this month, a 35-yearold suffered a heart attack while driving a state-run bus in the Mysuru district of Karnataka, according to a report by The Hindu.

Public health researcher Vikash Keshri, a senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales, Australia, said, "Even as risk factors for heart attacks remain the same for both the young and old, the trend of more youths being affected is reflective of an early onset of these risk factors."

"However, the urban population pays little attention to public health systems and does not go for regular check-ups," he added. Doctors insist on following healthy lifestyle practices which should include effective destressing mechanisms for dealing

with everyday pressures. Some reasons, such as a family history and polluted urban environments, are not preventable. However, what is preventable is resorting to unhealthy behaviours, including a lack of exercise, eating junk food, smoking and consuming alcohol. This is what is driving a high incidence of coronary artery disease," Dr Kaul said.

Indians are genetically predisposed to heart disease, compared to the Europeans and those in the US, which is why we tend to get them about 10 years earlier and also at a lower body weight, said Dr Saptarshi Bhattacharya, senior consultant, department of Endocrinology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi.

'Emissions Could Be Making Rainfall



Even as risk factors for heart attacks remain the same for both the young and old, the trend of more youths being affected is reflective of an early onset of these risk factors

"So, while we may not appear obese or overweight, we still have a higher fat percentage, especially in the abdominal area, setting us up for multiple complications, including diabetes," he said.

A poor quality of sleep -- the body's natural 'repair' mechanism - can add to the troubles, said Dr Sanjay Saxena, principal director and head of the Neurology Department at Max Hospitals in Patparganj, New Delhi and Vaishali, Ghaziabad

He added that not being able to sleep beyond six hours or honour one's circadian rhythm (sleepwake cycle) can result in increased blood pressure and heart rate, inflammation in blood vessels and also cause insulin resistance.

Dr Saxena advised one having obstructive sleep apnea -- a common sleep disorder -- should look to get the condition treated, else it too can heighten the risk of heart attacks. The experts called for a stricter

implementation of government

programmes. The 'National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke' (NPCDCS) was launched in 2010 with a focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and early diagnosis.

Keshri pointed out that the urban outreach of the public health programme needs to be improved. So, even when robust procedures for screening, diagnosis and treatment have been detailed for an individual in the rural community, up to district hospital or medical colleges, where a facility for emergency cardiac care is available, there is no similar primary infrastructure in urban areas," the researcher explained. Further, at an individual's level, one can introduce more movement into their daily routines by

de-boarding at an earlier metro station and walking to work, and using stairs instead of elevators, Dr Kaul said. Awareness about being physically

active needs to be reinforced in childhood and teenage, the experts added.

'It is important we start right in childhood. Lifestyle lessons and healthy behaviours need to be reinforced in schools and colleges because when someone is diagnosed with a condition, there are almost 20-30 years of metabolic problems in the background which have predisposed them to the condition," Dr Bhattacharya said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son DILAWAR ABASS SHEIKH who was born on 10-09-2017 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. NAZIR AHMAD SHEIKH F/o DILAWAR ABASS SHEIKH Resident of Mulashulla, Beerwah, Budgam msl

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned in Aadhaar Card as Mohd Iqbal Bhat while my actual name is Mohammed Iqbal Bhat. Now I want to correct the same. If any body have any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After seven days no objection shall be entertained. Mohammed Igbal Bhat S/o Abdul Rehman Bhat

Gund Tankipora Devsar Distt Kulgam

inf

inf

Public NOTICE

My name has been wrongly mentioned in Aadhaar Card as Amina Banoo while my actual name is Aamina Akhter. Now I want to correct the same. If any body have any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After seven days no objection shall be entertained. Aamina Akhter

W/o Mohammed Igbal Bhat Gund Tankipora Devsar Distt Kulgam

Public NOTICE

AABID Ahmad Ganie S/O Mohammad Maqbool Ganie R/O Chitragarn Tehsil CHITRagam District Shopian want to correct my Name and D.O.B in Aadhar Record which has been wrongly entered as Abid Maqbool instead of AABID Ahmad Ganie and D.O.B wrongly entered as 04-01-2008 instead of 06-04-2007. Now correction required to anybody has any objection may contact Concerned Aadhaar Centre Jammu / Srinagar or Concern Authorities within 7 days. fko_r

Public NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my service book as Abdul Hamid Parray S/o Gh Mohd Parray while my correct name as per 9th pass School certificate is Ab Hameed Paray S/o Gh Mohd Paray R/o Bandgam Magam wwhich 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 bmg_r R/o Bandgam Magam

Public NOTICE

I zareena Akhter D/o Ab Rashid Awan R/o Dunaroo Pahalipora Shopian want to correct my name and DOB on Aadhaar records which has been wrongly entered 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 objecton may contact concern aadhaar centre Jammu/Srinagar or Concerned Authorities within 7 days. FKO R

More Acidic Over Past Three Decades'

Press Trust Of India

ir pollution could be making rainfall more acidic in cities such as Vishakhapatnam, Allahabad, Mohanbari (Assam), while dust from the Thar could be making rain more alkaline in Jodhpur, Pune and Srinagar, according to an analysis. The study by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, analysed the pH value -- which measures acidity or basicity -- of rainfall of ten cities in India.

The data recorded at GAW stations from 1987 to 2021 were analysed. The findings are published by the IMD as a 'met monograph', a comprehen-



They attributed acidity in rain in Vizag to emissions from the oil refinery, power plant and fertiliser facility, and that in Mohanbari to acidic nature of soil and charged particles coming from vegetation. However, dust from the Thar desert could be countering the acidic nature of rainwater of Jodhpur and Srinagar, thereby raising the pH value of rains in these cities, the team said. Season-to-season changes too could play a role, the authors said, as they

found that rainfall during dry season tends to be slightly more acidic compared to that during wet season.

This is because most of the acidic particles in the air would be washed at the first rainfall event, resulting in lower pH values, the team explained.

However, rainfall across most of the ten cities was found to become more acidic over time.

Further, nitrates were found to be the most dominant charged particles in cities with vehicular and industrial activities, while charged particles of calcium were dominant in Jodhpur, Pune and Srinagar, suggesting an influence of dust and soil.

"The analysis of precipitation chemistry across India shows that urbanisation and industrialisation have a sig-

Public NOTICE

My name has been wrongly recorded as Jawahara Bano in adhaar card bearing number:- 980848944777 while my correct and actual name is Raja Bano. Now I have applied for the correction of the same 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. Raja Bano W/o Mohd Shafi Parray R/o Wailoo Kralpora

Public NOTICE

My name has been wrongly recorded as Aisan Sadiq in adhaar card bearing number 8346-7541-8262 while my correct and actual name is Ahsanul Haq. Now I have applied for the correction of the same 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. Ahsanul Haq S/o Mohammad Sadiq Hajam R/o Khawaja Bagh Tehsil Baramulla fko

Public NOTICE

fko

fko

inf

NOWHATTA

sive analysis of a meteorological topic. The study suggests that atmospheric conditions and local emissions can affect the chemistry or pH of rainfall. Both acidic and alkaline rain can have toxic effects, affecting aquatic and plant life, even as the study's authors said "acid rain does not currently pose a major and immediate threat to our region".

nificant impact on the composition of rainwater," the authors wrote.

"Stations such as Vizag, Mohanbari and Allahabad exhibited more acidic mean pH values, while Jodhpur and Srinagar had more alkaline values. This suggests variability in atmospheric conditions and local sources affecting rainwater chemistry," they wrote.

TANTRAY NEWS

AGENCY

RAJ BAGH

My name has been wrongly recorded as Shaistha Akther in adhaar card bearing number:- 2051-9933-8878 while my correct and actual name is Shayista Mohi Ud Din. Now I have applied for the correction of the same 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.

Shayista Mohi Ud Din D/o Gulam Mohi Ud Din Mir R/o Nihalpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla

BASHIR NEW AGENCY

My DOB has been wrongly writte in my adhaar card bearing NO: 8837 0759 6739 as 05-10-2012 while my correct DOB as per school records is 25-05-2013 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. Kamil Bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Hajam bmg R/o Tarhama Kawarhama

NOTICE OF SALE OF VEHICLE

I, Fayaz Ahmad Zargar, hereby declare that I have sold my vehicle bearing registration number DL12CK0507 to Mudasir Mehraj. As of today, all liabilities and responsibilities associated with this vehicle are transferred to the buyer, and I disclaim any further involvement or liability in case of any unforeseen events or incidents.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed in 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. Higher Secondary School Gund khawaia Qasim in my Name and Mother's name as Aagib Nisar & Haleema Begum instead of Aagib 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 BEGLIM Date of Birth: 25-10-2007 Residence: KANTER BUGH Mobile No.: 6005124557

fko_r

		KASHMIR	
	<'Η'Υ	$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{H}\mathbf{R}$	
UD	JLU	V ĽK	
IS AVAILA	ABLE IN SRIAN	GAR AT FOLLOWING PLA	CES
ABDULLAH NEWS AGENCY	AMIRA KADAL	BUDSHAH NEWS AGENCY	AFTAB MAR- KET
SIKENDER NEWS ANGENCY	AMIRAKADAL	RASHEED GAZALA	LAL CHOWK
GUPKARI NEWS AGENCY	LAL CHOWK	RAFIQ NEWS AGENCY	BATMALOO
KHAN NEWS AGENCY	REGAL CHOWK	MEHRAJ NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE
RASHEED NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE	ASHIQ NEWS AGENCY	GAGRIBAL
IMRAN NEWS AGENCY	KOHNKHAN	SAMA NEWS AGENCY	SHALIMAR
KOHINOOR NEWS Agency	NISHAT	WANI NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA
SHEIKH NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA	AL NOOR NEWS AGENCY	NOWGAM
FAIRDEAL NEWS AGENCY	AIRPORT	BISMILLAH NEWS AGENCY	BAGH E MEHTAB
AL FALAH NEWS AGENCY	NATIPORA	FIDA NEWS AGENCY	RAJ BAGH
FIRDOUS NEWS AGENCY	PIRBAGH	HARMINDER NEWS AGENCY	GOGJI BAGH

ARIF NEWS AGENCY	JAWHAR NAGAR	AGA NEWS AGENCY	ALI KADAL
MUSHTAQ KALASH- PURI	KALASHPORA	HABBAKADAL NEWS AGENCY	HAB- BAKADAL
ALTAF NEWS AGENCY	FATEHKADAL	FAROOQ NEW AGENCY	GOJWARA
JEELANI NEW AGENCY	KHAWAJA BAZAR	DAR NEWS AGENCY	QAMAR- WARI
NAZIR NEWS AGENCY	RAINAWARI	CHANDER NEWS AGENCY	BEMINA
KHALID NEWS AGENCY	HAMDANIYA COLONY	JONSON NEWS AGENCY	SEKIDAFAR
BHAT NEWS AGENCY	JAMALLATTA	SHAFAT NEWS AGENCY	HAWAL
BILAL NEWS AGENCY	KAK SARAI	KHALIQ NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH RA
MUZAFFAR ALI NEWS AGENCY	ALAMGIRI BAZAR	BILAL NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEH RA
TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	BUCHPORA	BASHIR NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BA
AIJAZ NEWS AGENCY	HAZRAT BAL	YASIR NEWS AGENCY	ZAKOORA
FO	R ANY QUERY DEPTT. : 0	, CALL CIRCULATION 194-2502327	

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THATTHE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT



KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Tuesday | 15-04-2025 🔾

CME Held At LD Hospital

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Postgraduate Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, successfully organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on the theme 'Hope after Loss', focusing on the "Challenges And Clinical Management Of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss (RPL)".

The event was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr) Iffat Hassan Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar, who highlighted the significance of ongoing education in improving patient outcomes and enhancing societal well-being.

Prof. (Dr) Syed Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department, underlined the importance of such academic engagements in empowering young doctors and promoting collaborative strategies to address the emotional and medical complexities of RPL.

Renowned faculty members

by eminent specialists such as Prof. Shahida Mufti, Prof. Syed Masuma Rizvi, Prof. S.M. Saleem Khan, Prof. Shagufta Rather, Prof. Rakesh Koul, Prof. Hina Bashir, Prof. Nighat Firdous. Prof. M. Maqbool Dar, and Prof. Samina Sultana.

Highly interactive panel discussion, moderated by Prof. (Dr) Samiya Mufti, Organising Secretary, brought together leading experts to deliberate on practical strategies, interdisciplinary approaches, and case-based scenarios, fostering dvnamic exchange of ideas and enhancing learning.

Distinguished guests including former Heads of Department Prof. Farhat Jabeen, Prof. Nighat Firdous and Prof. Rizwana Habib, and senior faculty members from GMC Srinagar. SKIMS Medical College, and LD Hospital such as Prof. Ambreen Qureshi, Prof. Shylla Mir, Dr. Anjum Malik, Dr. Syed Naseer and Dr. Muzaffar Jan, Medical Superintendent LD hospital

shared valuable insights into

hospital-based and community-

oriented management practices.

participation from postgradu-

ate students, faculty, and medi-

cal professionals, making it a

significant academic milestone

in advancing care for patients

experiencing recurrent preg-

nancy loss

The CME witnessed active



including Prof. Samiya Mufti, Prof. Arshid Hussain, Prof. Ajaz Hakeem, Dr. Asifa Ali, Dr. Rukhsana Sami, Dr. Aashiq, Dr. Saima Wani, and Dr. Farzana Bashir delivered insightful lectures covering various clinical aspects related to the Etiology, diagnosis, and evidence-based management of recurrent pregnancy loss.

The sessions were chaired

Sgr Police Urge Women To Report Harassment

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As a part of a move aimed at ensuring the safety and dignity of women in public spaces. Srinagar Police on Monday appealed to women to report any form of harassment, bullying, eve-teasing, or unsolicited comments.

The police also publicized dedicated helpline numbers to encourage swift and accessible grievance redressal

A public awareness post shared by the Srinagar Police said they remain committed to protecting women and girls in



At Kashmir University

570 Positions, Including Over 200 Key Teaching Posts, Remain Unfilled

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir is grappling with a significant human resource crisis, with nearly 20 percent of its sanctioned teaching and administrative positions lying vacant-an issue that is reportedly impacting both the academic and administrative functioning of the institution.

As per details revealed through a Right to Information (RTI) query filed by Jammubased activist Raman Kumar Sharma, and accessed by Observer News Service, a total of 570 out of 2,859 sanctioned posts remain unfilled at the varsity as of February 29, 2024.

In response to the RTI, the university's Public Information Officer (PIO) disclosed that a staggering number of vacancies exist across crucial categories. Of the 56 sanctioned professor positions, only 9 have been filled, while 47 continue to lie vacant. Similarly, the university has managed to fill just 29 of its 120 associate professor posts, leaving 91 posts unoccupied. Additionally, 80 out of 371 assistant professor positions are

The shortfall is not limited to

vet to be filled

Technical and specialist positions including assistant programmers, auditors, Hindi typists, and junior engineers are currently unoccupied-hindering the delivery of essential support services within the institution

faculty alone. The RTI response reveals that only two of the seven sanctioned director-level positions are currently occupied. Moreover, pivotal positions such as the Dean of the College Development Council and the Dean of Students' Welfare remain unappointed. The lack of academic coordinators and research fellows is further affecting academic planning and coordination.

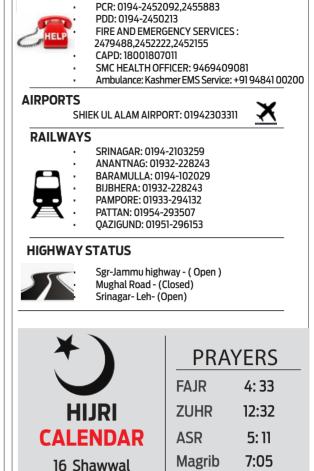
The university's non-teaching departments are also under strain. A total of 110 out of 180 sanctioned junior assistant posts are vacant. Technical and specialist positions including assistant programmers, auditors, Hindi typists, and junior engineers are currently unoc-



out two deputy directors and three assistant directors. Likewise, the Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) is running short of one deputy director and three assistant directors, raising concerns about the quality monitoring mechanisms in place.

The Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA) is functioning without a principal, and only three out of seven senior instructor positions are currently staffed. The Nursing Department is also facing a faculty crunch, with key posts including a professor-cum-principal, two assistant professors, and three tutors yet to be filled. Additionally, nine assistant librarian posts are vacant, indicating gaps in the university's library and information services.

The significant number of unfilled posts-particularly in teaching and leadership roles is raising serious questions about the university's ability to maintain academic standards and deliver quality education to its students.



TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686

This Day In History

1446

1632 - Battle of Rain; Swedes under Gustavus Adolphus defeat Count Tilly of the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years' War.

ISHA

8:30

- 1654 England & Netherlands sign peace treaty
- 1689 French King Louis XIV declares war on Spain 1697 - Charles XII succeeds Charles XI as King of Sweden
- 1788 Britain, Netherlands & Prussia sign peace treatv
- 1858 Battle of Azimghur, Mexicans defeat Spanish loyalists
- 1865 Abraham Lincoln dies 9 hours after he is shot attending the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington
- 1892 General Electric Company formed by merger of Thomas Edison's General Electric Company with Thomson-Houston Electric Company, arranged by J. P. Morgan and incorporated in NY





Police has also set up Women

Helpdesks in police stations and deployed a 'Mobile Women Safety Squad' to respond to real-time emergencies or distress calls. Also, a police spokesperson

shared, women should feel safe and supported, whether they're commuting, shopping, or working. "We want to create an environment where no woman hesitates to speak up against any misconduct," they said.

Meanwhile, locals also appreciated the move, especially women who often feel vulnerable in crowded public spaces like markets, buses, and streetsparticularly after dark. A university student said this is a much-needed step. Harassment is often normalized or ignored. "Having a direct helpline where we can report without fear is reassuring," she said. "We hope the police also take quick and visible action once a complaint is made," said another working professional from Srinagar. Similarly, Srinagar Police reiterated its commitment to ensuring that no woman feels isolated or powerless in the face of harassment and urged citizens to work together to build a respectful and secure environment for all.

the city.

"Respected Women: If you face harassment, unsolicited comments, bullying, or feel unsafe in public spaces in Srinagar, don't hesitate to reach out. Srinagar Police is here to help,"

Also, the dedicated helpline numbers shared, to ensure prompt assistance, the following helpline numbers have been made operational are as: Women Helpdesk (WhatsApp): 9596770601, Women Helpdesk (Call): 9596770602, PCR Helpline: 9596222551 and Women Safety Squad: 7006740755.

In the meanwhile, as part of their broader strategy to curb crimes against women, Srinagar

Two Critically Injured In Motorcycle Collision

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two persons were injured in a road accident involving a motorcycle collision near the Radio Kashmir flyover in Srinagar on Monday.

The victims were quickly rushed to SMHS Hospital by the Dial 112 police response

team, whose timely intervention ensured immediate medical care.

The injured have been identified as 25-year-old Abrar Ali, son of Ghulam Ali from Balhama, and 32-yearold Irfan, son of Mushtaq Ahmad from Khrew Shar.

Police have registered a case in this regard.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have Lost my HSRP Number Plate of my Pulsar 150 under Vehicle number JK05G-1681 from Rabbit Farm Ussan to Palhallan Pattan, now i apply for its duplicate, if anyone have any objection he/she can contact concerned department within the period of seven days from this date. Bike Owner: Sharik Showkat S/O: Showkat Ah Mir Second Owner Name: Nayeem Ahmad Lone S/O: Ab Khaliq Lone R/O: Ussan Pattan fko Vehicle Number: JK05G-1681



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

ammu- History of sorts was created here state legislative assembly here today, with at least fifteen people including seven legislator sustaining injuries in a clash between watch and ward staff of the Assembly and opposition MIAs in the course latter's forcible removal as ordered by the Speaker Ali Mohammed Naik. Barring Dilawar Mir (JD), Yusuf Tarigami (CPM) and Bhagat Ram Chand (BSP) entire opposition was expelled for the rest of the current session.

The Speaker's order followed unprecedented pandemonium that broke out in the house, soon after today's session started, with Naik an-nouncing the question hour. The agitating members left their seats and assembled in the well of the house demanding suspension of the question hour and asking for a discussion over the situation arising of the agitation of Jammu students against the alleged "injustice" done to the students from that division. The opposition members also demanded that the list of selected candidates for MBBS and BDS courses be scrapped. The trouble started immediately after Speaker resumed his seat

when members the BJP, Congress and Janta Dal got up to raise the issue of "large scale bungling, irregularities and corruption" in the re-cently released selection list of MBBS and BDS. The speaker Ali Mohd Naik however ignored the shouts of opposition and instead named the member, on top of the list of questions slated for today, to ask his ques-tion. But the agitated opposition continued with slogan shouting and amidst unruly noisy scenes in the house, nothing was audible. As the protest continued, CPM member Yusuf Tarigami was heard inviting the attention of the speaker about the "environment of the house" saying "we want to speak about environment of the state but the environment inside the house is not well"

When the speaker disallowed all pleas of the opposition, the agitated members walked to well of the house and staged a dharna shouting slogans against ministers and ruling party members. Harsh Dev Singh (NPP) Mohd Yusuf alias Kuka Parrey (AL) Satpal Lakhitra and Jagdish Dubev (JD) also joined the dharna and continued shouting slogans demanding scrap of list. The BJP and Congress members including Meh-booba Mufti, Ashok Sharma, Balbir Singh, Lal Singh. Searing Dorjay, and Tara Chand also joined the BJP legislators headed by Shiv Charn Gupta and demanded suspension of question hour and a reply from the government. At one stage some opposition members were seen rushing towards the Speaker's podium amidst shouts of slogans.

At this stage Law minister PL Handoo, who also hold Parliamentary Affairs portfolio, moved a motion seeking expulsion of all the members for rest of the session. The motion was seconded by Finance Minister Mohd Shafi carried by a voice vote and then followed Naik's order expelling all the 17 members, indulging in "uncalled for behaviour" for remaining period of the current session of the assembly. After the motion was adopted and Speaker gave his ruling, the members were asked to leave the house. However as the members defied the repeated orders of the chair, the Speaker adjourned the house for half an hour. But the opposition members continued their dharna and slogan shouting in the well of the house. As the house re-assembled, after stipulated time, the opposition

was there in the well busy in slogan shouting and making it impossible for the Speaker to go ahead with the proceedings. The Speaker at this stage ordered the Marshall of the house to re-

move the expelled members physically with the help of watch and ward staff, this resulted in violent clashes between the members and the watch and ward staff with the former offering stiff resistance. Chairs and microphones were used in the melee that followed leading to multiple injuries to Ashok Sharma, Ch. Lal Singh, Shiv Charn Gupta, Prithvi Chand, Bali Bhagat, Ch Chuni Lala, Ch

Piara Singh and Satpal Lahotra. Seven members of the watch and ward staff also received injuries. The Chief Minister and his ministerial colleagues did not respond

to opposition members' demand for scrapping the list or discussion over the issue

(Kashmir Observer, 15 April, 1998)

Think Opinion, Analysis, Essays

Send your write ups and feedback at editpage.ko@gmail.com





KASHMIR OBSERVER[®]

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo News Editor: Farzana Nisar Online Editor: Syed Hamid Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen, Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah Business & Sales Head: Namisha Raj Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali RNI Registration No: 69503/98 Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705 Editorial: (0194) 2502327 Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

Caesareans On Rise

ore and more women are giving birth not in the throes of natural labor, but under the bright lights of operating rooms, cut open before their bodies are even allowed to do what they were built to do. On paper, cesarean section deliveries are meant to save lives - when things go wrong, they can be a blessing. But in recent years, far too many women across Jammu and Kashmir are undergoing C-sections not because they need them, but because they're being nudged, hurried, or frightened into them.

As a report in this newspaper reveals, it often begins with a phrase: "It's safer for the baby." Or, "We don't want to take risks." A doctor might mention a slightly large baby, or not enough "amniotic fluid"—medical terms that sound alarming, even if they're not backed by urgency. And just like that, a pregnant woman who comes in prepared for a normal delivery finds herself on an operating table, robbed of the chance to labor.

These aren't isolated incidents. Health experts now warn of a disturbing trend—a systemic drift toward surgical births, driven less by genuine medical need and more by convenience, control, and, in some cases, profit. For hospitals, C-sections are faster, more predictable, and more lucrative. For women, the cost is their health.

Women from rural or remote areas, ironically, are faring better. With less medical surveillance and more trust in natural processes, many go on to deliver healthy babies naturally. Urban women, on the other hand, despite access to advanced care, are increasingly caught in a spiral of overmedicalization.

This has been proven to have health consequences for the babies born via unnecessary C-section: They miss out on critical exposure to maternal bacteria that kickstart their immune systems. Many of these newborns end up struggling with breathing issues or infections.

For mothers, the emotional toll is no less severe. Recovery from major abdominal surgery is painful and slow. Breastfeeding becomes harder. So women should not be scared into surgery. The growing commercialization of childbirth demands urgent scrutiny. People have a right to know whether cesareans are rightly warranted at the scale they are conducted or just driven by a pursuit of profit by a multitude of nursing homes.

However, the issue is not as simple. The question is how people are supposed to know and who will tell them? Here, we are dealing with the medical profession and the doctors prescribing the C-Section can always claim an expert knowledge, something others can't. At the same time, this doesn't mean that the disproportionate rise in C-Section births is normal. It needs to be scrutinized and the government is in the best position to do so.

Kashmir's Other Drug War

Partial anti-narcotic enforcement is blocking access to essential psychiatric drugs, affecting over 45% of adults with mental health disorders.



Mirza Sharafat Hussain Beigh



A strict balance

is required to be maintained by the enforcing agencies in view of 'the doctrine of proportionality,' so that the consequences of partial antinarcotic drives never impede the access of Scheduled H1 medicine. sified, with central and state agencies ramping up efforts to protect the youth from addiction and secure a healthier, more promising future. But emerging trends are disturbing, with increased involvement of men and women in the racket. On 4 August 2023, a parlia-

he war on drugs has inten-

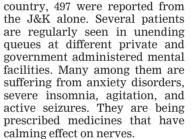
mentary standing committee estimated that Jammu and Kashmir has around 1.35 million drug users. The government is primarily responsible for blocking the supply chain of drugs, yet the major stakeholders are those who consume the same without any care for self and society.

On the other hand, J&K Police have made 536 arrests in 415 cases filed under NDPS Act in north Kashmir alone in the year 2024. Srinagar Police also arrested 156 drug peddlers in the previ-

icymakers

at Davos

Global



These prescribed medicines are mainly listed in schedule H1 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 2013. And significantly, the supply of a drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be recorded in a separate register at the time of the supply, noting the name and address of the prescriber, the name of the patient, the name of the drug and the quantity supplied. Such records for denying medicines, yet the practice needs a thorough check, and overhaul at administrative level. The denial of such prescribed medicines by registered druggists is posing a serious challenge to the patients.

This drug denial is bound to escalate Kashmir's mental-health crisis, if left untreated. It may even force many patients to seek alternate routes for getting required supplies of medicines. That means, it's likely to bypass registered chemists and create illicit drug supply chain.

So, while cracking whip on drug peddlers, the state administration should never compromise the rational access of prescribed medicines for neuropsychiatry patients. A strict balance is required





hildhood is a crucial time for learning, especially when it comes to financial education. Understanding earnings, savings, and investments from a young age can prevent future generations from falling into financial traps. Traditionally, cultures like the Kashmiri have encouraged saving by using penny boxes, a practice that can be modernized today.

It's essential to educate children about the value of money and the principles of saving and investing. By introducing concepts like savings, earnings, and investments in their formative years, children can grow up with a strong financial foundation.

Today, technology simplifies financial education and investment. With smartphones, people can easily manage investments, even opting for Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) in mutual funds—affordable and adaptable products. Asset Management Companies provide the tools needed, without the necessity of traditional custodians.

Educating children about the value of patience in investing is crucial. Understanding that investments like equities and markets may fluctuate in the short term helps in developing resilience. Teaching them to focus on long-term goals, such as 10 or 15-year investment plans, will shield them from volatility's shortterm impacts.

It's vital to introduce young minds to diversified investment strategies, including equities, global markets, gold, and silver, through asset allocation funds. Understanding different asset classes provides the flexibility to create balanced portfolios.

By nurturing a culture of savings and wise investments from a young age, we can prepare upcoming generations to face financial challenges confidently. Early education about financial management is more critical than ever, and starting the conversation now will ensure a financially savvy generation in the future.

The author is reputed financial advisor based out of Srinagar.



some sort of trauma.

The study was conducted before 2017, and since then mental health cases have been growing drastically across the region. Meanwhile, a recent report of the National Crime Records Bureau (December 2023) clearly indicated that Jammu and Kashmir had the highest number of reported cases of attempted suicide in 2022.

Out of total 1,769 cases recorded by the Bureau across the

tropic drugs.

Simply, to avoid the methods, as expressed in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, chemists have not just adopted a practice of denying medicine, but they're compromising the "access to medicines - a fundamental element of the right to health". Such a practice sabotages the key element of universal health coverage.

There may not be specific laws and rules to hold chemists liable ists, so that the medicines are dispensed without evasion and circumvention, as per the valid prescription of registered medical practitioners.

The author is Television and Radio News Professional from Srinagar. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001 *email: editpage.ko@gmail.com*

The Voice of Baramulla Deserves to Speak

hrough your esteemed publication, I wish to draw attention to the continued imprisonment of Member of Parliament Sheikh Abdul Rashid, widely known as Engineer Rashid. His captivity is a matter of deep concern for many of us in Kashmir, particularly the people of Baramulla, who recently re-elected him to represent them in the Lok Sabha.

Engineer Rashid, a native of Mawer Handwara, has long exemplified genuine public leadership. From his early days as a civil engineer to his entry into politics in 2008, he has consistently placed people's welfare at the core of his work. He won the hearts of voters as an independent MLA from Langate twice, later founding the Jammu Kashmir Awami Itehad Party (JKAIP) in 2013. Even while incarcerated under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act since 2019, his landslide victory in the 2024 general election speaks volumes about the trust and hope people continue to place in him. What makes Engineer Rashid stand out is his tireless commitment to public utilities and social justice. He has been a vocal advocate for improving hospitals, roads, courts, and above all, education. His compassion for the downtrodden, especially students, and his dedication to guiding the youth is both inspiring and sorely missing in today's political landscape.

Honest leaders like him are crucial for fostering economic growth, promoting civic engagement, and upholding the ideals of justice and democracy. Keeping such a voice behind bars not only undermines the democratic mandate of his constituents but also robs society of a leader who could help build a more inclusive and equitable future.

I appeal to the concerned authorities to release Engineer Rashid at the earliest and allow him to fulfill the duties entrusted to him by the people who chose him as their representative.

Basharat Ahad Qureshi, Handwara

Justice Prevailed Through Wisdom and Words

In a moving tribute, Raja Tasleem Abbass's niece honored her uncle as a man of unwavering integrity and profound influence, whose mentorship and legacy continue to shape her life and the lives of many others.

Sama Zehra

Growing up, my childhood was mostly scarred by turmoil and conflict. The turbulence of those years made it impossible to rely solely on school for an all-around education - I badly needed someone to guide me through.

The guidance finally came from my uncle, Raja Tasleem Abbass. When I was in sixth grade, my uncle started taking regular twohour classes for my cousins and I, where he helped us brush up on our writing skills and taught us the basics of English Grammar. These teaching duties he placed upon himself beyond his long and exhausting hours at court.

My uncle was deeply passionate about teaching and equally worried about our education. He considered education to be a formative part of one's moral compass and principles. Naturally, the lessons were often centred on ethics and values. Every day at 8:30 at night, he began each class with a 30-minute lecture on moral virtues. Thereafter, we were instructed to write our opinions and takeaways from it. That was when I first began to write.

I remember when I was once asked by a school teacher to prepare an essay on 'responsibility'. Înstinctively, I rushed to my uncle to take his immediate and "urgent" help (It did feel very urgent then). He started the essay with the sentence, "Sense of responsibility has a paramount role in our lives". From that day on, for an entire year, I devised a shortcut method from that sentence - I used to replace the word "re-sponsibility" with whatever topic my teacher would me to write an essay on. Be it loyalty, sincerity or any other virtue, the shortcut method always worked - it was a little trick up my sleeve that helped me excel in my writing. Did it make any sense? Perhaps not. But did the teachers absolutely adore my essays? Of course! I was so proud of what my uncle taught me once that I kept using it everywhere.

As time passed and my writing evolved, I realised that it was my writing but his words, my ideas but his style, my opinion but his syntax. The greatest appreciation I ever received - and perhaps the greatest anyone could receive from their mentor - was when, after reading something I had written for college he said. "It feels



This pen has honoured me - to deliver justice, to gain knowledge, and to share it with so many people. My soul doesn't allow me to get rid of it so easily."

task. Yet missing the exams would delay his education — something he simply couldn't afford. So, he decided to figure something out.

At that point, two thoughts weighed heavily on his mind: firstly, how disheartened his mother would be if his education were delayed; and secondly, that his sister had asked him to bring back a Tibetan tea-saucer set. Putting all his faith in God, covering his head with his arms and clutching the porcelain tea set he had just bought, he jumped off the snow-covered Zojila Pass - risking everything for a better life and a brighter future. Surprisingly, he made it to Srinagar - bruised here and there, but well enough to sit the exam and pass it with flying colours. Thinking about it today, one might find it hard to believe such determination exists. But that was Raja Tasleem Abbas for you - a man full of determination

and faith. My grandfather, too, was part of the legal fraternity - a well-known figure, admired for his honesty and work ethic. It was he who passed on the legal legacy to my uncle. After completing his bachelor's degree, my uncle initially joined the Bar and practised with the law firm of Hakim Ishtiyaq Hussain - a man he would praise and speak of fondly, even years after his sad demise. On one occasion, both he and Hakim Ishtiyaq Sahab had gone to court for a case, only to return disheartened by the judge's conduct. At that moment - a mix of despair and hope - Hakim Sahab earnestly encouraged my uncle to consider sitting the judicial services examination. Though initially hesitant and lacking confidence, my uncle eventually agreed. Together, they went to collect the application form and filled it out then and there. That precise moment marked the beginning of his journey to the bench. The bench he always deserved. The bench he never left. According to the stories I've been told by my grandparents and by my uncle himself, he studied relentlessly for six months - day and night, without a single break. The only pauses he allowed himself were for the five daily prayers. He had devised a personalised study routine. Each morning, he would wake up at Fajr, offer his prayers, and begin his day by placing five books on one side of the table. His daily goal was simple: read and understand all five, then move them to the other side. Every single day, without fail, he met this goal. At the time, he didn't have much guidance. His language skills were not particularly strong either, so whenever he encountered a difficulty, he had no choice but to sit with it until he figured it out himself. I remember one story in particular - while studying the Law of Torts, he came across the case of Rylands v. Fletcher. At first, he couldn't quite grasp the reasoning and legal analysis behind it. Confused, he read and re-read the case until he understood every detail. That was his way - no room



for confusion, not even an inch of doubt. He loved the law in its entirety: the intricacies, the differing opinions, and the elegance.

On the day of the KCS examination, the exam hall was filled with anxiety and silent, sincere prayers. It was then that my uncle looked down at his clothes and realised, "I'm wearing my torn night T-shirt - and I didn't even notice." After writing each paper, he would self-assess all his answers and give himself a score. Surprisingly, when the results came out, his self-assessment almost perfectly matched his official marks.

Being the polymath that he was, during the brief time be-tween completing the exam and officially joining the legal fraternity, he served in the J&K Police as a Prosecuting Officer. He was appointed alongside his close friend, Khursheed-Ul-Islam Sir (now a Sessions Judge), and the two of them trained at a base camp in Udhampur. He once told me that while waiting for the results at the training camp, he would often imagine hypothetical cases, write judgments based on his legal reasoning, and sign them off with "Raja Tasleem Abbas, Sub-Judge.' The wait didn't last long. One day, someone at the camp shout-ed, "Raja judge ban gaya!" Both he and his friend had passed the examination successfully and were set to join the legal fraternity. He had cleared what once felt like an impossible exam and made a quiet promise to himself - to use this opportunity to help as many people as he could, to spread the message of peace and justice, to become a beacon of hope for the poor, and to deliver justice to every corner of Kashmir. And that is exactly what he did. He became the candle that lit the dark paths of so many. During the 23 years he served as a judge, beyond his remarkable judgments, he was known for his integrity, honesty, and fearlessness. He never bowed to higher authorities and always stood firmly by his decisions, without hesitation or fear. He distanced himself from any sense of entitlement - avoided entourages, disapproved of flaunting authority, and was firmly against the use of workplace services for personal matters. His principles ran so deep that they extended to the smallest of things - the kind most people would simply overlook. Recently, I was surprised to know that for even the simplest of tasks - like writing an essay for us, drafting a letter to his children's school administration or simply, jotting down a phone number - he would never use the pen provided by the Court. He had two sets of pen holders, one holding all the office pens which he used strictly for writing court orders or for official purposes and another set, which was bought by him solely for personal use. He was a firm believer in the sanctity of a pen. He would never throw away his empty pens, often saying, "This pen has honoured me - to deliver

justice, to gain knowledge, and to share it with so many people. My soul doesn't allow me to get rid of it so easily."

It was this same reverence for purpose that helped shape my own journey. Our mentor-mentee bond began in my childhood. but it grew even stronger in 2019 when he advised me to sit the All India Law Entrance Examination. He had just returned from a twoweek training programme at the Delhi Judicial Academy, hosted at NLU Delhi. At the time, I had no idea what a National Law University was or what it could mean for my future. We discussed it at length, and the very next day, he bought me the Manorama Yearbook, 2019 edition, and instructed me to start covering current affairs as soon as possible. I was confused, a little lost - but under his guidance, I began to explore a completely new path for my career. Studying for an entrance exam at home, especially without proper resources, was incredibly challenging. But he supported me every step of the way. From clearing my countless doubts to explaining complex legal concepts in simple, everyday language - he became the pillar of support I never realised I needed.

break down the distinctions, and clear every iota of doubt I had. The more questions I asked, the more excited he became to answer them. I was thrilled to finally understand, and I even shared a voice recording of our call with my friends. I vividly remember him, sipping tea and laughing as he said, "This ideally should be a privacy breach. But the law hasn't reached there yet."

Sometime in August 2020, on the night before my entrance exam for NLU Delhi, he told me something that I carry with me to this day. He said, "You've tried your level best, there is nothing more that you could have done, from now onwards leave everything to God. If this works out, then it was meant for you; however, if it doesn't God surely has bigger plans for you." These words have stayed with me every since and have guided me every time I have faced a difficulty.

Once college started, he became an integral part of my life, more than he was before. I used to study cases and assigned readings with him. Honestly, back then I had no idea how to read cases but his sentence by sentence (what he'd call "spoon feeding" approach) helped me go through my initial semesters in law school. I remember that I had a course on where we read the entire Speluncean Explorers case together - sentence by sentence, partly agreeing and disagreeing, arguing throughout the 10/15 pages of the course. Our disagreements would reach another level while reading the Constitutional Law. For instance, I used to be a staunch J. Iyer fan and he would critique him for not writing to the point judgements and diverting in poetry and lengths of legal jargon. I would give an opinion, he'd question its originality (and rightly so) and say, "This idea is the impact of westernisation and colonisation." I did not understand anything when he mentioned "Critical Legal Studies" - but nothing stopped the difference in opinions. We would go back and forth. until everyone would stare at us out of boredom, and I would agree to his point tangentially somewhere. Then I would say, "But you agree that my opinion is at least 50% right" and he'd say, "That's the sign of weakness, you are not confident in your argument anymore." Finally, in public interest we would stop, and everyone would divert to some other topic. For as long as I can remember, visiting him every day, random conversations and life advice had become part of my life. I wouldn't even call it part of my routine - it was my life. Going back home, sitting in the garden on Sundays, sipping tea, laughing and chatting were our ideal afternoon. Every weekend I would confirm at dinner, "Would you be home tomorrow?" He would nod, and then we'd sit together for as long as we could.

even more surprising, I have seen him happy and satisfied while working. I would be so pissed when on weekends he would have people coming home, I would ask "Don't you have court for this?" He'd smile and say, "No, they need my help and advice and they are not very comfortable coming to the court."

When I say he was a self-made man, I mean every ounce of it. He wasn't a man of inherited privilege. He was the embodiment of hard work and self-made success. He truly earned his authority and his seat. Wherever he was posted, he left the fraternity in awe with his disposal rates. He truly invested himself in people's cases. He would often say, "Do Justice considering it to be a part of worship."

of worship." On 15th Feb, when he was admitted in emergency, the first thing he told me was, "Today I completed writing an order and was about to release someone who was in jail for the last 15 years, but due to my ailing health, I had to leave early." He regretted terribly that he had to leave court before passing that order. This is the first conversation we had at the critical care unit, how does one reach this level of determination?

I often think that (aware of the backstory of how he became a judge) normally a person would be swimming in a pool of hubris. But I never once saw him act superior or as better than the rest. Ego had no space in his world. He would always advise us, never to bow down before money or power. He was the pillar of optimism and would always encourage and motivate everyone to follow their interests and use their potential to the fullest. Nothing was as important to him as self-respect, he would repeatedly say, "Don't ever let anyone scratch your selfrespect, honour it and treasure it." He wanted to deeply instill in us the principles he always clung to - the principles of fearlessness, self-respect and honesty.

I thought I knew the person he was, but after his passing, I am now discovering, "Who he really was?" I am so proud of the person he was. I am so rejoiced at the fact that he actually "lived" his life and followed the path that he promised to himself at the inception of his legal career.

Though this story is his and not mine - I doubt my story would even exist without him in it. Had he not been my mentor and guiding angel since the very start, I would be in the middle of nowhere. He practically raised me and made me the person that I am today, guided me towards Law then towards better opportunities, and then finally served my future to me on a silver platter. I would not be a fraction of the person that I am today, had he not been by my side calling me, "Jaana" and being the solid rock of support that he was. Though, fate decided to cut short our mentorship cycle and he may not be there with me physically, he will always live in my writing. His presence will echo in my writing. His words that I continue to steal - and my writing style (which is inherently his) will carry him forward with me, always. However, he doesn't need anyone to keep him alive. A personality like his is immortalised in the hearts of thousands of people he has helped, in the hearts of numerous students he has mentored, in the hearts of the accused who found light through his work and everyone who ever had the privilege of knowing him. I have always been fond of Agha Shahid Ali and his book "Veiled Suite". However, I never understood his poetry as deeply as I can today. He says, "It rains as I write this. Mad Heart Be Brave." Today I completely understand it and I hate that I understand it. Agha, it does rain as I am writing this, but I don't know if my mad heart has enough strength to be brave. My mad heart is just constantly reminded of these lines from my uncle's favourite song:

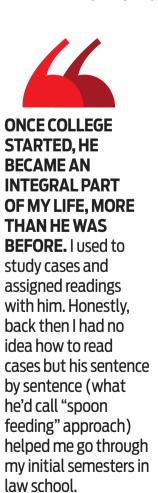
like I'm reading something written by myself."

While my journey of writing initially began entirely under his shadow, over time, my writing process gradually shifted to a more collaborative effort - where I would write and then wait for his comments and feedback, always in awe of his overarching presence in my writing. Thereafter, ever since I began my journey of becoming an advocate, I had hoped to start legal writing from scratch, again under his continued guidance - I had hoped to rely on him completely to come up with new writing tricks - completing another full circle of mentorship and learning. Little did I know, an unfamiliar storm was quietly waiting at the doorstep of our lives.

Faced with the inescapable grief of losing him and the context of him teaching me the very art of writing, it felt that there would be no other way of honouring him but by bidding him a final goodbye with one a piece of writing. Today I am writing on my own, already aware that this piece won't be perfect without his comments and feedback, but here's to hoping that this piece somehow captures the depth of his personality. Had he been here today, he would have jokingly accused me of stealing all his favourite words - but here's to using his words to write his own story.

The legal career of my uncle began with his position as a Junior Assistant at the District Court in Bandipora, and he was eventually transferred to Kargil. His career started even before he had graduated. He managed a full-time job while simultaneously pursuing a bachelor's degree in Law at the University of Kashmir. During his final year, end-semester exams were scheduled for December/ January. However, reaching Srinagar meant navigating roads buried under 4-5 feet of snow, which was almost an impossible

I remember being completely



perplexed about the difference between murder and culpable homicide. I couldn't quite grasp the nuances between the two. Despite his demanding schedule, he would call me on his way home, walk me through examples,

Though office hours were technically Monday to Saturday, I have always seen him working. And Gham aur khushi mai faraq na mehsoos ho jahaan

Mai khud ko uss maqam pe laata chalagaya

Mai zindagi ka sath nibhata chalagya.

- The author is student of final year at NLU Delhi

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

J&K Gears Up

the details, the DGP took a detailed review and directed the officers to ensure fool proof security.

Meanwhile, the Special Protection Group (SPG), tasked with the Prime Minister's security, has taken over the control of the security at the venue in Katra, where the Prime Minister is scheduled to flag off the first train to Kashmir on April 19.

As per the tentative schedule, PM Modi is expected to land at Udhampur, take an aerial survey of the Chenab Bridge, proceed to Katra to flag off the first direct train to Kashmir, and later address a massive public rally at the Katra Sports Stadium.

The Vande Bharat Express, specially built for operations in sub-zero temperatures of the Kashmir Valley, is already stationed at Katra. The train consists of eight fully air-conditioned coaches, cab heating, HVAC systems with 9kW heating, sealed gangways, infotainment displays, CCTVs, LED lighting, mobile charging ports, plug doors, and electro-pneumatic brakes. While the train can run at 160 km/h, its operating speed between Katra and Srinagar has been limited to 85 km/h as per CRS approval.

The USBRL project spans 272 km, including 119 km of tunnels, and connects Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, and Baramulla. Among the standout features of the project are the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge. The Chenab Bridge, standing at 467 me-tres, can withstand earthquakes of up to magnitude 8.

PM Modi had described the Chenab bridge as an "unparalleled" example of engineering. Moreover, the flagging off the commercial operation of the first train between Kashmir and Jammu will mark the beginning of full rail connectivity from the Valley to the rest of the country. To start with, the national transporter will operate one Vande Bharat train between Katra and Srinagar, which will enable travelers to cover the stretch in just over three hours. Currently, it takes around 6 to 7 hours.

The Northern Railway has been conducting the trial run of trains between Kashmir and Jammu for more than two months. At present, train services in Kashmir are limited to the Sangaldan-Baramulla section, while longdistance trains terminate at Katra.

The bridge over the Chenab river is 35 meters taller than the Eiffel Tower.

Officials said around 29,000 tones of steel has been used in the construction of the bridge. They added that construction of the bridge was challenging because the area falls in earthquake-prone region and so its design and construction were done in such a way that even if an eight-magnitude earthquake occurs it will not affect the bridge

Approved in 1994-95 and declared a National Project in 2002, USBRL has seen phased completion over the years. Key stretches such as Qazigund-Baramulla (2009), Banihal-Qazigund (2013), Udhampur-Katra (2014), and Banihal-Sangaldan (2020) have already been inaugurated. A MEMU train trial run was also conducted last year on the electrified Reasi-Sangaldan section.

As security is expected to be a top priority for such a high-profile event, arrangements are being made to ensure a smooth visit. Security forces have been deployed across critical locations, and additional personnel are being stationed at Udhampur, Katra, and Chenab Bridge. Special measures are being implemented to ensure the safety of the PM and other dignitaries attending the event, with authorities taking

of pilgrims and ensuring organized preparations for the upcoming Hajj season.

The authorities have also banned hotels from taking in visitors who do not own a valid Hajj permit. This also includes those who only have work entry permits or residents. However, this is applicable only during the annual pilgrimage season.

Saudi Arabia had also slashed India's Private Hajj Quota by 80%, from the earlier Haj quota of 175, 025. The kingdom had also announced a temporary suspension on issuing new shortterm visas, including tourist and business, for citizens of 14 countries, including India.

4 Killed, 30 Injured

by an unknown vehicle in Pahalgam area of Anantnag district. According to an official, the accident occurred near the selfie-point in Pahalgam, where the vehicle hit and injured the young girl.

In Anantnag, a separate road accident took place in Sinthan Top area involving an Intra-v (chota hathi) vehicle, resulting in injuries to eight people.

The injured were taken to PHC Larnoo, with some among them being referred to GMC Anantnag and SDH Kokernag. All the injured are stated to be stable, the officials said.

In Srinagar, two motorcyclists were critically injured in a collision near the All India Radio Kashmir flyover. They were quickly transported to SMHS Hospital by the Dial 112 police team.

A three-year-old boy was killed in Ganderbal after being hit by a vehicle in the Kullan Gund area. The boy, identified as Mohammad Hussain, was declared dead on arrival at SDH Kangan.

In Bandipora, a tractor plunged into a gorge in the Duban area of Onagam, resulting in one fatality and leaving another injured.

The deceased, Mohammad Yaseen from Malangam, was confirmed dead at the scene, while the injured, Bilal Ahmad was taken to a District Hospital for further treatment.

Police have registered cases and launched investigations into these incidents.

Meanwhile, a senior traffic police official advised drivers to exercise extreme caution, obey speed limits, and remain alert at all times.

"It is crucial for all road users to exercise extra care to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Prioritize life over reckless, high-speed driving," the officer said.(KNO)

J&K Eyes Rs 5,500 Cr

air tickets to and fro Kashmir and hoped for a relief by the inauguration of direct train by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in coming days.

"We have nine new destinations in mind that we hope to get funded through a multilateral agency. We hope these destinations will ease some sort of pressure on Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg in the valley and also open up areas of Jammu hitherto undiscovered for tourism.

"Until those new destinations come up, the valley as we see it today is pretty much saturated. The moment the tulip garden is open, Srinagar for all intents and purposes grinds to a halt," the chief minister said while addressing a tourism-related event here.

Later, answering the queries of some of the participants including K B Kachru, Chairman Emeritus and Principal Advisor, South Asia for the Radisson Hotel Group, Abdullah said his government has already worked on these nine destinations.

"Before we open those destinations to private investment like yours (Radisson) in the hotel industry and other things, we need to make sure that the amenities are in place, including connectivity, electricity, water, etc. And that is where the multilateral funding comes in that I talked about," he said. The chief minister said the World Bank has already agreed to fund the project report preparation. "So that now will kick off and the moment that is done, we are then going to approach the same agencies. Hopefully, the World Bank will put aside its traditional sort of reluctance to fund anything in J&K." He said it is about Rs 5,500 crore investment that the J&K government is looking at for raising the basic infrastructure at these nine destinations.

said. The chief minister said his government will have focused attention on electric vehicles and is also open to helicopter service to link tourist destinations.

"We are open (to introduce helicopter services). If anyone is interested, by all means, come forward. Currently, all we have is the subsidized service for local people in the winter to connect the disconnected areas," he said.

On the introduction of more cable car services, he said "we need to be selective and careful as to where we locate them, so that they actually survive and make money, rather than sort of disappear."

Seeks End To

his government would be working with the Centre, particularly the MEA, to focus on those countries that have "very firm" travel advisories.

Attending a tourism event in the national capital, Abdullah, who also holds the Tourism portfolio in the Union territory government, said he is increasingly of the view that I&K needs to be repositioned, not as a destination for "volume tourism", but one for "value tourism".

"First, we will review the tourism policy in light of whatever has happened in Jammu and Kashmir in terms of the tourist arrivals. As I said earlier, the need to reposition Jammu and Kashmir and whether that means that we need an entirely new tourism policy or the tourism policy that we already have just needs to be tweaked a bit," the chief minister said.

He said the central government has been saying that J&K is now entirely normal. "I think the proof of the pudding is in the eating. We have to convince the international community that Jammu and Kashmir is normal and there is no point telling us as we see what Jammu and Kashmir is like.'

Abdullah, however, said he doubts whether people sitting in the White House are going to be reading Indian newspapers.

"It is the MEA that needs to use its diplomatic might to actually now start getting these travel advisories written down. I think that will be the single biggest proof acknowledged internationally that Jammu and Kashmir has changed for the better," he said.

The CM said so far it has just been the government saying that the situation in J&K is normal but one needs the international community to acknowledge it.

"And that acknowledgement will come in the form of those travel advisories being written down and finally done away with," he said. Abdullah said his government would be working with the Centre, particularly the MEA,

to focus on those countries that have very firm travel advisories. "The US, the EU, the United Kingdom, Australia and get them to start sort of writing down and watering down their advisories.

The CM said all foreign visitors coming to J&K having to show some sort of identity proof is nothing new

"All foreign visitors to Jammu and Kashmir ever since I can remember have always had to register upon arrival. Most of them fly in. And there is a dedicated counter in Srinagar airport for foreign visitors registration. So, this is not something new," he said.

"Traditionally, this has been the case. And it was there even before 1989 (when militancy erupted in the valley)," he added.

Abdullah said there were "thousands and thousands of foreign visitors" in Kashmir before 1989, and added that it was not a deterrent then and it will not be a deterrent now.

"What stops them (foreign tourists) is not ne registration. It is the fact that you

KASHMIR OBSERVER® SRINAGAR | TUESDAY | 15.04.2025

both of these things," he said. SC Won't Enter

"I am confident that the Supreme Court will not venture into a legislative matter," the minister told NDTV. "We have to respect each other. If tomorrow the government interferes into judiciary, it won't be nice. The separation of powers is well defined," he said.

"I have not seen any other bill being scrutinised so much ... one crore representation, maximum sittings of the JPC (Joint Parliamentary Committee) and a record in Rajya Sabha while debating the bill," he added.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had made it clear that it would not trespass into the domain of the legislature. But as the final arbiter on issues involving constitution, it has agreed to hear out the petitioners, who claim the amended law tramples on several fundamental rights, including the right to equality and the right to religious freedom.

In Bengal meanwhile, Mamata Banerjee -- who refused to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act, National Register of Citizens and Uniform Civil Code last year -- has now announced that the amended Waqf law will also join that category.

Asked about her stance, Rijiju said it could indicate that Banerjee does not believe in the Constitution of India.

"What kind of bizarre statement is that?" Rijiju said.

"Does Mamata or anybody not care for the people? They treat Muslims as mere vote bank. It will be a black day, the moment they defy... Anybody who says they will not obey the act passed by the Parliament of India does he or she have any moral authority and Constitutional right to occupy that position and hold the Constitution book? Do they respect Ambedkar? What kind of message do they want to send? Very unfortunate," he added.

While the implementation of the law rests in the hands of the state governments, the BIP has said the states have no power to bypass the Central laws

"We want to make it clear that after the 73rd and the 74th amendments in the Constitution, powers of the Centre, state and district-level governments are clearly defined. No district panchayat can go beyond the law passed by the state assembly and no state can bypass the law passed by the Centre (Parliament)," said BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi.

The Opposition has called the amended law unconstitutional, pointing to the several contentious provisions that include mandatory inclusion of two non-Muslim members in the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards, and the stipulation that individuals who practiced Islam for at least five years only can donate properties to Waqf.

Also, under the proposed law, government property identified as Waqf will cease to belong to it and the local Collector will determine its ownership.

The BJP has said the bill was drawn up after consulting a large section of people and it has the support of non-Muslim minorities. The bill has also passed the scrutiny of a Joint Parliamentary Committee and many amendments suggested by the members have been included.

The government has contended that the bill is about property and its management, not religion.

Huge lands and properties have been taken over by Waqf and there were largescale irregularities that did not allow Waqf property to benefit the economically deprived sections of the Muslim community, which the amended

law would do, it said.

release of a fire safety documentary, awareness lectures, essay writing and painting competitions, health checkups for jawans and the public and a medical first aid training programme.

The director urged citizens to partner with the department in building a fire-safe India by practising basic safety measures, reporting hazards promptly, and participating in awareness activities.

NC Blocked Waqf

50 MLAs and the Speaker belongs to their party. I fail to understand against whom they were protesting and raising concerns within the Assembly.

"And now Farooq Abdullah comes out in support of the Speaker. This is a tremendous mockery," Lone said.

The former minister emphasised that a "historic opportunity" was missed to either pass a resolution or at least conduct a meaningful discussion on the contentious amendments to the Waqf Act.

"It could have sent a powerful message from the only Muslim-majority province in the country. Instead, it appeared as though NC was fighting against itself merely to sabotage the iscussion and to appease New Delhi," he said.

"As a sole Muslim-majority province, our collective voice would have carried significant weight but now even if thousands of individuals approach the court separately, the matter will be decided purely on legal grounds rather than reflecting the sentiments of the people," he said.

Lone alleged that this situation arose because NC wanted to please the BJP MLAs, he added

Notably, Farooq Abdullah has defended J&K Assembly speaker Abdul Rahim Rather not allowing a discussion in the House on the act, saying "the discussion on Waqf Amendment Act did not happen in the Assembly as the matter is already in the Supreme Court".

"The Speaker already gave his verdict and it was right on his part because when we are approaching the Supreme Court, there is no point talking about it," he said.

On opposition calling the pandemonium witnessed in the last three days of the budget session in Jammu from April 7 to 9 as a "fixed match", the NC president said "has the opposition ever introspected?"

"Who is responsible? Who converted Augaf into the state Waqf Board? It was the property of Muslims living here. Article 370 would not have been abrogated had they not shaken hands with the Centre (BJP)," he said without naming the People's Democratic Party (PDP) headed by Mehbooba Mufti.

The NC president was referring to changing the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Auqaf Trust to state-owned Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board during the chief ministership of PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in 2003.

LG Credits Policies

and employment generation, and a significant push to the industrial development of the region.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the administration is committed to the advancement of the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have ensured a workforce prepared for industrial jobs. We have empowered marginalised sections of society to broaden the skilled workforce. Our handloom and handicraft exports surged after building the industrial ecosystem," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the progressive industrial policy and several key interventions in the last few years have strengthened investors' confidence in the UT of J&K and attracted private investment.

proactive steps to avoid any disruptions.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched full-scale preparations to ensure a massive turnout during the Prime Minister's visit. Party workers across multiple districts are being mobilised, logistics are being finalised, and plans are being laid out for a grand public reception at Katra Stadium. (inputs from agencies)

Saudi 'Cuts' Indian

cancellation of Hajj slots for over 52,000 Indian pilgrims, many of whom have already completed payments, is deeply concerning. I urge Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs @ DrSJaishankar to engage with the Saudi authorities at the earliest to explore a resolution in the interest of all affected pilgrims. This measure is crucial to ease the distress of thousands hoping to undertake the sacred pilgrimage this year," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted on his official X handle.

Ruling National Conference president Farooq Abdullah appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak to the Saudi leadership in this regard.

"I appeal to the Prime Minister to raise the issue with the Saudi government and ensure that the Hajj quota for Indian pilgrims is not reduced," he added.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said the sudden decision to reduce the Hajj quota has caused immense distress for both the pilgrims and tour operators.

"Disturbing news emerging from Saudi Arabia. Reports indicate that 80% of India's private Haj quota has been cut abruptly. This sudden decision is causing immense distress for pilgrims and tour operators across the country. Urge the Ministry of External Affairs to immediately intervene by taking up this matter with the Saudi government to seek a resolution. @ MEAIndia @DrSJaishankar," she posted on X.

Visa For Children

with their Haj Pilgrimage as per the schedule. However, if they opt for full or partial cancellation of their Cover(s), they may do so online through the Haj Committee of India website or Haj Suvidha App by Monday, April 14, 2025," the committee said.

No cancellation charges will be applied till April 14, the statement added.

Besides the cancellation of visas for children below 12, the Saudi Government has also imposed additional norms, including new travel restrictions that prevent Umrah visa holders from entering the country after the 15th day of Shawwal. This is aimed at managing the influx

"The moment that starts, then parallel to that, we will be asking people like you to come forward and invest in hotels and other tourism related infrastructure," the chief minister said.

Abdullah said his government is going to work with tourism bodies and others to see how "we can move Jammu and Kashmir up the value chain in terms of tourism that is not so much volume-based".

"As it is value-based and for that obviously the experience has to improve the quality of what we provide our tourists has to get better in terms of hotels, in terms of the experiences that we provide and in terms of the feel-good factor that they have when they come back. What we need to try and ensure is that tourists leave Jammu and Kashmir with a sense that they want to come back," he said.

Admitting that the government has not been able to grow tourism in Jammu, he said even though one crore pilgrims come for 'darshan' of Mata Vaishno Devi annually, "you need to divert 10-15 per cent of them to other pilgrimage sites and destinations".

Tourism in Jammu region is unique, the chief minister said, adding Jammu's positioning needs to be built around its heritage, around its history, around the religious side of it and the border part of it.

"And that is something which is going to get focused attention. All nine proposed destinations are not in the valley. Part of these are in the valley and part in Jammu," he said.

Highlighting the exorbitant rates of air tickets to and fro Kashmir valley, he said PM Modi is visiting the UT to flag off the Vande Bharat train that will connect Jammu to Srinagar, thus integrating the rail network of the valley with the rest of the country.

"Therein again that will bring its own challenges linked to what I had said earlier. Rail normally means volume. The easy availability of access into the valley means volumes will go up. So how do we balance the increased volumes on account of the train with our need to move up the value chain and make tourism in Jammu and Kashmir more value-based," he

travel advisory that makes their insurance null and void. They will have insurance and they do not travel without health and other insurance. The moment they visit J&K, their insurance policy is rendered sort of invalid. That is what needs to be changed," Abdullah said.

In response to a suggestion for outsourcing golf courses, the chief minister said the matter is under active consideration of the government.

"That said, we have to tread carefully here

because I do not want to give the impression that we are looking to sell the crown jewels. whatever Therefore, we do with regard to a private investment into these, we have to do in a way in which we maintain ownership.

Perhaps a long-term lease solution might be the answer, he said, adding there are various models are under active consideration.

On film tourism, the chief minister said the private market that gets sort of developed through Bollywood is already well taken care of in J&K. "North India,

Maharashtra, Gujarat are areas where I do not think we require much more promotional activity. The areas where we find we are lacking is southern India. We neither get very many south Indian movies and they have much larger budgets these days than perhaps Bollywood movies do," he said.

Abdullah said south Indian tourists generally do not travel as far north as J&K and south Indian movies are not shot in the UT that frequently.

Therefore, we will be looking to see what we can do to tap into

J&K Fire Dept

martyrs of the 1944 Bombay dock explosion and reaffirmed their commitment to public safety.

This year's theme, "Unite to ignite a fire-safe India," emphasises collective responsibility and community involvement in fire prevention.

As part of the fire service week starting today (Monday), the department launched several public engagement initiatives, including the

Write, Create, Innovate

Join KASHMIR

Kashmir Observer is calling passionate storytellers, sharp writers, and creative multimedia enthusiasts to join our Editorial & Multimedia Internship Program!

OBSERVER

What's in it for you?

Hands-on newsroom experience

Learn from media professionals

Work on real stories » Build a portfolio & creative projects that stands out

If you've got the talent, send your resume to onlineko@outlook.com and take the leap into the world of media!

'We have been successful in creating a conducive environment for the growth of industries, enabling overall development. Our efforts are now yielding positive dividends, with many industrial units having started their operations and many more investment proposals in the pipeline," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The unit, set up with an investment of Rs 75 crore, will generate hundreds of employment opportunities.

Azad Dissolves All Units Of DPAP spokespersons. He said these

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has shut down all parts of his party, the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), after it failed to win even one seat in the recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

After the party's poor per-formance, many of Azad's close supporters left DPAP and went back to the Congress party.

An insider of DPAP said that all levels of the party-state, district, and local-have been dissolved, including the party's

Dy CM Pays Homage To Dr Ambedkar

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary Monday attended two programs at village Dabber and Naniyal (Nowshera), organised to observe the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Paying homage to the legend, the Dy CM described him as one of India's foremost politicians, jurists and social reformers. The Dy CM extended greet-

ings to the people and remarked that this day holds great significance in honouring the remarkable contributions of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to our nation, particularly in the field of social justice, equality, and the drafting of the Indian Constitution.

He said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar dedicated his life to the fight



will be set up again later. Azad had left the Congress par-

ty in August 2022 after more than

40 years, due to disagreements

with its leadership. He launched

DPAP a month later, promising it

would be a democratic party, not

move to completely reorganize

of 90 Assembly seats but didn't

win any. Some people believed

the party had a secret deal with

the BJP, which may have hurt its

Sources say Azad made this

DPAP had contested 23 out

run by one person.

chances.

and rebuild the party.

against social discrimination and worked tirelessly to secure equal rights for women, laborers and marginalized communities. His vision laid the foundation for a just and inclusive society, as reflected in the Constitution of India, which he was instrumental in drafting, he added.

The Dy CM added that Ambedkar believed in equality for every citizen, no matter which caste, religion or community they belonged to and government is committed to build J&K of Ambedkar's dreams.

Cyber Police Kashmir Busts Network Of Fraudulent Proxy Bank Accounts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a continued crackdown on cyber fraud and illicit financial activity, Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, SH POLICE ST

Srinagar, has launcher a sweeping operation targeting proxy bank accounts being used to facilitate scams and money laundering across the Valley. In a major develop-

REINTIR ZONE SRIT ment, preventive legar action has been initiated against 50 individuals linked to such accounts, with two key masterminds arrested and several others placed under surveillance. These front accounts, often opened or handed over by local residents in exchange for quick commissions, are being exploited by cybercriminal networks-some operating from overseas-to reroute stolen money through phishing scams, fake investment platforms, and illegal betting websites.

Dot Com. "Anyone who knowingly, or even carelessly, allows their bank account to be used in this way will face strict legal action.

The Cyber Police is employdigital forensics, dvanced financial tracing, and national-level collaboration to break down these networks. The unit is also issuing a strong advisory to the public: protect your financial

credentials and never allow your bank account to be used

USBRL Project Boosts Connectivity & **Development In J&K**



opened in February 2024. These

connections have brought life

to remote corners of the state,

previously cut off from main-

Beyond its engineering mar-

vel, the USBRL project has been

a catalyst for employment and skill development. Over 14,000

jobs were created during the

construction phase, with 65

percent going to locals. The

Railways also provided gov-

ernment jobs to 804 families

who lost more than 75 per-

cent of their land. Additionally,

more than 525 lakh man-days

of employment were gener-

ated, fostering a pool of skilled

artisans now working on na-

tional infrastructure projects.

Over 215 km of approach roads

have been built, connecting 70

remote villages with around

1.5 lakh residents to the rest

of the country. Previously reli-

ant on treacherous footpaths,

villagers now enjoy access to

The project's socio-economic ripple effects are evident.

stream development.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (US-BRL) marks a historic milestone in India's infrastructural journey, transforming a centuryold vision into a powerful en-gine of socio-economic growth across the Kashmir Valley. First envisioned in 1892 by

Maharaja Pratap Singh and lat-er reinforced by the British, the dream of connecting Kashmir with India's railway network languished for decades due to harsh terrain, climate, and limited resources. The project gained momentum in 1994-95 when the final rail link between Udhampur, Srinagar, and Baramulla was sanctioned and declared a National Project in 2002.

In the decades since, major milestones have been achieved-from the Jammu-Udhampur link in 2005 to the recent Banihal-Sangaldan section



FIRST ENVISIONED IN 1892 BY MAHARAJA PRATAP SINGH AND LATER REINFORCED BY THE BRITISH, the dream of connecting Kashmir with India's railway network languished for decades due to harsh terrain, climate, and limited resources. The project gained momentum in 1994-95 when the final rail link between Udhampur, Srinagar, and Baramulla was sanctioned and declared a National Project in 2002.

PDP Criticises Centre, JK Govt For Rejection Of Two Key Tunnel Projects

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday criticised the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir government for turning down two key tunnel projects on the Anantnag-Chenani corridor, saying the works were proposed to enhance connectivity in the mountainous Doda and Kishtwar districts of the union territory.

"The decision of the Public Investment Board (PIB) to turn down the proposals

Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels was long recognised by the previous PDP-led governments.

"It was (former chief minister) Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who first envisioned these tunnels as a transformative step to connect the Chenab valley with Kashmir and the rest of the Jammu division. His government initiated key surveys and brought the issue to the national planning forum.

"During Mehbooba Mufti's tenure as the chief minister, the project proposals were

ect reports prepared and envi-

ronmental clearances sought,"

valley reached New Delhi.

momentum was lost, Tak said.

Tak said.

losses,"

They artificially induce

fruit sets, which often

poorly developed seeds.

Such fruits are likely to

to significant post-set

fall prematurely, leading

results in fruits with

effectively for the interests of the Chenab valley," the PDP leader said.

markets, schools, and health

services, spurring local busi-

nesses and setting up work-

Improved rail access to shrines

like Amarnath, Hazratbal, and

Charar-e-Sharif is expected to

boost religious tourism. Local producers of saffron, apples,

and handicrafts now benefit

from faster access to national

Strategically, the railway enhances national security by

enabling faster troop and re-

source mobilization, while its

electrification contributes to

environmental sustainability

by reducing carbon emissions.

completion, it promises not

just enhanced connectivity

but a transformative impact-

uniting communities, enabling

economic growth, and raising the quality of life in Jammu &

Kashmir, long seen as India's

crown yet disconnected from

its heart

As the USBRL nears full

Tourism is another gainer.

shops and eateries

and global markets.

Both parties remained "silent spectators" while the Union government shelved projects that are critical for this region's development, he added.

He contrasted the treatment of Chenab valley with other regions like Jammu-Srinagar, which benefited from landmark infrastructure such as the Chenani-Nashri tunnel, a project that revolutionized travel by avoiding the avataken forward with the Minlanche-prone areas. istry of Road Transport and "Today, 33 tunnels are being Highways, with detailed projtalked about by the Centre for J-K. Fifteen have already been completed. Yet, two of the most essential ones for Doda and He claimed that despite po-Kishtwar have been left out. It's clear where the priorities lie -litical instability, Mehbooba Mufti's government ensured and sadly, Chenab valley is not that the voice of the Chenab on that list," Tak said. He also urged people across But sadly, after 2018 when party lines to unite and demand accountability and jusher government collapsed, all tice for the region, warning "The J-K BJP leadership that continued neglect could and the National Conference, only deepen the sense of marwhich is heading the present ginalisation and frustration government, are equally reamong the youth and the comsponsible. They failed to lobby mon citizens.

Handwara ACCIDENT Aftermath **Students Join J&K Police To Promote Road Safety**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In the aftermath of the tragic Handwara college bus accident that claimed two lives, the students across the Kashmir valley joined hands with the J&K Police to promote traffic awareness and road safety.

Students were seen assist-ing cops from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, pleading with motorists to wear helmets, avoid overspending and respect traffic rules in several townships across the valley, including Handwara, Sumbal and Anantnag.

"Road safety is not just a rulebook issue, it is about valuing lives. We have seen what happens when negligence goes unchecked," the participatory students said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, who facilitated the initiative, believed that the participation of students has sent a strong message about the role of civic responsibility in

preventing such incidents. Earlier, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Rural Kashmir, Ravinder Pal Singh at Kupwara had a few days back stated that despite the awareness drives, the ini-

tiative will only bear fruits if motorists truly understand and cooperate with the rules.

"We try our best to reach rural areas with a thrust to control accidents, fatalities, but this is only possible when people consider whatever we advise them," SSP Singh said.

He also pointed out that wrong-lane driving is a major contributor to road accidents and cautioned against teenagers driving without proper licenses. The SSP, in the meanwhile,

added that they will be strict with the school buses found to be overloaded. "They need to follow the guidelines of the Supreme Court. We will distribute stickers displaying the guidelines and traffic department contact numbers."

He further noted that installing CCTV cameras in school buses would become mandatory, adding that they are going to seize the vehicles that violate these parameters.

Pertinently, on April 12, two young female students lost their lives while 23 other received injuries after a college bus carrying students en route to a picnic met with a severe accident in Vodhpora, Handwara in north Kashmir–(KNO)

Dr Farooq Seeks PM's **Intervention To Prevent Reductions In Hajj Quotas**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate dialogue with Saudi officials to prevent reductions in the Hajj pilgrim quotas.

Dr Abdullah said, "Saudi Arabia's recent suspension of new short-term visas to citizens of 14 countries, including India ahead of Hajj pilgrimage is a matter of concern.'

Appealing to PM Modi to intervene, he said, "I urge the Prime Minister to initiate dialogue with Saudi officials to prevent reductions in the Hajj pilgrim quotas.'

He said that I also appeal to the Prime Minister to speak with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and urge them not to reduce our quota (of Hajj pilgrims). There is also the question of jobs here. I will ask Omar (Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister) to write to the PM on this."

Meanwhile, the NC Pres



criticized the Waqf Amendment Act but backed the J&K Assembly Speaker's decision against its discussion, pending Supreme Court review.

Dr Farooq commended the J&K Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather for disallowing a debate on the newly amended law, on grounds that the matter awaits resolution in the Supreme Court.

'This Bill is against the Constitution. The Speaker (of the J-K Assembly) made a good decision of not allowing discussion on this, as the matter is in the Supreme Court. We can talk about this after the Supreme Court's decision. The Opposition here is only meant to oppose; it is not a healthy criticism

"These accounts may appear normal on the surface, but they form a critical part of a digital crime trail," said the Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime Kashmir, speaking to Kashmir

"If you've been tricked or convinced to let someone use your account, or suspect it's been misused-come forward. Help us help you. If you notice suspicious online activity, report it. Combating cybercrime requires collective vigilance," the SP urged.

by others

Authorities are emphasizing that participation in such frauds-willingly or not-by allowing one's account to be used as a third-party channel for illegal transactions is a punishable offense. Citizens can contact Cyber Police Kashmir through their helpline to report any fraudulent activity or seek assistance.

for the Singhpora-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels was a betrayal of the aspirations of the people living in these remote areas. "These tunnels were not just

construction projects, but were essential for the socio-economic upliftment of Doda and Kishtwar," senior PDP leader and former legislator Firdous Tak said in a statement.

Without all-weather road access, he said, the region remains cut off for months, isolating people and obstructing education, healthcare and trade. Tak recalled that the need

for the Singhpora-Vailoo and

New Waqf Law An Assault On Rights **Of Muslim Minority: Tarigami Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: CPI(M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami on Monday said the Waqf (Amendment) Act is an assault on the rights of the Muslim minority community.

"During the party Congress in Madurai, delegates from across the country, including those with deep associations with the faith, writers and people who have dedicated their lives to political and social matters unanimously concluded that the Waqf (Amendment) Act is a serious infringement on the rights of the Muslim minority community," Tarigami, the MLA from Kulgam, told report-

ers here. He said such measures threaten the democratic framework and constitutional values of the country.



"This is what we highlighted there. Because of such actions, the democratic fabric and constitutional structure of our country are being weakened," he said.

Tarigami appealed to civil society, parliamentarians, legislators, writers and the media to raise their voices.

"Whether it is an attack on minorities, on democracy, on institutions or constitutional rights, one never knows what will be targeted next. Before it's too late, voices must be raised," he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 5712 1405 5235 from Shafeega Bano (old name) to Shafiqa Bano (New name).

> Shafiqa Bano *R/O :- Noorbagh Srinagar*

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Shabir Ahmad Kumar want to change my son's name in his aadhar card bearing no 8541 6581 3903 from Faizan Ahmad Kumar (old name) to Danish Ahmad Kumar (new name)

> Shabir Ahmad Kumar F/o : Danish Ahmad Kumar R/O: Batpora Ganderbal

Kashmir Orchardists Turn To Unapproved Growth Regulators

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Orchardists across Kashmir are increasingly turning to plant growth regulators (PGRs) in hopes of improving fruit set in their apple orchards-despite these chemicals lacking official approval or scientific backing from either the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K) or the Department of Horticulture.

As spring arrives in the valley, farmers are investing crores of rupees into spraying growth regulators across thousands of acres of fruit orchards. Many believe these synthetic hormones help in better fruit formation and higher yields. Yet, amid the rush, voices of caution persist among both seasoned growers and horticultural scientists.

"There are more than two brands of growth regulators currently available in the local market," a senior SKUAST scientist said. "But none of them have been officially recommended for use by SKUAST or the horticulture department."

Veteran fruit grower Mo-



hammad Yousuf from Shopian remains unconvinced by the growing popularity of these substances. "I have tried growth regulators in the past," he said. "Yes, the initial fruit set looks promising, but most of those fruits drop prematurely-around June or July. It's a short-lived benefit that ends up being a waste of both time

and money." Yousuf warned that longterm use of these chemicals could be detrimental to the

orchards. "Continuous use year after year may leave the trees exhausted and non-productive. The yields eventually drop sharply," he said.

On the other hand, growers like Javid Ahmad offer a contrasting view. Having used growth regulators for several seasons, he claims to have witnessed a remarkable increase in production. "My yields have almost doubled," Javid said. "In a competitive market, I have to take chances.'

Amid these differing experiences, orchardists are urging the government and research institutions to step in and issue clear guidelines. "The silence from authorities is confusing," said one grow-er. "We need to know whether using these chemicals is safe for the long-term health

of our orchards. They said that due to less yield last year, the majority of the growers have been spraying PGRs to witness better results this year.

Experts, however, advise extreme caution.

Dr Tariq, a pomologist at

SKUAST-K' said PGRs are not suitable for regular use in the valley's temperate climate. 'These chemicals are designed to address specific stress conditions, such as poor pollination caused by adverse weather during flowering," he explained. "In normal climatic conditions like those in Kashmir, their use is not only unnecessary but potentially harmful."

He said if SKUAST may have recommended it, then it would have been mentioned in the spray schedule but you won't find it in the schedule.

He outlined several risks associated with these synthetic hormones: "They artificially induce fruit sets, which often results in fruits with poorly developed seeds. Such fruits are likely to fall prematurely, leading to significant post-set losses," he said.

Dr Tariq said that trees treated with growth regulators tend to bear excessive fruit loads, which the plants are unable to support naturally. "This stresses the tree, disrupts nutrient balance, and results in small, poor-quality fruits," he warned-(KNO)

SPORTS

IPL 2025: Pitch Dilemma For Under-Pressure PBKS v Upbeat KKR

Press Trust of India

MULLANPUR: A beleaguered Punjab Kings need to pick up pieces after being blown away by 'tornado' Abhishek Sharma as they face yet another challenging opposition in Kolkata Knight Riders, here Tuesday.

It is a rarity that a team loses after putting on board a mammoth score like 245 but Punjab Kings had to endure a hard-to-digest defeat due to Abhishek Sharma's whirlwind knock of 141 off just 55 balls in their previous match against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

A helpless Shreyas Iyer, who himself smashed a 36-ball 82, could only laugh at the end of the match after watching his bowlers torn to shreds by Ab-



hishek's blazing blade. The carnage unfolded in Hyderabad, where the flat Uppal track resembles a 'national highway' where no total is safe. On Tuesday, though, Punjab will play at their home in Mullanpur where the pitch is also conducive for batters and the team management needs to decide what kind of conditions it would prefer going forward. In the two matches at Mullanpur, 200-plus scores were man-

aged by team batting first. The bowling unit's confidence must have been shaken, especially of the two spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Glenn Maxwell, who gave away 96 runs in seven overs between them.

And herein lies the dilemma. If Punjab goes for a flat deck, there is no guarantee that the bowling unit can defend anything in the 220 range, especially when KKR have the likes of Sunil Narine, Rinku Singh, and Venkatesh Iyer in their rank.

One piece of statistics that head coach Ricky Ponting wouldn't like to look at, is Punjab bowling unit's economy rate. None of the bowlers has gone below nine runs an over. In the KKR corner is the coun-

try's most improved T20 spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who loves to bowl on these kind of surfaces and Sunil Narine, who despite being past his prime, can be more than a handful in slower conditions.

KKR is a unit which can be equally dangerous on both flatter decks and the slow spinfriendly tracks since they have all their bases covered.

Also the severe thrashing they handed the Chennai Super King at Chepauk would have done a world of good to their confidence.

The Punjab Kings batting is heavily dependent on skipper lyer (250 runs), who has scored three fifties in five games so far. Match starts: 7.30pm.

Short TAKES

IPL Umpires Carry Out Bat Checks To Prevent Unfair Advantage

n a departure from the norm, on-field umpires have started making random checks on the dimensions of the bats during the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) to prevent players from gaining an unfair advantage.

Checking the bat dimensions is a prevalent protocol but till the last edition, the process was followed inside the confines of the dressing room.

However, the BCCI, in its bid to stay more vigilant in times of brutal power-hitting, has allowed the match officials to check any piece of willow if they deem required, even during a live game.

As per specified dimensions, the width of bat face should not exceed 4.25 inches (10.79 cm). The thickness of the middle of the bat (bulged part) can't exceed 2.64 inches (6.7 cm).

The maximum width of the edge can't surpass 1.56 inch (4 cm). The height of the bat can't be more than 38 inches (96.4 cm) from top of handle to the base.

ICC Creates Fund For Afghanistan's Displaced Women Cricketers

A fghanistan's exiled women cricketers received a major boost on Sunday with the game's governing body announcing a fund and task force to support them.

Afghanistan had 25 contracted women cricketers in 2020, most of whom have resettled in Australia with humanitarian visas due to restrictions at home under the hardline Taliban government.

The International Cricket Council said after its board meeting in Harare that it had joined with the cricket boards of India, England and Australia to sustain their careers.

Australia and England have ruled out bilateral cricket with Afghanistan over the women's rights issue and play them only in ICC events like World Cups and Champions Trophy.

Real Madrid Needs Epic Champions League Comeback v Arsenal

Record 15-time winner and defending champion Real Madrid will have to produce another of its famous comebacks to overturn a 3-0 first leg loss to Arsenal.

If anyone can, Madrid can - but it goes into Wednesday's game at the Bernabeu after a run of unconvincing results. Carlo Ancelotti's team has only won one of its last four games in all competitions - Sunday's 1-0 victory against Alaves.

The defeat to Arsenal could have been even heavier after being dominated at the Emirates Stadium and came after Madrid needed a penalty shootout to overcome Atletico Madrid in the round of 16.

But Madrid's history is built on producing special performances in Europe. Its run to the title in 2022 was filled with dramatic comebacks - none more so than the semifinals win against Manchester City when trailing 5-3 on aggregate going into the 90th minute of the second leg.

Madrid simply never knows when it is beaten.

J&K Wins 3 Medals In Thangta; **Emerges Runners-Up At 68th NSG** brilliant achievement.



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K's Thangta athletes bagged three medals, including a gold, at the 68th Natiknal School Games in the discipline of Thangta Under-19 boys and girls at Imphal, Manipur.

Hammad Bashir of Pulwama bagged Gold, while Ajaz Ahmad Sofi of Kupwara and Murieza Igbal Lone of Pulwama claimed Bronze medals.

Commissioner/Secretary Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, and Director General Youth Services & Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara, congratulated the winners and support staff for this

"J&K is leaving no stone unturned in carving a space on the country's sports map, is all set to win a record haul of medals in the National School Games this season, as a total of 52 medals have already been clinched by our athletes in various sports disciplines," said Tara.

He further said that 1800 athletes drawn from various districts have already taken part in the NSG in this season, while 400 more are expected to participate in various disciplines.

J&K has so far won 16 medals in Fencing with 3 Gold, 5 Silver and 8 Bronze; 15 medals in Wushu with 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 4 Bronze; 7 medals in Judo with 4 Silver and 3 Bronze; 4 medals in Taekwondo with 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze; 3 medals in Soft Tennis with 1 Silver and 2 Bronze; 3 medals in Thangta with 1 Gold and 2 Bronze: 2 medals in Gymnastics with 2 Bronze; and 2 medals in Weightlifting with

1 Gold and 1 Bronze medal.

Inter Zonal National Softball **Championship Begins In Srinagar**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 10th Inter Zonal National Softball Championship (Men & Women) kicked off on Monday at Bakshi Stadium here. MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Khan declared the tournament open.

In all, athletes from across the country are taking part in the championship. All the arrangements for the visiting players and officials have been made by the J&K Sports Council and J&K Softball Association.

The championship is being organised by J&K Softball Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council under the aegis of Softball Association of India. The championship will continue for three days and will witness tremendous competition. The championship will conclude on April 16.

The MLA welcomed the participating teams and expressed hope that all the players will exhibit their sports skills to the fullest.

J&K, being considered as one of the favourite venues for the national camps and championships for different sports, will definitely give a unique experience to the visiting players, said the MLA.

Prominent personalities present on the inaugural ceremony were Dr. Praveen Anaokar, Secretary General Softball Association of India, and other office bearers and member units of the SBAI. The championship is being sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

28 year of publication



SFRVF YouTube

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TVs across the world. Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

VISIT

https://www.youtube. com/c/kobserver

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

VOX POP

INKISHAF

THE OTHER SIDE