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New Data Lays Bare J&K's Reservation Divide

Jammu Corners Vast Majority Of Certificates

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The government has, for the first time, released district-wise data on caste and category certificates issued across Jammu and Kashmir, revealing a deep regional imbalance that places the Jammu division far ahead of Kashmir in the reserved category population.

The figures, tabled in the Assembly in response to a question by PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, show that Jammu accounts for nearly 90 per cent of all reserved category certifications issued in the past two years. The data has reignited the debate over the Union Territory's new reservation policy, which has already been challenged in the High Court.

According to the Revenue Department, a total of 7.65 lakh Scheduled Tribe (ST), 70,268 Scheduled Caste (SC), 76,664 Other Backward Class (OBC), 21,386 Economically Weaker Section (EWS), 47,399 Resident of Backward Area (RBA) and 3,280 Actual Line of Control

SC: Jammu 99.2%,

Kashmir 0.7%

ST: Jammu 87.2%,

Kashmir 12.7%

OBC: Jammu 56.6%,

Kashmir 43.4%

EWS: Jammu 88.5%,

Kashmir 11.4%

RBA: Jammu 32.9%,

Kashmir 67.1%

ALC: Jammu 85.2%,

Kashmir 14.7%

(ALC) certificates were issued during the period.

Of this, Jammu accounts for nearly 90 per cent of all reserved category certifications, while Kashmir contributes barely 10 per cent, except in the RBA category, where the valley holds a 67 per cent share.

The data shows 99.2% of all SC certificates were issued in Jammu, with Kashmir accounting for only 0.7%. Similarly, Jammu received 87.2% of ST certificates, while Kashmir's share stood at 12.7%.

In the | [More on P6](#)

Over 3.3 Lakh Category Certificates Issued In J&K In 2 Years

The Jammu Kashmir government on Tuesday said that it has issued 3.3 lakh certificates under various social and economic categories in the last two years.

District-wise figures show Jammu district alone issued 29,445 SC and 3,561 ST certificates, along with 16,863 OBC and 5,211 EWS certificates. Samba, Kathua, | [More on P6](#)

DISTRICT-WISE FIGURES SHOW JAMMU DISTRICT ALONE issued 29,445 SC and 3,561 ST certificates, along with 16,863 OBC and 5,211 EWS certificates

J&K Registers 3.6 Lakh Educated Jobless Youth

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that over 3.61 lakh educated unemployed youth are registered across the Union Territory as of September 2025.

According to the data placed before the House, 2.08 lakh registrations are from Kashmir Division, while 1.52 lakh are from Jammu Division.

Srinagar district tops the list with 23,826 unemployed youth, followed by Anantnag, Pulwama, Kathua, and Kulgam. The lowest numbers were recorded in Kishtwar (8,870) and

Reasi (12,376).

The figures reveal that among the total unemployed, 2,33,845 are male and 1,27,301 are female.

The government said that the Employment Department, under Mission Youth/Mission YUVA, aims to create 4.25 lakh job opportunities through the establishment of 1.37 lakh entrepreneurship units. The focus, it said, is on promoting self-employment, startups, and skill development among the educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

It added that district-level employment and counselling centres are regularly conducting Career Melas and Rozgar Melas to | [More on P6](#)

J&K ASSEMBLY SESSION

Bills & Barbs Mark A Noisy Day

Ruckus Over Transfers, Flood Row, & Rejection of Key Opposition Bills



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday witnessed a stormy session marked by uproar and sharp exchanges as multiple opposition parties clashed with the government

over regional discrimination, flood losses, and controversial bills on land ownership and corruption oversight.

Noisy scenes erupted in the House soon after proceedings began when Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather rejected an | [More on P6](#)

PDP'S LAND RIGHTS BILL

'Open Floodgates For Land Grab': CM

Press Trust Of India

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday rejected a private member's bill seeking to recognise proprietary rights for houses illegally built on government and community lands with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah strongly opposing it saying that its passage would "open floodgates for land grab". The bill, tabled by PDP MLA Wahid Para, aimed to grant ownership or transfer rights to residents currently | [More on P6](#)

REGULARISATION OF DAILY WAGERS

CM Cites CS-Led Review Panel

Observer News Service

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that the government has constituted a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to look into the regularisation of daily wagers and contractual employees. Replying to a bill moved by NC MLA Mir Saifullah seeking regularisation of services of employees working on a contractual basis, including casual labourers and | [More on P6](#)

J&K Sees Decline In Capital Expenditure

Govt Assures Fiscal Stability

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday revealed that capital expenditure in the first two quarters of the ongoing financial year was lower compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

In a written reply to a question submitted by MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, the Minister in-charge of Finance informed that capital expenditure during the first two quarters of 2025-26 stood at Rs 2574 crore, as against Rs 4,156 crore during the same period in 2024-25.



As per the quarter-wise break-up, capital expenditure in the first quarter of 2025-26 was only Rs 280.73 crore and Rs 2,293 crore in the second quarter.

In 2024-25, capital expenditure stood at Rs 2,234 crore in the first quarter and Rs 1,922 crore in the second quarter.

The Minister, however, stated that capital expenditure was higher in the previous financial year due to the clearance of undischarged liabilities amounting to Rs 1,300 crore on account of works and procurements at the end of 2023-24.

"Capital expenditure in the first quarter of 2024-25 was on the higher side as the government cleared all such undischarged liabilities of 2023-24," the minister said.

The Minister informed that total liability of UT as on date is Rs 6500.65 crore which pertains to GP fund gratuity and other financial liabilities.

The Minister said the total own revenue generation up to the second quarter of the current financial | [More on P6](#)

J&K Records Over 2 Lakh Dog Bite Cases in 3 Yrs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that over 2.12 lakh dog bite cases have been reported across the Union Territory in the past three years, prompting the launch of a large-scale sterilisation and vaccination drive for stray dogs.

In a written reply to NC MLA Mubarik Gul, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Housing and Urban Development portfolio, said 2,12,968 dog

bite cases were recorded since 2022 – 98,470 from the Jammu division and 1,14,498 from Kashmir.

Among districts, Jammu topped the list with 54,889 cases, followed by Srinagar (36,406), Anantnag (26,453), and Baramulla (18,563). The lowest number of cases was reported from Shopian, which recorded 1,357 cases in the three-year period.

To address the growing menace, the government said it has launched a comprehensive sterilisation and immunisation campaign for stray dogs. Between | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar Unveils Kashmir Marathon 2025 Merchandise

Calls Event Boost to Tourism and Fitness

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday unveiled the official merchandise for the upcoming Kashmir Marathon 2025, inviting fitness enthusiasts and professional runners from across the world to participate in the second edition of the event scheduled for November 2.

At a brief ceremony held at the Royal Springs Golf Course in Srinagar, Omar launched the specially designed cap,



medal, and racing kit for the participants in the presence of media and tourism officers.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Chief Minister said the event had already drawn a surge in registrations, including a notable rise in | [More on P6](#)

Speaker Stops Questions on LG Domain

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, on Tuesday clarified that legislators cannot raise questions related to departments under the administrative control of the Lieutenant Governor.

Referring to a query concerning the Home Department, the Speaker said that the question posed by AIP MLA Sheikh Khursheed had to be deleted as it pertained | [More on P6](#)

Govt Steps Up Use of Hindi in J&K Admin

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that official websites of various departments and related portals are being made trilingual – in Hindi, Urdu, and English – to promote the Hindi language and ensure inclusivity and wider accessibility.

In a written reply to BJP MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania in the Assembly, the government outlined the measures taken for implementing the

Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020, which recognises Hindi as one of the official languages of the Union Territory.

The minister in charge said that all official correspondences received in Hindi are responded to bilingually – in both Hindi and English.

A committee constituted in 2022 to create a roadmap for identifying areas where official languages—Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, and English—should be used for administrative | [More on P6](#)

House Panel Proposes Doubling MLAs' Pay, Major Hike In Loans & Perks

Recommends Rs 75 lakh housing loan, Rs 25 lakh car advance; CM, Ministers' pay revision also suggested

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A House Committee constituted by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to review the salaries and allowances of legislators has proposed a significant revision, recommending that monthly emoluments of Jammu and Kashmir MLAs be



doubled from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh, alongside major increases

in housing and car loans. According to the report

tabled in the Assembly, the Committee has suggested raising the housing loan limit from ₹10 lakh to ₹75 lakh and the car advance from ₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh. It also recommended that the Personal Assistants of MLAs be paid ₹25,000 per month, up from the current ₹12,000.

The panel further proposed amending the Salaries and Allowances of Members of the J&K State Legislature Act, 1960, to enhance legislators' basic salary from ₹60,000 to ₹80,000, in addition | [More on P6](#)

GST Relief Fuels India’s Car Upgrade Wave, EV Optimism, Says Study

Press Trust Of India

While GST reductions on cars fueled a rebound in sales in the festive season, around 80 per cent of buyers surveyed used the tax relief to switch to a higher model, better brand, or premium add-ons, rather than saving the difference, a study has found.

The study by consumer-intelligence and market-research platform SmyttenPulse AI stated that SUVs remain the popular choice for buyers, while environmental consciousness is driving a sharp rise in EV consideration despite infrastructure gaps.

The ‘Post GST Car Buying Behaviour trends’ study was conducted among more than 5,000 people in October 2025 across Tier 1, 2 and 3 cities.



“GST cuts have acted as a catalyst, but the larger story is behavioural: buyers are upgrading, not downsizing. Nearly 79 per cent of respondents said they are using GST savings to switch to a higher model, better brand, or pre-

mium add-ons, rather than saving the difference,” the study noted. Over 60 per cent plan to upgrade to higher variants within the same brand and 46 per cent have already moved up to a larger vehicle category,

from hatchbacks to SUVs, it said. SUVs dominate new purchase intent, and environmental consciousness is driving a sharp rise in EV consideration as 67 per cent of respondents said ecological benefits drive EV interest despite battery concerns and high replacement cost.

Financial confidence is clearly rebounding, as more buyers (53 per cent) are ready to make higher down payments or take longer loan tenures, while trust in policy and industry incentives is sustaining optimism, the study noted.

“GST cuts have done more than make cars affordable, they’ve reignited aspiration,” said Swagat Sarangi, cofounder, Smytten PulseAI.

“The middle-class buyer is using this moment to stretch upward, from base variants to top trims, from budget brands to feature-rich models.”

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my school records my parentage is wrongly written as Abdullah S/O Abdul Rashid baba and MASOODA instead of ABDULLAH BABA. S/O Abdullah Rashid baba and MASOODA Akhter R/O Baba Mohallah Hazratbal srinagar.Now I have applied for the correction of same .If anybody has any objection in this regard He /she may file his /her objection in the office of principal The Legends School of education kanitar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice .After that no objection shall be entertained

Students name:-Abdullah baba

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

My wards name mentioned in school records as Mohammad Eyaad Bhat.Now I want to change the name of my ward as Mohammad Anas Bhat instead of name mentioned above.If any person having any objection in this regard he may convey to the office of the principal vision School Education kanitar labazar srinagar within one week.No objection. Will be entertained after expiry of given stipulated period.

inf

Reyaz Ahmad Bhat

Father of Mohammad Eyaad Bhat

Class :-2nd R/O:-Check-/- wangund

Tehsil, Dooru District, Anantnag

Ph.7889323922

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICES & SPORTS ANANTNAG

Sub: - Tentative Seniority of Physical Education Teacher of District Anantnag-Inviting objections thereof

NOTICE

Whereas, the administrative department vide YSS-Adm/14/2022-02-YS&S Dated: - 16-01-2025 advised to update the seniority list of Physical Education Teachers in terms of SRO-375 of J&K Decentralization & Recruitment Act 2010 issued by General Administration Department; and

Whereas, the Directorate Youth Services & Sports, J&K vide order no. DG-YSS/Estt/455-79 Dated:- 09-04-2025, constituted District Level Committees headed by the concerned District Youth Services & Sports Officers and accordingly authorized these committees to prepare the District wise seniority of Physical Education Teachers as per rules in vogue and it was further ordered that the concerned Joint Directors Youth Services & Sports will examine the draft seniority lists and ensure that all the rules & regulations governing the formulation of seniority list are strictly adhered to. The final seniority lists shall be issued only after being vetted by the concerned Joint Directors YSS Jammu/Kashmir; and

Whereas, this office has already issued tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers vide notice no. DYSSO/Ang/Estt/5886-5900 Dated: - 17-05-2025 which was published in two leading newspapers for inviting objections, if any, from the stakeholders; and

Whereas, the aggrieved Physical Education Teachers submitted their objections in this office within stipulated time. During the scrutiny of the objections, it was observed by the Committees concerned that the issuance of appointment orders of many PETs were delayed due to different administrative reasons viz; receipt of CID verifications, Clarification of documents, court cases etc. which has disrupted the actual seniority position assigned to them in terms of Rule 24 of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956; and

Whereas, the matter was deliberated upon at a meeting convened by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports with both the Joint Directors and all the DYSSOs (and taking into consideration of various circulars and court judgements regarding formulation of seniority) it was observed that many Physical Education Teachers who figured higher in the selection list were appointed later and got placed in the tentative seniority lists below those who were lower in the merit to them, creating an anomalous situation which may lead to avoidable litigation. In view of that, it was unanimously decided that the concerned DYSSOs shall submit the service particulars of those PETs whose appointment orders were delayed due to different administrative reasons for grant of notional effect of Date of Appointment; and

Whereas, a committee constituted vide DG-YSS/Estt/8276-87 Dated: - 0409-2025 recommended the grant of notional effect to the aggrieved Physical Education Teachers to maintain the merit of SSRB selection list.

Whereas, Directorate Youth Services & Sports J&K vide order no. DG-YSS/Estt/11056-11091 Dated: - 22-10-2025 has granted notional effect of appointment to those PETs whose appointment orders were delayed due to different administrative reasons; and

In view of the above, issuance of tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers afresh is necessitated. Therefore, this office is once again issuing tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers of District Anantnag annexed herewith for inviting objections from the stakeholders within 21 days in this office. No representations /objections shall be entertained after the aforementioned period.

The tentative seniority list is available on the office notice board, Directorate Official website and also on the concerned ZPEO notice boards etc.

No. DYSSO/Ang/Estt/6441-48

DIPK-7558/25

Dated: 28-10-2025

District Youth Services & Sports Office

Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on the electricity bill bearing I.D. Number 0213040015310 from Ab. Gani Dar S/o Late Gh. Mohd R/o Shah Hamdan Mohalla Panzinara Sopore to Fayaz Ahmad Dar S/o Ab. Gani Dar.

If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the AEE Sub-Division Pattan within seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad Dar

S/o Ab. Gani Dar

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my election card as My-mona While my correct name as per Adhaar Card & Bank Pass-book is Meema Begum. 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.

Meema Begum

W/o Abdul Majeed

R/o Zaloora Sopore

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name and parentage have been wrongly written as Jehangir Hafeez S/o Hafeezullah Teli and mother's name as Shabeena Begum in his school record, while the correct name and parentage are Jehangir Hafiz S/o Hafizulla Teli and mother's name Shabeena Bagum, which need to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of Kermani Memorial Institute Wagoora within seven days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as SHAZIM ABBAS RATHER while his actual name is MUNEEB HYDER RATHER. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

TAWFEEQ AHMAD RATHER

F/o MUNEEB HYDER RATHER

R/o PATWAW BUDGAM

CELL: 7006329369

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is information to the general public that my name in Aadhaar Card bearing no:- 6800-3529-7619 has been wrongly entered as Shahmeema Bano while my correct Name is Shamima Akhter. Now I want the same to be corrected. If anyone has any objection he/she can report the same to Ranbir Govt. Press Jammu within a period of 07 days, after that no objection will be entertained.

fko

Shamima Akhter

W/o Manzoor Ahmad Dar

R/o Chukar Tehsil Kunzer District Baramulla.

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

SUB OFFICE PAMPORE.

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost his original 10th class marks sheet issued by the Board of School Education with following particulars :

Name: Furkan Showkat

S/O : Showkat Ahmad

Mothers Name:Zareena

Class 10th. Roll No: 6134264

Session Annual Regular 2018

Registration No:N17381380012 DOB:09-03-2003

Now the candidate has applied for the duplicate certificate of the same.Anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before undersigned within seven days of period from the date of publication of this notice .After due date no objection will or shall be accepted or entertained.

Assistant Secretary

Sub office ,Pampore

fko-r

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE, BANIHAL

No: GDC/BN/Estt/2025/244

Dated: 17-10-2025

Expression of Interest

Applications are invited from reputed book suppliers, publisher and registered members of the Association of Indian Publishers and Book Suppliers (AIPBS) and also registered under UTN National Level Publishers Distributors and Suppliers to offer maximum possible discount rates for the supply of Text Books, Reference Books and periodicals for the college library for the Financial Year 2025-26. Applications along with CDR of Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees Five thousand only) in favour of Principal Govt. Degree College, Banihal shall reach to this office within seven days from the date of publishing of this notice by hand or by post. Application form along with other relevant documentation can be downloaded from the official website of the college <http://www.gdcbanihal.edu.in> or obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-

(Dr. Shafiq Ahmed Katoch)

PRINCIPAL

DIPK-7574/25

dated: 28-10-2025

Form No 3

[See Regulation -15 (1) (a)/16(3)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/1441/2024

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure)Rules,1993

Exh. No: 29704

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED

VS

M/S ZOHRA HEALTH CARE LABORATORY

To.

(1) Rafeeqa Begum

W/o: Shahnaz Ahmad Mir

R/o: Batagund Tehsil Langate District

Kupwara , Jammu and Kashmir-193302

2) Mr. Shahnaz Ahmad Mir (Aka Shahnaz Ahmad Mir)

S/o: Mohammad Ramzan Mir

R/o: Batagund Tehsil Langate District

Kupwara , Jammu and Kashmir-193302

SUMMONS

Whereas , OA/1441/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 06.08.2025

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 4321363.08/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you. the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3 A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 10.11.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 07.10.2025

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

از نیابت بوئی

عنوان :- درخواست مخائب گل محمد ولد محمد بٹ سائیکہ عیدہ پورہ ہمداد اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق اولادان پرو ریکل ، افشانگل ، تازیگل ، روہیگل

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاوائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل دھ بڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کا کنیہ ۱۹ افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنیہ کی سالانہ آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے مبلغ 19077 روپے تک ہے سائل کے پاس ۱5 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ہے سائل کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground سے کم ہے رقبہ میں تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے سائل کا رہائشی فلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے سائل کا مکان ریشی از بیرون میونسپل حدود میں واقع نہیں ۔سائل کے کمہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے سائل , RBA , OBC, ST, زمرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کد اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزریا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبارات سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندر یا اعتراض وادلت حذا کو دفتر کی ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عینا کو اپنی مندر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تابع تحصیلدار FKO

از نیابت بوئی

عنوان :- درخواست مخائب طالب فیاض ولد فیاض احمد بیر سائیکہ عیدہ پورہ ہمداد اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود سائل

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاوائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل دھ بڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کا کنیہ ۱۹ افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنیہ کی سالانہ آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے مبلغ 6000 روپے تک ہے سائل کے پاس ۱۵ ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ہے سائل کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground سے کم ہے رقبہ میں تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے سائل کا رہائشی فلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے سائل کا مکان ریشی از بیرون میونسپل حدود میں واقع نہیں ۔سائل کے کمہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے سائل , RBA , OBC, ST, زمرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

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تابع تحصیلدار FKO



Rs 70 Cr Spent On Dal, Nigeen Lakes In 2 Yrs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over 70 crore has been spent on conserving and restoring Dal and Nigeen lakes in the last two years, the Jammu and Kashmir government informed the Assembly on Tuesday.

In a written reply to MLA Tanvir Sadiq, the Housing and Urban Development Department said the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) spent 38.39 crore in 2023-24 and 31.50 crore in 2024-25 on dredging, de-weeding, sewage treatment, and solid waste management.

The projects included extraction of lily pads, maintenance of sewage plants at Lam, Hazratbal, Brarimumbal, and Nallah Amir Khan, and beautification of the lakes' peripheries with parks, jetties, and eco-spaces. Over 30 navigation channels were dredged and widened between SKICC and Rainawari, while check dams and plantations were taken up in catchment areas like Harwan, Dara, and Khimber.

The LCMA also installed aerators, fountains, and pumping stations, and now manages over 9,400 kanals of lake and land area, including newly acquired tracts at Chandpora and the Northern Foreshore Road.

The government confirmed that Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes have recently been brought under LCMA's control through an order issued in March 2025, though no funds have yet been spent on their revival.

While the report highlights the administration's sustained focus on Srinagar's water bodies, discussions in the Assembly also pointed to

No Curbs On Construction Around Dal, Nigeen: Govt

The Jammu Kashmir government has denied that residents living around Mir Behri Dal Lake, Khushalsar, Gilsar and Nigeen lakes face severe restrictions in constructing residential houses or lack basic facilities.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Tanvir Sadiq, the Housing and Urban Development Department, said that all permissions in these areas are governed by the Srinagar Master Plan 2035 and court directions.

The government, however, acknowledged that it is "aware about the Right to Life as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India and recognised globally under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," along with related Supreme Court rulings.

On whether residents would be permitted to construct eco-friendly homes, the department said that all building permissions in the area are regulated and approved only as per the Master Plan Srinagar-2035 and directions issued by the High Court.

a persistent regional imbalance — with Jammu leading in welfare representation and the issuance of reserved category certificates, while Kashmir continues to lag.

Lawmakers from Kashmir called for policies that ensure equitable social and developmental benefits across both regions.

Funding Gaps, Land Hurdles Stall Road Projects In Srinagar: Govt

Says Fresh Tenders Issued for Boulevard widening

Agencies

Srinagar:The Jammu and Kashmir Government has said that major road widening works on the Khanyar-Nowhatta-Nowshera (KZP) Road, Syed Meerak Shah Road and Boulevard stretch are pending primarily due to funding constraints and land acquisition issues, even as fresh tenders have been floated for the long-delayed Boulevard project.

In a written reply to a question by MLA Ali Mohammad Sagar, the Public Works (R&B) Department said that the acquisition process for the KZP Road has been completed for certain stretches at Khanyar, Nowhatta, and Nowshera.

However, the government said that the project remains held up for want of funds and completion of legal and land-related formalities. "About 100 kanals of land and 500 shops are required for rehabilitation of affected families and shopkeepers,"

the department informed.

Regarding the Syed Meerak Shah Road, the government said that the stretch from Dalgate to Zakura has already been acquired and widened. "Limited portions at Nowpora, Khayam and Habbak-Zakura remain pending owing to funding, land, and law-related issues," the reply stated.

On the Boulevard Road widening and four-laning project from Nehru Park to Kralasangri, sanctioned under the Central Road Fund (CRF 2014-15) at a cost of Rs 33.77 crore, the department said execution was delayed due to rehabilitation requirements, non-issuance of No Objection Certificate (NOC) by the LCMA and pending environmental clearances.

It further said following the directions of the Deputy Chief Minister, fresh tenders worth Rs 19.97 crore have been issued on October 3, 2025, and work will begin once the tender process is finalized.(KNO)

About 100 kanals of land and 500 shops are required for rehabilitation of affected families and shopkeepers



Jhelum's Vulnerable Banks: Govt Lists Flood-Prone Localities

Govt Says Full Immunity 'Not Techno-economically Feasible'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has admitted that several Srinagar localities along the Jhelum River — including Lasjan, Gandbal, Soiteng, Vethpara, Padshahi Bagh, Kursoo Rajbagh, Shivpora, Sonawar, Batwara, Rajbagh, and Jawahar Nagar — are highly prone to flooding once the river discharge crosses 40,000 cusecs.

In a written reply to Starred A.Q. No. 279 tabled by MLA Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad, the Minister Incharge Jal Shakti Department said that habitations located on the left bank of the river are particularly vulnerable due to their low-lying topography.

The government informed that short-term flood mitigation efforts include restoring weak spots identified during safety audits of river embankments and laying filled EC bags at critical locations. Ahead of the flood season, filled EC bags are pre-positioned, and men and machinery are kept on standby under stage contracts to deal with any eventuality. These measures are coordinated with the District Administration, the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR), and other concerned agencies.

Under long-term and permanent protection measures, several bank protection works worth 12.30 crore have been undertaken at critical locations as part of PMDP Phase-II. Additionally, em-

Rs 1632-Cr Jhelum Flood Mitigation Master Plan In Pipeline: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Tuesday said the government is finalizing a 1,632 crore Master Plan aimed at long-term flood mitigation and river management for the Jhelum.

Responding to a question by Legislator Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad in the Legislative Assembly, Rana said the comprehensive plan includes deep de-silting, increasing the carrying capacity of the Jhelum, and strengthening flood spill channels to reduce the Valley's flood vulnerability.

The Minister said that around 15 crore worth of flood protection works have already been carried out in Srinagar, while permanent bank protection projects worth 12.30 crore are underway under PMDP Phase-II at critical locations.

To address overflow risks, embankments in vulnerable

stretches have also been raised at a cost of 2.49 crore. Rana identified Lasjan, Gandbal, Soiteng, Padshahi Bagh, Shivpora, Rajbagh, and adjoining areas as flood-prone zones, especially when discharge exceeds 40,000 cusecs.

He said the left bank habitations of the Jhelum are particularly vulnerable due to their low-lying terrain. Temporary measures, including EC bag protection works and advance flood preparedness, are being undertaken ahead of the flood season in coordination with district administrations and disaster management authorities.

Rana stressed that effective flood control requires both structural and non-structural measures, including early warning systems and floodplain zoning.

Supplementary questions were raised by legislators Tanvir Sadiq, Javid Riyaz Bedar, and Hasnain Masoodi.

bankment raising in vulnerable stretches, costing 2.49 crore, has been completed to strengthen flood resilience.

The government, however, clarified that permanent immunity against floods is "not

techno-economically feasible," though risks can be significantly reduced through a mix of structural and non-structural interventions — including flood early warning systems and floodplain zoning.

Kashmir Marathon 2025

Traffic Plan Issued For Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of the second edition of the Kashmir Marathon 2025, scheduled for Sunday, November 2, the Srinagar Traffic Police on Tuesday issued a detailed advisory outlining traffic restrictions and diversions to facilitate the smooth conduct of the event.

According to the advisory, the marathon, being organised by the J&K Tourism Department, is expected to witness large participation from both locals and visitors.

To avoid congestion, traffic movement will remain suspended on key city roads, including Residency Road, M.A. Road, Boulevard, Foreshore, Gupkar Road, and adjoining stretches during specific hours.

Residency Road from Radio Kashmir Crossing to Polo View will remain closed from 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM, while traffic on Rajbagh-Presentation Convent, M.A. Road-Nehru Park, Boulevard-Foreshore-Nishat-Kashmir University (Sir Syed Gate) and Gupkar-Ram Munshi Bagh

routes will be restricted between 5:00 AM and 1:30 PM.

The department has earmarked multiple parking areas for participants, including SP College Ground, SDA Parking (Opposite Pick 'N' Choose), Multilevel Parking Press Colony, Presentation Convent School, Gindun Park Rajbagh, Institute of Hotel Management Rajbagh, Directorate of Horticulture Rajbagh, Football Ground TRC, Floriculture Park R.R. Road, and Cricket Ground TRC (Opposite J&K Bank Headquarters).

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

06 Jumada al-Awwal

1447

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 25

ZUHR 12:15

ASR 4: 04

Magrib 5:45

ISHA 7: 07

This Day In History

- 539 BC- King Cyrus "the Great" of Persia marches into Babylon, freeing Jewish captives and allowing them to return home
- 1268- Conradin, the last legitimate male heir of the German Hohenstaufen dynasty of Kings and Holy Roman Emperors, is executed with Frederick I, Margrave of Baden by Charles I of Sicily
- 1390- First trial for witchcraft in Paris
- 1467- Battle of Brusthem: Charles the Bold defeats Liege
- 1508- Gelderse troops occupies Kuinre
- 1552- Tsar Ivan IV returns to Moscow after conquering the Khanate of Kazan in the Siege of Kazan
- 1591- Giovanni A Facchinetti elected as Pope Innocentius IX
- 1618- English adventurer, writer and courtier Walter Raleigh is beheaded for allegedly conspiring against King James I of England
- 1665- Battle of Mbwila [Amбуila]: Portuguese defeat forces of the Kingdom of Kongo and decapitate King Antonio I of Kongo / Nvita a Nkanga
- 1675- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz makes the first use of the long s, ſ, for integral, helping discover integral and differential calculus
- 17090 England & Netherlands sign anti-French "Barriertraktaat"
- 1794- French troops occupy Venlo (modern south east Netherlands)
- 1859 - Spain declares war on Morocco
- 1914 - Turkish warships storm Black Sea
- 1923 - Turkey declares independence (successor state to Ottoman Empire)
- 1923 - Mustafa Kemal officially confirms Turkey as a republic (Türkiye Cumhuriyeti), now commemorated annually as the Republic Day of Turkey
- 1945 - First ballpoint pen goes on sale, manufactured by Biro
- 1947 - Belgium, Luxembourg & Netherlands form Benelux Union
- 1947 Trial of art forger Han van Meegeren begins in Amsterdam
- 1948 - Israeli forces liberate Meron & Gush-Halev
- 1948 - Safsaf massacre, Israeli defence forces attack Palestinian village of Safsaf in the Galilee
- 1954 - Colonel Nasser disbands Muslim Brotherhood
- 1956 - International zone of Tangier returns to Morocco
- 1956 - Israeli paratroopers drop into Sinai to open Straits of Tiran
- 1964 - The United Republic of Tanganyika & Zanzibar renamed The United Republic of Tanzania
- 1966 - Lunar Orbiter 1 crashes on moon: 6.7°N 162°E
- 1966 - National Organization of Women founded
- 1997 - Iraq's Revolution Command Council announces that it will no longer allow US citizens and US aircraft to serve with UN arms inspection teams
- 1998 - Space Shuttle Discovery blasts off on STS-95 with 77-year old John Glenn on board, making him the oldest person to go into space.
- 2004 Arabic news network, Al Jazeera broadcasts an excerpt from a video of Osama bin Laden in which the militant leader first admits direct responsibility for the September 11, 2001 attacks and references the 2004 U.S. presidential election
- 2005 - 29 October 2005 Delhi bombings kill more than 60.
- 2015 - China announces the end of their one-child policy after 35 years
- 2017- British Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton finishes a distant 9th in Mexican Grand Prix at Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez, good enough to clinch his 4th F1 World Drivers' Championship
- 2018- Far-right politician Jair Bolsonaro wins Brazil's presidential election, defeating Fernando Haddad
- 2018- German Chancellor Angela Merkel announces she will not seek re-election in 2021 and will step down as party leader

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Baba, father of Abdullah Baba, resident of Baba Mohalla, Hazratbal, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that I intend to correct my ward's name and mother's name in the school records of The Legends School of Education, Kanitar. The name Abdullah shall be corrected to Abdullah Baba, and the mother's name Masooda shall be corrected to Masooda Akhter.

If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the Principal, The Legends School of Education, Kanitar, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Abdul Rashid Baba
F/O: Abdullah Baba
Mother's Name: Masooda Akhter
R/O: Baba Mohalla, Hazratbal, Srinagar

fko

اطلاع عام

برخاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بچے ابلی ایگر سینٹ زیر کنزرویٹو نمبر 0206010013858 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی علی محمد گنائی کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی عبدالحمید گنائی کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایکٹو کیٹیو انجیر پی ڈی ڈی بڈ گام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

عبدالحمید گنائی ولد علی محمد گنائی ساکن کنگل محلہ پنجگلوٹ بڈ گام

MBC

نمبر پلیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری موٹر سائیکل (Splendor) زیر نمبر JK04J - 4681 کے نمبر پلیٹ کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو وہ برائے انسانیت نیچے دے ہوئے نمبر پروفن کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اسکی ڈیپلیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر ARTO بڈ گام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازیں میعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

سمیل احمد میر ولد محمد متبول میر ساکن نصر اللہ پورہ بڈ گام۔

فون 9149742019

MBC

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KO VIEW

Kashmir’s Middle
Is Breaking

The middle class that once held Kashmiri society together is fading. Families who once dreamed of owning a small shop, building a modest home, or giving their children a good education now find it hard to make ends meet. Prices of essentials keep climbing while incomes remain stuck. Private sector wages are stagnant, and government jobs are scarce. Jammu and Kashmir’s unemployment rate sits above 16%, nearly twice the national average. For young graduates, especially from modest families, the idea of a stable career feels distant. Many take up gig work or migrate outside the valley, leaving behind parents juggling debt and rising household costs.

This class once formed Kashmir’s bridge between wealth and want. They valued education, steady progress, and community stability. That balance is now breaking. The pandemic crushed small businesses and wiped out savings. The long lockdowns after 2019 made recovery harder. Even now, a family that once lived comfortably finds itself counting every expense. Inflation in food, transport, and housing has squeezed disposable income to the edge.

Signs of this decline show up in everyday life. Tuition centres that once thrived now see fewer students. Family trips and small celebrations have become rare. Parents opt for affordable schools and delay weddings or home repairs to manage bills. Banks report a rise in personal loans, mostly for survival. The anxiety that once belonged to the poor has silently crept into the middle-income homes.

When the middle class erodes, society loses its centre of gravity. Economic pressure breeds frustration, and frustration fuels division. Without financial security, moderation weakens and despair takes root.

Kashmir’s economy still runs on tourism and government spending, but it lacks the innovation and private investment needed for real growth. The skills of its youth remain underused, their ambitions underpaid.

Rebuilding this class demands creating real jobs, reforming education to match markets, and restoring faith in opportunity. A thriving middle class brings stability, confidence, and a sense of future.

If Kashmir loses it, the cost will reshape the soul of its society.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

The Wealth of Waiting

Kashmir’s culture of patience offers a valuable lesson for young investors: wealth grows when time and tax work together.

Irshad Mushtaq

Patience shapes an apple tree’s slow bloom to an artisan’s steady craft in Kashmir. The same idea, when applied to money, becomes a powerful wealth strategy.

Most Indians think of tax as something that reduces their income every year. The top slab hovers around 30%, so a person earning 50 lakh may end up paying nearly 15 lakh in taxes after exemptions. The money leaves before it can grow.

Investments work differently. They are taxed only when you sell and take your profits. Until then, your money compounds. Earning returns on returns without yearly deductions. That difference between annual tax and deferred tax is what separates savers from real wealth builders.

Take an example. If you invest 10 lakh in a mutual fund that grows to 4 crore in 20 years, you pay no tax until redemption. When you finally sell, long-term capital gains tax applies at around 12.5% after an exemption of 1.25 lakh. It’s far more efficient than paying 30% each year on income.

Yet, many savers in Kashmir and across India still prefer fixed deposits and gold. They seem safe, but annual taxation and inflation eat away most of the returns. Long-term mutual funds, on the other hand, combine growth with tax efficiency, rewarding those who stay invested.

Wealth doesn’t appear overnight. It grows through time, discipline, and informed choices.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.



When Equality Forgets Men

Fairness can’t be one-sided. As women’s empowerment grows stronger, men in Kashmir are left struggling with silence, stigma, and systems that seldom see their pain.

Younus M. Bhatt

While scrolling through my phone one evening, I saw a video that stopped me cold. A woman doctor slapped a father who had brought his sick daughter for treatment, then refused to treat the child. I didn’t want to believe it. I checked online, hoping it was fake. It wasn’t.

I kept thinking about that father: standing in a hospital corridor, humiliated and helpless.

If a male doctor had slapped a mother instead, the story would have blown up everywhere. People would have called it assault. There would have been outrage, debates, maybe even a protest.

When a woman does it, though, the reaction changes. It becomes a moment of “anger,” “stress,” or “pressure.” The empathy shifts direction.

That’s where the imbalance begins. Equality isn’t meant to be selective. Accountability cannot depend on gender. If we truly want justice, it has to apply both ways.

I’ve watched this imbalance grow silently but steadily in Kashmir. Women’s empowerment has brought enormous change, and that progress must continue. But men’s struggles are slipping out of the conversation.

In homes, courts, offices, and public life, many men feel they’re being judged more than heard.

Family courts reveal this reality in the harshest way. I’ve spoken to fathers who’ve spent years fighting to see their children. They enter courtrooms already assumed to be at fault. In many custody cases, the system leans toward the mother, leaving fathers emotionally broken and financially drained.

Well, this isn’t about taking rights from women. It’s about asking why fairness can’t belong to both parents.

False accusations deepen the wound. There have been several cases in India where men were accused of harassment or abuse and later proven innocent.

By then, the damage was done: reputations lost, jobs gone, and families destroyed.

In Kashmir’s close-knit society, even an unproven claim can ruin a man’s life. The system is quick to act when an accusation is made but slow to repair the harm when it’s false. Justice cannot work that way.

There’s also the emotional struggle that men rarely talk about.

Boys are raised to “be strong,” “stay tough,”

“

The women’s rights movement has achieved remarkable progress. It changed laws, opened doors, and gave voices to generations once silenced. That change must never stop. But equality that benefits one side while excluding the other is incomplete. If a movement for justice leaves half the population feeling invisible, it loses its moral core.

and “never cry.” These lessons follow them into adulthood, trapping them in silence. A man who breaks down is seen as weak, and the one who asks for help is seen as fragile. This pressure kills slowly.

In India, more than 70 percent of suicides are by men. Many of those lives could have been saved if seeking help wasn’t treated as shameful. That silence becomes even more suffocating in Kashmir, where social expectations weigh heavily.

Our culture now layers another kind of guilt on men.

The term “toxic masculinity” began as a critique of harmful behaviour but has since blurred into a general attack on masculinity itself. Many men are unsure how to express themselves. If they’re assertive, they’re called controlling. If they’re sensitive, they’re told to toughen up.

The confusion leaves them stuck between two extremes, unsure how to exist without offending someone.

Then comes the economic pressure. In Kashmir, where jobs are scarce and inflation keeps rising, men still feel expected to be providers.

When they fail to meet that standard, they feel worthless. The message of women’s empowerment, “earn your own, build your path,” is important. But for many men, it also signals a silent displacement. They see a society cheering for women to succeed but rarely talking about how men can adapt to the same changing roles.

This silence hurts everyone. Gender equality was never meant to create winners and losers. It was meant to create fairness. Ignoring men’s pain doesn’t empower women. It only deepens resentment and widens the divide.

We need a shift in how we speak about equality. Men should be able to report abuse without being mocked. They should find empathy in courts and counselling rooms.

Boys in schools should learn that emotions aren’t weakness. Fathers should have equal rights to nurture their children. Husbands should find legal systems that protect them from false claims as effectively as they protect women from genuine harm.

The women’s rights movement has achieved remarkable progress. It changed laws, opened doors, and gave voices to generations once silenced. That change must never stop.

But equality that benefits one side while excluding the other is incomplete. If a movement for justice leaves half the population feeling invisible, it loses its moral core.

When I think again about that video of the doctor and the father, I don’t see it as a one-off act of aggression. I see it as a mirror of what we’ve become: too ready to judge one gender and too hesitant to hold the other accountable.

That father deserved respect. That child deserved care. And that moment deserved outrage, regardless of who raised their hand first.

True equality will only begin when fairness stops depending on gender. When we stop treating empathy like a privilege and start seeing it as a shared human duty. And when both men and women can seek justice without shame.

Until then, we’ll keep calling it equality while practicing something else entirely.

The author is a Senior Research Scholar at Pondicherry University. He can be reached at yunusbhatt586@gmail.com



Letter to Editor

Why Kashmir’s Fast-Paced Life Feels Empty

There was a time when waiting was a way of life. People had space to breathe, think, and truly be. Today, every silence feels unbearable. Every pause is filled with scrolling. And every question demands an instant answer.

We live inside a constant rush, feeding a hunger that never ends.

From one-minute reels to chatbots that respond before we finish typing, impatience has become our silent disorder. We are so used to the fast lane that stillness now feels like failure.

This change is everywhere in Kashmir. The hum of conversation has faded under the tap of screens. The habit of reading, once a proud

part of Kashmiri culture, is slipping away. Libraries stand still while reels race ahead. A story that once took days to read is now reduced to seconds of content. We crave speed, not understanding.

Even our tables have lost their warmth. The Kashmiri meal, once a space of laughter and gratitude, has become another screen-lit ritual. We eat without tasting, scroll without thinking, and talk without listening.

The zaiga of food lies in presence, but presence is what we’ve surrendered.

The loss runs deepest in prayer. Focus during salah feels fragile. The heart tries to connect while the mind drifts toward the

phone outside. What was once an act of surrender now feels like a race against distraction.

One afternoon at Jhangir Chowk, I saw a mother scrolling reels as her child leaned dangerously from an electric auto. She didn’t notice. That moment said everything. We are losing awareness itself. Our screens have become more real than the world around us.

Psychologists call it the attention economy. Companies no longer compete for money, but for focus. Each click and swipe teaches an algorithm how to keep us restless. The result is a generation that cannot wait, reflect, and feel deeply.

Patience once defined our cul-

ture. It built the poetry of Habba Khatoon, the craftsmanship of pashmina, and the pulse of the seasons that shaped our orchards. That patience gave meaning to everything we created. Losing it means losing ourselves.

If we don’t learn to pause again — to read slowly, eat mindfully, and pray with intention — speed will consume the very soul of our lives.

The cure lies in reclaiming attention. True intelligence, at the end of the day, is all about how deeply we can stay still.

Sincerely,

Falak Fayaz
falakfayaz.bhat69@gmail.com

The Beauty Trap in Kashmir

The obsession with appearance is changing how Kashmiri girls see themselves, and how society sees them.

Seerat Lone

A few days ago, I attended a Kashmiri wedding, one of those grand, colourful affairs that seem to bring the entire community together.

The smell of Wazwan filled the air, songs of celebration echoed through the night, and relatives in shimmering pherans and sequined shawls moved from one room to another, laughing, teasing, clicking photos.

It was everything a Kashmiri wedding promises to be: loud, warm, and full of life.

But, as I stood among the guests, I noticed something unsettling.

Young women, dressed in their finest, were being scanned from head to toe.

Their clothes, makeup, and even weight was being discussed in low voices that often carried louder than intended.

Compliments sounded like judgments, and laughter carried a hint of comparison.

That night, it struck me how deeply our society links a woman's worth with how she looks, not with who she is.

This obsession isn't limited to weddings. It has seeped into our screens, classrooms, and even conversations at home.

Every advertisement, film, and



music video tells women to be perfect: flawless skin, glossy hair,

and slim bodies. Even in Kashmir, where tradition still holds a strong

grip, social media has amplified the pressure.

Young girls scroll through endless posts that equate beauty with success. In trying to meet these impossible standards, they lose touch with their own sense of self.

The damage runs deeper than we often realize.

I have seen friends skip meals before an event, or shy away from photos because they feel they don't "fit in."

Behind the selfies and filters are real struggles: anxiety, insecurity, and a constant hunger for approval.

Studies show that nearly 70% of young women in India experience body dissatisfaction linked to media exposure. This silent crisis adds another layer of control in a place like Kashmir, where social norms already restrict how women express themselves.

When a woman begins to see herself as an object to be evaluated, she stops seeing her mind and heart as her strengths. This affects her confidence at work, her relationships, and her ability to dream freely.

And when men grow up hearing and seeing women spoken of this way, they too begin to believe that beauty defines value.

The result is a cycle of perception that benefits industries, not individuals.

Breaking this cycle means starting small at home, in schools, and within ourselves. Parents can teach their daughters that beauty is more than skin deep. Teachers can open conversations about how the media distorts self-worth. Friends can stop measuring each other's glow by how much highlighter they wear.

Even social media can be reclaimed, if women begin sharing stories that celebrate strength, intellect, and kindness over appearance.

Faith, too, offers a quiet rebellion. Islam speaks of Sharaf-e-Insaniyat, the dignity of every human being. It teaches that a person's value lies in their actions and character, not in their looks. That message feels more urgent than ever.

I left that wedding thinking about how easily admiration turns into appraisal.

As Kashmiri women, we carry

I LEFT THAT WEDDING THINKING ABOUT HOW EASILY ADMIRATION TURNS INTO APPRAISAL.

As Kashmiri women, we carry centuries of culture, strength, and grace. It's time we remind ourselves that our worth isn't reflected in mirrors, but in the lives we touch, the minds we inspire, and the kindness we carry.

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FAITH, TOO, OFFERS A QUIET REBELLION. ISLAM SPEAKS OF SHARAF-E-INSANIYAT, THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING. It teaches that a person's value lies in their actions and character, not in their looks. That message feels more urgent than ever.

Kashmir's Stroke Emergency

Every 40 seconds, someone in India suffers a stroke. In Kashmir, delay, myths, and lack of awareness often turn a treatable emergency into tragedy. Acting fast can change everything.

Dr Sheikh Hilal Ahmad

On World Stroke Day, I often pause to think about the word faaleg, our Kashmiri name for stroke.

It's a word we hear too casually, used for all kinds of neurological issues. But for those who've truly seen a stroke unfold, faaleg is a terrifying moment that can alter a life within seconds.

As a neurologist, I've witnessed this countless times in hospital corridors, where every passing minute decides how much of a person's mind and memory we can save.

This year's theme, "Every Minute Counts – Act FAST," could not be more urgent. Science tells us that 1.9 million neurons die every minute a stroke is left untreated.

That is what we mean when we say time is brain.

In the first hour after a stroke, the brain's architecture begins to collapse. A delay in treatment means a lifetime of paralysis, speech loss, or worse: death.

Each year, an estimated 12 million people worldwide suffer a new stroke, and more than 6.5 million die as a result of stroke-related complications, making it one of the leading causes of death and disability across the globe.

In India, one person suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and one dies every four minutes. These statistics play out daily in our hospitals.

The valley, with its rising cases of hypertension and diabetes, is no exception.

I've seen men in their fifties, including shopkeepers, teachers, and farmers brought in with half their body paralyzed, their speech gone, and families surrounding them in panic.

Many reach us too late. They first try home remedies or rush to lower blood pressure, believing that the problem lies there.

That misconception alone costs us precious time. A stroke is not simply "kamzoori" or



SO THE NEXT TIME SOMEONE SUDDENLY DROPS AN ARM, SLURS A WORD, or loses balance, remember this: time is brain. Don't wait. Be FAST.

weakness. It is a medical emergency that needs immediate hospital care.

So what exactly happens during a stroke?

The brain, which depends on a steady flow of oxygen and nutrients, suddenly gets cut off. When the blood supply stops, brain cells start dying.

Sometimes, a vessel is

blocked, and this is called an ischemic stroke. Other times, it bursts, causing a hemorrhagic stroke. In both cases, minutes matter.

The signs are simple to remember through the acronym BE FAST:

B for balance loss, E for eye-sight changes, F for face drooping, A for arm weakness, S for

speech problems, and T for time.

In our local language, I often tell people to remember Bachav: Baazu, Aawaz, Chehra, Vakt.

Once these signs appear, don't wait. Don't give home medicine or try to lower blood pressure. Go straight to a hospital with a CT scan facility. Only a doctor can confirm the type of stroke and start the right treatment.

Reducing blood pressure too early can actually worsen the damage. The goal is to identify if the stroke is due to a clot or bleeding, and act accordingly.

If it's an ischemic stroke, the more common type, there is a narrow window of 4.5 hours in which we can give a clot-busting drug such as tenecteplase or alteplase. In some cases, we can remove

the clot mechanically through a procedure called thrombectomy.

In Srinagar's Superspeciality Hospital, we have begun diagnostic angiography and are working to make emergency mechanical thrombectomy a regular service.

These are promising steps, but the best results still depend on how fast a patient reaches us.

Recovery doesn't end in the hospital. Physiotherapy and speech therapy must begin within the first 24 hours. It helps the brain rewire itself, forming new connections that compensate for the damaged ones.

I've seen patients lift their arms again, relearn speech, and return to life with persistence and guided care.

That, to me, is the most rewarding part of medicine.

The encouraging truth is that stroke can be prevented.

Nearly 90 percent of cases are linked to just ten modifiable risk factors: hypertension, diabetes, smoking, high cholesterol, obesity, and physical inactivity among them.

Awareness and lifestyle changes can go a long way in Kashmir, where winters make many of us sedentary and diets are often rich in salt and oil.

Even small shifts, like brisk walking, balanced meals, and regular checkups can save lives.

Policy also plays a crucial role. Stroke care should not be confined to tertiary hospitals. Every district facility must have clot-busting drugs and a basic stroke response system.

School curricula and media campaigns can teach the BE FAST signs early. Our Department of Neurology at Superspeciality Hospital runs a weekly stroke clinic and organizes awareness programs, but round-the-clock neurointerventionists remain unavailable in most hospitals. That gap still costs lives.

When I think about the future, I see a Kashmir that no longer mistakes stroke for fatigue or weakness. Families will recog-

WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE, I SEE A KASHMIR THAT NO LONGER MISTAKES STROKE FOR FATIGUE OR WEAKNESS.

Families will recognize the warning signs and act fast, and every district hospital will be ready to treat patients within minutes. In stroke care, every minute truly matters.

nize the warning signs and act fast, and every district hospital will be ready to treat patients within minutes. In stroke care, every minute truly matters.

So the next time someone suddenly drops an arm, slurs a word, or loses balance, remember this: time is brain. Don't wait. Be FAST.

— The author is a neurologist at the Department of Neurology, Superspeciality Hospital, Government Medical College Srinagar.

Free Mega Eye Camp Held by Kashmir Eye Hospitals, Khanqah-i-Hydari

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Eye Hospitals, in collaboration with Khanqah-i-Hydari, organized a Free Mega Eye Screening Camp aimed at providing quality eye care services to the community.

The camp witnessed an impressive turnout, with hundreds of patients receiving eye check-ups and medical consultations from a team of experienced specialists. During

the day-long event, at least ten individuals were identified for free surgeries, ensuring they receive advanced treatment without any financial burden.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sameer Siddiqui, Patron of Khanqah-i-Hydari Ashmuqam, emphasized the organization's broader mission of service to humanity.

"Apart from our religious activities, the Khanqah-i-Hydari team is deeply committed to

social welfare. Today's free eye camp saw an overwhelming response, and we are humbled by the community's participation. We plan to organize more such camps in the future to reach those in need," said Dr. Siddiqui.

The initiative was warmly received by the public, with many participants expressing gratitude for the accessible healthcare provided at their doorstep.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

New Data Lays

Other Backward Class (OBC) category, Jammu accounted for 56.6% while Kashmir made up 43.4%. The Economically Weaker Section (EWS) certificates showed a similar trend, with 88.5% issued in Jammu and 11.4% in Kashmir. Only in the Resident of Backward Area (RBA) category did Kashmir lead, with 67.1% compared to Jammu's 32.9%, while Jammu again dominated the Actual Line of Control (ALC) category, issuing 85.2% of such certificates against 14.7% in Kashmir.

Over 3.3 Lakh

Udhampur, and Reasi also reported high numbers across multiple reserved categories, reflecting the demographic weight of the plains and hilly belts.

Poonch and Rajouri districts stood out for their massive tribal population, accounting for the highest number of ST certificates in the entire Union Territory — with 1.87 lakh issued in Poonch alone.

In stark contrast, Kashmir's districts recorded much smaller numbers. While Baramulla led the valley with 28,085 ST certificates, most other districts reported limited issuance. Anantnag, Kupwara, and Shopian recorded relatively higher RBA certificates, reflecting the backward area status of several villages.

Srinagar, the urban capital district, had among the lowest figures — issuing just 291 SC, 3,025 ST, and 192 OBC certificates, underscoring minimal representation of reserved categories in the city.

The regional disparity in certificate issuance is likely to intensify the political row over the new reservation framework. Petitioners challenging the policy have argued that open merit has been reduced to a minority, while the government maintains the changes are aimed at ensuring "equitable representation."

Commenting on the figures, PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para said the data "lays bare a grave breach of fairness, equality, and administrative impartiality" in Jammu and Kashmir's welfare system.

"These numbers expose a deep regional disparity in the distribution of social category certificates — a reflection of how unevenly the benefits of affirmative action are being accessed," Para said.

The legislator reiterated his call for a rationalisation of J&K's reservation policy, arguing that it should be aligned with population proportions to ensure equitable representation and access to welfare schemes across both regions.

"This is precisely why we have been demanding proportional fairness in policy implementation — so that no region feels discriminated against in the delivery of social justice," Para added.

A Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted by the Omar Abdullah government to review the policy is yet to submit its report. Meanwhile, the fresh data highlighting Jammu's overwhelming dominance in reserved category certifications is expected to further fuel the ongoing debate over representation and regional balance in J&K

Bills & Barbs Mark

adjournment motion moved by BJP MLA Pawan Gupta. Gupta had sought to suspend the Question Hour to discuss the "humanitarian crisis" caused by recent natural calamities in the Union Territory.

The Speaker ruled the motion out, stating that the issue was neither recent nor urgent as it had already been discussed in the House. "There are many questions admitted on this subject. Yesterday also, this subject was discussed, and the Chief Minister gave a detailed answer," Rather said.

However, BJP legislators stood up, shouting slogans of "Jammu ke saath insaaf karo" (Do justice with Jammu) and demanding a debate. The Speaker maintained that his decision was final and reminded members that a resolution on the same issue was already listed for discussion the next day.

After repeated interventions and reading out the relevant procedural rule, the Speaker managed to restore order, and the House resumed normal business.

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday had pegged the flood-related losses to agriculture and allied sectors at 209 crore, saying a detailed report would be sent to the Centre with a request for financial assistance. Ruckus Over Education Department Transfers

The calm was short-lived as BJP MLA from Doda West, Shakti Parihar, accused the government of regional discrimination in education department transfers, claiming that while Kashmir-based employees were transferred, those in Jammu had been ignored.

The remark led to heated exchanges between treasury and opposition benches.

Education Minister Sakina Itoo firmly rejected the charge, saying the BJP was "habitual of crying discrimination."

"There is no discrimination," she asserted, clarifying that 860 appointments were made in Jammu against 350 in the Kashmir Valley. "Transfers were initiated from Poonch and Rajouri but had to be paused due to objections," she said.

Itoo accused the previous administration of paralyzing the department. "There was a blanket ban on recruitment and 1,500 posts were frozen. The department was on the verge of being defunct. I thank the Chief Minister for de-freezing 50 percent of the posts," she said.

After brief disruptions, the House returned to order.

Govt Rejects PDP's Land Rights Bill

A more serious confrontation followed when PDP MLA Waheed Para introduced a private member's bill seeking to grant proprietary rights to residents who had constructed houses on government, kacharia, or shamilat land.

Para argued that the bill was aimed at recognizing the "right to shelter" under Article 21 of the Constitution. However, the government strongly opposed the move, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah warning that such legislation would "open floodgates for land grab."

"On the surface, it looks simple — someone builds a house on government land, give it to him. But we saw what happened with the Roshni scheme. It started as a way to convert leasehold into freehold, but was later distorted, leading to massive controversy and court intervention," Omar said.

He noted that the original 2002 Roshni Act, introduced by Farooq Abdullah's government, was meant to regularize legal leases and use the revenue for power generation. "The PDP-Congress coalition removed the pre-militancy clause, and the scheme collapsed. This proposal goes even beyond that — it doesn't have any cut-off timeline," he said.

Rejecting Para's attempt to invoke Sheikh Abdullah's "Land to the Tiller" legacy, Omar retorted, "Land to tiller gave rights to tillers, not land grabbers. There's a huge difference between the two."

He clarified that the government was already helping the landless under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). "We will give land to those who have none, but we cannot reward illegal occupation," he said.

When Para claimed the bill would also benefit Omar's relatives, the CM shot back, "My relatives were not illegal occupants. They had leases which were violated. I would not bring such a bill even for my relatives."

The bill was eventually put to vote by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather and defeated by a voice vote, with only a few members supporting it.

No Lokayukta for J&K, Says CM

The Assembly also saw another private member's bill — this time from CPI(M) MLA M Y Tarigami — seeking the establishment of a Lokayukta to investigate corruption among public officials.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, however, clarified that Jammu and Kashmir, being a Union Territory, does not have the constitutional power to establish a Lokayukta.

"Section 63 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, allows states to set up such an institution. But we are not a state. When we become one, we will do it. As a UT, it is not possible," Omar told the House, urging Tarigami to withdraw the bill.

Tarigami questioned the absence of any anti-corruption mechanism for legislators and ministers till the restoration of statehood. "We don't know what timeframe has been set for restoring statehood. Till then, what will be the mechanism to ensure accountability?" he asked.

The government, however, maintained its stance, and the bill did not proceed further.

'Open Floodgates

in possession of houses built on these lands, citing the 'right to shelter' guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution.

"How can we pass a bill that helps the land mafia and illegal encroachers? In which, it cannot be said whether they are citizens of Jammu and Kashmir or have they come here recently and built houses, but we have to give them land," Omar told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He was responding to a question on his government not supporting the private member's bill brought by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) MLA for providing proprietary rights to those who have built houses on government land.

Earlier, Para was asked to withdraw the bill but the PDP leader attempted to invoke founder of the National Conference and former chief minister Sheikh Abdullah's land to tiller policy and the Roshni Act of Farooq Abdullah in 2002.

In a heated exchange, Chief Minister Abdullah dismissed the proposal, drawing parallels to the highly controversial and eventually defunct 'Roshni' scheme and recalled that the original 2002 Roshni scheme, initiated under his father's government, aimed to convert

leasehold rights into freehold rights for people who had legal possession of land before the start of militancy.

The revenue generated was intended for power generation projects, he said.

The chief minister noted that the subsequent PDP-Congress government under Ghulam Nabi Azad removed the pre-militancy cutoff date, leading to controversies, including allegations of 'land jihad', and the scheme's eventual rejection by the court, where the government "could not defend" it.

Omar stressed that the current bill goes far beyond Roshni, seeking to legalise illegal occupation of state land, not merely regularise existing legal leaseholds.

"This proposal of the MLA is beyond the Roshni scheme. The bill does not put a cutoff timeline," he said, adding "if this is passed, then I will go tomorrow and build a nice house on a piece of land, and that land will be in my name. We cannot do that."

Countering the argument by Para about the senior Abdullah and that the government's stance was politically motivated or driven by fear of groups who used terms like 'land jihad', the chief minister sought the legacy of his grandfather, Sheikh Abdullah, and the historic 'Land to the Tiller' reforms, stating, "Land to Tiller (law implemented by senior Abdullah) was giving rights to tillers, not land grabbers".

"There is a huge difference between land to tiller and what you are proposing," he added.

The chief minister also clarified that the government is committed to providing housing for the landless through existing programs like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), under which government land is allotted for house construction.

He maintained, however, that the government cannot reward illegal occupation.

"We will give them five acres of land. Those who do not have a house, we will give them. But then you connect it with the fact that the one who is sitting illegally on the land... I will give him free land. We will not do that."

Talking about the fear factor as mentioned by Para while pointing towards the BJP benches, Omar hit back saying "you (Para) said somewhere that we work because of their fear. If we had to work because of their fear, then we would have brought them to this side (Treasury bench) and worked together."

The chief minister made it clear that it was the PDP which was bringing in the BJP and religion into discussion on his bill. "I did not use that thing to reject this bill. I said that you will open a floodgate," he added.

Referring to Para's remarks that the bill would also benefit the chief minister's relatives, he said, "My relatives were not illegal occupants, they had a lease which was violated (by the other side)".

"I would not bring such a bill even for my relatives. Then you bring religion and region into it," he said, opposing the introduction of the bill.

After Para refused to withdraw the bill, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather put it to vote, but it received the support of only two members. The bill was defeated by the voice vote.

CM Cites CS-Led

daily wagers, Omar said the government was aware of the issue and had already initiated steps to address it.

"We formed a committee headed by the Chief Secretary in the last session. They are collecting details about the number of daily wagers and casual labourers and also the financial implications of their regularisation. We should allow the Chief Secretary-led committee to do their job," Omar said, while urging Mir Saifullah to withdraw the bill.

Mir Saifullah, however, expressed concern that the Chief Secretary's committee was taking too long and might not reach a concrete solution. He urged the Chief Minister to expedite the process but eventually withdrew the bill.

8th Pay Panel

had in January 2025 accorded an in-principle approval for setting up of the 8th Pay Commission.

IIM (Bangalore) Professor Pulak Ghosh has been named as the part-time member, while Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain will be the Member Secretary.

J&K Sees Decline

year is Rs 10,984 crore.

"As on 30th September, 2025, the tax revenue receipts of the Union Territory stand at Rs 6777 crore, while the non-tax revenue receipts amount to Rs 4207 crore. Thus, the total own revenue generation up to the second quarter of the current financial year is Rs 10984 crore," the minister said.

The minister said the fiscal position of J&K remains stable.

"The fiscal position of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir remains stable and within

degrees Celsius, particles of

silver iodide are added to a cloud, which accumulate water and ice. Being heavy, the fused particles fall, melting along the way as temperatures turn warm closer to the ground, says the report aimed at addressing commonly thought

Particles like silver iodide or chemical solutions are added to a cloud -- typically making use of an aircraft -- which act as "seeds" and around which water vapour condenses, explains a 2023 report by researchers from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

In cold clouds, where the temperature is under zero

researchers explain.

A cloud is naturally formed when air is saturated with water vapours. Unable to hold water in the vapour state, particles start coming together and condense into visible droplets of water or ice crystals, thereby forming clouds. Rainfall or snowfall occurs when the droplets or crystals grow large and heavy enough to fall on Earth.

The first attempts at artificial rain or snowfall are said to have been made in 1946, when American chemist and meteorologist Vincent Schaefer conducted experiments to understand the physics of precipitation. Schaefer added dry ice

to a chilled chamber and saw that a cloud instantly formed around the ice particles. The instance is the first documentation of clouds made artificially in a laboratory.

Atmospheric scientist Bernard Vonnegut took artificial rain-making attempts forward in 1947, when using silver iodide crystals produced better results in cloud seeding compared to dry ice. Studies from the United States suggest that cold cloud seeding in orographic areas -- over mountainous clouds where natural lifting processes in the air help form clouds -- can enhance snowfall, the IITM report says.

the prescribed fiscal parameters," the minister said.

The minister also informed that the overall liquidity position of the Union Territory is comfortable.

"The timely release of central grants, coupled with steady growth in own revenues and prudent cash and expenditure management by the Finance Department, has ensured that there are no liquidity constraints affecting either developmental or committed expenditures," the minister said.

He said the Government continues to make concerted efforts to strengthen the fiscal position by enhancing revenue mobilization, improving tax compliance, rationalizing user charges, and maintaining fiscal discipline across all spending departments. (KNO)

₹31 Crore In Job

recruiting agencies across India charge.

However, the revelation sparked political criticism from PC President Sajad Gani Lone, who accused the government of going back on its election promises.

"In its election manifesto, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) promised to waive off application fees for recruitment agencies like JKSSB and JKPCS. I asked a question to find out whether that promise had been fulfilled," Lone said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

He added that the Minister in-charge of GAD—who is also the Chief Minister and MLA from Ganderbal—acknowledged that ₹31 crore had been collected from job seekers since the government took charge in October last year.

"This ₹31 crore reflects one of the many broken promises and a trail of lies and deceit," Lone said. "Please, for once, can they admit that they lied—and apologise?"

The disclosure comes at a time when unemployment remains one of Jammu and Kashmir's most pressing concerns, with thousands of qualified youth competing for limited government posts amid recurring recruitment controversies and exam cancellations.

J&K Records Over

June 2023 and September 2025, as many as 48,998 stray dogs were sterilised and vaccinated.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) accounted for the highest number of procedures (27,237), followed by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (13,730) and other municipal bodies in Jammu division (7,870).

The Chief Minister added that Srinagar currently has two Animal Birth Control (ABC) centres, with a third one being established. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, is identifying land to set up ABC centres in the remaining nine districts.

"In the first phase, land has already been identified for three clusters at Baramulla, Kulgam, and Sumbal for setting up these centres," the government said.

CM Omar Unveils

participation from foreign athletes, particularly in the full marathon category.

Highlighting Kashmir's distinct allure, Omar said the Valley is "the only place in the country that offers such scenic beauty and ideal weather conditions for a marathon."

Runners, he said, will traverse Srinagar's iconic landmarks — from the Jhelum riverfront and Lal Chowk to Dalgate and the Dal Lake shore in the half-marathon category, while full marathoners will extend their route towards Hazratbal and Kashmir University.

Omar noted that participants will compete in temperatures around 6–8°C, a rare advantage compared to warmer marathon destinations elsewhere in India.

Expressing optimism about the event's growing stature, the Chief Minister said the Kashmir Marathon is evolving into a premier sporting event, with hopes that it will soon stand alongside established races like the Delhi Marathon.

"So far, the registration has doubled compared to last year. There's still time — anyone who wants to participate should book their tickets and join us this Sunday," Omar said. He added that such events not only promote fitness but also serve as a boost to tourism and local economy.

"These events have their own significance. We are trying to promote tourism through such initiatives, but infrastructure improvement remains equally important," he said, expressing hope for timely snowfall to further lift winter tourism in the Valley.

Earlier, speaking in Ganderbal, Omar reacted to the rejection of the land bill, reiterating that his government would not support any legislation benefiting the land mafia or those occupying land illegally.

"I will not harm the people of Jammu and Kashmir through my government. Any bill that benefits the common people will be supported, but those meant to help illegal occupants will not be passed," he asserted.

On questions about political alliances following the recent Rajya Sabha elections, Omar said, "I am not ready to sell the land of Jammu and Kashmir for a seat in Rajya Sabha."

The Chief Minister also attended the Annual Day celebrations at J&K Sainik School Manasbal, where he interacted with students and faculty, assuring that steps will be taken to improve infrastructure and resolve administrative issues, including the matter of the principal's absence.

"There is no institution which is perfect in itself," Omar said, adding that the government and education department would work together for the school's better future.

J&K Registers 3.6

encourage youth participation, innovation, and livelihood awareness.

Speaker Stops

to a department falling under the LG's jurisdiction as per the J&K Reorganisation Act.

Khurshheed had sought an explanation for the delay in ex-gratia payments under SRO-43 to families of victims of violence, asking the government to provide timelines for settling pending compensation claims.

The Speaker reiterated that questions related to departments governed by the LG's office cannot be entertained in the Assembly proceedings.

Govt Steps Up

purposes has submitted its report, which is under consideration pending certain clarifications from the Finance Department.

On promoting Hindi in government offices, the minister said a comprehensive database of existing language cells is being prepared to assess their functionality and linguistic practices. The e-office system, operational across all departments, already includes software modules enabling Hindi references and templates, encouraging gradual adoption in official communication.

The government also said that training modules and sensitisation workshops are being planned in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and local universities to enhance the practical use of official languages, including Hindi, in routine correspondence.

Additionally, dedicated sections for official languages, including Hindi, are being established in public libraries across the UT.

Responding to a question about recruitment rules, the minister said proficiency in Hindi, alongside English and Urdu, will be incorporated into service rules based on departmental requirements.

Explaining the delay in full implementation of Hindi-related provisions, the government said the multi-lingual administrative system requires inter-departmental coordination, standardised formats, trained manpower, and compatible software.

To another query, the government said it would consider setting up a dedicated Sanskrit academy or board in the future, based on the number of interested students and the demand for classical language promotion.

"The government fully supports initiatives aimed at promoting classical languages, including Sanskrit," the reply added.

House Panel Proposes

to a range of allowances — ₹1.10 lakh as Constituency Conveyance Allowance, ₹30,000 each for Telephone, Sumptuary, and Secretariat Assistance, and ₹20,000 as Medical Allowance — taking the total monthly entitlement to ₹3 lakh.

The Committee also called for revising the salaries of the Chief Minister, Speaker, Ministers, and Leader of Opposition, suggesting that these amendments take retrospective effect from November 1, 2024, the date when current members began receiving their existing pay.

On pensionary benefits, the report proposed that former legislators receive ₹1.10 lakh per month, citing the need to align J&K's structure with other states and union territories.

"The role of a legislator is a full-time responsibility. Given the rising costs associated with public duties and the challenging terrain of Jammu and Kashmir, a revision in salaries and allowances has become necessary," the report stated, adding that adequate remuneration would help representatives perform their duties more effectively.

The report was prepared by a Committee headed by BJP MLA Surjit Singh Slathia, with Ali Mohammad Sagar (NC), Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Congress), Sajad Gani Lone (PC), Hasnain Masoodi (NC), Mohammad Fayaz (PDP), Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, Arjun Singh Raju (both NC), and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Independent) as members.

Sources said that after the report's approval by the House, the government will move to amend the relevant laws to implement the proposed revisions for all categories — including the CM, Speaker, Ministers, and MLAs.

Assembly Disallows 2 Private Bills; 6 Others Withdraw

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday disallowed the introduction of two private member bills- one brought by PDP's Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra and another by BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia - while six other members withdrew their bills at the insistence of the government.

During the proceedings, as per news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah opposed the introduction of "The Jammu and Kashmir (Regularization and Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Public Lands) Bill, 2025," arguing that the government cannot legitimize illegality.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, stated that the government cannot grant ownership rights to individuals who are in illegal possession of land and have con-



structed houses on it.

"How is it possible to legalize state land for those who have illegally occupied it and built houses on it? How can such an act be justified? Nowhere is it stated in the bill that if someone has already occupied state land and constructed a house, it should be legalized. This bill seems to convey that one can

simply occupy land, build a house, and get it registered in their name," Omar said.

He reiterated that the government cannot grant ownership rights to individuals who have illegally occupied state land and constructed houses on it. Omar said the government cannot accept the bill and urged the member to withdraw it.

Parra, however, countered him, saying he was retreating from his legacy.

"He is forgetting that he is the grandson of Sheikh Abdullah - the leader we call Sher-e-Kashmir - who introduced the land-to-the-tiller reform. The biggest issue in Jammu and Kashmir after August 5, 2019, has been land. Before that, if someone lived illegally on state land, it was considered safe. But now, state land -which belongs to the people - has been turned into non-state land," he said.

"It is the legacy of Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah -the land-to-the-tiller reform. If you withdraw from it, you are abandoning your own politics, your own promises, and your own policies. Should we then accept the BJP's claim that this is 'land jihad'?" Parra asked.

Parra alleged that bulldozers were used against Muslims in Jammu.

Countering him, Chief Minis-

ter Omar Abdullah accused him of dragging religion, region, and politics into the issue.

"Let us assume that bulldozers were used against them due to political reasons. Even then, I wouldn't bring such a bill just to save them. A bill that is wrong is simply wrong. This is not a question of someone's relatives, nor is it about someone's religion. You are dragging religion, region, and politics into this. You are throwing justice out the window," the Chief Minister said.

Later, the Speaker put the bill to a voice vote. Only two PDP members supported its introduction, while other members opposed it.

The House also opposed the introduction of a bill brought by BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia.

The legislators who withdrew their bills include Tanvir Sadiq, M Y Tarigami, Mir Saifulah, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Altaf Ahmad Wani and Mubarik Gul. (KNO)

Over 5,200 Posts Vacant In J&K Health Dept

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday revealed that more than 5,200 posts of doctors and paramedics are lying vacant across health institutions in the Union Territory.

Data revealed, in response to a question raised by MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz, as per the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states, 1,635 gazetted and 3,616 non-gazetted posts are vacant in the Health and Medical Education Department across the Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister Incharge said that 197 gazetted and 772 non-gazetted posts have been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) and the Services Selection Board (JKSSB) during the last two years.

The department is using academic arrangements as an interim measure until all posts are filled on a regular basis, the Minister added-(KNO)

1560 Posts Vacant In J&K Revenue Dept

The Jammu and Kashmir Revenue Department has reported a total of 1560 vacancies across key positions, including Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar, Girdawar and Patwari, govt data reveals.

In a reply to a question raised by legislator Farooq Ahmad Shah, the Minister Incharge said 21 posts of Tehsildar, 113 of Naib Tehsildar, 163 of Girdawar and 203 of Patwari are currently vacant.

The department stated that several steps are being taken to fill the posts. "Direct recruitment vacancies have been referred to the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and Public Service Commission (PSC) for processing. It added that 142 Patwari posts have already been filled based on JKSSB recommendations," the reply reads.

For promotions, the Departmental Promotion Committees are regularly convened at the Union Territory, Divisional, and District levels to promote eligible officials, the ministers reply noted. (Observer News Service)

Absconder On The Run For 19 Years Arrested

Continuing its special drive against absconders, Police in Ganderbal on Tuesday achieved a major success by apprehending an absconder who had been evading arrest for the past 19 years.

The arrested individual has been identified as Nazir Ahmad Gojar son of Mohd Yaqoob Gojar resident of Kehnusa Bandipora, wanted in FIR No. 33/2006 under section 420 RPC, a police spokesman said in a statement.

After strenuous efforts, police traced and arrested the said absconder, thereby ensuring that he faces the due course of law after almost two decades of evasion.

Meanwhile, the spokesman said that J&K Police reiterated its resolve to continue its relentless pursuit against all offenders and absconders in the interest of justice and public safety.(Observer News Service)

JJM Deadline In J&K Extended Till Dec 2028

Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that the Centre has extended the timeline for completion of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) projects in the Union Territory till December 2028, following delays caused by non-release of funds during 2024-25.

In response to a query in the Assembly, the minister said that all water supply schemes under JJM were initially targeted to be completed by March 31, 2025.

"However, the delay in release of required funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and Union Territory Sector (UTS) led to a revision in the deadline.

He said that the Centre announced the new timeline during the Budget Session 2025, with enhanced allocations to ensure completion of all pending works. "The Jal Shakti Department is actively pursuing the release of funds from both the Central and UT Governments."

He said that there is a balance requirement of Rs 6,254 crore for completion of all ongoing JJM schemes in Jammu and Kashmir. "The department is working to secure these funds and settle work done claims once the release process is finalised," he said.(KNO)

200 Free Units Only After Rooftop Solar Systems Installed: J&K Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday informed the Assembly that the promise of 200 units of free electricity made by the Chief Minister earlier this year will be implemented only after the commissioning of rooftop solar systems under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

In a written reply to a question raised by MLA Waheed Parra, the government said that the scheme will benefit 2.22 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, with each house to be equipped with a 2-kilowatt rooftop solar system.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has already granted in-principle approval for implementation through the RESCO/Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model. "The Detailed Project Reports and tendering process for installation are currently under preparation in the respective DISCOMs," the reply stated.

Once commissioned, the rooftop solar systems will provide up to 200 units of free electricity per month to each beneficiary household.

The government said the model ensures financial sustainability and avoids losses to power distribution corporations.

"The delay in implementation is due to procedural requirements like DPR preparation, finalizing tenders, and setting up the ULA model," the government said.

The reply further stated that 6.52 lakh smart meters have been installed across Jammu and Kashmir so far, including 2.81 lakh in the last two years, under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme and the Prime Minister's Development Package.

The government also said that there is no proposal to privatize the installation, maintenance, or management of smart meters. "The work is being executed through Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Providers under a Design-Build-Finance-Own-Operate-Transfer model," it said.

It also said that the engagement of service providers is only for project implementation and operation under strict regulatory and contractual oversight, ensuring transparency and accountability in power distribution reforms.

DURBAR MOVE

HMVs, MMVs Barred From Jammu To Srinagar On Nov 1, 2



KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: The Traffic Police on Tuesday issued a traffic advisory restricting the upward movement of heavy and medium motor vehicles (HMVs/MMVs) from Jammu towards Srinagar on November 1 and 2, in view of the annual Darbar Move.

According to an advisory, there shall be no up-movement of goods carriers from Jammu towards Srinagar on the said dates, coinciding with the shifting of offices from Srinagar to Jammu for the winter season 2025-26.

However, the movement of light motor vehicles (LMVs) shall be allowed from both ends - from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice versa.

The advisory further said that the down-movement of HMVs/MMVs from the Valley towards Jammu will be allowed in a regulated manner, keeping in view the movement of sectorial employees and official records from Srinagar to Jammu.

The Traffic Police also advised goods carrier operators transporting fresh perishables and livestock to adhere strictly to advisories issued from time to time and plan their journeys accordingly.

The Darbar Move - a bi-annual practice of shifting the J&K government offices between Srinagar and Jammu was halted in 2021 but has been revived this year by the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government this year.

Only 1% Of Apple Produce Stranded During Highway Blockade: Govt

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday said that heavy rains and landslides in late August and early September this year disrupted the movement of horticulture produce, especially apples, by forcing the closure of National Highway-44 (NH-44).

In a written reply in the Assembly, the government said Kashmir's apple production for the 2025 season has been estimated at 22.15 lakh metric tonnes (MT).

However, the highway closure and disruption of the Mughal Road route stranded nearly 22,000 MT of apples-about 2,200 trucks-along the highway as of September 17.

Despite the disruption, the government said it facilitated the transportation of 45,922 trucks of fruit outside Jammu and Kashmir through NH-44 and the Mughal Road, including stored produce from previous seasons.

"During the blockade, around 1.25 lakh apple boxes worth ₹10.03 crore were dispatched by train from Budgam and Anantnag to Delhi and Jammu. A control room at Qazigund was set up to monitor and coordinate truck movement," the government said.

It added that only 1% of

the total produce remained stranded, while the rest is moving gradually as per the seasonal pattern.

The government said incessant rains on August 26-27 and again on September 2-3 triggered landslides and flash floods in Ramban and Udhampur, washing away portions of NH-44. Restoration work by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) enabled partial reopening by September 10.

Acknowledging the losses suffered by horticulture farmers, the government said crop damage exceeding 33% was reported over 431 hectares, with total compensation under SDRF/NDRF norms amounting to ₹152.37 lakh, of which ₹12.28 lakh has already been disbursed.

To mitigate future risks, the government said the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) will be extended to crops such as apple, saffron, mango, and litchi, with tenders for empanelled insurance companies currently under process.

The government further informed that about 50% of Kashmir's horticulture produce is marketed within the Valley, while the rest is transported outside through cold storage and warehouse networks.

Judicial Panel On Leh Violence Gets Ladakhi Representative

Press Trust Of India

LEH: A Ladakhi officer has been included in the judicial commission constituted to probe the September 24 violence in Leh, ensuring local representation in the high-level inquiry.

The move comes amid growing demand from the Leh Apex Body (LAB) for inclusion of a Ladakhi-based member in the panel to ensure a fair and comprehensive investigation into the circumstances leading to the violence that claimed four lives.

"The Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs,

the Ministry of Home Affairs, has issued an official communication amending the composition of the judicial inquiry committee constituted earlier.

"As per the latest order dated October 28, Rigzin Spalgon, Additional Secretary, Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh, has been included to assist Dr Justice B S Chauhan (former Judge, Supreme Court) as Joint Secretary for conducting the judicial inquiry," the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh said in a statement.

It said the amendment, issued by Prashant S Lokhande,

Joint Secretary to the government of India, further strengthens the coordination and administrative support from the Union Territory of Ladakh in facilitating the smooth conduct of the inquiry proceedings.

On October 18, LAB, which along with Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) is spearheading an agitation in support of statehood and safeguards under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, welcomed the Centre's decision to conduct a judicial probe into the Leh violence but demanded inclusion of a representative from Ladakh in the team.

IAS/JKAS Prep Seminar Held at GDC Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Exceptional Academy, in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam and the Career Counselling Cell, Institution's Innovation Council & Placements, Govt. Degree College Budgam, organized a free seminar on "How to Prepare for IAS/JKAS Examination" at the college auditorium today.

Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat (IAS), Deputy Commissioner Budgam, graced the occasion as the Chief



Guest and shared valuable insights on discipline, dedication, and self-belief as key elements for success in competitive examinations.

Sanjeev Kumar, JKAS 2024 - Rank 1 and UPSC CSE 2024 qualified, attended as the Guest of Honour and inspired the students by sharing his preparation journey and strategies.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members. The Director of Exceptional Academy, Owais Ali Bhat, was also present on the occasion and extended heartfelt gratitude to the distinguished guests for their guidance and motivation to aspiring civil servants.

DJMC IUST Hosts Travelling FSA Film Festival 2025

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), hosted the Film Festival in collaboration with Film Southasia (FSA), here on Tuesday. The event aimed to bring internationally acclaimed Travelling FSA 2025 to Kashmir.

The day-long festival held at Rumi Library Conference Hall emerged as a vibrant platform for aspiring storytellers to experiment with stories based on reality, imagination and hope, strengthening IUST's resolve to promote creative expression, critical thinking and cultural exchange.

The event began with the screening of a departmental profile short film showcasing the achievements of the department. The festival hosted

a competitive showcase of independent and student films, preceded by an interactive post-film discussion to foster interaction between filmmakers and the audience. Overall, 19 films, including 15 films from the participants and four critically acclaimed films, were screened during the festival.

Welcoming the guests and participants, Head, DJMC, Dr. Rabia Noor, said the event aimed to celebrate the power of films, not just as a form of art and entertainment, "but as a medium that informs, inspires and ignites a meaningful dialogue about the art and practice of filmmaking." "The collaboration with Film Southasia marks a significant step in enriching our students' engagement with documentary and visual storytelling, which is a vital component of media education," she added.

The inaugural session was



presided by Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, who hailed the initiative of the department to promote inter-cultural communication

through films. "By organising film festivals and creating spaces where art and media converge, the department is nurturing critical thinkers and

creative storytellers, who can contribute meaningfully to our times," he said.

In his address, Producer, Educational Multimedia Research

Centre (EMRC), University of Kashmir, Akmal Hanan, said, the festival has brought together films, filmmakers and audiences from diverse backgrounds, fostering dialogue and understanding through storytelling.

Reflecting on the transformative power of filmmaking, he said, "Ultimately, films are not about what we make, but about who we become in the process."

Director, Film Southasia, Mitu Varma said, it is their mission to see South Asia as "one cultural space." "There are several challenges, but it's time to come together and seek solutions from within ourselves, because divided, we will not get anywhere," she said.

Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IUST, Dr. Afroz Bisati, who commended the department for creating a space where visual storytelling becomes a powerful bridge

between academia and society, said, films are a reflection of the society and a means to inspire change. "Such events bring meaningful conversations to life."

Meanwhile, of a special edition of the IUST news magazine, Times Echo, themed on disaster management was released on the occasion. The event concluded with the announcement of winners, where Stitch, a film by Government Degree College, Baramulla, bagged the best film award. Dean Outreach IUST, Dr. Ruheela Hassan, proposed a formal vote of thanks.

To mention, daily newspaper, Kashmir Observer served as media partner for the film festival, while Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd, Birla School Open Minds International School, Pampore, Medina Enterprises and Kaph-tech Infrastructure were the sponsors for the event.

CM Omar Unveils Kashmir Marathon Merchandise, Invites Runners To Nov 2 Event

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday unveiled the official merchandise of Kashmir Marathon 2025 at the Royal Springs Golf Course. The merchandise - cap, medal, and racing kit, specially designed for the participants of the event - was displayed at a brief function with media and officers of Tourism Department.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister extended an open invitation to all fitness enthusiasts to test their endurance and participate in the 2nd edition of the Kashmir Marathon 2025, scheduled to be held on November 2.

Speaking after the launch, the Chief Minister said that an en-



couraging number of registrations have already been received for the event, including a signifi-

cant increase in foreign athlete participation, particularly for the full marathon category.

Highlighting Kashmir's unique appeal for hosting such sporting events, the Chief Minister said, "Kashmir is the only place in the country that offers such scenic beauty and ideal weather conditions for a marathon."

He added that runners will traverse some of the most iconic landmarks of Srinagar including Jhelum riverfront, Lal Chowk, Dalgate, and the scenic Dal Lake shore in the half marathon category, while Full Marathon participants will run further towards Hazratbal and Kashmir University.

The Chief Minister noted that runners will compete in temperatures ranging between 6-8°C, a rare advantage compared to other marathon des-

tinations across the country in warm weather. He expressed confidence that the Kashmir Marathon is fast evolving into a premier sporting event and will soon stand alongside renowned marathons like the Delhi Marathon, which has been held for over two decades.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, MD JKTDC Shreya Singhal, Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Haris Ahmed Handoo, Joint Director Tourism Waseem Raja, Additional Secretary Tourism Owais Mushtaq and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

BCCI Prez, JKCA Member Meet J&K CM Omar Abdullah



A BCCI delegation, led by President Mithun Manhas and Chairman Infrastructure Rohan Jaitely, alongside Anil Gupta, Administrator J&K Cricket Association, met J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday to discuss initiatives for promoting cricket in the region.

They explored ways to strengthen cricket infrastructure, nurture young talent, and expand training facilities across the region. The Chief Minister assured full government support for these initiatives, aiming to provide better opportunities for aspiring cricketers from J&K. (Observer News Service)

12-Member J&K Team For Junior Carrom National Announced



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Carrom Association has finalised a 12-member team along with two officials to participate in the 50th Junior National Carrom Championship, being organised by the All India Carrom Federation in association with the State Carrom Association, Madhya Pradesh, and the Gwalior Jila Carrom Association. The championship is scheduled to be held from November 1 to 4 at LNIPE, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

The selection process was conducted by the JKCA's Selection Committee comprising Adil Shah (President), Mudasir Khan (General

Secretary) and Arif Sultan (Treasurer), under the supervision of the J&K Sports Council Selection Committee, headed by Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar (Manager, Bakshi Stadium) and Shabir Ahmad Dar (In-charge, Sports Stadium, Budgam) on October 6 at Carrom Hall, Bakshi Stadium.

The selected players underwent a 14-day coaching camp at Carrom Hall, Bakshi Stadium, followed by a screening session conducted by Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar (Manager Bakshi Stadium), Hilal Ahmad Bhat (Dy. Manager Polo Ground Srinagar) and Burhan Ahmad (KICOE, JKSC) at Indoor Stadium, Polo Ground.

69th National School Games In Wushu Begin In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 69th Edition of the National School Games in Wushu began Tuesday at Indoor Sports Complex in Wazir Bagh here. This prestigious national event for Under-17 boys and girls, organised by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India, marks another significant milestone for J&K as a premier host for national sporting spectacles.

The ceremony was graced by Qazi Salman, Director of the Press Information Bureau and Director, RNU Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar, as the Chief Guest. In the presence of a vibrant gathering of young athletes, officials, and sports enthusiasts, the event was formally opened, setting the stage

for high-octane competition. Qazi Salman expressed his delight at the impressive opening ceremony and applauded the meticulous planning by the Department of Youth Services and Sports. The national championship has drawn a remarkable participation of 41 teams from various states, union territories, and organizations across India, showcasing the nation's most promising Wushu talent. The competitions will culminate on November 1.

In a telephonic message, Anuradha Gupta, Director General of the Department of Youth Services & Sports, extended her best wishes to all participants. Ghulam Hassan Lone, the Organising Secretary, extended a warm welcome to the participants. The proceedings were expertly anchored by Azhar Hajini.



J&K Girls Win Bronze at 18th Roll Ball National Championship 2025



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Displaying exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination, the J&K Girls Roll Ball Team clinched the bronze medal in the 18th Roll Ball National Championship 2025, held in Agra from October 25 to 28. The remarkable performance stands as a testament to the growing strength of girls' participation in sports across J&K and highlights the region's commitment to gender equality and empowerment through athletics.

Led by captain Qurat-ul-Ain, who scored 22 goals, the highest ever tally recorded by a J&K girls' team in a national event, the team showcased both confidence and consistency. Her outstanding effort also earned her a new bicycle from the federation as recognition for her re-

markable performance.

In a hard-fought semifinal, J&K narrowly lost to Haryana by 2-1, before sealing third place overall in the U-14 category.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, congratulated the team for their outstanding display, saying, "Our girls have once again shown that perseverance and passion can overcome all odds. Their victory is a victory for every young girl in J&K who dreams to excel in sports."

Yasha Mudgal, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, YSS, praised the team's spirited performance and emphasized the role of sports in empowering young women.

Expressing her delight, Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, remarked, "This medal is a proud moment for all of J&K."

DC Bandipora Inaugurates First Sports Festival At GDC Sumbal

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib on Tuesday inaugurated the first Sumbal Sports Festival at Government Degree College Sumbal, marking a new milestone in promoting sports, fitness, and youth engagement in the district.

The festival, first of its kind, witnessed participation from students, youth clubs, and local sports enthusiasts. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of sports as a medium of discipline, teamwork, and physical well-being.

On the occasion, the DC appreciated Principal, GDC Sumbal, Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, for organising such an event.

The festival includes sports like volleyball, cricket, badminton, and athletics. (Observer News Service)

1st T20I: Focus On Suryakumar As India Take On Australia

The leader in Suryakumar Yadav will nudge the batter in him to take centrestage and start contributing handsomely with the willow when India take on Australia in the opening T20 International here on Wednesday. It promises to be a battle on even keel with both countries having won eight of their last 10 T20I games with a defeat each. While India had one tied game, Australia saw one game washed out.

While the captain's prolonged bad patch remains a cause of worry, the Indian T20 team has been the best of three national outfits.

Since being appointed captain, Suryakumar's record has been phenomenal in terms of results, with 23 wins in 29 games so far, adhering to the new template of fearless cricket where every batter goes all guns blazing from ball one. (PTI)

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