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Kashmir Convener**



Future Of 85 Lakh Children In 6 States At Risk: Rahul Slams BJP Over Exam Paper Leaks



"The sector provides direct and

SC To Hear On Mar 18 Plea To Debar Poll **P/02 Candidates Charged For** Serious Offences



BJP has weakened India economically, socially: Akhilesh

P/02

Tourism promotion of Srinagar city key focus of my Govt: CM Omar

P/02

KC News Network

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stated that the government is prioritizing the promotion of religious and tourism places in Srinagar city to boost tourism and attract more visitors.

"Places like Dal, Nishat, Shalimar, Chashmashahi, Pari Mahal, shrines, temples, gurudwaras, and other landmarks define the uniqueness of Srinagar. We are committed to promoting these destinations," the Chief Minister said while addressing the Legislative Assembly.

He was responding to a query raised by Member Ali Mohammad Sagar regarding the tourism sector's role in J&K's economy and the steps taken to enhance tourist inflow.



The Chief Minister emphasized that tourism is a key pillar of J&K's economy, significantly contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment generation. youth," he said. efforts are underway to diversify the forms of tourism, including Adventure tourism.

tourism

Jammu & Kashmir," he added.

As Minister in charge of the Tourism Department, the Chief Minister highlighted that the government is actively promoting J&K's top tourist destinations through advertising campaigns on national and international

He further informed the House that tourism sector by promoting various

MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism, Golf tourism, Eco-tourism, Pilgrimage tourism and Cultural and Heritage

"This diversification is intended

to attract a wider range of visitors to

platforms.

We Need Scientists, Artists And Spiritualists: LG Sinha

KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed the Spiritual and Value Education Summit at New Delhi.

In his inaugural address, the Lieutenant Governor exhorted the distinguished scholars and educators for transforming the education system into a holistic framework to nurture intellectual growth and moral integrity among students.

"Seamless integration of ethics and value in education is crucial to create an enlightened society and a powerful nation. Without the fine balance of our ancient value system and modern skills it is impossible to sustain and further longrun economic growth.

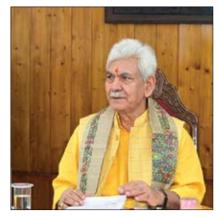
Value based education will enable students to explore their true strength. It will help in character building and inspire them for righteous living. This holistic education system can take the nation on growth trajectory and bring about the changes necessary for a developed nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on imparting ethical, moral, and social values alongside academic knowledge and skills.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Our youth should have Science in one hand and Samskara in the other. Along with the advancement of science and technology, the teachings of traditional

values, our cultural heritage and vision of great personalities should also be included in the main curriculum of education.

We need scientists as well as artists and



spiritualists. Only the spirits of scientists, artists and spiritualists combined together can save education from being one-sided and succeed in making it a holistic education".

Speaking on the need to develop futureready education systems and skill-driven learning environment, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the rapid

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Finalization of JKAS departmental examination syllabus in final stages: CM Omar

KC News Network

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the J&K Legislative Assembly that the finalization of the syllabus for the 2018-24 batches of J&K Administrative Services is in its final stages, and the examinations will



Revenue, Law and Information Technology, have contributed to the process," he added.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that senior IAS officers were consulted in drafting the final syllabus.

"The final draft is now ready, and I assure this House that we will complete the process within a month." he said.

Addressing the query regarding the 2018 and 2019 batches of Junior JKAS officers, the Chief Minister clarified that existing operative rules do not provide for the declaration of Junior Scale JKAS officers as quasi-permanent.

Instead, the confirmation of their probation is contingent upon passing the Departmental Examination, as mandated by the following service rules- Rule 22(1)(a) of the Jammu and

Over 15 lakh kanals of land retrieved from encroachers in J&K: Sakeena Itoo

She said that the eviction process has already been initiated as per the relevant rules for retrieval of remaining 313645 Kanal and 12 Marla land worth Rs. 18,049.6 crore from the encroachers.

Sharing details, the Minister informed in reference to a member's query regarding the following land parcels in Kathua district under illegal occupation is being retrieved in Ghatti Patwar, Patwar Halqa Nanan, Forelain, Bhagthali Patwar, Taraf Bhajwal and Taraf Manjli, however, no state land has been encroached in Korepunnu village of Samba.

Regarding conversion of Agriculture land for industrial and commercial purposes, the Minister said that a total of 6098.53 Kanal of land has been converted for industrial and commercial purposes in Kathua and Samba districts of Jammu.

J&K witnesses 3.60% annual increase in electric power purchases since 2016-17

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: In past nine years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases while the growth stands at only 2.45 percent.



KC News Network

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Education,

indirect livelihood opportunities including hotel staff, tour operators, taxi drivers, souvenir vendors, and local >>SEE ON P-7

be conducted soon thereafter. Responding to a supplementary question from Member Aijaz Ahmad Jan, the Chief Minister acknowledged the delays but assured that the process is now nearing completion.

"The government has gradually streamlined these processes, which had been delayed for some time. However, the complexity of the revision caused an unavoidable delay. This is the first syllabus revision since 2000–after nearly 25 years-which required significant changes," he said.

He further explained that the administration conducted a comparative analysis of J&K's syllabus with those of other States and Union Territories to ensure alignment with national standards.

"Necessary modifications have been incorporated, and relevant departments, including Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, Rule 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Service (Probation & Examination) Rules, 2000, Rule 16(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service Rules, 2008

As per Rule 16 of SRO 386, probationers must pass the Departmental Examination within two years of their appointment to be confirmed in service.

However, the Chief Minister highlighted that the examination could not be conducted due to major administrative changes brought about by the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act, 2019, which restructured the erstwhile state into two Union Territories. This reorganization necessitated a comprehensive revision of laws, statutes, and regulations

>>SEE ON P-7

Sakeena Itoo. today said that out of total 1727241 Kanal and 8 Marlaillegally occupied land, 1539662 Kanal and 15.5 Marla land has been retrieved, so far, in J&K.

The Minister, who was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by Rajiv Jasrotia in the Legislative Assembly.

She informed the House that total conversion of Agriculture land for industrial purpose was 4729 Kanal and 19.33 Marla while 559.17 Kanal land has been converted for commercial purposes in Kathua and Jasrota areas.

>>SEE ON P-7

An official said, "Over the past years from 2016-17 to 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases, as per extrapolated data.'

>>SEE ON P-7

Over Rs 2,500 Cr Financial Liabilities To Be Transferred To Ladakh: CM Omar

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah on Thursday said financial liabilities amounting to more than Rs 2,500 crore will be transferred to the Union Territory of Ladakh in accordance with the apportionment of assets and liabilities following the reorganisation of J-K.

The chief minister was replying to a query by National Conference member Jamshaid Lone during the Question Hour in the Assembly.

"After the reorganisation of J-K, the apportionment of assets and liabilities is to be carried out as per

the notification issued by the general administration department in October 2020," Abdullah said. Most of the recommendations have been imple mented, he added.

On the apportionment of public debt, he said financial liabilities of Rs 2,504.46 crore are to be transferred to Ladakh."The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ladakh UT for further processing," he said.

>>SEE ON P-7

LG Sinha, Dy CM greets on the occasion of Holi

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the occasion of Holi which will be celebrated on March 14.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said:



"On the auspicious occasion of Holi, I extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to all. Holi, the festival of colours, is the harbinger of joy, hope and fulfilment in our lives. The celebration on this joyful occasion with traditional gaiety and enthusiasm marks the arrival of spring and all the colours reflect our rich diversity and vibrant culture.

May this sacred festival of colours bring joy and happiness in the



Budget Session 2025 House passes grants of Education, Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education Deptts KC News Network

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today passed the grants amounting 1201489.52 Jakh for School

Education department, 881370.63 lakh for Health and Medical Education department, 450428.15 lakh for Social Welfare department and 219340.00 lakh for Higher Education department through voice vote.

The grants were passed after a two day detailed discussion in the house.

Winding up the discussion on Demands for Grants, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, welcomed the suggestions given by the Legislators regarding functioning of the



departments under her charge. She said that the Legislators

have spoken about various aspects of School Education, Higher Education, Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare departments. Their suggestions about these sectors will definitely guide the government in

addressing the challenges and bringing improvements, wherever required.

Sakeena assured the Legislators that her team will examine the valuable suggestions put forth by them for implementation. She added



Reservation System Disadvantageous To Kashmiri-Speaking Community: Lone KC News Network over recent years – constituting only 19

JAMMU: In his address to the Assembly on Thursday, Sajad Lone, the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (PC) President and MLA from Handwara, highlighted the growing marginalization of Kashmirispeaking residents due to what he described as a deeply inequitable reservation system.

In a statement released by the party, Lone presented a data-driven argument showing the systematic decline in the representation of Kashmiri speakers in prestigious positions, asserting that the current reservation framework is creating a form of "social disempowerment" for the community.

"The overall mental makeup of schools and children has gone through a lot of turmoil. Kashmiri-speaking people form a distinct ethnic group, and we are seeing that with every passing day, in every exam, fewer of them are making it - not because they are incompetent, but because their entry space is being choked," he emphasized in the Assembly.

Presenting statistics, Lone revealed a concerning trend in Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) recruitment. According to his data, Kashmiri representation in KAS selections has declined sharply

over recent years – constituting only 19 per cent of successful candidates in 2023, down from 25 per cent in 2022 and 17 per cent in 2021. Moreover,



he explained how the current reservation system, which covers approximately 60 per cent of available positions, disproportionately affects Kashmir.

"Eight per cent is for Scheduled Castes, but in Kashmir, there are no SCs. So it is an additional burden on us," he highlighted a key structural imbalance.

Similarly, regarding Scheduled Tribes, Lone pointed out that 40 per cent of ST reservation benefits go to Jammu and 60 per cent to Kashmir, creating what he described as a situation where "Jammu comes under reservation, and Kashmiri speakers come under open merit."



SC To Hear On Mar 18 Plea To Debar Poll Candidates Charged For Serious Offences



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on March 18 a plea seeking to debar from polls, candidates charged with serious offences.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh would likely hear the matter.

The apex court in September 2022 sought responses

from the Centre and the Election Commission of India (ECI) on the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

Aside from seeking to debar persons against whom charges were framed in criminal cases, the plea also sought directions to the Centre and the ECI to restrain such candidates put on trial for serious offences.

The plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey, alleged that despite recommendations of the Law Commission of India and court's previous directions, the Centre and the ECI did not act.

The plea said of the 539 winners of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, about 233 or 43 per cent, declared facing criminal cases.

Referring to data from a report of NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, the petition said there was a 109 per cent increase in the number of MPs with declared serious criminal cases since 2009, with one MP declaring 204 criminal cases against him, including culpable homicide, house trespass, robbery, criminal intimidation, etc.

The plea claimed the political parties were competing with each other in a race to the bottom as they couldn't afford to leave their competitors free to recruit persons with criminal antecedents.

The injury caused to the people was large owing to the criminalisation of politics and parties were still setting up candidates with serious criminal antecedents, it added.

Future Of 85 Lakh Children In 6 States At Risk: Rahul Slams

BJP has weakened India economically, socially: Akhilesh **LUCKNOW**: Samajwadi Party (SP) president assembly session, CM Adityanath claimed that a

Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday accused the ruling BJP of weakening the nation both economically and socially.

"The country has become weak due to the spread of hatred in society. Their (BJP's) conduct, language, and behaviour are weakening society and creating a rift," Yadav said at a press conference.

He further criticised the BJP for its handling of the market, saying, "They are weakening the entire market by handing it over to others. When the market is no longer in your hands, who will do business? Others are coming to our country and taking over our entire market."

"The BJP has weakened the country economically as well as socially," he said.

Yadav also took a jibe at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's recent statements, calling him a "tees mar khan" (someone who boasts of their actions without substance).

"Our chief minister is Tees Mar Khan. I'm saying this because he loves the number 30. How many died. 30; how much business was done, 30 crores. This kind of 'Tees Mar Khan' type of accounting can be given by no one except our CM." he said.

Yadav, the former UP CM was referring to the recent claim made by the state government that 30 people had died in a stampede during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, Additionally, during the recent boatman in Prayagraj earned a net profit of 30 crores during the grand event.

The SP chief also questioned Adityanath's statement that lakhs of students in Prayagraj earned money by ferrying devotee on the motorcycle



during the Kumbh.

"The CM savs that he has provided employment to lakhs of youth preparing for government jobs in Allahabad. Someone please explain to me when did the government decide that private vehicles can be used as commercial ones? And does this mean that youth will now get employment after 144 years," he said, mocking the UP government's claim that the recent Maha Kumbh was held after 144 years.

DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, GANDERBAL DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX, GANDERBAL

Email: disaganderbal@gmail.com Phone No: +91-1942950922 Subject: Selection of Legal Aid Defense Counsels.

INTERVIEW/INTRACTION NOTICE

District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal invites all candidates who have applied for the post of Chief/Deputy/ Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel at the office of DLSA Ganderbal, as notified by J&K Legal Services Authority vide notification No: LSA/LS/96/2022/593-616 dated 21-02-2025, to appear for an interview/interaction in the office chamber of Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Ganderbal on March 20, 2025, at 10:30 am sharp. All the candidates are required to bring with them the requisite testimonials/certificates in original including, educational qualification, Certificate in Enrolment issued by the Bar Council under the Advocates Act, 1961, Photo Identity Card, Address Proof, Experience certificate attested from the concerned District & Sessions Judge, Experience certificate as Panel Lawyer/Retainer Lawyer /Pro Bono/ LADC, certified copies of Vakalatnama, Arguments on Charge, Cross-Examination, Decided Bail/other Applications and Judgements. No: DLSA/GBL/2025/638-48 Dated: 12-03-2025

DIPK-12996/24

Chairman DLSAGanderbal

Sd/-Pr. District & Sessions Judge Distr

GOVERNMENTOF(U.T)JAMMU&KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Jal Shakti (PHE)Deptt.Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:-phegwd@yahoo.com, Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 3rd

Subject: 1. Construction of Production Bore Well at Below Dargund District Pulwama. 2. Construction of Production Bore Well at Madina Sanzwatroo District Pulwama. 3. Construction of Production Bore Well at Banura Bandzoo District Pulwama. Due to "Poor Response" for the work advertised vides e-NIT No.60/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech.

of 2024-25 issued vide this office endorsement No: -- JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs. / 11844-54, Dated: 10-02-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_272229_1, 2 & 4. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 12-03-2025 as per the details given below: Up-to 11:00 AM are extended

S. No.	ltem	Fresh Date			
1.	Period of submission of bids	19-03-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM			
2.	Date of opening of tenders	20-03-2025 11.00 AM			
NOTE:					

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said examination paper leaks were a "systematic failure" and asserted that the "serious problem" would be eradicated only when all political parties and governments forget their differences to take strict steps together.

The former Congress chief said the future of 85 lakh children in six states is at risk as paper leak has become the most dangerous "padmavyuh" for our youth.

"Paper leaks put hardworking students and their families into uncertainty and stress, taking away the fruits

BJP Over Exam Paper Leaks of their hard work. It also sends the wrong message to the next generation that dishonesty can be better than hard work, which is completely unacceptable," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

> "It has not even been a year since the NEET paper leak shook the country.After our protest, the Modi government hid behind a new law and called it a solution, but so many recent leaks have proven that to be a failure as well," he said. This serious problem is a systematic failure, Gandhi asserted.

It will be eradicated only when all political parties and governments forget their differences and take strict steps together, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said."The dignity of these exams is the right of our children and it has to be protected at all costs," Gandhi asserted.

Using the 'chakravyuh' metaphor as a leitmotif, Gandhi had last year claimed that an atmosphere of fear prevails all around with a group of six trapping the entire country in a 'chakravyuh' he promised would be broken by the INDIA bloc.Chakravyuh' refers to a multi-layered military formation aimed at trapping a warrior by opponents placed strategically in an alignment resembling a lotus-shaped labyrinth.

Partnerships Orchestrated By PM To Buy Goodwill With Trump: Cong On Airtel, Jio Deals With Starlink

NEW DELHI: With both Airtel and Jio announcing partnerships with Starlink, the Congress on Thursday alleged that these have been orchestrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "to buy goodwill" with US President Donald Trump through Starlink's owner Elon Musk.

The opposition party also said many questions remain and the most important one relates to national security.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that within literally 12 hours both Airtel and Jio have announced partnerships with Starlink, seemingly overcoming all their objections to its entry into India - which they have been voicing for quite some time.

"It is abundantly clear that these partnerships have been orchestrated by none other than the PM himself to buy goodwill with President Trump through Starlink's owner Mr. Elon Musk," Ramesh alleged.

"But many questions remain. Perhaps the most important one relates to national security. Who will have the power to switch connectivity on or off when national security demands it? Will it be Starlink or its Indian partners? Will other satellite-based connectivity providers also be permitted and on what basis?" the Congress leader said on X.

And, of course, the much larger question of Tesla manufacturing in India remains, he added.

electricdivisionrnb@gmail.com Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir, EngineeringComplex SrinagarRajbagh.

Near Silk Factory Srinagar-190008. (Short Term) NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NIT No.242/R&B/Electric Divis on Kashmir of 2024-25 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/11903-11911



All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos. No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./13680-90

Dated: 12-03-2025

DIPK-12987/24

Sd/=Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY YOUSMARG

email-ceo.yda@gmail.com GEM ID-19620 NOTICE INVITING E-BIDS E-OUTSOURCING NOTICE NO. 09 OF 2024-25 Dated:-12/03/2025

Out-sourcing of "Operation Management" of Public conveniences (02 No.)having 4 Points at 1- Nagbal, 2- Zinpanchal, under the jurisdiction of Yousmarg Development Authority for a period of 03-years extendable 02 year subject to satisfactory performance through GeM Portal.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-auction are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing the "Operation Management "of public conveniences (02 No.) having 4 Points at 1 - Nagbal, 2 - Zinpanchal, under the jurisdiction of Yousmarg Development Authority for a period of 03-years extendable 02 years subject to satisfactory performance through GeM Portal.

The details are as under: -

S.No	Particulars	Date/Amount	Remarks
1	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	13/03/2025 10.00 AM	Nil
2	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	18/03/2025 04:00 PM	Nil
3	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date & Time	19/03/2025 04:00 PM	Nil
4	EMD Start Date	20/03/2025 10:00 AM	Nil
5	EMD End Date	24/03/2025 4:00 PM	Nil
6	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR	Rs. 700 /- (Seven Hundred Only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Yousmarg Dev. Authority
7	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	25/03/2025 10:00 AM	Nil
8	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	26/03/2025 4:00 PM	Nil
9	Reserve Bid Amount	Rs.5000/- (Five Thousand Only)	Nil

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GEM PORTAL)

The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC)/Police Station or alternatively copy of a valid Passport. The validity of character certificate shall have to be One year from the date of issuance.

The bidder shall have to upload PAN Card & Aadhar Card. 2.

- 3. The interested bidder can download the bidding document from the GeM Portal.
- Bids will be opened as per time schedule.
- 4. 5. Before submission of bids on GeM Portal, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
- The Authority will not be responsible for delay in submission of Bid on GeM Portal due to any reasons. 6.
- All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted on GeM Portal.

No. CEO/YDA/2024-25/ 988-91 Dated: - 12 / 03 / 2025

DIPK-NB-3763/24

Sd/- Accounts Officer **Yousmarg Dev. Authority**

DIPK-12951/24

DATED:10-03-2025.

For and on behalf of TheGovernment of J&K(U/T)e-tenders(inDouble cover system) are Invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and otherState/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:

SINo.	. Name of Work	E/. Cost (In. Lacs)	Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Complet ion (Calend ar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks	
01	Construction of 03 roomed Double Storey Building at GHS Sumbal (Electric Part)	Rs. 4.899/= Lacs	Rs. 200/	Rs 9800/=	20 Days	"AAY" Class Electrical	MH UT Capex Budget 2021-2022	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded b Director School Education vide order No.81 DSEK of 2021 Dated:-11-11-2021	
02	Construction of Working Standard Laboratory of Legal Metrology Department Bandipora at Sumbal (Electric Part)	Rs. 4.947/=	Rs. 200	Rs. 9895/	Linked with progress of civil work	"AAY" Class Electrical	Capex Budget 2024-25	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded b Controller Legal Metrology Department (Sringa Vide order No.1-LMK of 2024 Dated:-11-06-202	
03	Construction of ZEPO Office ar Wangipora Sumbal (Electric Part)	Rs. 6.675/=	Rs. 300 /=	Rs. 13355/=	20 Days	" AAY" Class Electrical	Capex Budget 2023-24	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded b Director YS & S Department J&K Vide order No.63 DYSS of 2023 Dated:-28-06-2023	
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-03-2025	10-03-2025						
2	2 Period of downloading of bidding documents			11-03-2025from 02.00 PM					
3	Bid submission Start Date	11-03-2025	11-03-2025 from 02.00 PM						
4	Bid Submission End Date	17-03-2025	17-03-2025 upto 04.00 PM						
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	18-03-2025	18-03-2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh						
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(To be notifie	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.						

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil SecretariatFinancedepartmentvideNo. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018whichreadsasunder:-

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat FinancedepartmentvideNo. OM No.

A/24(2017)-651 dtd. 07-06-2018whichreadsasunder:-

Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

1.1. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG after issuance of Letter of Acceptance which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. The EMD @ 2% of successful bidder will be released only after the submission of 5% performance Security deposit.

1.2. The bidder who so ever participate the e-tenders floated by this office will submit Additional Performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG in case the bidder has Submitted the below Percentage Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 70% completion of work:

S. No	% age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on account of Low Rate.	Additional Performance security tobe Deposited on quoted bid by L1
1	Upto and including 15%	NIL
2.	Greater than 15% upto& including 20%	5%
3.	Greater than 20% upto& including 25%	15%
4.	Greater than 25% upto& including 30%	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.inand conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority) 2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

3. The Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender without any Prior Notice to the Bidders.

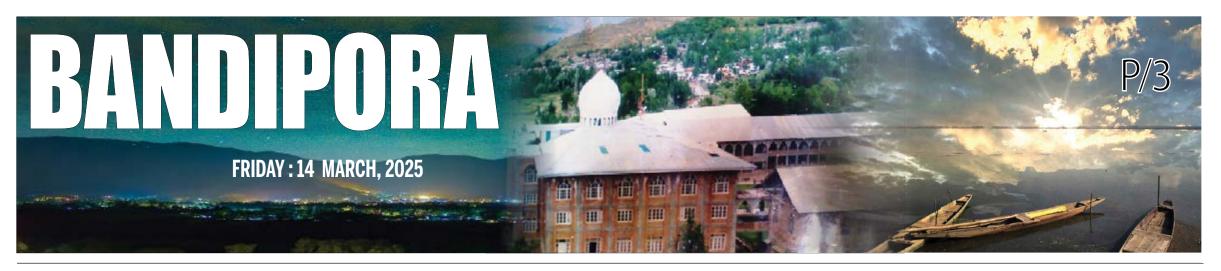
4. The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.

5. The earnest money may be forfeited if:-

No.ERB/11903-11911

DATED:-10-03-2025

SD/=ExecutiveEngineer, (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir **Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbag**



'I Wanted My Son To Die': Kashmiri Father's Agony Over His Son's Heroin Addiction

SAJID RAINA/ SEERAT-UN-NISA

SRINAGAR: Just a few years ago, Murtaza Hussain (27) (named changed) a resident of north Kashmir's was a promising student, excelling in his studies and carrying the hopes of his family. But today, he is a recovering heroin addict at a de-addiction centre, battling the demons that consumed the last four years of his life.

Hussain's descent into addiction began when he was in 11th grade. According to his family, he was once a disciplined and ambitious boy.

But then, everything changed."We noticed him withdrawing, skipping school, and staying out late," recalled his father, his voice filled with anger and sorrow. "At first, we thought it was bad company, but soon, we realised he was taking drugs."As his addiction grew, Hussain resorted to desperate measures to feed his habit.

He secretly stole his mother's jewellery, sold it, and spent the money on heroin."I don't know how I had the courage to do it, but at that time, all I could think of was my next fix," Hussain admitted, his voice trembling. "I betrayed the people who loved me the most."His addiction spiralled out of control, and the financial toll was devastating.

In just a few years, he consumed drugs worth nearly rupees 10 lakh. His father, once hopeful about his son's future, now speaks with bitterness."I prayed for my son's success, but today, I pray for his death," Abdul Rasheed said, wiping away tears. "This addiction has ruined him, ruined our fam-

ily. We begged him to stop, but he destroyed everything. "Hussain, now in rehabilitation, is trying



to rebuild his life. But he knows the damage he has caused is irreparable." There were nights when I wanted to quit, but the craving was too strong," he confessed.

"I lost my dignity, my education, my family's trust. Now, I just want a second chance." Drug addiction has become a growing crisis in Kashmir, with many young men falling prey to substance abuse.

Families are left shattered, battling stigma, financial ruin, and emotional despair.

For Hussain, the road to recovery is long and uncertain. Whether his family will ever forgive him remains unknown. But one thing is certain—he is fighting for his life one day at a time.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly last week held a heated discussion on the rising drug addiction crisis, with legislators across party lines calling for urgent intervention.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo acknowledged the growing problem but expressed optimism that the "Nasha Mukt Abhiyan," launched in 2022, was starting to show results.

"Drug addiction in J&K has been rising at an alarming rate. However, since the launch of 'Nasha Mukt Abhiyan' in September 2022, records indicate a slight decrease in new cases," she told the House.

According to government data, the number of individuals undergoing drug de-addiction treatment dropped from 9,775 in 2022 to 6,925 in 2024.

However, MLAs remained divided over whether this decline truly reflected progress. The discussion turned confrontational when AAP MLA Mehraj Malik accused the BJP of failing to address drug addiction during the years when J&K had no elected government.

His remarks led to a shouting match between ruling and opposition legislators, forcing Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather to intervene. He announced a 30-minute special session to deliberate on strategies for tackling the crisis.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo noted that while outpatient(OPD)drug addiction cases had declined, inpatient(IPD) cases had increased due to improved treatment facilities and expanded de-addiction centres.

The government has implemented a drug deaddiction policy, established a state-level monitoring committee, and launched extensive awareness campaigns.

Currently, 11 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) operate in Kashmir and nine in Jammu, with de-addiction services available in all 20 districts and nineGovernment MedicalColleges (GMCs)."This is a very serious issue," said senior legislator M.Y. Tarigami during the debate.

"Drug addiction has drastically increased. Who ruled this region for the past 10 years? They must answer for this crisis and the steps they have taken to combat it."

DC Bandipora reviews status of Pending Court cases

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Thursday chaired a meeting at mini secretariat to review the status of under process court cases

within the district. The meeting discussed various

cases pertaining to different departments and focused on addressing the issues related to departments.

The DC emphasized the need for timely and serious attention to all court cases from the initial stages. He urged the officers to ensure that proper replies



are submitted, based on accurate records and genuine facts.

Qadri stressed the submission of responses for all under process cases within the stipulated time frame provided by the courts.

He also laid thrust on the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in dealing with legal matters.

The DC directed officers to prioritize the court cases and adhere to deadlines set by the courts for submission of responses.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Litigation Officer and District Officers of the concerned departments besides Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDM) Sumbal, SDM Gurez and Tehsildar Gurez, attended virtually.

Srinagar-Bandipora-Gurez Highway construction project awaits sanction: Dy CM

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed the House that in view of the strategic importance of Srinagar-Bandipora-Gurez Highway road, the government has already taken up the matter with the Union Ministry for Road Transport & Highways, through a series of communications.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Nazir Ahmad Khan in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the government has requested for consideration of the project for declaration of Srinagar-Sumbal-Bandipora-Gurez road, including the tunnel at Razdan pass, as National Highway. He informed the House that the sanction, however, is awaited. He said that Gurez holds significant strategic importance due to its geographical location and proximity to the LoC.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the House that the government would again take up the matter with the Central Government for early approval.

Legislators; Irshad Rasool Kar, Nizam ud din Bhat and Hilal Akbar Lone raised supplementaries.

Awareness programme on Drug Abuse held at GDC Sumbal

cial

Porcupines Attack Saffron Fields in Pampore; Farmers Suffer Heavy Losses

BILAL HABIB

PAMPORE: Farmers in Konibal Village of Pampore, in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, are facing extensive damage to their saffron fields due to porcupine attacks.

The farmers said that porcupines have been damaging saffron by digging out corms from saffron beds, posing a significant threat to the worldfamous saffron industry. These porcupines primar-



tion and find a solution to this issue as soon as possible".

Other farmers, including Umar Gull, echoed these concerns, criticizing the inaction of the concerned departments. "We have repeatedly urged the government and agriculture department to intervene, but no concrete steps have been taken to control the porcupines," he added.

to control the porcupines, the added. The economic loss due to these attacks is alarming. "If a porcupine damages 50 kg of corms in a day, we lose nearly 50,000. If this continues, our saffron fields will disappear within the next 4-5 years," warned Javaid Ahmad, another local farmer.

Govt sponsors 93 Industrial Units for employment generation in Padder-Nagseni in 2024-25: Dy CM

JAMMU: The government has sponsored 93 MICRO Industrial Units besides facilitating 34 units under PMEGP and JKREGP schemes for employment generation in Padder-Nagseni Constituency in the 2024-25 fiscal.



to support the local handicrafts, particularly Pash mina weaving and other traditional crafts in the

Constituency. He said that the facilities included 10 sanctioned training centres in Kishtwar district which provide training in various crafts viz; Crewel, Staple, Sozni, Carpet weaving, wheat Straw Craft and Handloom Weaving, of which, 01 training centre of Wheat Straw Craft is functional in the Padder-Nagseni Constituency. He added that besides training programmes, the department facilitates handholding of the weavers and the artisans through Credit Card Scheme 2020, Weaver Mudra Scheme, Karkhandar Scheme 2021, registration of cooperatives under Financial

ily attack saffron fields during the night, causing extensive damage to crops that are already under stress due to climate change and irrigation issues.

Currently, the price of one quintal of saffron corms is one lakh rupees, and since December, dozens of acres of saffron land in Konibal Village and other areas of Pampore have been damaged by porcupines.

Speaking to Kashmir Convener, local farmer Nisar Ahmad Malik expressed concern over the recurring attacks for the past 3-4 years, leading to drastic reductions in corm availability. "The damage is pushing our saffron industry towards crisis, and the authorities must take immediate action," he said.

"We earnestly request the concerned authorities, whether it is the wildlife department or any other relevant department, to take necessary acers cannot kill porcupines, but wildlife experts suggest relocation as a viable solution. The Department of Agriculture,

Pampore Zone, has distributed organic wild animal repellents to over 600 farmers to tackle the problem. Additionally, drones were deployed to spray Herboliv repellent in the affected areas.

Farmers such as Basharat Ahmad Lone, Ali Mohammad Lone, Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, Abdul Aziz Sofi, Ali Mohammad Bhat, and several others have reported positive results from the recently distributed repellent, Agriculture Officer Pampore Ishtiyaq Ahmad Bhat told Kashmir Convener.

He said discussions are underway with the Wildlife Department to relocate porcupines to suitable areas.

Despite these efforts, farmers remain dissatisfied, urging immediate large-scale action to save Pampore's iconic saffron industry before it is too late. Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, informed this while replying to a question raised by Sunil Kumar Sharma in the Legislative Assembly.

He informed that the department has registered the pass out trainees as Weavers and Artisans, held six awareness camps, registered 78 Artisans for Artisan Cards and 55 for Pehchan Card for availing benefits under various schemes, helping their onboarding on e-commerce platforms.

The Minister said that the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programmes (EAPs) have been organized and 12 candidates from Padder Nagseni Constituency have been provided capacity building under the Hausla Programme in the current financial year. Besides, 2137 applications have been received under the Vishwakarma scheme.

He informed that 329 artisans and 125 weavers have been registered in Padder-Nagseni Constituency who can avail benefit of the schemes being implemented by the department under Artisan cards.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that various schemes are being implemented by the department

Indian Army Honors INA Veteran Lt. Rangaswamy Madhawan Pillai on His Centenary Year

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army organized a special centenary celebration for Lieutenant Rangaswamy Madhawan Pillai, a 99-year-old veteran of the Indian National Army (INA), as he commenced his 100th year by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial and the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

The event, attended by senior armed forces personnel and the public, was a powerful tribute to India's freedom struggle and the legacy of the INA.

Born on March 13, 1926, in Rangoon, Burma (now Myanmar), Lt. Madhawan Pillai joined the Indian Independence League in 1942 under Rash Behari Bose. When Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose took charge, he formally enlisted in the INA on November 1, 1943, at just 18 years old.

Trained at the Officers Training School in Burma, he served as a recruitment and fundraising officer before joining the Administrative Branch at INA Headquarters in Rangoon under Major General KP Thimayya (elder brother of General KS Thimayya). His contributions to India's freedom struggle were officially recognized by the Government of India on August 1, 1980. On January 23, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitated him during the Parakram Diwas celebrations at Red Fort, New Delhi.

The Azad Hind Fauj (INA) was first formed by Mohan Singh in 1942 and later revived by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on October 21, 1943. With the battle cry "Chalo Delhi," the INA united Indians across communities, including women in the Rani of Jhansi Brigade, to fight for India's complete independence from British rule.

Lt. Madhawan's wreath-laying ceremony serves as a poignant reminder of India's sacrifices for freedom and the ongoing journey to uphold their legacy. His centenary year is not just a personal milestone but a testament to the unwavering resolve that shaped India's struggle for independence.



BANDIPORA: The absence of a dedicated district library in Bandipora has left students and aspirants struggling for proper study resources, especially those preparing for competitive exams.

The existing tehsil-level library, operating from a privately rented accommodation, is poorly equipped, lacks internet access, and remains largely unknown to many students.

With just four rooms, including a reading space and an office, the library functions only during office hours, restricting students' access. Established in 1972, it has been relocated multiple times, including after a fire incident in 1974, and has yet to find a permanent and well-equipped Support scheme and other initiatives.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that 27 cases have been sponsored to various banks from Padder-Nagseni Constituency, of which, 15 cases have been sanctioned till date. He added that 03 cases have been sponsored to various banks under the Weavers MUDRAScheme 2015 during the past three years.

He said that about 14 Cooperatives have been registered from the Padder sub division covering 154 artisans/weavers under the Financial Support Scheme for Cooperatives of Handicrafts and Handloom Department during the past three years. These artisans/weavers were practicing various traditional crafts viz; mix embroidery, stone jewellery, crewel embroidery, wheat straw crafts and weaving. An amount of Rs. 7.00 lakh has been disbursed among these cooperatives till date as first installment, he added.

He said that the department has also facilitated the participation of 04 Industrial Handicrafts Cooperatives from Padder Nagseni in National Level Exhibitions and 02 Industrial Handicrafts Cooperative Societies in Bhaderwah Fest, while 02 crafts viz; Kishtwari Loi and Wheat Straw Products are under submission to NABARD.

space.

Students have raised serious concerns over limited infrastructure, outdated study materials, and the lack of digital resources. "We need a proper library with modern facilities, digital access, and round-the-clock availability to compete on a national level," said a local aspirant.



Those from remote areas face even greater challenges due to the absence of a centralized and accessible library. The students have urged the administration to take immediate steps to upgrade the facility, introduce online resources, and ensure longer operational hours to cater to their academic needs. **BANDIPORA:** with an aim to educate students about the perils of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society, an awareness programme on Drug



 $Abuse was today \ organized \ at \ Government \ Degree \ College (GDC) \ Sumbal.$

The programme held under the patronage of principal GDC Sumbal, Prof.Dr. Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, aligned with the broader objectives of the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan'.

The event was led by Manzoor Ahmad Parey Convener Nasha Mukt Bharat committee.

In his address Manzoor Ahmad highlighted the devastating effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large.

He deliberated on the critical role of education and community involvement in preventing drug abuse, urging students to act as ambassadors of change by adopting and promoting healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

The event concluded with a strong call to action, encouraging participants to spread awareness and contribute to building a resilient, drug-free society.

Nowgam Payeen Residents Protest Over Poor Network Connectivity

BANDIPORA: Frustrated by persistent network issues, residents of Nowgam Payeen in Bandipora district on Thursday staged a protest, demanding immediate action to improve mobile connectivity in their area.

Despite the rapid advancement of technology and the expansion of 5G services in many parts of Bandipora, Nowgam Payeen continues to struggle with unreliable and weak network coverage, locals said.

The residents expressed deep dissatisfaction, citing serious difficulties, particularly for students who depend on internet access for online classes, research, and academic resources.

"While the rest of the district enjoys seamless connectivity, our area remains digitally isolated," a protester remarked.

The protesters urged Bandipora administration to intervene immediately, ensuring that Nowgam Payeen is not left behind in the digital age. They called on telecom companies and concerned officials to address their grievances and provide reliable mobile and internet services without further delay.

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OPED | 04

Editorial

Ayush Labs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to encourage scientific curiosity among students has found enthusiastic support through the Ministry of Ayush's 'One Day as a Scientist' initiative. Aligning with the vision of a scientifically driven India. various Ayush institutions have opened their laboratories to young students, offering them first hand exposure to research, modern technology, and the integration of traditional medicine with contemporary advancements. Students from institutions such as Amity University Jaipur, Dr. Gururaju Government Homoeopathic Medical College, and Captain Jailal Academic School had the unique opportunity to explore state-of-the-art laboratories and interact with leading researchers. Visits to the National Institute of Ayurveda, the Regional Research Institute (H) in Gudivada, and the Central Research Institute for Yoga & Naturopathy in Jhajjar provided handson learning experiences, particularly in areas such as respiratory studies, homeopathic research methodologies, and the scientific validation of yoga and naturopathy. The initiative, coinciding with National Science Day 2025, reinforces India's commitment to empowering youth for global leadership in science and innovation. By bridging the gap between ancient wisdom and modern research, Ayush institutions are playing a crucial role in fostering scientific inquiry among the next generation. Encouraged by the overwhelming response, the Ministry of Ayush aims to expand such initiatives, ensuring that more young minds get a chance to witness the evolving landscape of scientific discovery in traditional medicine. By nurturing curiosity today, India is laying the foundation for a future where innovation and heritage walk hand in hand.

Balancing Faith and Education Throughout The Current Ramadan



chools in Kashmir reopened on March 7.

2025, after nearly three months of win-

ter vacations. As students and teachers

returned to their classrooms, they were

soon met with the arrival of the holy

month of Ramadan. This sacred month is a time of

fasting, prayer, and self-reflection for Muslims across

the world. For students and teachers, it brings unique

challenges and opportunities. Managing academic

responsibilities while observing fasts requires careful

planning, patience, and a supportive environment. A thoughtful approach can ensure that both learning

and spiritual commitments are balanced effectively.

dawn meal) to Iftar (evening meal), students often

experience fluctuations in energy levels throughout

the day. Teachers, who are also fasting, may find it

difficult to maintain their usual teaching pace. However,

understanding these challenges and making adjust-

ments can create a more productive and spiritually

fulfilling school environment. Mornings are typically

the best time for academic focus, as students are still

energized from Suhoor. Teachers should schedule

lessons that require higher concentration, such as

mathematics, science, and analytical subjects, during

the early hours. As the day progresses and fatigue

sets in, lighter activities like discussions, storytelling,

and revision can help maintain engagement without

is essential during Ramadan. Fasting students may

struggle with thirst and fatigue, making it important

for teachers to ensure that the atmosphere remains

exhausted. Teachers should also be understanding

about students' concentration levels, avoiding un-

necessary pressure while maintaining academic

Creating a comfortable classroom environment

overburdening students.

consistency.

With fasting hours stretching from Suhoor (pre-

Time management plays a crucial role for both students and teachers during Ramadan. Fasting requires discipline, and integrating this discipline into academic routines can be highly beneficial. Students should plan their study schedules efficiently, ensuring that they allocate time for early morning

revisions after Suhoor and make the most of their

energy before midday fatigue sets in. Teachers, too,

should manage their lesson plans carefully, ensuring

that students are not overloaded with excessive

homework or assignments that require prolonged

acter building and self-reflection. Schools can use

this opportunity to reinforce values such as patience,

kindness, honesty, and gratitude. Teachers can in-

tegrate moral lessons and ethical discussions into

their daily teaching, helping students understand

the deeper significance of the month. Encouraging

acts of kindness within the school community, such

as helping peers, sharing knowledge, and practicing

patience, can make Ramadan a truly transformative

adjusted during Ramadan. Since fasting students have

lower energy levels, sports and strenuous exercises

should be minimized, especially during the later hours

of the day. Instead, schools can introduce alterna-

Beyond academics, Ramadan is a time for char-

mental effort late in the day.

tive activities such as light stretching, storytelling sessions, and cultural discussions that align with the spirit of Ramadan. Schools can also encourage students to participate in community service activities, such as helping with Iftar distribution or supporting charitable causes, to instill the values

of empathy and social responsibility.

A supportive school environment can make a

significant difference in helping students manage

their academic and spiritual responsibilities. Teachers

should foster a sense of understanding and flexibility,

ensuring that students feel comfortable discussing

their needs during Ramadan. Encouraging peer sup-

port and group study sessions can also help students

collaborate and share the academic load, making

learning more enjoyable and effective. By working

together, students can revise, clarify doubts, and assist

each other, reducing the burden of individual study

another important consideration. Since fasting stu-

dents spend additional time in prayers, recitation of

peak. Instead, tests can be conducted earlier in the

month or postponed until after Ramadan, allowing

students to perform at their best without undue stress.

Maintaining a healthy routine is equally impor-

The scheduling of exams and assignments is

while maintaining academic progress.

tant for both students and teachers during Ramadan. Since sleep cycles are disrupted due to early Suhoor and late-night Taraweeh prayers, students should ensure that they get adequate rest whenever possible. Teachers should also be mindful of their own energy levels, balancing their responsibilities while taking care of their health. Schools can implement short relaxation breaks to help both students and staff recharge and sustain their focus throughout the day.

Ramadan is not just about fasting: it is a time of spiritual and personal growth. Schools can take this opportunity to enhance students' moral and ethical development by integrating Islamic teachings on perseverance, gratitude, and humility into classroom discussions. Encouraging students to reflect on their own strengths, weaknesses, and aspirations can help them develop a stronger sense of self-discipline and purpose. Teachers, as role models, can inspire students through their own patience, kindness, and positive attitude during this month.

Involving parents and the broader school community in Ramadan activities can further enrich the experience for students. Schools can organize Ramadan-themed discussions, guest lectures, or charity drives, encouraging students to participate in meaningful initiatives that reinforce the values of the month. Regular communication between teachers and parents can ensure that students receive the necessary academic and emotional support at home as well.

As Ramadan progresses, it is essential to maintain a balanced approach that respects both academic commitments and religious obligations. With the right adjustments, students can continue their education without compromising their spiritual responsibilities. Teachers, by being **understanding, flexible, and encouraging, can create an environment where students thrive both academically and spiritually. Schools in Kashmir, having reopened recently after a long winter break, must ensure that students transition smoothly into their academic routine while embracing the blessings and lessons of Ramadan.

By fostering patience, empathy, and discipline, Ramadan becomes not just a month of fasting but a time of transformation and learning. A well-planned approach from both teachers and students can make this month a period of both academic excellence and spiritual enrichment, ensuring that education and faith go hand in hand.

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calm and stress-free. Reducing unnecessary physiexperience for students. Discussions about compasthe Quran, and spiritual reflection, their capacity to cal movement and allowing short breaks can help sion, charity, and discipline can inspire students to manage hectic academic deadlines may be limited. students stay focused. Additionally, long lectures apply these values beyond the classroom, making Schools should take this into account and avoid should be replaced with interactive and participatory them better individuals in the long run. scheduling major exams during the later days of learning methods to prevent students from feeling Physical activities in schools should also be Ramadan, when fatigue and focus issues tend to

The Sound of Worship: How Loud is Too Loud?

nor be silent in it, but seek a way between." (Surah Al-Isra 17:110) Prophet Muhammad

advised moderation in matters of worship. When the Companions raised their voices in prayer, he said: "O people! Be merciful to yourselves. You It is crucial to reflect on whether the excessive use of loudspeakers aligns with these values.

• A Call for Thoughtful Reflection

It is essential for mosque committees, patrons, scholars, muezzins, and Sana Khawans to reassess

Reducing Volume Levels – Keeping the volume at a level that fulfills the purpose without becoming a disturbance.

Limiting Usage – Using loudspeakers only for essential announcements and prayers like the Adhan.

mosques within close proximity to coordinate their

Coordinated Efforts-Encouraging local





The Kashmir Valley, a land blessed with the presence and teachings of Sufi saints, has long been a beacon of spiritual enlightenment, love, and peace. Mosques have stood as sanctuaries of faith, inviting believers to prayer and remembrance of the Almighty. However, in recent times, the overuse of loudspeakers, particularly during festive seasons, has raised serious concerns about its social and spiritual impact.

• The Issue of Excessive Loudspeaker Use

One of the most pressing concerns is the sheer density of mosques in villages, towns & cities across Kashmir. Most of the localities have multiple mosques within a one-kilometer radius, each using high-decibel loudspeakers simultaneously. The resulting overlap of amplified sounds creates an overwhelming auditory experience rather than a spiritually uplifting one. What is meant to be a call to devotion sometimes turns into a competition of volume, diverting from the true essence of worship.

• The Adverse Impact on Society

Islam, as emphasized in the Quran and Hadith, is a religion of balance and ease. The excessive use of loudspeakers negatively impacts various groups in society:

The Sick and Elderly – Those suffering from illnesses require peace and rest, and continuous loud sounds can worsen their condition.

Students and Scholars - Many young minds preparing for exams or engaging in academic pursuits struggle to concentrate due to persistent noise.

Sound-Sensitive Individuals – People with hearing sensitivities or neurological conditions experience distress and discomfort from excessive sound pollution.

The Holy Quran reminds us: "And do not raise your voice too loud in prayer, are not calling upon one who is deaf or absent. Rather, you are calling upon the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing." (Sahih al-Bukhari, 2992; Sahih Muslim, 2704)

• Faith is Not Measured by Volume

the impact of their practices. Are the loudspeakers truly serving the purpose of earning spiritual merit, or are they inadvertently causing hardship? Islam teaches that causing inconvenience to others is a serious matter:

"And do not make your hand [as] chained to your neck or extend it completely and [thereby]

loudspeaker use to avoid unnecessary overlapping. Raising Awareness - Educating the community about the spiritual and ethical importance of maintaining peace and considering the well-being of others.



A common misconception is that the strength of one's faith (Aiteqaad) is reflected in how loud prayers or sermons are broadcasted. However, faith is deeply personal and is measured by sincerity, humility, and devotion-not by decibels. The Awliya e Kashmir, the revered saints of this valley, spread their message of love and spirituality through wisdom and understanding, not through force or imposition.

Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani (RA), a great Sufi saint of Kashmir, advocated for simplicity in worship and service to humanity. His teachings emphasize love, patience, and respect for others. become blameworthy and insolvent." (Surah Al-Isra 17:29)

Moderation is the key to a fulfilling religious practice. The teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and Awliya e Kashmir emphasize that everything should be done with love and consideration, not through coercion or undue influence.

• A Balanced Approach

Religious authorities and community leaders must work together to find a middle ground.

Conclusion

The sound of worship should be a source of tranquility and connection with the Divine, not a cause of discomfort or contention. The teachings of the Quran, Hadith, and Awliya e Kashmir guide us towards a path of moderation, compassion, and wisdom. As a community, we must embrace these principles and ensure that our religious practices uplift rather than disturb.

Let the call to prayer be a moment of peace, a reminder of faith, and an invitation to devotionwithout compromising the harmony of those around us.

One of the most pressing concerns is the sheer density of mosques in villages, towns & cities across Kashmir. Most of the localities have multiple mosques within a one-kilometer radius, each using high-decibel loudspeakers simultaneously. The resulting overlap of amplified sounds creates an overwhelming auditory experience rather than a spiritually uplifting one. What is meant to be a call to devotion sometimes turns into a competition of volume, diverting from the true essence of worship.

Secretary RDD& PR asks for speedy completion of SBM-G projects in J&K

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Deaprtment and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Wednesday chaired a review meeting to assess utilisation of funds and physical progress under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director General (DG) Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra, Deputy Director Rural Sanitation Kashmir, Mantasha Binti Rashid, Superintending Engineer REW Kashmir, Aamir Ali, Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Rajesh Kumar Agastam, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACPs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs).

The meeting, focused on the physical completion and corresponding expenditure for the financial year 2024-25.

The officials presented a detailed report on the total funds released to Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACPs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs) and their respective expenditure.

The Secretary reiterated the importance of proper documentation, transparency and daily monitoring of progress at the district level. He stressed that timely execution of sanitation projects is crucial



for achieving the goals of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and improving rural sanitation across J&K.

The Secretary directed the officials to expedite pending works and ensure judicious utilisation of funds to improve rural sanitation across the UT.

The Secretary directed the officials to expedite completion of the ongoing projects and ensure efficient utilisation of funds. He emphasised the need for regular monitoring to achieve sanitation and waste management goals effectively.

The Secretary emphasized the urgency of utilizing pending funds effectively.

He directed the ACPs to submit detailed reports within two days outlining the pending bills and anticipated expenditure by March 31. He also instructed the child agencies and BDOs to monitor daily expenditures to ensure effective fund utilisation.

Aijaz Asad reiterated government's unwavering commitment towards providing safe, hygienic and dignified living conditions for rural communities.

He urged all the stakeholders for collaborative efforts to ensure timely completion of the ongoing projects and optimal functionality of SBM-G assets.

District level Committee approves 1653 cases under HADP at Ganderbal

NEWS | 05



GANDERBAL: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Thursday chaired a meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) at DC office here to discuss and approve cases received under Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) in the district.

The committee approved 1653 cases pertaining to various sectors, including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and allied fields. Among these, 80 cases have been linked with credit, amounting to financial assistance of Rs1.97 crore.

The DC emphasized that the HADP was a major step towards creating a sustainable and profitable agricultural ecosystem.

He also stressed the importance of meeting the targets within the timeframe set for the concerned departments.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries and other committee members.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian meetsHols of private educational institutions

Directs to strictly adhere to NEP, improve facilities for desired educational outcomes

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta chaired a meeting of officers of the education department and heads of institutions of private educational institutions of the district in order to discuss the issues requiring attention.

Various issues covering New Education Policy (NEP) including maintaining the healthy teacher - student ratio, admission for weaker sections as per Right to Education Act, accommodation matters, admission process and fees, academic and various other non academic matters were discussed with the head of institutions.

The DC called upon all participants to provide their noble services with best possible efficiency and in a professional way. He sought strict adherence to the New Education Policy especially maintaining teacher- student ratio, admission of

students from marginalized and poor sections, etc. He also sought cooperation from them on issues of drug menace and the enforcement of tobacco control within the campuses and surroundings of educational institutions.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, CEO, DIO, ZEOs and Head of institutions.

Capacity building programme under BBBP concludes at Budgam

Initiative aimed to equip grassroots-level workers about objectives of the scheme

BUDGAM: A capacity-building programme to sensitize and empower grassroots-level workers about the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative concluded today at the Conference Hall

NABARD signs MoU with J&K Grameen Bank to finance JLGs

JAMMU: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the promotion and financing of 2000 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) was today signed and exchanged between NABARD, J&K Regional Office, Jammu, and J&K Grameen Bank.

Deputy General Manager, NABARD Des Rai and Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank Sanjay Gupta signed the MoU on behalf of NABARD and J&K Grameen Bank, respectively.

The MoU signing ceremony was presided over by Chief General Manager NABARD Bhallamudi Sridhar who emphasized that the primary objective of the MoU is to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers, oral lessees, sharecroppers, landless farmers, and others who may not have formal title to their land holdings. The initiative also aims to meet the credit requirements of the economically weaker sections of society by forming and creditlinking JLGs.

Bhallamudi Sridhar applauded J&K Grameen Bank for successfully financing more than 2500 JLGs under previous MoUs and encouraged the Bank to continue its efforts in financial inclusion. He further stressed the need to focus on financing individual JLG members to strengthen their economic activities. Additionally, he emphasized that the renewal of JLG loans should be completed in a timely manner to ensure the smooth flow of credit operations.

Sanjay Gupta, Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank, appreciated NABARD's initiatives for promoting financial inclusion in the Union Territory and expressed gratitude for its continuous support to the Bank. He reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to playing a significant role in socio-economic development and ensuring that initiatives like social security schemes, SHG and JLG credit linkages reach even the remotest areas.

Dr. Parvinder Singh takes over as Director Animal

DC Srinagar reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna, works under RDSS

Emphasizes regular progress reporting, inter-departmental coordination to achieve targets in set timelines plants stands commissioned. gave a detailed PowerPoint

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting of Engineers of KPDCL at the DC Office Complex, here to review the progress on installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Biili Yoina (PMSGMBY) and works under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

At the outset, the DC took a firsthand appraisal of the progress made in installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in all Electric Divisions of the district.

The DC was informed that against the target of 6779 households set for Srinagar District under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli scheme, over 1961 applications of consumers of the Power Development Department have been received of which 600 solar

SRINAGAR: In a significant

move to bolster air quality

in Srinagar, Commissioner,

the PDD and J&K Bank to work in On the occasion, the DC tandem to raise awareness about



emphasized the benefits of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli scheme and urged KPDCL functionaries to generate awareness among the people about the benefits of installing Rooftop Solar plants under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna

He also instructed Officers from

Commissioner SMC reviews progress

of National Clean Air Program

that require further attention

Emphasizing the critical

and development.

the scheme and simplify access to easy loans for the subscriber's

The DC asked for making

contribution.

concerted efforts to increase the number of applicants and timely installations in favour of each of them. During the meeting, Superintending Engineer KPDCL

Awareness rogramme

BANDIPORA: with an aim to educate students about the perils of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society, an awareness programme on Drug Abuse was today organized at Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal. The programme held under the patronage of principal GDC Sumbal, Prof. Dr. Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, aligned with the broader objectives of the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan'.

The event was led by Manzoor Ahmad

He instructed for regular progress reporting and interdepartmental coordination to achieve targets within set timelines. Besides Chief Planning Officer

Srinagar, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, other Officers of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) and Turnkey Contractor.

on Drug Abuse held at **GDC Sumbal**

presentation highlighting different

to ensure the successful and timely

completion of the project.

and enhanced collaboration among all departments

involved. He issued directives aimed at streamlining processes and fostering accountability, ensuring that all stakeholders are engaged and focused on achieving the goals of the NCAP.

The meeting concluded withaunanimous commitment from all participants to prioritize the National Clean Air Program, reinforcing their dedication to safeguarding the environment for future

aspects of the scheme and progress made in its implementation. While reviewing the progress of ongoing works under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), the DC emphasized on expediting progress across all Electric Divisions of the District

Husbandry Jammu

JAMMU: Dr. Parvinder Singh today assumed office as Director Animal Husbandry Jammu here at Directorate of Animal Husbandry Talab Tillo, amid a warm welcome from officers and staff of the Directorate. Dr. Parvinder has vast experience in the animal husbandry sector as he has held several prominent positions in the department including Joint Director and Deputy Director among others. Currently he is also serving as Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir and CEO. Livestock Development Board Kashmir.

Later, Dr. Parvinder interacted with senior officials of the Department and asked them to work with utmost dedication and ensure that benefits of various government schemes reach intended beneficiaries in a time bound manner.

The staff present assured their whole-hearted support and cooperation.



Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed chaired a comprehensive review meeting, here focused on the National Clean Air Program (NCAP)

The meeting provided an in-depth review of the progress made on NCAP projects during the financial year 2024-2025.

Dr. Owais commended the significant advancements achieved in improving air quality through various initiatives, while also pinpointing areas



implement our plans effectively and ensure that our community can breathe cleaner air. It is essential that we

remain committed, proactive and innovative in our approach to tackling air pollution."

The Commissioner called for an accelerated pace of work

The SMC is resolute in its mission to create a cleaner, healthier Srinagar and will continue to monitor the progress of NCAP projects

The meeting was attended by the Joint Commissioner (Ådm)SMC, Joint Commissioner Works, Superintending Engineer (Drainage), the Divisional Forest Officer (SMC). and Executive Engineers from the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department, among others.

Parey Convener Nasha Wuki Bharat Committee In his address Manzoor Ahmad highlighted the devastating effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large.

He deliberated on the critical role of education and community involvement in preventing drug abuse, urging students to act as ambassadors of change by adopting and promoting healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

The event concluded with a strong call to action, encouraging participants to spread awareness and contribute to building a resilient, drug-free society.



of the District Social Welfare Office, Budgam.

The event, organized by SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Budgam, aimed to raise awareness among female police officials, PLVs (Para Legal Volunteers), supervisors, teachers, anganwadi workers (AWWs), ASHA workers, and community mobilizers from NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission), about the objectives of the scheme.

The participants were also made aware of various womencentric welfare schemes designed to promote and support women's empowerment at the community level.

Expert resource persons from Kashmir University and other line departments shared their insights to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of the attendees, equipping them with practical approaches to drive change and uplift women in their respective areas.

The programme concluded with a call to action for the participants to become catalysts of change by spreading awareness and ensuring the effective implementation of women empowerment initiatives in their communities.

DC Kupwara reviews implementation of Mission YUVA programme

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Avushi Sudan convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the implementation of Mission YUVA programme in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the DC impressed upon all the officers to work with added zeal and dedication to ensure smooth and successful implementation of the ambitious Mission YUVA programme in the district.

She emphasized the need for developing an ecosystem for unemployed education youth to boost entrepreneurship and employment in the district. She also highlighted the role of the Mission YUVA app, which is integral to the mission's outreach and support services.

The AD Employment briefed the meeting through a detailed PowerPoint presentation about the objectives and modalities involved in implementing the Mission YUVA in the district. Mission YUVA, a youthcentric initiative launched by



the J&K Government, aims to empower young individuals by providing them with various opportunities for skill development, employment and

entrepreneurial ventures. It was informed that the objective of the Mission YUVA is to generate new employment

opportunities through enterprise

creation especially for high-

skilled unemployed youth so

that they can earn their livelihood

with dignity.

mechanism for implementing the Mission, it was informed that 20 Small Business Development Units (SBDU) have to be established in the district under the supervision of DC.

Regarding the institutional

The role of the SBDU is to identify relevant business activities for the district and create model Detailed Project Reports. Besides, 80 Business Help Desks have to be established at sub divisional level under the supervision of concerned SDMs.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion on various other issues for proper and successful implementation of the Mission YUVA programme in the district.

GM DIC Kupwara, CPO, SDM Lolab, AD Employment and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, alongside Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti, today chaired a high level meeting to review the arrangements of district administration for upcoming festival season, including Holi, Eid and Navratras.

The meeting, attended by DIGs, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs, held detailed discussion on district wise preparations for smooth celebrations of the festivals.

details from the District Administrations regarding arrangements related to supply of and stock position of essential commodities, besides status of power, water supply and

sanitation around religious places and major junctions in the districts.

gathering while devising meticulous timing and proper planning.



Div Com, IGP review

arrangements for Holi, Eid and Navratra festivals in Jammu Division

Directions were issued IGP Jammu directed the SSP to keep a strict check on traffic to designate nodal officers and magistrates to facilitate violation and ensure adherence the smooth celebrations to road safety rules, especially by by ensuring clear roads for youngsters riding two wheelers. processions and religious The

departments were asked to make available all necessary arrangements and take precautions to make the celebrations convenient and smooth. Earlier, the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs apprised the meeting on the advance arrangements made regarding route finalisations, market regulations including check on overpricing, profiteering and blackmarketing, besides awareness drives for obeying traffic rules in their respective districts.

IGP Jammu directed the police officials to remain present on ground during the festivals. Directions were also issued for adequate deployment of security forces to maintain law and order across the division.

stakeholder

The Div Com sought the

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Friday Thoughts

...Rights or Duties First? **Fulfilling The Duty Towards The Real/God And Fellow Humans**



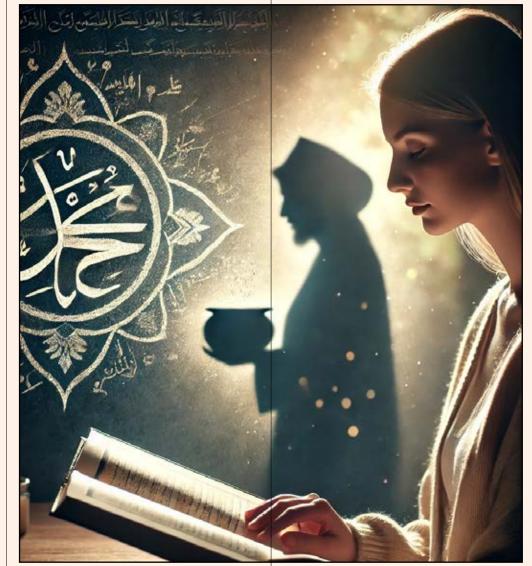
DR MAROOF SHAH

ost of the problems in interpersonal relationships and conflicting claims about rights and court cases can be traced to problematic understanding of the self and its relationship to the Ground of being or God. God designated as Reality in Sufi parlance in light of the Quranic characterization of Him as Al-Haqq is the Centre and End of all creation and it is in being true to God that one can be true to oneself. For those who identify with Islam at cultural level only and eschew any faith in personal God we can propose a trans-theistic ethic and spirituality that doesn't need explicit theological commitment but is committed to justice - the ethic of duties and rights - that committed Muslim women uphold. It is evolving consensus on this ethic that both religious and secular factions and those classified as Islamists and feminists could agree upon. The duties or obligations towards God can be best formulated in terms of service to God's creation though personal relationship to God can't and needn't be debated. However, one of the most certain indicators of one's piety is one's humility and effacing the self in relation to the other. The greatest joy is losing oneself in the other. Service for the other is the royal way of karma yoga or path of service for attaining realization or proximity to God. Saadi has well formulated the definition of tariqat as service of people. Sufis have been running free food and accommodation service for all in shrines. Given the self owes very identity to the other and one achieves subsistence or baqa in the Real through dying to the self (fana). Saints - the friends of God - display exemplary character and become source of great good for the world. Women saints of Islam have created lasting legacy in social service sector. We need to elaborate the basic premise about the self and other to put women's obligations and rights in perspective.

Given most problems of women do have a connection with managing finances, financial security to vulnerable women would help solve most problems. However, before we discuss finances, we need to remark that proper relationship to God means no attachment to the world or its wealth and comforts. It gives greater joy to serve than to be served. And regarding the point who is responsible it is fitting to recall the point made in Dostoevesky's great work The Brothers Karamazov that "we are all responsible and I am most responsible" and the moment one understands this, the world turns into paradise. Women who are prone to complaining against husbands have deep down a problem in understanding who they are and who the other is and how it is God who is looking at oneself from the face of the Other or one who needs us. A sacred tradition often quoted by the Sufis implies God is addressing us or beseeching our attention through every needy person. We are here, according to religious traditions, not on holiday but winning souls. An odyssey of soul making is what this life is, as said by Keats. We owe to everyone who is somehow connected to us something that we need to graciously return. Gratitude and love for all is what Jesus taught and saints keep reminding us about. The Quran defines faith in terms of gratitude. Moral and spiritual life is one of being open or available to the other. Simone Weil defines God, echoing Sufis, in terms of "attention without distraction." We may even recall that major secular thinkers and non-theistic philosophers such as Heidegger have advocated meditative modes or sharpening of awareness for fulfilling human vocation. Atheistic mystics such as Bugbie and even New Age atheists such as Harris have propounded these modes of awareness for what may be called secular mode of salvation. These become possible when one can achieve certain degree of detachment from worldly desires and the calculus of gain and loss or pleasure and pain. Major reasons for marital or family conflicts include, ultimately, an attitude of having in place of being, laziness, addiction to comforts and loveless lustful attitude. Failure to respect and nurture a relationship is primarily a problem in education and character building. Those who are truly conscious of human dignity and understand how God's best manifestation is in women's face, as Ibn Arabi has argued, can't imagine to inflict violence on women. It is the science of conflict resolution and anatomy of human aggression that need to be taught to couples. Once divorce was rare as lesser expectations from each other, better work ethic or sense of duty that cemented relationships. The idea that there must be a romance and compatibility of minds for successful marriage is very recent and contributes to both pre-marital and post-marital problems. One can only help oneself by helping others. There is no other. It is all Self, God's disguise according to profound meaning of Tawhid. Do you consider yourself to be not better than anyone you meet during the day? If yes then you may be truly humble as a Sufi has observed Recall what is the meaning or profound implication of God as only Reality, as One and unity of humankind. Belief in an autonomous self results from pride. One's quest for better car, more grandiose party or house are all variations or disguises of this self love that has been cursed.

verse of Shaykh Abu Sa'id Abul Khair as his motto in life: "Whoever causes grief to us, May his life get more and more happiness." (Riazul Islam, 2002). As Ibn Arabi noted the saints have dropped the possessive adjective (ya) three times, so they do not say 'for me', 'I have' or 'my possessions' (lî, 'indî, matâ'î). Sufi ethic maybe summed up in form of the following dicta of mystically oriented Dostoevsky and Levinas respectively: "We are all responsible for everyone else—but I am more responsible than all the others." "I owe the Other everything, the Other owes me nothing." And this "But cannot we live as though we always loved? It was this that the saints and heroes did; this and nothing more."

Jesus rejected attachment to private property as did his Russian disciple Tolstoy. The Prophet's companions shared almost how infaq (in the specific sense of spending what is in excess fir community and volunteering for community) of women of at least one day of work or equivalent cash for community initiatives such as tuition, healthcare, housing and food services could resolve key issues marring family life. Women would join credit and other cooperatives for mutual support. Spare or excess personal resources would be spared for community, especially women. Charity, investments and voluntary efforts would be better pooled for community work and professionally managed. Law suits would be avoided as far as possible by recourse to local community resources for conflict resolution. Avoiding extravagance and consumption of resources in unproductive ventures would save what is truly needed for all in these groups. stipulated in nikah nama. Women can ask for payment for any work including domestic chores and rearing children in husband's family. The only obligation on her is not to refuse intimacy and companionship of husband. One can well say that a woman is given a new home, an access to/share in husband's resources for love. What is however often missed in this legalistic calculus of work and whose responsibility is the deeper ontology of work and ifs association with meaning of life and healthy relationships. Work is worship if it isn't alienated. One needs to find one's path to God through action or work that is also aspiration of karma yoga. With detachment and focus on duty and ability to pour love, work becomes joy and constitutes part of human dignity.



everything with their brothers. Augustine identified charity as the essence of scripture. Buddhism prefers begging to hoarding. In one sentence Sufi view of self and self-other relationship

The most controversial cases such as that of Shah 4 Banoand such hotly contested issues as triple talag, share in property, dower amount, marriage expenses, expenses on separate house for newly wed etc. could be best managed through efficient management of finances. There would be enough resources generated within a month only through such small interventions as daily collection, from every eligible family, of sadaqah (Rs1 to 10), sadaqah al fitr, zakat/ushr, will for one percent and investment of 1 percent property in women cooperatives and businesses. Investing some percentage of gold in lucrative businesses or creation of sustainable services or cooperative farms would create enough resources for maintenance and help further cement relationships between spouses. We can create a special scheme for every woman who joins special women self help group of fifty that would consist of women with different professions to support one another through community services. This group of what may be called super-fifty women would give market to businesswomen and women associated with farming enterprises - vegetables, meat, milk, milk products, some grocery items, tuition services, health care services etc. within the group. The group would manage charities also within or with the consultation of group management which would be elected periodically and democratically with due consideration to inclusion of technocrats for professional management of group affairs. This group of fifty would have pooled on monthly basis five k from daily sadaqah, fifty k from zakat, Fifty k from one day infaq of time/skill besides 100k from soft loan and saved five k on account of routine expenses on food, education, healthcare services etc. that are made available through cooperative farms in which one has a share. Long term resource base of millions of rupees would be generated from will and investments in which group as a whole would be beneficiary. Around five jobs would be created within the group for management of community services. All members shall receive basic requirements of food (rice, oil, soap, tea, spices, salt, sugar etc.) and vegetables, meat, milk and milk products shall be available at 10 to 15 percent of prevailing market rate for five members from community resources if all members contribute ten k soft loan for a year and monthly 3k only. A woman can volunteer for any work but isn't obligated 5 for doing any work including home making work. Women in fact get a pension of a sort after marriage, at husband's and her own family's expense from dower and other gifts that can be invested for silent income, as finances is responsibility of men. Pocket money can be secured through mutual negotiations and



All women would be encouraged to write a will in favour of community of women for at least one percent of property and invest one percent in women managed businesses and contribute their charities to professional trusts that have women presence in administration.



Shaykh Nizam-u'd-din Auliya used to recite the following

can be stated as: There is no autonomous individual self but only the Other and our salvation lies in surrendering delusionary will to the Cosmic will, the will of the Other. Who is the Other in Sufi view? As there is none but God in reality our identification with what is ordinarily called the self is mistaken. Our greatest joy in fact lies in dancing by dissolving in the Other, by transcending the narrow circuit of personality. What is the Sufi's beloved for whom he is prepared to die or renounce everything? The Other, the non-self.

The following is a brief formulation of important propositions, following elaborate discussion with various stakeholders and consideration of works written about these issues, that one may propose for anyone committed to justice and dignity of women.

1) After sorting the wrong view of the self that puts it at the centre and resists vulnerability or openness to the other or submission to the Other/Real and thus transcending the slavery of the empire of self, other things can proceed.

2) Allwomen feel answerable for their moral commitments in the court of conscience and community (and in hereafter for believing women) and will try to lead a life of responsibility and care for the most disadvantaged and realize their highest potential as humans – eudamonia. The best of humans are those who serve best. They would take the side of the weak and oppressed and uphold justice. They would prefer to work for greater collective good in a spirit of cooperation with all those who have similar objectives. Faith is best demonstrated in wholesome actions for the good of humanity. Virtue is its own reward. One is here to win one's salvation or falah(flourishing) with diligence and not score a point against other/spouse. We enter into any relationship with the other to fulfill our larger destiny that involves relinquishing wrong views and wrong conduct.

3 Women would live lives informed by the principle of infaq or care for the other from their resources. Seeking to build personal empire, refusal to remember death or trying to flee death, competing for fatter salary or more perks or bank balance, bigger house, costlier clothes or cars is what needs to be addressed by a healthy community. Conflicts over these things in family life or between spouses need to be resolved at more fundamental psycho-spiritual level. Ninety percent of court cases would be withdrawn the moment these things are given due recognition. Spouses would compete for sacrificing for each other and not claiming their pie as the very principle of self that is attached to its pie is transcended. Against this ego pathology, we can see

Hannah Arendt's The Human Condition puts the case for work so succinctly. Islam requires us to rise to the level of Ihsan that dissolves the controversy on whose job it is to do domestic chores. Preparing food can be such a joy and partaking of food a sacrament. Women don't and shouldn't ask for payment for their work as they understand the joy of working and serving one's kids or even extended family. Love and its fulfillment are great wages for the work we all do including women. However, men should do domestic chores or better we evolve community kitchens where work is rotated and not felt a burden and shared space adds to the experience of preparing and eating. Instead of focusing on my rights or his duties why can't we share and create many jobs in the process. Shift to community kitchen - one for extended family or 5 to 10 or ideally seven neighbour's - would not only create millions of jobs and reduce cost of food but also cement relationships.

A few more concrete proposals for settling key issues in marriage and finances are in order.

1) Nikah nama would be finalized in presence of informed professional committee (which would also recommend a standard nikah nama for the best interests of couple) representing women's point of view. Women would be advised to consult such professional team before marriage.

2) Dower would be invested to create silent income for women (these points are elaborated in later chapter).

3) Maintenance of divorcees would be managed by takaful investments complemented by daily sadaqah from women pooled in favor of the poor and needy or those who suffer any exigency of debt and resource crunch.

4) All women would be encouraged to write a will in favour of community of women for at least one percent of property and invest one percent in women managed businesses and contribute their charities to professional trusts that have women presence in administration.

5) Women would be linked to interest free credit cooperatives to help small entrepreneurs with seed capital and access to interest free loan for members. Saving hefty amount paid by way of interest would generate enough resources to support many community initiatives.

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NEWS 07

Continued From P1...

Tourism promotion

Additionally, the Tourism Department is focusing on the development of off-beat destinations to expand tourism beyond traditional spots.

"We are working on developing lesser-explored destinations like Gurez, Keran, Bungus, Tosamaidan, Aharbal, Doodhpathri, Machail, Bhaderwah, Sukrala Mata, and Pancheri to attract more tourists," he said.

The Chief Minister stated that tourist arrivals in J&K have seen a significant increase in the last two years. In 2023, J&K recorded 2,11,80,011 tourist visits and in 2024, the number increased to 2,35,90,081, he informed.

The Chief Minister also provided an update on infrastructure-related projects undertaken by the Tourism Department over the last three years: In 2022-23, 984 projects were initiated, with 549 completed; In 2023-24, 1,191 projects were taken up, and 516 were completed and in 2024-25 (till date), 1,914 projects have been started, out of which 1,057 have been completed.

We Need Scientists,

pace at which change is taking place today, which will require constant skilling and reskilling as per the needs of the industry.

He urged all teachers to go beyond the subjects and curriculum and provide the students with skills to become successful future professionals.

"The real power of education is its ability to transform. We can fulfil the demands of a modern society and build Viksit Bharat, if we can fully utilize the power of education and skilled human resources of the nation" the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the students to embrace lifelong learning and realize their inner ability through self-exploration and self-awareness.

"True Education shows the path to liberation. Liberation enables you to know yourself better so that you can achieve all the goals of your life.

Education is not just about rote learning and exchange of information. Rather, education is a method, a medium. Through education you can achieve your individuality, awaken your consciousness, your passion, learn the modern skills to make your place in the world and achieve new heights in your chosen fields.

Nowadays the real aim of education is misunderstood. It is not about youth achieving the number one position or marks. Instead of numbers, students should focus on lifelong learning skills. Students should follow their passion and aim to reach the pinnacle of their creativity so that they can learn new skills according to the changing demand of the industry and achieve success," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further called upon the educational institutions to aim for Zero Stress Campus and kindle the unique strength and talent of the students.

"I would also like to request all the parents to help their children develop a strong personality according to their passion. I am sure that if youth are given the opportunity to choose subjects as per their passion, they will be able to achieve new heights," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated and extended his felicitations to Dr Priyaranjan Trivedi, all the members of Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar

NOTICE

Vishwa Hindu Vidyapeeth, Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment (IEE), and everyone associated with the summit.

Finalization of JKAS

, including those governing the Departmental Examination.

"As a result, the syllabus had to be thoroughly revised to align with the new administrative framework and updated legal provisions introduced by the Reorganization Act," he said. He further informed the House that Government Order No. 1514-JK(GAD) of 2023, dated 30.11.2023, had constituted a committee to finalize the syllabus for the JKAS Probationers' Departmental Examination.

"We are making every effort to expedite the finalization process. Once the syllabus is approved, steps will be taken immediately to conduct the examination. The confirmation of probation for these officers, which depends on successfully passing the examination, will be processed without delay in accordance with the relevant service rules," the Chief Minister assured.

Over 15 lakh

Similarly, 156 Kanal and 07 Marla of Agriculture land has been converted and utilized for industrial purposes while 654 Kanal and 10 Marla for commercial purposes in Samba, she informed the House.

She informed that the Revenue Department has not transferred state land to any private individual for setting up of Industrial Estates, however, on the basis of intends placed by the Industries & Commerce Department, land measuring 12260 Kanal and 03 Marla has been transferred to Industries & Commerce Department in various districts during the past two years.

J&K witnesses

"When considered on a per capita basis, the growth rate stands at 2.45 percent per year, reflecting the region's increasing energy demand. This growth is also in line with the region's population increase, which has been growing at an annual rate of 2.14 percent during the same period," the official said as per KNO.

It also said that as of November 2024, the number of electricity connections and consumers in various categories in Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 23.65 lakh, compared to 23.45 lakh in March 2024 that indicates a steady increase in the number of people and businesses receiving power supply.

"As power demand increases, it triggers economic growth, drives industrialization, and boosts the development of basic amenities such as healthcare, water supply etc," the official said

Over Rs 2,500

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, provides for the reorganisation of the state of J-K into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh - effective October 31, 2019. It followed the revocation of Articles 370 and 35-A.

LG Sinha, Dy society and usher in new hope for a brighter

future of all".

the issues they have raised during the discussion of Demand for Grants.

While speaking regarding the School Education sector, the Minister said that education is one of the most important sectors upon which the foundation of a nation depends. "Under the visionary leadership of late Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, education sector was given prime importance", she stated.

She also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, that despite all financial limitations as Finance Minister, he kept extraordinary budget provisions for education sector. She added that this budgetary support will help in improving the quality of education across Jammu and Kashmir.

Reflecting on achievements of school Education sector, Sakeena said that J&K has a distinction of having free education upto university level. She informed the house that J&K has a vast network of 18,724 government schools and 5517 private schools which helped J&K to achieve literacy rate of 77.3%, very close to the National level literacy rate of 77.70%. "Under UT Capex, Samagra, Rs. 739 crore have been approved for infrastructure development which included new school buildings and additional class rooms", she said.

She also informed the house that after the present government took over, in its first Cabinet meeting, the November session was restored on public demand for the larger benefit of students and parents.

"In order to equip the students with latest methods of education, ICT Labs, Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) and Smart Classrooms have been introduced, which is helping our students to compete at National and International level.

During the current budget, a provision of 600 ICT labs, 2000 smart classrooms and 500 ATLs has been kept to encourage innovation and scientific temperament among the students", she informed.

The Minister also informed the house that for the benefit of students in remote areas and students belonging to migratory population, 1859 seasonal centres are being run across J&K. She further said that due to various initiatives of the department, students in government schools have been doing very well as is reflected in the board exams. "During last year exams, most of the top positions in all the streams have been achieved by the students of government schools. Even in professional competitive exams, the pass outs of government schools have done tremendously well ", she informed.

"For encouraging female literacy among the SC/ST population, 89 KGBVs have been made operational, besides 85 girls hostels have been sanctioned in educationally backward blocks", informed the Minister.

The Minister also said that under Beti Anmol Scheme, more than 12000 BPL girl students have been covered for which an amount of Rs. 7 crore has been spent.

While giving details about health and medical education department, the Minister said that health sector is an important sector which forms the core of a developed society. She informed the house that GMC Anantnag became the first among newly established medical colleges to have a dedicated Cath Lab for South Kashmir region. Besides, a Cath lab is being made operational at GMC Jammu in a week's time, she added.

She said that Colonel Chopra Nursing Home at GMC Jammu has started services with state-ofthe-art machinery to provide affordable and quality healthcare services to the people of Jammu. She also

across Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister informed the house that some important projects are in pipeline adding that work on AIIMS Kashmir is going at a fast pace and is targeted to be completed by November 2025. She added that additional block at Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar, 243 bedded Labour Block at SMGS hospital, Jammu, 125 bedded District Hospital at Reshipora Budgam, construction of 100 Bedded MCH at Lamberi, Rajouri, 16 Critical Care Blocks (50 bedded - 14, 100 bedded -02) at GMCs of Baramulla, Anantnag, Rajouri, Kathua, Doda, District hospital Budgam, Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Poonch, Reasi, Udhampur, SKIMS-Bemina, CHC Kupwara and Chest Disease Hospital of GMC Jammu will be completed in due course of time. The completion of these vital projects will give a major boost to health sector, improving the patient care drastically, she added.

While talking about social welfare department, the Minister highlighted that during the Budget speech 2025-26, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, announced revision in pension amounts across all beneficiary categories. "To promote equity and sustainability, a graded structure has been introduced to enhance pension amounts in alignment with beneficiaries' age groups", she said. She added that as per the new pension structure, the beneficiaries below 60 years will get Rs. 1,250/month; beneficiaries aged 60-79 years will receive Rs. 1,500/month and beneficiaries aged 80+ years will be given Rs. 2,000/month.

The Minister further informed the house that scholarships were provided to 9.668 SC students and we are expanding coverage to 13,000 students. She added that these scholarships, cover tuition fees, maintenance allowances and hostel support for these beneficiaries to help bridge educational disparities and promote inclusive development.

In order to ensure transparency, the Minister said that 28,175 Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) have fully adopted the Poshan Tracker, which authenticated 8,99,000 Aadhaar based beneficiaries receiving supplementary nutrition.

She also informed that 2,120 Sanginis and 2,852 Sahayikas have been engaged, strengthening grassroots service delivery. She further said that 15,929 Anemia Camps have been conducted, benefiting 16,350 anemic individuals.

The Minister further said that 136 AWCs in aspirational districts have been converted into Saksham AWCs and 202 more are being upgraded with infrastructure improvements. She also informed that 208 AWCs have been upgraded into Bal-Vidyalayas for holistic early childhood education and 445 are targeted for transformation this year with 69 already completed.

Reservation System Lone painted a stark picture of Kashmir's future

if the current system persists. "I must ask you to put a hand on your heart and tell us – if you return here in 20 years, how many KAS officers will be Kashmiri-speaking in this secretariat?" he questioned.

He extended this concern to medical education, asking whether Kashmir's current top doctors would have even secured admission to Government Medical Colleges under the present system.

Lone proposed a comprehensive strategy to address what he termed a systematic injustice, calling for region-wise rationalization of reservation quotas. Looking toward the newly elected government, he expressed hope that they would address the concerns of the Kashmiri-speaking ethnic group based on merit, calling the issue "generational" in its importance. (Agencies)

Rouble Nagi Art Foundation Donates Computers, Benches to Guru Nanak Dev Model High School in Baramulla

BARAMULLA: The Rouble Nagi Art Foundation, a Mumbai-based NGO, has bolstered educational infrastructure at Guru Nanak Dev Model High School in Baramulla by donating computers and benches to enhance learning opportunities for students.

Rouble Nagi, founder of the foundation, underscored the critical role of computer literacy in modern education. "Basic knowledge begins with computers, and digital skills are essential for careers in every field," she said. Reflecting on her prior visit to the school, Nagi noted, "After identifying the institution's needs, I am delighted to provide these resources today to empower students."

Highlighting the foundation's mission, she added, "Our goal is to ensure children have access to all necessary facilities, eliminating barriers to their education. Quality learning is non-negotiable." Nagi emphasized the indispensability of technology in education, stating, "In today's world, computers are pivotal in shaping students' futures. We want every child here to thrive without limitations.'

Addressing the bench donation, she shared, "It pained me to see students sitting on the floor during my visit. Providing proper seating is a basic yet vital step toward creating a conducive learning environment." Nagi reaffirmed the foundation's long-term commitment to the school's development, praising



the students' dedication. "The enthusiasm here is inspiring. We will continue supporting this institution and its learners to ensure their progress," she said, adding that she frequently visits Kashmir due to the region's "remarkable academic outcomes and motivated students."

The event was attended by Sikh youth leader Amarjeet Singh, retired CEO Balbir Singh, and school staff, who expressed gratitude for the contributions aimed at fostering educational excellence.



Why KKR made Ajinkya Rahane, and not Venkatesh lyer, their captain

jinkya Rahane's vast experience and "maturity" in handlingan"intense" tournament such as the IPL made him the automatic choice to lead defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), franchise CEO Venky Mysore has said.

Rahane was one of the contenders for the captaincy alongside Venkatesh Iyer, the India and Madhya Pradesh allrounder. Venkatesh was released after the 2024 season but was bought back by KKR in the auction for INR 23.75 crore (US\$2.3 million approx.). While Venkatesh recently said he was ready to take on the captaincy, if offered, KKR eventually picked Rahane for the job, with Venkatesh named his deputy.

"IPL is quite an intense tournament," Mysore told ESPNcricinfo. "Clearly, we think very well of Venkatesh Iyer but, at the same time, it [captaincy] is taxing on a youngster. We have seen lots of people having lots of challenges with it as they go forward. It takes a very steady hand, takes a lot of maturity and experience, which we felt Ajinkya brings with him."

Shreyas Iyer had captained KKR to the title in IP12024, but KKR could not retain him after he opted to head back into the auction, where he was bought by Punjab Kings. Incidentally, Rahane, who was the first player to come up on the second day of the auction last November, had gone unsold at the first time of calling. KKR eventually got Rahane for his base price of INR 1.5 crore (\$180,000 approx.) at the end of the auction when franchises got an opportunity to call back unsold players of

their choice. having played seven matches for them in IPL

This is Rahane's second stint with KKR, Supergiant and the rest at Rajasthan Royals. Mysore felt such a wealth of experience

across two IPL franchises: once at Rising Pune This is going to be my 15th season, so I have seen a lot. It is not only about what you do on the field. There's a lot of [other] stuff when it



2022, when they finished seventh. Rahane has turned out for six franchises in the IPL and is among a select group of players to have been part of the IPL from its inception in 2008. Rahane has some experience captaining India (with eight wins in 11 games across formats), is among the most successful active captains in domestic cricket, and has led in 25 matches

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could only be beneficial for KKR. "He has played 185 IPL games, 200 [195] international games across formats," Mysore said. "He has led India, led Mumbai in domestic, he's led in IPL. And he has played from season one of IPL. All that is massive. There should be no surprise at all [on appointing Rahane as captain]. "Captaincy cannot be underestimated

comes to IPL, including dealing with media, and there will be expectation in terms of the captain. At the same time, it is a new cycle, there is diversity in the team; if you have to be a successful captain you have to invest in building relationships with everybody so that you know how to get the best out of everyone.

Rohit has no reason to retire, will be among best ODI captains: AB de Villiers

P|8

NEW DELHI: Rohit Sharma has no reason to retire, says South African batting great AB de Villiers, who believes the India skipper could go down as one of the greatest ODI captains of all time.

Speculations were rife about Rohit's retirement from ODIs after the Champions Trophy, but the 37-year-old put them to rest after leading India to an unprecedented third title.

"Compared to other captains, look at Rohit's win percentage -- it's almost 74 per cent, which is substantially more than any other captain of the past," de Villiers said in his YouTube channel.

"If he keeps going, he will go down as one of the best ODI captains of all time. Rohit has also said he is not retiring and has requested that rumours be stopped spreading."

Rohit smashed an 83-ball 76, playing a pivotal role in India's tricky 252-run chase in the final against New Zealand in Dubai to win the player-of-the-match.

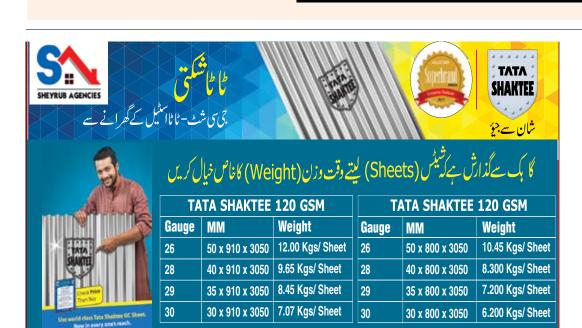
"Why would he retire? With that kind of record not only as captain but also as a batter. That 76 in the final, giving India a fantastic start, laying the foundation for success and leading from the front when the pressure was at its peak," de Villiers said.

Hailing Rohit's record as both a batter and captain, de Villiers was effusive in his praise for how the India captain transformed his batting in the ODI format over the last three years to win the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy in a span of nine months.

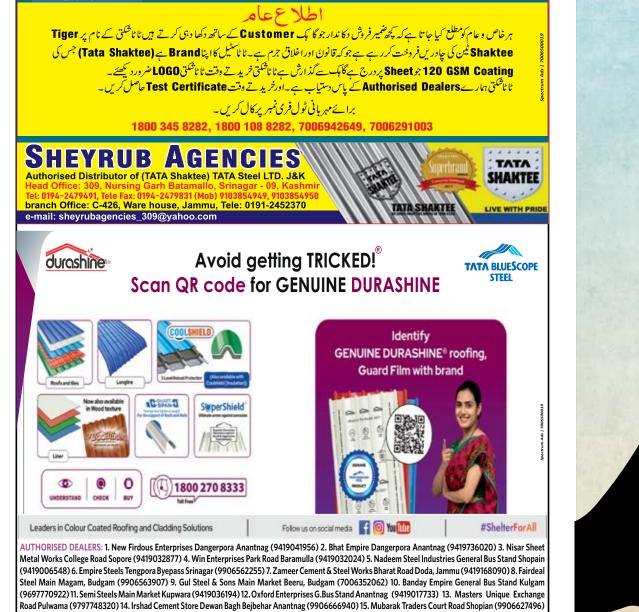
"Rohit Sharma has got no reason to retire. No reason to take any criticism whatsoever. His record speaks for himself. Not only that, but he has also sort of transformed his game," he said.

"If we have a look at his strike rate in the Powerplay it was quite low for an opening batter but since 2022 his strike rate has risen to 115 in the first powerplay and that's the difference between good and great.





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