



J&K BATTLES FOREST FIRE SURGE

94 Blazes Reported in 11 Days

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In an alarming spike, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded over 94 forest fire incidents in just 11 days (between March 24 and April 3, 2025), raising serious concerns about environmental safety and disaster preparedness.

The fires have swept across at least 15 districts in both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions. April 2 marked the highest single-day spike with 35 reported fires, followed by 18 incidents on April 3.

Anantnag has emerged as the most affected district, witnessing fire outbreaks almost daily. Other districts in Kashmir such as Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Bandipora have also reported frequent cases.

In Jammu, the forest fires have been notably intense in Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Doda, and Poonch, particularly from April 1 onwards.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKSDMA) has issued two active forest fire alerts. One of them warns of an "Extreme Forest Fire Risk" near Purmandal and Kathua, valid until April 10. Another alert indicates a "Very High Fire Risk" | [More on P11](#)

Do's:

- ✓ Keep windows and vents closed to block embers.
- ✓ Move livestock and valuables to safer locations.
- ✓ Extinguish all flames after any outdoor activity.

Don'ts:

- ✗ Avoid smoking near dry vegetation or forests.
- ✗ Don't enter the forest during an active fire.
- ✗ Refrain from panicking—follow evacuation instructions calmly.

J&K Govt's 'Pro-Quota' Affidavit Sparks Outrage

Opposition Slams 'Misleading' Tactics
Observer News Service



Srinagar: Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday lashed out at the National Conference (NC)-led government for defending the controversial reservation policy in the High Court, even as a Cabinet sub-committee looks into the matter following public protests.

The Social Welfare Department, in an affidavit submitted before the court, described a writ petition challenging the policy as "mischievous" and "frivolous," accusing the petitioners of attempting to "abuse the judicial process." The government has urged the court to dismiss the plea titled Zahoor Ahmad Bhat and Others vs UT of J&K and Others.

The affidavit has sparked political uproar, especially since the government had recently formed a Cabinet sub-committee, headed by Social Welfare Minister Sakina Itoo, to review the reservation policy. The policy currently allocates 70 percent of available quotas to various groups — a

Here's What the Govt Argued In Court

Test for breaching 50% ceiling is social, not geographical

Reservation is a constitutional duty to uplift the downtrodden

Petition is motivated by ill will and ulterior motives

Focus is on adequate, not proportionate, representation

No rights taken away or curtailed in new policy

move that has drawn sharp criticism from sections of civil society and political leaders.

Calling the panel a "facade," PDP MLA from Pulwama, Waheed Para, accused the government of misleading the public. "The J&K government now defends a deeply flawed reservation policy in court. The | [More on P11](#)

No One Has Perpetual Right To Reservation: Govt Affidavit

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The government has defended Reservation Policy in the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, emphasizing that it was the duty of the 'State' to give equal opportunities to all the sections of the "social order" and to take the "downtrodden out of their disadvantageous and unfavorable position."

While calling the pleas filed in the Court as an attempt to "abuse the judicial process motivated by ill will, ulterior and oblique motives", the Social Welfare Department in the affidavit filed on April 4 this year stressed on "equitable distribution of the resources so as to ensure prevailing of Justice in its true

sense, as destined upon, in the Constitution."

Last years, petitions were filed in High Court wherein petitioners contend that due to the amendments in the Reservation Rules of 2005 by authorities, there is a decrease in the percentage in Jammu and Kashmir Government Recruitment posts and seats in educational institutions for open merit from 57 percent to 33 percent, Residents of Backward Area (RBA) from 20 percent to 10 percent while there is an increase in reservation in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) from 10 percent to 20 percent, Social Caste from 2 percent to 8 percent, and ALC from 3 percent to 4 percent, PHC from 3 percent to 4 percent. "It is | [More on P11](#)

Amit Shah On J&K Visit From Today

Agencies

Jammu: Union Home Minister Amit Shah would arrive in Jammu on Sunday for a three-day J&K visit aimed at assessing the region's security landscape and inaugurating key development projects.

The visit, originally scheduled for April 7, has been advanced by a day, reflecting the urgency of addressing the evolving security situation in the Union Territory.

MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa said that the Union Home Minister would arrive in the afternoon and would chair two high-level security review | [More on P11](#)

Security Tightened On Jammu-Srinagar NH

Security has been significantly stepped up along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and key strategic points across the | [More on P11](#)

LG Greets People On Ram Navami

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted people on Ram Navami, which is being celebrated on Sunday.

"On the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, I extend my greetings and good wishes to all," Sinha said in his message.

"Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram is the embodiment of righteousness, justice, compassion, sacrifice and humility. May the festive occasion | [More on P11](#)

THE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESERVATION WILL BE meeting with some delegations at SKICC today"

Fresh Affidavit May Be Filed:Itoo



Facing heat over its affidavit in the high court that has described a petition challenging its reservation policy as "mischievous and frivolous", the Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said it will file a fresh response before the court, if need be.

Addressing a press conference in Anantnag,

Social Welfare Minister Sakina Itoo, who heads the cabinet sub-committee on the reservation issue, said the government is seriously committed to addressing the matter and the affidavit in question is vague. The cabinet sub-committee was formed by the government in December last year to look into the grievances | [More on P11](#)





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Flagging off of

New Train between Rameswaram and Tambaram (Chennai)

- Improved connectivity in Delta region of Tamil Nadu, uplifting local economies
- Enhances accessibility to religious and tourist destinations

Laying of Foundation Stone for

4-laning of Walajahpet/Ranipet– Tamil Nadu/Andhra Pradesh Border Section of NH-40

- Faster road connectivity between spiritual and metropolitan hubs
- Direct travel option for pilgrims, tourists and daily commuters

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by

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Sunday 6th April, 2025



Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu



12.45 PM



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NEWS

UP Slaps ₹2L Notices for Waqf Bill Protest

Press Trust Of India

Lucknow: Authorities in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district have issued notices against 24 people for protesting against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 by wearing black badges and asked them to furnish bonds of Rs 2 lakh each. Superintendent of Police (City) Satyanarayan Prajapat on

sued against them said they wore black badges only to show protest in a democratic way.

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Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju tabled the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Rajya Sabha



Saturday told reporters that notices were served to 24 persons in this connection, and added that police have identified more people on the basis of CCTV footage.

The notices were issued by City Magistrate Vikas Kashyap on the police report, asking them to furnish bonds of Rs two lakh each after appearing before the court on April 16. These people were found protesting against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and wearing black badges on their arms during last Friday prayers of Ramzan in different mosques here on March 28.

The people who got notices is-

on Thursday, asserting that the legislation is not against Muslims or intended to hurt their religious feelings, but seeks to improve the functioning of Waqf properties, address complexities, ensure transparency and introduce technology-driven management.

The Lok Sabha passed the Bill by a 288-232 vote in the early hours of Thursday, after nearly 12 hours of debate, and the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the legislation following an over 13-hour debate.

The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it.

Gaza Protest Greets Bill Gates at Microsoft 50th Event

Agencies

Washington: A pro-Palestinian protest by Microsoft employees interrupted the company's 50th anniversary celebration Friday, the latest backlash over the tech industry's work to supply artificial intelligence technology to the Israeli military.

The protest began as Microsoft AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman was presenting product updates and a long-term vision for the company's AI assistant product, Copilot, to an audience that included Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and former CEO Steve Ballmer.

"Mustafa, shame on you," shouted Microsoft employee Ibtihal Aboussad as she walked toward the stage and Suleyman paused his speech.

"You claim that you care about using AI for good but Microsoft sells AI weapons to the Israeli military. Fifty-thousand people have died and Microsoft powers this genocide in our region."

"Thank you for your protest, I hear you," Suleyman said.

Aboussad continued, shouting that Suleyman and "all of Microsoft" had blood on their hands. She also threw onto the stage a keffiyeh scarf, which has become a symbol of support for Palestinian people, before being escorted out of the event.

A second protester, Micro-

soft employee Vaniya Agrawal, interrupted another part of the celebration during which Gates, Ballmer and current CEO Satya Nadella were on stage — the first public gathering since 2014 of the three men who have been Microsoft's CEO.

An investigation by The Associated Press revealed earlier this year that AI models from Microsoft and OpenAI had been used as part of an Israeli military program to select bombing targets during the recent wars in Gaza and Lebanon. The story also contained details of an errant Israeli airstrike in 2023 that struck a vehicle carrying members of a Lebanese family, killing three young girls and their grandmother.

In February, five Microsoft employees were ejected from a meeting with CEO Satya Nadella for protesting the contracts. While the February event was an internal meeting, Friday's protest was far more public — a livestreamed showcase of the company's past and future. Some employees also rallied outside the event Friday.

"We provide many avenues for all voices to be heard," said a statement from the company Friday. "Importantly, we ask that this be done in a way that does not cause a business disruption. If that happens, we ask participants to relocate. We are committed to ensuring our business practices uphold the highest standards."



Trump's 'Oops' Yemen Strike Sparks Civilian Death Outcry

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A controversial U.S. military strike in Yemen ordered by President Donald J. Trump on April 4 has ignited global outrage after reports surfaced that the intended Houthi militant target may have actually been a civilian gathering celebrating Eid al-Fitr.

Trump posted a black-and-white drone video of the strike on his X (formerly Twitter) account with the caption: "Oops... There will be no attack by these Houthis!" — a move that has drawn fierce backlash.

The video shows what appears to be several dozen individuals in an open area, viewed from an aerial surveillance angle. Trump claimed the group were Houthi militants "gathered for instructions on an attack," suggesting the strike was preemptive and necessary to protect American and allied naval forces.

However, contradictory reports from local Yemeni sources and international media suggest the group was actually participating in a tribal celebration linked to Eid al-Fitr, the religious festival marking the end of Ramadan. Witnesses claim there were

“The UN Human Rights Council has called for an independent investigation, warning that such actions could further destabilize the region and damage the U.S.'s moral standing in global military engagement

no visible weapons, vehicles, or military activity at the site prior to the bombing. If confirmed, the strike could be classified under international law as an unlawful attack on civilians — potentially a war crime.

Human rights groups and international observers have condemned the strike, questioning the credibility of U.S. intelligence used to justify the attack. The UN Human Rights Council has called for an independent investigation, warning that such actions could

further destabilize the region and damage the U.S.'s moral standing in global military engagement.

The strike is part of a broader campaign of U.S. military operations in Yemen, with over 200 airstrikes since mid-March targeting Houthi infrastructure and personnel. The Houthis, backed by Iran, have launched numerous missile and drone attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, claiming solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing Gaza conflict.

Trump's casual tone in the social media post — punctuated by the word "Oops" — has been blasted as insensitive and inflammatory, especially in light of the possibility that innocent lives were lost. Legal experts warn that this latest incident, if found to involve civilian casualties, could trigger international legal proceedings and further scrutiny of U.S. military accountability under Trump's administration.

As the fallout grows, calls are mounting for transparency and accountability from both the Pentagon and the White House, with critics demanding to know whether the strike was based on flawed intelligence — and whether proper safeguards were in place to avoid civilian harm.

PM Modi Accorded Grand Ceremonial Welcome At Colombo's Independence Square

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Saturday accorded a grand ceremonial welcome at the historic Independence Square in the heart of the Sri Lankan capital, in perhaps the first such honour given to a foreign leader.

The prime minister was received at the Square by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

Modi landed in Colombo last evening after concluding his trip to Bangkok where he attended a summit of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).

"PM @narendramodi was welcomed by President @anuradissanayake with a ceremonial reception at the Independence Square in Colombo," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X.

"Bilateral discussions to foster a partnership for a shared future & mutual prosperity of our



people, lie ahead," he said.

Officials said it was the first time a foreign leader was accorded such a welcome at the Independence Square. Modi is now holding delegation-level talks with President Dissanayake.

The two sides are expected to come out with around 10 ambitious outcomes, including a defence cooperation agreement and frameworks for deeper engagement in the energy sector.

If signed, the MoU on defence cooperation is set to signal a ma-

jor upward trajectory in India-Sri Lanka defence, leaving behind the bitter chapter relating to India pulling out the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from the island nation around 35 years ago.

The prime minister's visit to Sri Lanka comes at a time when the island nation is showing signs of recovery from the economic stress. The country was reeling under a massive economic crisis three years back and India extended financial assistance worth USD 4.5 billion.

US Shoppers Rush to Buy Before Trump Tariffs Hit

Agencies

John Gutierrez had been thinking about buying a new laptop for the past year. The Austin, Texas, resident needed a computer with faster processing and increased storage for his photography work and had his sights set on a product from a Taiwanese brand.

Then President Donald Trump announced expansive new import tariffs Wednesday, including a 32% tax on imports from Taiwan. That same day, Gutierrez ordered the laptop, with a base price of \$2,400, from a retailer in New York specializing in photo and video gear.

"I thought I'd bite the bullet, buy it now, and then that way I'll have the latest technology on my laptop and don't have to worry about the tariffs," he said.

Gutierrez was among the U.S. consumers rushing to buy big-ticket items before the tariffs take effect. Economists say the tariffs are expected to increase prices for everyday items, warning of potentially weakened U.S. economic growth.

The White House hopes the tariffs prod countries to open their economies to more American exports, leading to negotiations that could reduce tariffs, or that companies increase their production in the U.S. to avoid

higher import taxes.

Rob Blackwell and his wife needed a new car that could handle long drives from Arlington, Virginia, to their son's college. Their current electric vehicle is older with a limited range, and it will soon be used by his daughter, who is on the verge of getting her driver's license.

"I have been telling my wife that for some time we were going to need to do it," he said, "and I was watching to see what the president did with tariffs."

Blackwell wanted another EV, but said leasing made more economic sense because the technology is ever-changing. He had his eye on the new General Motors Optiq; it's an American car but made in Mexico, which could be subject to tariffs on supply chains that might increase the cost.

After hearing that tariffs would be announced, they made plans the weekend before to lease the car. He said the dealership honored the agreement they worked out before the tariffs were finalized. And although he said the salespeople were a pleasure to deal with, Blackwell sensed a shift in their stance.

"They know what we know, which is suddenly it flips from a buyer's market to a seller's market very quickly," Blackwell said, adding that he is happy with his choice.

Bookmyshow Removes Kunal Kamra From Its Artist List, Claims Sena, Comedian Responds

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Shiv Sena functionary Rahool Kanal on Saturday claimed BookMyShow has taken stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra off the sale and artists list from its platforms.

Kanal, the social media in-charge of Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, thanked BookMyShow CEO Ashish Hemrajani for keeping its portal "clean and keeping such artist out of the list of pure entertainment".

When contacted, BookMyShow team said they have no comments to offer as of now.

In response to these reports, Kamra requested that BookMyShow confirm whether he can still list his shows on their platform.

"Hello @bookmyshow can you please confirm if I have your platform to list my shows if not it's fine. I understand..." he wrote on X.

"I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of you team to take the said artist out of your sale and promotion listing, thank you for even taking him out of the book my show search history. Your belief in maintaining peace and at the same time respecting our emotions has been instrumental," Kanal stated in a letter to Hemrajani.

He said Mumbaiers love and believe in every form of art but not personal agendas.

"Your personal touch and guidance by your team were invaluable in navigating and reaching a solution.

"We deeply value your



“I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of you team to take the said artist out of your sale and promotion listing, thank you for even taking him out of the book my show search history

commitment to BookMyShow's values that align with the support, and customer experience, your vision and leadership are truly inspiring, thank you for giving us your team and getting this cleared at the earliest. Thank you," Kanal said.

Kanal was booked along with Shiv Saimiks for allegedly vandalising the studio where Kamra had performed and alluded to Shinde while making a traitor jibe, which snowballed into a major row.

Mumbai Police has issued three notices to Kamra, believed to be in Puducherry, seeking his personal appearance, but he has skipped all of them.

NEWS MAKERS

Iran President Fires Deputy Over Pricy Antarctica Trip

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday dismissed his deputy for parliamentary affairs over a costly trip to Antarctica, as the country grapples with hyperinflation amid a biting economic crisis.

A photo shared on social media in recent days showed the now former vice president, Shahram Dabiri, alongside a woman identified as his wife, posing near the Plancius cruise ship.

The Dutch-flagged vessel has offered luxury expeditions to Antarctica since 2009, with one agency pricing an eight-day trip at 3,885 euros per person.

"In a context where economic pressure on the population remains high... expensive leisure trips by officials, even if paid out of their own pocket, are neither defensible nor justifiable," the Iranian president wrote in a letter published Saturday by the official IRNA news agency, which noted that Dabiri was dismissed.

Dabiri, a 64-year-old physician by profession and a close confidant of Pezeshkian, had been appointed to the post in August.

The government faced strong criticism after



the photo was published, and several of Pezeshkian's supporters urged him to remove the official. IRNA late last month cited a source in Dabiri's office as saying that he had made the trip before he held a governmental position.

The controversy is another major blow for Pezeshkian, who was elected last year on a promise to revive the economy and improve the daily lives of his fellow citizens. In early March, his Economy Minister Abdolnasser Hemmati was dismissed by parliament amid a sharp depreciation of the national currency against the dollar and soaring inflation.

How a fake doctor, posing as British cardiologist, performed heart surgeries allegedly killing 7

The Madhya Pradesh district officials are investigating allegations of a fake doctor performing heart surgery on patients, who allegedly killed at least seven, in a private missionary hospital in Damoh.

As reports of seven deaths within a month in the hospital raised alarms in the area, it has been alleged that a person, N John Kem, took up the job in the Christian missionary hospital, impersonating a famous British doctor by the same name, claiming to be a cardiologist. He then subsequently performed heart surgeries on patients. The patients who underwent surgery died later on, officials said.

Upon further investigation, the accused's real name was re-



vealed to be Narendra Vikramaditya Yadav.

Earlier, Deepak Tiwari, an advocate and district president of the Child Welfare Committee,

claimed that while the official death toll is 7, the actual count is much higher. The advocate had filed a complaint with the Damoh District Magistrate earlier.

"Some patients, who did not die, they came to us and told us about the incident that they had taken their father to the hospital, and the guy was ready to operate, but they were a bit apprehensive, so they took their father to Jabalpur. We then got to know that there is this fake doctor working the hospital; the real guy is in Britain, and this guy's name is Narendra Yadav. There is a case against him in Hyderabad, and he has never shown his real documents," Tiwari told ANI.

Priyank Kanoongo, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, said that the missionary hospital was also receiving money from the government under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Fire Breaks Out At Hotel In Khayam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A fire broke out at Azad Hotel in Srinagar on Saturday morning, triggering panic among those present on the premises. However, swift action by firefighters ensured the blaze was brought under control without any injuries.

AM and was found to have originated in the boiler section and some adjoining sheds. Fire and emergency services rushed to the spot and quickly initiated evacuation and firefighting efforts. "All individuals inside the hotel were safely evacuated, and the fire was contained," an official said, adding that the cause of the fire is being investigated.

CoF Holds Meeting To Combat Rising Forest Fires

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A meeting focusing on forest fire prevention and management was held under the chairmanship of Conservator of Forests, (CoF) Srinagar Circle, Tawheed Ahmad Deva at Sheikhbagh Forest Complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Forest Protection Force, Kashmir, all Divisional Forest Officers of Srinagar Circle and all Deputy Directors of Forest Protection Force and Wildlife Wardens of Kashmir Region.

The primary agenda was to address the recent forest fires that have impacted various forest divisions within the Kashmir Region. The meeting conducted a thorough review of the current situation, analyzed the causes of the fires, and strategized on enhanced prevention and mitigation measures.

"The protection of our forests is paramount," stated the CoF Srinagar. He added that the department is committed to implement proactive measures to safeguard these vital ecosystems and ensure the safety of our

communities. During the meeting, it was emphasized that all forest fire control rooms across the districts are operating round the clock.

The key strategies discussed and adopted in the meeting include, Intensifying efforts to educate the public on fire safety and the importance of preventing forest fires, enhancing surveillance and monitoring to detect and respond to potential fire hazards promptly.

Besides, Fostering seamless collaboration between the Forest Department, Forest Protection Force, Wildlife Protection Department, and other relevant agencies was also stressed upon.

Further, the meeting emphasized on strict action against anyone found responsible for causing forest fire and shall be booked under relevant forest protection law.

The Forest Department reiterated their commitment to safeguarding the invaluable forest resources and called upon the public to cooperate and remain vigilant in preventing forest fires.

GCOE Kick-Starts Fit India Movement-2025

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government College of Education (IASE) M. A. Road, Srinagar Saturday kick-started the Fit India Movement (Men/Women) 2025 with an inspiring event promoting physical fitness and wellness across the campus.

The run was officially flagged-off by Director Colleges Higher Education Department (HED), Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, along with Dr. Seema Naz, Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges.

As many as 100 students of various colleges of the city participated in the event. The run commenced from the main gate of the host college, passed through M. A. Road, Dalgate and culminated at Nehru Park Srinagar.

On the occasion, participants were encouraged to engage in physical exercises and wellness discussions to enhance their understanding of holistic health.

Students from both male and female categories participated actively in the event, reflecting the institution's commitment to promoting fitness among all sections of the community.

This event was a great step towards fostering a culture of fitness and healthy living in academic institutions, with both Director Colleges Higher Education and Nodal Principal Kash-

mir Division Colleges playing pivotal roles in driving this message forward.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz said that the initiative is aligned with the goals of the Fit India Movement, aiming to encourage citizens, especially the younger generation, to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives. By focusing on both male and female participants, the event emphasizes fitness as an inclusive, essential aspect of life, breaking down gender barriers in physical wellness activities.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from both male and female students, as well as faculty and staff members, reflecting the institution's commitment to fostering a culture of health and wellness, he added.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema said that this initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the Fit India Movement, aiming to inspire individuals to prioritize their health and lead active lifestyles. GCOE's active involvement serves as a model for educational institutions, highlighting the role of academia in national health campaigns.

Dr. Seema also emphasized the importance of staying fit and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, urging participants to continue with their fitness journeys beyond the event.



HUNDREDS THROGED BADAMWARI in Old City as the arrival of spring brought the almond blossoms to life.
 KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

SKIMS MC Upgrades Patient Care Services In Advanced Centre For Mental Health

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To provide efficient patient care services SKIMS MC upgraded various facilities in the Department of Psychiatry, SKIMS Medical College.

The upgraded facilities include TMS (repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation) Machine placed in Neurostimulation Centre, the machine is meant for Non-Invasive treatment of depression and is first of its kind in entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides, the addition of DB-80 coil specifically meant for Obsessive Compulsive disorders (OCD) along with ultraflex arm, would enhance the number of treatment sessions on a particular day especially for patients with Depressive, OCD and Anxiety Disorders.

The procedure Ultra Brief Electro convulsive Therapy is now available in general operation theatre settings. It has the added advantage of choosing any strength of stimuli at a given point of time especially for the patients who are high risk and who have multiple comorbidities.

The other facilities available are tDCS (Transcranial Direct Current

Navyug Tunnel Qazigund Accident: Injured SPO Succumbs At SKIMS

Observer News Service

QAZIGUND: The death toll in the accident at the Banihal-Qazigund tunnel has risen to three after a Special Police Officer (SPO), injured in the accident, succumbed to his injuries at SKIMS Soura on Saturday.

The SPO, identified as Showkat Ahmad, a resident of Larkipora Anantnag, was critically injured when a speeding Hector vehicle (JK01AL-0707) lost control and rammed into a road divider, also hitting the officer on duty at the tunnel's right exit point.

Stimulation), MultiModal Behavioral therapy, Neurofeedback, Updated Psychological Lab for Psychological Assessments, IQ Assessment, Psycho-diagnostics, Psychological Interventions, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Motivational Enhancement Therapy & Relapse

The accident, which took place on the evening of April 2, had already claimed the lives of Zubair Ahmad Dalal, both residents of Shopian.

Three others were injured in the incident, including Irshad Ahmad Mir and Umar Bashir Najar, who were initially treated at Qazigund Hospital and later shifted to GMC Anantnag.

Officials said that SPO Showkat Ahmad was shifted to SKIMS Soura for advanced treatment, where he breathed his last after battling for three days.

Prevention and addiction Treatment Facility.

The Department of Psychiatry SKIMS MC Bemina is also providing OPD services on all working days at Room No. 9. The patients can avail all these facilities after consulting the experts in the said OPD.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
7 Shawwal
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:47
ZUHR	12:34
ASR	5:06
Magrib	6:57
ISHA	8:21

This Day In History

- 402 - Battle at Pollentia: Roman army under Stilicho beats Visigoten
- 1320 - The Scots reaffirm their independence by signing the Declaration of Arbroath
- 1327 - Italian poet Petrarch 1st sets eyes on his beloved Laura
- 1362 - Tard-Venus robber bands strike at Brignais, France
- 1385 - John, Master of the Order of Aviz, is made King John I of Portugal
- 1516 A Willaert installed as singer of cardinal Ippolito I d'Este
- 1664 - France & Saxony sign alliance
- 1672 - France declares war on Netherlands
- 1722 - Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, ends tax on men with beards
- 1859 - US recognizes Liberal government in Mexico's War of Reform
- 1869 - 1st plastic, Celluloid, patented
- 1896 - 1st modern Olympic games open in Athens Greece (3/25 OS) American, James Connolly, wins 1st Olympic gold medal in mod history
- 1905 - Germany receives invitation from Sultan of Morocco to an international conference to discuss matters relating to Morocco
- 1906 - 1st animated cartoon copyrighted
- 1912 - Electric starter 1st appeared in cars
- 1916 - German parliament approves unrestricted submarine warfare
- 1917 - US declares war on Germany, enters World War I
- 1919 - Bavaria proclaims itself a soviet republic
- 1920 - To force German evacuation of the Ruhr area, the French occupy Frankfurt, Darmstadt, and Hanau
- 1924 - 4 planes leave Seattle on 1st successful around-the-world flight
- 1924 - Italy fascists receives 65% of vote of parliament
- 1930 - 1st transcontinental glider tow completed
- 1930 - Hostess Twinkies invented by bakery executive James Dewar
- 1934 - 418 Lutheran ministers arrested in Germany
- 1936 - Tornado, kills 203 & injuring 1,800 in Gainesville Georgia
- 1938 - Teflon invented by American chemist Roy J. Plunkett at DuPont [1]
- 1939 - Great Britain & Poland sign military pact
- 1939 - US & UK agree on joint control of Canton & Enderbury Is (Pacific)
- 1941 - Beginning of operation Bestrafung - German bombers attack Belgrade (17,000 die)
- 1941 - British major general Michael Gambier-Parry captured in North Africa
- 1941 - German bombardment of Piraeus (munitions ship explodes)
- 1941 - Italian forces holding Addis Ababa surrender to British & Ethiopian forces
- 1943 - British & US armies link up in Africa during WW II
- 1943 - British offensive at Wadi Akarit, South Tunisia
- 1945 - Battle of Okinawa: Giant Japanese battleship Yamato heads to Okinawa with orders to beach herself and be destroyed defending the island
- 1945 - The Holocaust: Nazis begin evacuating prisoners from Buchenwald concentration camp
- 1945 - World War II: Dutch city of Coevorden freed from German occupation by Canadian forces
- 1955 - Yemen: failed coup by Abdullah Seif el-Islam
- 1956 - Polish communist Gomulka freed from prison
- 1957 - USSR performs nuclear test (atmospheric tests)
- 1964 - Egypt & Belgium restore diplomatic relations
- 1966 - Mihir Sen swims Palk Strait between Sri Lanka & India
- 1967 - Premier Georges Pompidou forms new French government
- 1968 - 94.5% of East German voters approve new socialist constitution
- 1968 - Gas and gunpowder explosions at sporting goods store, downtown Richmond, Indiana, kills 41 and injures more than 150
- 1972 - Egypt drops diplomatic relations with Jordan
- 1973 - America launches the Pioneer 11 (Pioneer G) probe to study Jupiter & Saturn
- 1973 - Indian troops invade Sikkim
- 1981 - Belgian government of Mark Eyskens forms
- 1981 - Yugoslav government sends troops to Kosovo
- 1982 - Largest crowd ever to see a baseball game in Minnesota 52,279
- 1984 - 11th NASA Space Shuttle Mission (41C): Challenger 5 launches

FATEHA KHAWANI

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Mohammad Afzal Sofi son of Ali Mohammad Sofi of Mehdi Abad, Lashkari Mohalla, Ishber, Nishat Foreshore Road, Srinagar** who passed away on **Friday, 4th April 2025 after a brief illness at SKIMS Soura, Srinagar.**

His congregational Fateha Khawani will be held at their ancestral graveyard at Foreshore Road, Lashkari Mohalla, Srinagar, on **Monday, 7th April 2025, at 6:30 AM.** Following this, a day-long condolence meeting will take place at their residence in Mehdi Abad, Lashkari Mohalla.

BEREAVED FAMILY
7889836160, 7006084903

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

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

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

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

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

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

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

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

9070806160

Waqf Amendment Progress or Pitfall?

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024, recently passed in Parliament, has ignited fierce debate. Supporters view it as a vital step toward transparency and tenant protection, while critics warn it could erode religious autonomy and fuel political interference. Is it a progressive reform or a dangerous pitfall for the country's secular framework?

VIEW

"A move to bring transparency"



Priyanka Saurabh

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024, recently passed in the Lok Sabha, is expected to increase transparency in the management of Waqf properties and provide relief to common citizens, especially tenants who have been living in these properties for years or are facing legal disputes related to them.

In India, Waqf properties are managed under the Waqf Act 1995. Waqf boards formed under this law were given enormous powers to control the properties under their control. However, this management has led to many controversies due to lack of transparency and arbitrary decisions. The legal powers possessed by Waqf boards have raised questions about their functioning in many places. In many cases, Waqf board officials have reportedly taken decisions such as arbitrarily leasing out properties, evicting possession, and selling properties without due process.

Thousands of tenants have been living in Waqf properties for decades. But many times, Waqf boards did not provide legal protection to old tenants but tried to evict them from the properties. In such cases, many families had to engage in legal battles, and in some cases, forced evictions were also seen. There have been complaints of large-scale corruption in the purchase, sale,

and lease of Waqf properties. Several reports suggest that Waqf properties were sold at prices much below market value or handed over to political and business stakeholders without due process.

There were many ambiguities in the current Waqf law, which led to legal disputes. There was no clear legal process to resolve cases related to Waqf properties, due to which disputes remained pending, and it took years for the aggrieved party to get justice.

Under the new amendment, old tenants will be given more legal protection so that they do not have to face forced eviction. New monitoring agencies will be created to bring transparency to the lease, sale, or transfer of Waqf properties. Apart from this, digital recording of all deals and transparent auditing will be arranged. It is proposed to create a special tribunal to settle legal disputes related to Waqf properties. This will lead to quick resolution of cases, and common citizens will not have to wander in the courts for a long time.

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a big step towards making the management of Waqf properties in India

“There have been complaints of large-scale corruption in the purchase, sale, and lease of Waqf properties. Several reports suggest that Waqf properties were sold at prices much below market value or handed over to political and business stakeholders without due process

transparent and equitable. If this law is implemented effectively, it will not only ensure the right use of Waqf properties but will also curb corruption.

The author is a Hisar-based freelance journalist.

COUNTERVIEW

"An erosion of India's secular framework"



Ranganathan Sivakumar

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed by the Lok Sabha is nothing less than an invasion of Muslim Personal Law (Sharia) and an attempt to interfere with the religious and cultural autonomy of the community. The Bill represents more than a legal amendment; it signals an erosion of India's secular framework. By diminishing minority rights and enabling majoritarian control, the Bill contradicts the constitutional principles of equality and religious freedom. Perhaps, the most contentious aspect of the bill is the change to ownership rules, and Muslim groups claim that this will put many historical dargahs and masjids at risk.

Many view the Bill as another political manoeuvre designed to weaken Muslim representation and their influence in India. Beneath the Union government's claims of 'social welfarism', 'economic upliftment', et al, lies a political strategy seemingly aimed at securing specific electoral gains.

The new Waqf amendments propose the inclusion of non-Muslims in Muslim religious institutions, which is seen as an ingress, especially when similar inclusivity is not demanded of Hindu institutions. With Hindus



Many view the Bill as another political manoeuvre designed to weaken Muslim representation and their influence in India. Beneath the Union government's claims of 'social welfarism', 'economic upliftment', et al, lies a political strategy seemingly aimed at securing specific electoral gains.

comprising nearly 80% of India's population, including a significant percentage of women, why did the NDA government not amend Hindu religious laws to include women or Muslims?

This inconsistency highlights a discriminatory approach that fosters divisive politics and risks, fragmenting India into "Hindu India" and "Muslim India."

Instead of introducing needless and controversial amendments like the Waqf Board (Amendment) Bill, the NDA government should focus its time and energy in resolving parliamentary disputes and uniting the nation. The Union government must withdraw this Bill immediately and the judiciary must fulfill its duty to uphold minority rights and integrity.

The author is a Chennai-based seasoned scribe.

New Twist in Rajouri's Toxic Puzzle

Amid the ongoing investigation, the question remains: Where did Chlorphenapyr come from in Buddal?

Pankaj Chaturvedi

The mystery surrounding the suspicious deaths of 17 people in the little-known village of Buddal in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district is becoming increasingly complex. After extensive investigations, the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, part of CSIR, has concluded that the cause of death was the toxic chemical chlorphenapyr found in the bodies of the villagers.

Before this, several top laboratories and institutions such as AIIMS were engaged in uncovering the cause of death. Among the villagers, 16 individuals fell ill but were saved from death by doctors. The doctors from PGI Chandigarh, who treated the fully recovered patients, stated that they used atropine as an antidote, which yielded a 100% success rate.

However, it is surprising that no signs of organophosphate toxicity were found in any of the sick or deceased individuals. Moreover, chlorphenapyr, the chemical implicated in the deaths, is not used anywhere in the vicinity.

It's important to understand that chlorphenapyr is a broad-spectrum pesticide used for controlling termites and crops. It is also being researched as a potential treatment for malaria. Chlorphenapyr is derived from a class of compounds produced microbially, known as halogenated pyrroles. It is a synergistic pesticide, meaning it becomes active in conjunction with an-

other chemical to kill insects.

The active metabolite of chlorphenapyr is talopyril, which disrupts ATP production in the mitochondria of insects. This leads to cell death in the insect and ultimately causes its demise. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified it as a moderately toxic pesticide, although the mortality rate among poisoned individuals is quite high.

Chlorphenapyr is highly toxic to humans, birds, fish, and aquatic invertebrates. If it affects humans, the initial symptoms include sweating, followed by high fever, rhabdomyolysis, and deterioration of neurological symptoms.

Interestingly, all these symptoms were observed in the patients from Buddal. Commercially, chlorphenapyr is used for termite control and crop protection. Its potential use in malaria vector control has also been evaluated. Laboratory studies have found chlorphenapyr effective against multi-pesticide-resistant mosquitoes.

However, when the outbreak occurred in Buddal, teams from several leading institutions, including AIIMS Delhi, rushed to the site. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh had already stated in the second week of January that a significant amount of cadmium was found in the deceased bodies, attributing the deaths to this.

On January 24, a report from PGI Chandigarh revealed that many heavy metals were found in the bodies of the sick individuals, with levels significantly exceeding normal limits. Experts sug-



gest that these heavy metals act as poisons. Subsequently, samples from the patients were also sent to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, DRDO Gwalior, and other reputable labs.

In light of this illness, all shops selling pesticides and agricultural materials in the district were sealed, and samples were collected, but neither heavy metals nor any residues of the recently identified chlorphenapyr were found. Moreover, there was no evidence of purchasing this chemical from online stores.

So, how did this poison end up here?

Buddal village is nestled in the lap of the Himalayas in the Pir Panjal range, with many water streams flowing through it. The tributary of the Chenab River, Ansi, passes through Buddal. The most likely scenario is that heavy metals entered the human body through water. Buddal and its surroundings have numerous rivers and small streams. Additionally, there are several "sar" or ponds, including Chandan, Sukh, Neel, and Handu.

A large population here relies on springs or these natural streams for water. Given that this area has deposits of coal, lime, bauxite, iron ore, and bentonite, illegal mining has been a significant issue. Thus, the presence of mining residues in waterways could potentially explain the arrival of this disaster.

There is also speculation about whether an agency or pharmaceutical company might be secretly and illegally experimenting with chlorphenapyr on malaria and mosquitoes, choosing the poor, uneducated laborers of this obscure village for their tests.

A bitter truth is that inexpensive, non-authentic pesticides manufactured abroad are being sold rampantly in remote small towns across the country. Farmers, lured by low prices and miraculous results, buy them without a second thought, often without any proof of purchase.

Like many other villages in the country, Buddal is rife with rumors and superstitions following the numerous deaths. Various teams from the central and state governments are currently working there, facing the challenge of identifying the true causes of the illness. Many people fear that chemical terrorism may have been used, possibly originating from across the border or by anti-national elements.

The author has been writing about the environment and science for the past 40 years.

Kashmir is Burning—And It's Not Just Climate Change to Blame

Technology & Traditional Practices have a role to play

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

J&K Forest Minister Javed Ahmad Rana recently told the Assembly that as many as 1,243 forest fires were reported in Jammu and Kashmir in the 2024-25 financial year, more than double than the previous fiscal year, but almost identical compared to 2022-23.

During the last few weeks there has been a sudden surge in forest fires which is unusual, especially in the month of March or April. These incidents take place in dry weather, usually in autumn or early winter, when there is no snowfall or rains in the forest areas. People involved in charcoal-making during fall were earlier blamed for causing forest fires, but this trend has changed now.

Now, the picnic-goers and local youth are alleged sparkplugs. Some deliberately cause fire for sadistic pleasure, while others torch campfires, cook and roast meat in the forest for fun. Their recklessness damages our green gold.

Most of these wildfires are ground-—consuming only grass and bushes. This was, in fact, Forest Minister's recent reply to BJP MLA from Udhampur in the Legislative Assembly.

The minister said a total of 1553 incidents of forest fire were reported, covering an area of 2774.213 hectares, in the 2022-23 financial year, but the number dropped to 607 over an area of 987.24 hectares in 2023-24.

But the intensity of fresh forest fires is likely to surpass the financial year, if necessary precautions are not taken.



It's important to note that in the current financial year till March 19, the number of forest fires was 1243, impacting an area of 3503.70 hectares. Forest fire and its mitigation has to be a top priority for the government and budgetary allocation to the Forest Department needs to be enhanced. Omar Abdullah Government's assurance in this regard is worth noted.

"Govt has already constituted a state-level monitoring committee for forest fire to review the progress of countering forest fires," Forest Minister told JK Assembly. "The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Policy of 2011 also envisages ecological restoration of forests which will have mitigating effects on climate change, while the forest department has also prepared the

state action plan on forest fire (SAPFF) for a period of 20 years."

In the current climate of conflagrations, the J&K Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA) lately issued a pre-fire alert—warning of a 'Very High Forest Fire Risk' over marked forest areas in Bandipora and Srinagar.

Between April 1 and 3, authorities advised people to take necessary precautions and report any fire incidents dialling 112. It wasn't a hoax call, as almost 3 dozen wildfires erupted in Bandipora, Srinagar, Pulwama, Anantnag and Budgam. The alert was sounded because the JKDMA apprehended that youth would start moving around forest areas for Eid picnics. Flames in Zabarwan forests proved the official fears certain, as some

reckless recreationers left behind a scorched earth.

In South Kashmir, almost 20 forest fires occurred in the past 10 days. Massive wildfires erupted in Tral due to forest dryness. This fire spread to Pinglish and other adjoining areas.

Similar incidents were reported in Dadoo Marhama, Dachnipora (Pahalgam), and Khuwripora (Aishmuqam), the green belt under Lidder Forest division Anantnag. The forest areas of Shangus, Sallar, Kullar, Budroo, Sallar, Dahwatoo, Mawoora, Grendwan, Reshkobal, Hapatnar and Pendobal were impacted in forest fires between April 1st to April 3rd.

Flames also erupted from the Pir Panjal forest division of Budgam. From Khag-Tangmarg belt to

Surasar-Nilnag-Yusmarg area, wildfires are raging thanks to rampant forest picnics. As an official response, a meeting focussing on forest fires prevention was held in the office of Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle, Tawheed Ahmad Deva on Friday. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Forest Protection Force, Kashmir, all Divisional Forest Officers of Srinagar Circle including the DFO Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam.

The key strategies discussed and adopted in the meeting: intensifying efforts to educate the public on fire safety and the importance of preventing forest fires, enhancing surveillance and monitoring to detect and respond to potential fire hazards promptly.

On the global front, a constant rise in forest fires in the last 5 years was witnessed, even in some of the world's coldest regions. This is an impact of climatic change and global warming. According to a report, wildfires have emitted around 1.76 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide in November 2021.

During my trip to Pir Panjal mountains, around Tatakoti and Doodh Ganga glaciers of Kondlan Navkan areas, I have seen layers of black carbon on the snow which is very dangerous. Black carbon is a potent air pollutant with significant implications for both climate change and public health. During wildfires, the incomplete combustion of vegetation and organic materials releases black carbon particles into the atmosphere. These fine particles absorb sunlight, contributing to atmospheric warming and al-

tering climate patterns.

Accumulation of plastic waste inside the forests is also responsible for wildfires. Some people with an aim of destroying this plastic waste burn it and cause fire. The forest authorities must ban use of plastic packed food items like chips, biscuits and other things, especially around tourist places located near forest areas. The DFO Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam Waseem Gul has already initiated Plastic Free Forest campaign with effect from April 5th 2025 which is marked as International Day of Conscience.

The officials from Raithan Forest Range and Doodh Ganga Range also organized an awareness campaign focused on promoting plastic-free forests around Doodhpathri, Yusmarg and Nilnag areas which are visited by tourists in large numbers.

The drone technology is the best way to control forest fires. Our Forest Officials work with barehands to lift off the fire by putting muck and sand on it. How can handful of such people be able to do this work, especially when we've 10 to 15 officials posted in one forest block with at least 50 to 60 sq kms wide?

Not only through technological intervention, the forest fires can be curbed through indigenous knowledge systems and practices as well. Local religious scholars, village elders and school teachers can play a great role.

— Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Academic Fellow. He is Founder / Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement.

Kashmir Needs Queue-Free Healthcare

A healthcare system that is accessible, efficient, and compassionate is not just a service—it's a reflection of responsible governance.

Syed Mudasir Mushtaq

Government hospitals are the backbone of public healthcare, catering to a vast population, often from economically weaker sections. However, one of the major challenges that continues to hinder efficient healthcare delivery is the long and exhausting queues at registration counters, sample collection centers, laboratories, and billing counters.

It's evident that there's a significantly higher patient-load in government hospitals compared to private ones. Yet, every patient—especially from poor and middle-class backgrounds—depends on these hospitals for affordable treatment.

Therefore, the health sector urgently needs to be upgraded by involving more staff to manage the rush and ensure smoother, queue-free service. It's doubtless that countless patients approach government hospitals every day for their treatment. To control this huge patient burden, there's a clear need for more manpower to manage the crowd systematically and provide timely medical care.

To strengthen the workforce without heavy financial burden, the government may consider engaging support staff on a minimum honorarium basis. Even with minimal expenditure, this can go a long way in controlling the rush and building a queue-less, well-managed hospital environment. Recruiting adequate numbers of medical and paramedical staff, along with administrative personnel, will not only reduce the long lines but also ensure patients receive timely and dignified care. Staff members should be specifically assigned to guide patients through the hospital, so they do not have to roam from one room to another in search of doctors, laboratories, or treatment areas. Proper staff planning and efficient duty allocation can greatly help reduce chaos and confusion inside the hospitals.

In contrast, private hospitals have adopted efficient systems that minimize waiting time. Their processes for registration, sample collection, billing, and report delivery are streamlined and patient-centric. This not only provides faster service but also preserves the dignity and comfort of the patient.

Unfortunately, in government emergency wards, the overwhelming rush is often handled by a limited number of doctors,



mostly junior or inexperienced. They are required to attend to hundreds of patients daily, leading to exhaustion and sometimes frustration. This heavy workload compromises the quality of care, and in some cases, leads to mistakes like mislabeling samples or exchanging test reports—errors that can prove dangerous for patients.

To prevent such issues, the responsibility of moving patients for tests or check-ups should not fall on their attendants. Instead, hospital staff should be assigned to carry out these tasks, allowing both patients and attendants to remain stress-free during their time in the hospital. After all, hospitals exist for the people, and the people must also support improvements for a better, queue-free experience.

While the government already invests in infrastructure and treatment quality, the impact is undermined if there aren't enough personnel managing the system. Cleanliness and hygiene in hospitals

should also be top priorities, along with improving sanitation facilities. Modern technology should be integrated into outpatient departments (OPDs). Facilities such as telephonic consultation bookings, scheduled appointment times, and digital calling systems can greatly reduce overcrowding and waiting periods.

Ultimately, government hospitals must aim to become as efficient and patient-friendly as private institutions. Making hospitals hygienic, organized, and free from unnecessary queues must be treated as a priority of the government in the interest of the general public.

A healthcare system that is accessible, efficient, and compassionate is not just a service—it's a reflection of responsible governance.

— The author holds Masters in Public Administration and hails from Nazneenpora Shopian.



An Interdisciplinary Intellectual

Over time, Prof. Gulrez's influence expanded beyond borders, and he achieved international fame, earning admiration and respect from people across the globe.

Dr. Suhaib Ahmad Khan

Many scholars are specialists, while the most impactful ones often have a combination of skills, qualities, and insights that allow them to thrive in multiple spheres, shaping not only their fields but also the broader cultural, ethical, and intellectual landscape. One such personality is Prof. Mohammad Gulrez.

As a peace-advocate and an ace academician, Prof. Gulrez's intellectual breadth extends far beyond the confines of a single discipline, as he seamlessly integrates knowledge from various fields to offer a more holistic understanding of complex issues.

His expertise spans across diverse domains, including Political Science, Sociology, and Education, which allows him to approach topics from multiple perspectives. Additionally, he skillfully combines technical areas such as International Relations and Global Governance, bridging the gap between theoretical frameworks and practical applications. This interdisciplinary approach not only enriches his research and teaching but also fosters a deeper understanding of global challenges, making him a versatile and influential scholar.

Like many academic personalities who stand out, Prof. Gulrez possesses the ability to think outside the box and approaches problems in innovative ways. He tackles complex issues not only through traditional methods but also by employing creative and unconventional approaches.

Prof. Gulrez is not only a distinguished researcher but also an exceptionally effective educator, known for his remarkable ability to convey complex concepts with clarity and ease. His teaching style is engaging and accessible, ensuring that students from various backgrounds can grasp intricate ideas without feeling overwhelmed. By breaking down challenging topics into un-

derstandable components, he fosters an environment where curiosity thrives and learning becomes a transformative experience. This unique ability to inspire and empower his students has earned him widespread respect, not only as a mentor who guides them on their academic journeys but also as a subject matter expert who continues to make significant contributions to his field.

In addition to his impressive academic achievements, Prof. Gulrez plays a pivotal role in leadership within the academic community. He takes on key leadership responsibilities, guiding teams, research groups, and academic institutions towards meaningful progress and innovation.

Through his guidance, Prof. Gulrez shapes the next generation of thinkers, researchers, and leaders, ensuring that his legacy continues to inspire and influence the future of academia.

The professor enriches his work with a profound philosophical and ethical perspective, recognizing that the impact of his research extends far beyond the confines of his specific field. He thoughtfully examines the broader societal, political, and moral implications of his findings, engaging with questions that address the human condition and the ethical dimensions of contemporary issues.

Prof. Gulrez is also known for his international influence, contributing ideas and research that cross geographical, cultural, and political boundaries. He collaborates with global institutions, shaping conversations and research trends around the world.

Over time, Prof. Gulrez's influence expanded beyond borders, and he achieved international fame, earning admiration and respect from people across the globe. His ability to inspire and leave a lasting impact is a testament to his exceptional abilities and enduring legacy.

The writer is Associate Editor at Nageebul Hind, a leading multilingual journal.

China Hits Back With 34% Tariffs, Canada Imposes Levy On US Cars

Taiwan plans \$2.7 bn help for firms | Beijing played it wrong: Trump

Agencies

Beijing- China on Friday slapped a 34 per cent additional tariff on imports from the US in a tit-for-tat response to President Donald Trump's move to impose a similar levy on Chinese goods. Beijing also announced export controls on certain rare earth metals, aiming to hit American defence, computer, and smartphone industries.

Canada too announced a 25 per cent tariff on all US vehicle imports that did not comply with the free trade agreement. The revenue generated from these tariffs would be directed toward supporting the country's auto workers and the industry.

Taiwan, another nation hit by US tariffs, said it would offer \$2.67 billion worth of financial help to companies and industries to deal with the impact. Taiwan faces a 32% duty on its products.

Criticising Beijing's move, Trump in a social media post said: "China played it wrong, they panicked — the one things they cannot afford to do." "My policies will never change. This is a great time to get rich," he added. China's Customs Tariff Commis-



sion of the State Council said their tariffs on all products imported from the US would be imposed from April 10. Trump announced 34 per cent tariffs on Chinese imports on Wednesday, unveiling them as part of a sweeping "Liberation Day" package aimed at reshaping American trade policy.

Beijing reacted by filing a lawsuit with the World Trade Organisation against the US' "reciprocal tariffs". "By imposing the so-called 'reciprocal tariffs', the US gravely violated WTO

rules, seriously undermined the legitimate rights and interests of WTO members, and seriously damaged the rules-based multilateral trading system and the international economic and trade order," a spokesperson for the Commerce Ministry said.

The new tariffs on Chinese imports reflect a 10 per cent universal baseline plus 24 per cent specific to the country. The 10 per cent will come into effect on April 5 while the higher reciprocal tariffs will take effect on April 9.

US Soybeans, Energy: Who Is Hit By China's Tariff Retaliation?

New York- US agricultural exports, fuels and manufactured goods are set to take a hit from China's blanket retaliation against President Donald Trump's sharp tariffs, with both sets of measures due to take effect next week.

After Trump announced a 34-per cent new tariff on imports of Chinese goods — taking the added rate imposed this year to 54 percent — Beijing said it would slap an equivalent across-the-board tariff on US goods, among other countermeasures.

China used to target specific industries in a "mirror response" to US export restrictions, said Emily Benson of consulting firm Minerva Technology Policy Advisors.

But its broader plan unveiled Friday marks a "pretty significant warning shot" to the Trump administration to hold off further measures, she told AFP.

With Right Infra, India Can Lead Global Textile Market Once Again: Rahul

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday that with the right infrastructure and dignity for every hand in the textile value chain, India has the potential to lead the global textile market once again.

The Congress leader said India's textile legacy is unmatched, but the majority of cotton seeds and technology here depends on foreign companies and the country's farmers and workers in the industry remain underpaid.

Gandhi also visited a local store selling cotton fabrics to understand the value chain.

"India's textile legacy is unmatched — every 100 km, a new art form and a new story. But today, the majority of our cotton seeds and farming technology depend on foreign companies, our farmers remain underpaid, and our supply chains are deeply fragmented," he said in a post on X.

Gandhi said he recently met with the family that runs H P Singh fabrics in Delhi to understand the supply chain

that takes a simple cotton bud and weaves it into beautiful fabrics.

"It is their strong belief that India — which is about 10x behind China in textile exports — can once again become a global textile hub if the government supports the right measures. Such as, investing in indigenous cotton, building integrated textile zones, and establishing India-led global certification systems," he noted.

"With the right infrastructure and dignity for every hand in the value chain, India will capture the textile market once again," the Congress leader asserted.

He also attached to his post a six-minute video of his visit to the store and his conversation with the owners.

From Andhra Pradesh's Kalamkari and Ikkat to Gujarat's Ajrak, Rajasthan's Bagru, Bengal's Jamdani and the once world-renowned Indian chintz — every 100 km in India reveal a new textile tradition, a new art form and a new story. But behind the beauty lies a deeper challenge, Gandhi said in a post on his YouTube channel.

'Indian Exporters Better Placed To Deal With US Tariffs Than Competitor Nations'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Indian exporters are better positioned to deal with the additional US tariffs as compared to their competitors, who are facing much higher



import duties in America, sources said on Saturday.

They added that sectors that could get impacted like shrimp need to explore new markets such as the European Union to push their shipments.

"India has emerged as a winner in the reciprocal

tariffs imposed by the US," sources said, adding that India has the first mover advantage as it is negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with America.

While the US has imposed an additional 26 per cent import duty on India, its competitor Vietnam is facing 46 per cent tariff, China 34 per cent, and Indonesia 32 per cent, and Thailand 36 per cent.

The sources also said the commerce ministry is reaching out to domestic exporters regarding these tariffs. Work is progressing to prepare the export promotion mission for extending support measures to exporters.

They also said India has protected its dairy sector in all the free trade agreements and it will continue to do so.

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Inviting of Online Application Forms for admission to the GNM & ANM Courses-2025 and Conduct of Common Entrance Test, thereof.

Notification No. 033-BOPEE of 2025
Dated 03-04-2025

Online Applications are invited from the eligible/desirous candidates who intend to appear in the Common Entrance Test for admission to GNM & ANM Courses for the Academic Session-2025 in the Government / Private Colleges / Institutions of the UT of J&K.

The selection of the candidates to such courses shall be regulated by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations Act, 2002 and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder; Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, J&K Reservation Rules, 2005 as amended vide S.O. 69 dated 28-02-2020, S.O. 249 dated 23-07-2021, S.O. 277 dated 13-08-2021 and S.O. 176 dated 15-03-2024 read with S.O. 305 dated 21-05-2024 and subject to further amendments, if any, made by the Competent Authority, from time to time read with the guidelines as contained in the Electronic Information Brochure, 2025.

Important Information:

1. Receipt of Online Application Forms w.e.f. 05-04-2025.
2. Last date for filling the Online Application Forms: 18-04-2025 (Midnight).
3. A fee of Rs.1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only) is to be paid online through National Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking.
4. The e-Information Brochure can be downloaded from the BOPEE website, viz: www.jkbopee.gov.in
5. The syllabus for the Examination/Test is available in the e-information Brochure.
6. Date of Common Entrance Test: 18-05-2024 (Tentatively).
7. The candidates, in their interests, are advised to go through the e-Information Brochure before filling in the Online Application Form. The Board shall not be responsible for any act of omission or commission in filling up of the Online Application Form by the candidate(s). It is incumbent upon the candidates to go through the contents contained in the e-Information Brochure and agree to the conditions contained therein.
8. The candidates are further advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website, www.jkbopee.gov.in. The Board does not undertake any responsibility for any delay caused in publication of Notices/ Notifications in the Print Media (Newspapers) as delay, if any, in such publication(s) is not within the control of the Board, notwithstanding that the Board notifies the same on its official website and forward the same for publication in the newspapers simultaneously on the date of issue of the said Notifications/Notices etc.
9. The Common Entrance Test to be conducted by the Board shall be Offline.

Online Application forms:

The procedure for filling out the online Application Form and the eligibility criteria for candidates are detailed in the e-information Brochure.

Help Desk:

The applicants can also contact the Help Desk of the BOPEE during office hours on working days only on Phone Nos. 0194-2437647 / 0194-2433590 / 0191-2470102/0191-2479371 and or e-mail: at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com for any assistance/guidance in this regard.

Submission of Online Application Forms:

The interested candidates are required to upload the following scanned Original / self-Attested Certificates in the PDF format with size from 100-200 KB along with the Application Form: -

- (i) Domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh as the case may be (For Candidates of UT of Ladakh, the ST certificate issued by the Competent Authority of Ladakh shall be treated as a Domicile Certificate).
- (ii) Qualifying marks (12th Class) certificate (where the result is declared).
- (iii) Date of Birth Certificate (only Matriculation Certificate issued by the Board).
- (iv) Valid Reserved Category Certificate, if any.
- (v) Any other documents, as required

However, it is for the information of all the concerned that afore-titled documents, as required for submission of the online application form, shall be considered provisional and subject to change(s), if any, as may be notified by the Competent Authority.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION To:

A. GNM Course:

A candidate must:

Syllabus etc.:

The syllabus for the examination, the tentative number of seats, the Reservation Policy, etc. is given in the e-information Brochure. The examination shall be conducted in one sitting of two hours duration, and the paper shall contain 120 questions comprising different sections.

Note - I

The eligibility is bare minimum/provisional and shall be subject to such changes/benchmarks as may be fixed by the Authority / University concerned. The Board shall, on receipt of any such communication from the Authority/University concerned, notify the same, which shall govern the eligibility criteria.

Original Documents required to be submitted in the Institution at the time of Admission: -

- a) Marks certificate of the qualifying examinations (12th class marks certificate);
- b) Date of birth (Matriculation / Secondary School Certificate only) from a recognized Board.
- c) Domicile Certificate for candidates belonging to UT of J&K and ST certificate as a Domicile for candidates belonging to UT of Ladakh;
- d) Category Certificate, if any;
- e) Any other document may be required by the Institution.

Venue for Conduct of Examination:

The Common Entrance Examination, if any, shall be conducted offline at Jammu / Srinagar Centres simultaneously as may be decided by the Board.

Issuance of Admit Cards and Date of Test (if test is conducted):

Information with regards to the availability of Online Admit Cards, Venue and date of the Common Entrance Test will be issued separately in due course of time.

Note-II

1. The sports category candidates have to indicate their sports category on the Application Form. They are also required to submit their Sports Certificate(s) in the office of the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, to determine their sports points, which shall later be officially forwarded by the Council to the BOPEE. The BOPEE, however, shall not be responsible for the non-inclusion of any candidate in the list forwarded by the Sports Council or delay on their part for submission of sports points to the BOPEE.
2. The candidates having more than one reserved category certificate can get benefit of only one category indicated and uploaded along with the Application Form, which in no case shall be

Page 4 of 6

the last date of registration for counselling, the candidature of such candidates if selected, shall and shall be deemed to have been cancelled abinitio.

3. The CDP category candidates are advised to write their priority (01-08) in the online Application form issued by the competent authority.
4. The submission of online Application Form is purely provisional and is liable to be cancelled at any stage subject to the final verification of the documents and even at any stage, where such a document is proved to be fake/false.
5. In case the Board shall not conduct the entrance test, then the selection of the eligible candidates shall be made based on the percentage of the marks obtained in the qualifying examination, i.e. 12th Class.
6. Mere submission of the Application Form and appearance of the aspiring candidate in the Common Entrance Test shall not confer any preferential right/claim for admission upon the intending applicants but shall be subject to the fulfillment of the eligibility criteria and the qualification prescribed for the said course.
7. The seats shall be provisionally allotted to the candidates purely based on the online information filled by the candidates (including category) during the online application form. In case the candidates have filled /uploaded wrong category during online application form, the seat shall be allotted accordingly & the Board shall not be responsible for the same.

DIPK-NB-74/25
DATED: 05-04-2025

sd/-
(Prof. Gurvinder Raj Verma)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No. BOPEE-Exam/20/2025(7667912)

Dated 03-04-2025

Public Notice..
I Ghulam Mohammad Rather want to change my daughter's name in her aadhar card bearing no 7489 0995 1615 from Azra Jan (old name) to Ayesha Jan (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Ghulam Mohammad Rather
F/o :- Ayesha Jan
R/O :- Noorbagh palapora Srinagar
jvd

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
The registrar birth BDO Singapora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Danish Hussain Dar S/o Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o Hanjiwera Payeen with verified date of birth 05/06/2009 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
The registrar birth BDO Singapora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zeenat Zahid D/o Zahid Ahmad Waza R/o Trikolbal Hanjiwera with verified date of birth 18/01/2018 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hamdan Bashir Ganie D.o.B 10/02/2024, ish-rat Bashir D.o.B 28/04/2022, Afreena Bashir D.o.B 30/04/2020 S/d/o Bashir Ahmad Ganie R/o Yalloccurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
SD
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

94 Blazes Reported

around Rajwalta, Kalakote, Samba, Kathua, and Lakhapur. "For help, people can dial the emergency number 112," reads the alert.

As fire risks escalate, authorities have urged the public to strictly follow safety guidelines to prevent further outbreaks.

Authorities have also advised keeping emergency contacts of forest and fire services handy, and to report any signs of unattended fires immediately.

If evacuation becomes necessary, residents are advised to untie livestock, remove flammable materials from yards, and avoid trying to outrun a blaze. In case of emergency, seeking refuge in a pond or river is suggested. If no water is nearby, lying in a low area with wet clothing or soil may offer temporary protection from flames and smoke. (inputs from KNO)

J&K Govt's

so-called Cabinet Committee was nothing but a facade to mislead the public," Para posted on X. "Now, they're seeking to dismiss the writ petition as baseless — another blatant attempt to sabotage the future of meritorious students in J&K."

Echoing similar concerns, Peoples Conference chief and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone questioned the government's sincerity. "Nowhere has the government mentioned the formation of a sub-committee on reservations. This is a legal mystery. Seems the government is not taking its own committee seriously enough to merit a mention in its legal affidavit," he said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, Minister Sakina Itoo said the Cabinet sub-committee would meet with various delegations on Sunday to discuss the concerns and collect inputs. "The meeting will focus on addressing key issues and gathering feedback on reservation-related matters," she posted on X.

No One Has Perpetual

important to note that no particular section of the society has indefeasible, inalienable and absolute right to reservation in perpetuity," the affidavit says, adding, "It is the Government which has to maintain equilibrium in the society and has to see that all such section of the society that needs special measures for their advancement and progress are provided so and also the duration to continue the same, thus empowering and enabling them to contribute in Nation building." Accordingly, as per the constitutional mandate, the affidavit said, underlining that the "appropriate Government is entitled to include or exclude any particular section to be dealt with under the provision of the reservation and to make the country a 'Socialist' one in its true spirit."

The government said that the plea challenging the reservation policy was

"enthused" with an ambition of intervention in the "separation of powers" so much so that the petitioners want to control the legislative powers of the Government by misusing the power of "judicial review."

Referring to judgment by the Supreme Court on the subject—Indra Sawhney— the government said that it has been held that whether a backward class is inadequately represented or not is purely a matter of subjective satisfaction of the State.

"It has been held that not only should a class be a backward class for meriting reservations, should also be inadequately represented in the services under the State," the government said, adding, "The language of clause (4) makes it clear that the question whether a backward class of citizens is not adequately represented in the services under the State is a matter within the subjective satisfaction of the State. This is evident from the fact that the said requirement is preceded by the words "in the opinion of the State".

This opinion can be formed by the State on its own, i.e., on the basis of the material it has in its possession already or it may gather such material through a Commission/Committee, person or authority, it said. "All that is required is, there must be some material upon which the opinion is formed."

The government also underscored that the writ petitioners before the Court have not challenged the reservations up to 50% and have only challenged the enhancement of reservation.

"As per Article 16(4), the State may make reservations for backward classes only if they are inadequately represented," it said, adding, "By not challenging the reservation granted to these communities within the upper limit of 50%, the Petitioner affirmed that these classes are inadequately represented." Hence, the government said, subject to the fulfillment of the social test for the breach of the 50% ceiling, it is for the State to decide the requisite reservation to cure the inadequate representation of these classes. "Test for Breaching the 50% Ceiling is Not a 'Geographical Test' but a 'Social Test'," it said, adding, "That the petitioners have failed to appreciate that the 50% ceiling is not an inviolable rule and may be breached in exceptional circumstances as held in ...Indra Sawhney (judgment)."

The petitioners, the government said, have failed to appreciate that the impugned rules envisage 'adequate representation' and not 'proportionate representation'.

"That adequate representation cannot be read as Proportionate Representation but can be applied as such the petitioners have further failed to appreciate that the norm under Article 16(4) is of adequate

representation and not proportionate representation."

Ultimately, the government said, the Constitution of India is the ultimate authority for it to take such initiative to achieve the objective and ideology of the 'Republic' in making it a 'Welfare State and distributing the resources of the Country so as to sub serve the common good."

"In doing so, if the scope of the reservation is widened, there is no reason for the individuals having enjoyed the benefits of reservations for decades, to challenge the decision of the Government, especially when none of the rights have been taken away or curtailed," it underlined, adding, "As such, the writ petition failed the test of having any legality, entailing the same to be dismissed with cost."

Fresh Affidavit

highlighted by several sections of the aspirants against the existing reservation rules in government jobs.

Itoo said the cabinet sub-committee is meeting youth representatives and examining the issue.

"The seriousness of the government can be gauged from the fact that the committee has been given a six-month deadline. Every day, the committee explains to the chief minister how many representatives it met and what developments took place," she said.

Itoo said the government is sympathetic towards the issue and wants it to be settled.

"We want everyone to get his due share and that no injustice is done to anyone. The committee is working seriously. I have kept a meeting for tomorrow at the SKICC where the sub-committee will meet representatives," she added.

On the affidavit submitted by the social welfare department in the high court that has termed the petition challenging the reservation policy "mischievous and frivolous", the minister said it was "vaguely" prepared.

"Unfortunately, some politicians find opportunities to criticise the government. Had the government not been committed, why would it have formed a committee and given it a deadline of six months?"

"If the government needs to submit a fresh affidavit in the court, in which it needs to be written that the wrongs committed will be set right, it will do it and not hesitate," she said.

Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir slammed the National Conference (NC) government on Saturday for defending the reservation policy, which provides a 70-per cent quota to various groups, in the high court.

Itoo said the committee will submit its report within the six-month deadline and then the report will be implemented.

"I want to tell youngsters that these people want to use them for politics and befool them. I would ask these people to wait patiently for six months. If you do not have patience, visit a doctor, a psychiatrist and take some medicines," she said, without naming anyone.

Meanwhile, the ruling NC has distanced itself from the affidavit.

"We do not support the affidavit. It has been submitted in a distorted way, without taking into consideration the ground realities," NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said.

He said the cabinet sub-committee was constituted to listen to the opinions of each and every side.

"The sub-committee will submit its report. We would request people not to go by such kind of diversions," he said.

Dar said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah formed the sub-committee to address the insecurities shared by a number of individuals and its report will be implemented once it is placed before the council of ministers.

Amit Shah On J&K

meetings and also a meeting of BJP leaders.

"The Home Minister is likely to chair a Unified Headquarters meeting, to evaluate counter-terrorism operations, border security, and infiltration challenges," sources said.

The security review meetings will be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, top officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Army, paramilitary forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police, intelligence agencies, and senior civil administration officers.

A key focus will be on strengthening strategies to ensure "zero infiltration" along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB), a directive Shah has consistently emphasized in past reviews. "The Home Minister has been regularly reviewing the operations in J&K and has directed that the aim should be that of 'zero infiltration' at the Line of Control and International Border, while dismantling the network of overground workers who support infiltrated terrorists and the narco-network which funds their acts," said an official.

Shah's itinerary includes a tour of forward areas along the International Border in Jammu to assess security arrangements firsthand and boost the morale of troops stationed there.

He is also expected to meet the families of police martyrs, paying tribute to their sacrifices amid recent encounters, such as the Kathua operation where four police personnel lost their lives combating infiltrating terrorists.

In addition to security-focused engagements, the Home Minister will virtually inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several major development

projects across the Union Territory.

He will also meet with BJP MLAs and senior party leaders on April 6 to discuss the ongoing Assembly Budget Session, resuming on April 7 after a 12-day break, and review the party's performance and the political situation in J&K, sources added.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, is expected to join these discussions.

According to the sources on April 7, Shah will remain in Jammu till afternoon before proceeding to Srinagar, where he will stay overnight and chair additional meetings. He is scheduled to return to New Delhi on April 8.

The visit comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anticipated trip to J&K on April 19 to flag off the first train to Kashmir from Katra, underscoring the need for heightened security measures to protect critical infrastructure.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Jammu and Kashmir administration have assured robust arrangements to facilitate this high-profile visit, with a multi-tier security cover in place across Jammu and Srinagar. "We are determined to root out terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir," Shah has reiterated during previous review meetings. (KNO)

Security Tightened

Union Territory ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, starting April 6 tomorrow.

Shah is scheduled to arrive in Jammu Sunday afternoon, a day earlier than previously planned.

Official sources said that security has been intensified along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and other sensitive zones across the Union Territory ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, beginning April 6.

Additional checkpoints, increased patrolling, and aerial surveillance have been deployed to ensure foolproof arrangements amid heightened alert, especially in the wake of the recent terror encounter in Kathua.

The Home Minister is scheduled to chair two high-level security meetings,

review Amarnath Yatra preparations, and virtually inaugurate key development projects.

LG Greets People

inspire us to follow his ideals and life values," he added.

The lieutenant governor prayed to Lord Ram to shower his blessings on one and all for years to come.

Meanwhile, a grand "Shobha Yatra" was taken out by J&K Dharmarth Trust on the eve of the Ram Navami festival from the historic Shri Raghunathji Temple here.

Thousands of devotees, including prominent citizens, politicians and heads of various social and religious organizations, participated in the grand Shobha Yatra, which was conducted in collaboration with Sanatan Dharam Sabha and Dharmik Yuvak Mandal, a spokesperson of the trust said.

He said the yatra commenced from the historic Shri Raghunathji Temple and passed through the main city markets, including Residency Road, Rajinder Bazaar, Kanak Mandi, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazaar, Chowk Chabutra, Pacca Danga, Moti Bazaar, Gita Bhawan, Ranbireswar Temple, City Chowk, Raghunath Bazaar and finally culminated back at Shri Raghunathji Temple.

He said the trustees of Dharmarth Trust -- former minister Ajatshatru Singh and Ranvijay Singh --along with the trust's president P S Pathania and secretary Ashok Kumar Sharma presided over the "Murti Poojan" ceremony at the temple.

This was followed by Rath Poojan and Dhawajrohan ceremonies, invoking divine blessings for the prosperity and well-being of all, the spokesperson said.

Ajatshatru Singh, the grandson of last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh, greeted people on the auspicious occasion.

"Such religious events not only preserve our age-old heritage but also inspire the younger generation to stay connected with their roots," he said.

Singh said the Dharmarth Trust remains committed to promoting cultural and spiritual values across the Union Territory.

Public Notice

This is for the information to general public that my name has been mentioned wrongly as Rukayia Feroz instead of Rukayia Akhter wife of Feroz Ahmad Pal resident of Palpora Pulwama in my Adhaar card. Now the same is needed to be corrected and anyone having any objection, same may be registered with the authorities concerned within seven days. No objection shall be entertained thereafter

From

Rukayia Akhter
W/O Feroz Ahmad Pal
R/O Palpora Pulwama



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