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Keep windows and vents

closed to block embers.

Extinguish all flames after

any outdoor activity.

x Avoid smoking near dry vegetation or forests.

Don't enter the forest

during an active fire.

follow evacuation

instructions calmly.

Refrain from panicking-

The Jammu and Kashmir isaster 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

Move livestock and

valuables to safer

locations.

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

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.

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

Observer News Service

Tactics

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.

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 subcommittee, 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 P1

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

ecurity 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



RESERVATION WILL BE meeting with some delegations at SKICC today'

Fresh Affidavit May Be Filed: Itoo



'8 years warranty applicable on shade fading and film integrity. Please refer to Asian Paints Apex Ultima warranty guidelines on www.asianpaints.com

acing 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

THE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE ON



Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Sunday | 06-04-2025

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: The Cadence Scholarship Program 2025-26

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

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

- Prizes & Rewards: Financial support for covering key educational expenses.
- Last Date to Apply: 30-04-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/

QR Code: https://d2w7l1p59qkl0r. cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/2025-261742806712.png

Scholarship Name 2: The Doon School Scholarship Examination (DSSE) 2025

Description: The Doon School Scholarship



Examination (DSSE) is an annual entrance exam conducted by the Doon School, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The scholarship exam is open to male students entering Class 7 or 8, whose families may find it difficult to pay the school fees.

This is open to Indian Eligibility: male students. Applicants must be between 11 to 13 years old as of 30th September 2025. Students must be promoted to Class 7 or 8 in the upcoming academic year.

Prizes & Rewards: An opportunity to pursue studies at the Doon School

with financial assistance in the form of scholarship.

- Last Date to Apply: 15-04-2025 Application mode: Online and offline via email at admissions@doonschool.
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/ DSSE2

https://d2w7l1p59qkl0r. cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/ the-doon-school-scholarship-examinationdsse-20251739534341.png

Scholarship Name 3: Flipkart

Description: Flipkart Group is committed to strengthening the retail sector including the Kirana Stores which form a significant part. As part of our endeavour, the Flipkart Foundation is supporting a scholarship for children of Kirana Store Owners to make them future-ready. This scholarship is dedicated to empowering children of Kirana Store Owners enrolled in professional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering,

Eligibility: Applicants must be currently studying in the 1st year of professional undergraduate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) courses at government colleges in India. One parent must be a Kirana Store Owner

Applicants must have scored at least 60% in their Class 12 exams.

- Prizes & Rewards: Fixed scholarship of INR 50,000
- Last Date to Apply: 16-04-2025 Application mode:
- plications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/FLIP1

cloudfront.net/static/images/schomedia/flipkart-foundation-scholarship-2024-251741170736.png

Foundation Scholarship 2024-25

Math) undergraduate programs

The annual family income should not exceed INR 5 lakh from all sources.

QR Code: https://d2w7l1p59qkl0r.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Date of commencement of submission of online applications

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hurrain gulzar D/o Gulzar Ahmad war R/o Nowlari pattan with verified date of birth 12/06/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

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 Iqra Zehra D/o Mohammad Yousuf Bhat R/o Gund Ibrahim pattan with verified date of birth 24/12/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

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 Imaad Aashiq Dar R/o Aashiq Hussain Dar R/o Haigam khoie with verified date of birth 01/10/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that my father's name, as mentioned on my graduation transcript from Cluster University Srinagar, has been printed incorrectly. The name is recorded as SHEIKH TAWFIQ AHMAD, whereas the correct name, as per my Class 10th records and certificates, is SHEIKH TAWFIQ AHMED. My name is AFNAN TAWFIQ, and I graduated with a BA degree from Govt. College for Women M.A. Road, Srinagar in the year

This public notice is being issued to correct the discrepancy for all legal and official purposes. Any objections to the correction can be submitted within 7 days to Cluster University Srinagar.

Name: AFNAN TAWFIQ D/O: SHEIKH TAWFIQ AHMED University Registration No: CUS-19-GWC-10765 R/O: Bagh-i-Mehtab, Srinagar

info



EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Online applications from the domiciles of UT of Jammu & Kashmir are invited from the eligible candidates for the position of Junior Technical Assistant (Solar Technology) purely on contractual basis initially for a period of six months. The detailed employment notice is available on the University website **www.iust.ac.in**.

No: IUST/Reg/Adm/ADV/E/25/72 Dated: 04-04-2025

Sd/-Registrar

DIPK-NB-65/25 dated; 05-04-2025

Government Medical College. Srinagar. ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Last date of submission of online applications

= 07.04.2025 from 10.00 AM =13.04.2025 upto 04.00 PM

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for engagement against the below mentioned position on contract basis in the Multi-Disciplinary Research Unit (MRU) funded by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, in Government Medical College, Srinagar in accordance with the provisions/guidelines of the scheme for a period upto 31st March, 2026 or till continuation of the scheme/availability of funds whichever is earlier.

S. No.	Name of the position	Qualification/Experience	Age as on 01.01.2025	No. of positions
01	Laboratory Technician	Ovariory Technician Qualification:- 10+2 with science or above qualification. Minimum Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technician Course or having degree in Medical Laboratory Technology course from any recognized institution/State Medical Faculty/JK Paramedical Council. Experience: - One Year certified research/Laboratory work experience.	Not below 18 years and above 40 years.	(01)

The contractual engagement is not being made against any substantive post and as such won't confer any right upon the hired person for regular/permanent appointment. The contractual engagee shall have to furnish an affidavit duly attested by the 1st lass Judicial Magistrate to the effect that he/she will not claim for regular appointment at any time in the future date on the strengtl of this contractual engagement.

02. The selected candidate shall have to execute an agreement that he/she will not leave the Department before the completion of contract. However, abandonment of the engagement under the scheme will require one month's prior notice from the engagee/incumbent; failing which the remuneration shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with the Department and shall be released on completion of sanctioned term.

03. The selected candidate must work as per the job assigned under the above referred project. 04. If a contractual engagee at any point of time willfully neglects or refuses to perform the assigned duties, his/her engagement shall be terminated forthwith without any notice, and he/she shall not be entitled to any salary for such a

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES: -

Candidates are advised to go through the instructions and all the eligibility conditions prescribed for the post before filling in the online application form.

Link for filling up online application form for the above position shall be available on the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar i.e. https://www.gmcs.ac.in w.e.f. 07.04.2025 from 10:00AM onwards to 13.04.2025 upto 4.00 PM. No other means/mode of application shall be accepted.

Candidates are required to sign up before filling in the application form. After logging into an account, candidates are required to fill in all the requisite fields of One Time Registration

(ÓTR) i.e. personal information, contact information & educational Qualifications and uploading documents etc. e) Candidates are required to upload scanned copies of the following original certificates. The size of Certificate must be less than or equal to 1024KB in PDF format only:-

Date of Birth Certificate Domicile certificate

Qualification certificate (10+2 with science)

iv. Diploma/ Degree certificate.

The candidate shall also be required to upload images of recent photograph, signature and thumb impression. Size of photograph (passport size) and signature/Thumb must be less than or equal to 700KB in *ipeg or *ipg only. g) The candidate must write his/her name, parentage and date of birth strictly as per the matriculation certificate.

Candidates are advised in their own interest to submit online applications much before the closing date and not to wait till the last date to avoid the possibility of disconnection/ inability or failure to login to the online application portal on account of heavy load on the website during the closing days. Applicants are advised to fill in all the fields of the online application form with due diligence and after care-

fully reading the terms and conditions given in the advertisement notification, request for change/correction in any particulars in the application form, once submitted, will not be entertained under any circumstances.

Applications with blurred/illegible photograph/signature will be rejected summarily. In case of fake/fabricated application/registration by misusing any dignitaries name/photo, such candidate(s)/shall be held responsible for the same and liable for suitable legal action under

cyber/ IT Act/relevant rules. All disputes related to refund of excess payment, if any, can be resolved after following the due process at Government Medical College, Srinagar. Candidates are advised to apply for refund of excess payment, if any, through

official email principalgmcsgr@gmail.com only. No Chargeback request shall be entertained. Candidates shall ensure that their e-mail ID and phone Numbers as specified

in the online application form are active during the currency of selection process. After successful payment through online mode viz Net Banking, UPI, Credit or Debit cards, a nonrefundable amount of ^500/- (Five Hundred Rupees) only, the fee status with transaction details will be reflected on the Online Application form.

After the application form is successfully submitted, it will be accepted provisionally. Candidates should take colored printout of the application form(s) and submit hard copy(s) of the same along with xerox copies of all uploaded certificates in the Office of Incharge Examination Cell, Government Medical College, Srinagar as and when asked for. No: GS/MC/MRU/Advt/634-40

DIPK-97/25 dated: 05-04-2025

Prof (Dr) iFFAT Hassan Shah, Principal/ Dean Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Green Heart Tour & Travel

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Sakeena Akhter D/o Sanaulah Dar R/o Rassoo Beerwah Distt Budgam intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Green Heart Tour & Travel KASHMIR under tourist trade act

Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate , Qualification Certificate, pan cardr \ Experience Certificate (Minimum 5 years). Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Latter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

/ Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) befre my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id; ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/ newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Ashaq Hussain DAR S/O ABDUL RASHID Dar R/O MERIPORA is applying for contractor card DEE Class in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar-SOUTH. Any person having objection in this regard may please submit it in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar-South within three days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and DOB has been wrongly written as Kousar Ahmad Bhat S/o Sunaullah Bhat , DOB 03-06-1998 While my correct name and DOB as per adhaar records is Quansar Ahmad Bhat S/o Sona-ullah Bhat DOB 01-01-2000 which needs to be If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Quansar Ahmad Bhat **BMG**

S/o Sona-ullah Bhat DOB 01-01-2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no JK05J 5281 from Narbal to Magam on 04-04-2025. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Firdous Ahmad Hurrah

R/o Mala Buchan Tehsil Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly wirtten in my service book as 01-01-1990 while my correct DOB is 10-01-1990 As per school records. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regrd he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection ssame if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objectin shall be entertained. Nazir Ahmad Sheikh

R/o Nowgam Tehsil Khag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420140023779 issued in favour of ZAHID RASHID Parentage ABDUL RASHID DAR Whereas an application has been recieved by one ZAHID RASHID Parentage AB-DUL RASHID DAR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as ZAHID RASHID DAR Which needs to be changed as ZAHID RASHID

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shal reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained. **Assistant Regional Transport officer**

Budgam Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that I, Khurshid Ahmad Bandroo, S/o Abdul Ahad Bandroo, R/o Housing Colony, Ompora, Budgam, intend to purchase a plot bearing Plot No. 1237, measuring 55' x 80', situated at Government Housing Colony, Ompora, Budgam, from the Dr. Munir Farooq, S/o Ghulam Shah, R/o Rawalpora, Srinagar.

If anyone has any objection, claim, interest, or dispute regarding the aforementioned sale transaction, they are requested to contact the Housing Board, Barbarshah, Srinagar, within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no claim, objection, or dispute will be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICEThis is to inform the general public that I have lost my Shikara License bearing Registration Number: REG/3297/TS, issued on 14/02/2007. The license was lost a few days ago while I was travelling from Ghat Number 16, Dalgate, Srinagar to TRC Office, Srinagar. If anyone finds the above mentioned license, kindly contact the address given below.

Now, I am applying for a duplicate of the same from the office of the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, Kashmir. If anyone has any objection regarding the issuance of the duplicate license, they may contact the office of the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, Kashmir within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, after the stipulated period no objections will be entertained. Mohammad Afzal Bhat S/O Ghulam Hassan Bhat

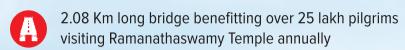
R/O Guchoo mohalla nadpora Dal. Mobile Number: 9697580372

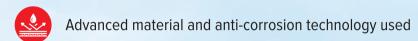
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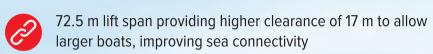


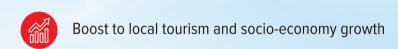
Dedication to the Nation of

New Pamban Bridge









4-laning of Villupuram - Puducherry Section of NH-332 4-laning of Poondiyankuppam - Sattanathapuram Section of NH-32 4-laning of Cholapuram - Thanjavur Section of NH-36



Wider roads ensure smooth traffic flow, shorter travel time, and lower fuel costs



Strengthens linkages between major ports and key coastal districts

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

Dedication to the Nation and Foundation Stone Laying of Projects worth Rs. 8500 crore

by

Narendra Modi **Prime Minister**

In the august presence of

R. N. Ravi

Governor, Tamil Nadu

Dr. L. Murugan

Union Minister of State for Information

M.K. Stalin

Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

Nitin Jairam Gadkari

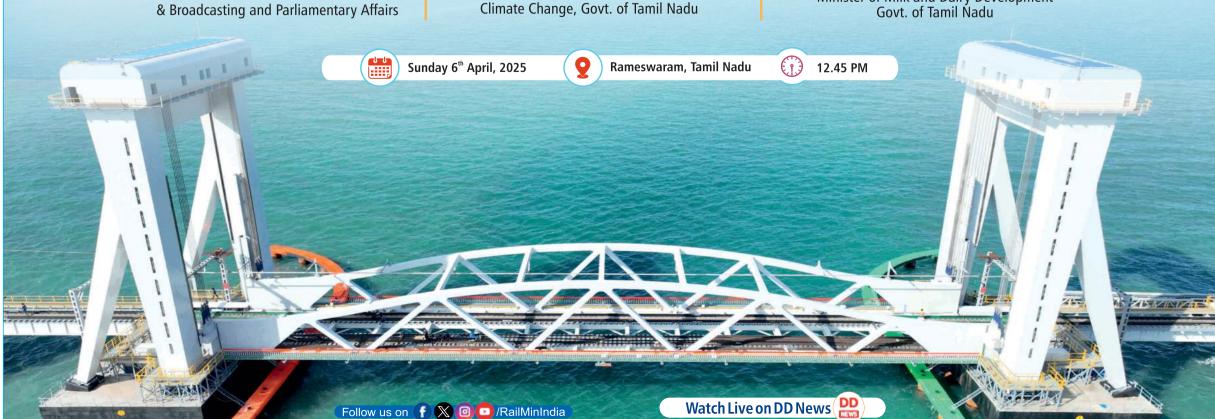
Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology

Thangam Thennarasu R. S. Rajakannappan Minister of Finance and Environment

Minister of Milk and Dairy Development Govt. of Tamil Nadu



Srinagar | Sunday | 06-04-2025

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.

This is a modal window. The media could not be loaded, either because the server or network failed or because the format is not supported.

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 13hour 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

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," uted Microsoft 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 Nadel la 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

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-andwhite 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

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi was on Saturday

accorded a grand ceremonial

welcome at the historic Indepen-

dence Square in the heart of the

Sri Lankan capital, in perhaps

ceived at the Square by President

evening after concluding his trip to

Bangkok where he attended a sum-

mit of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal

Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Tech-

nical and Economic Cooperation).

welcomed by President @anu-

radisanayake with a ceremonial

reception at the Independence

Square in Colombo," External

Affairs Ministry spokesperson

foster a partnership for a shared

"Bilateral discussions to

Randhir Jaiswal said on 'X'.

@narendramodiwas

Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

The prime minister was re-

Modi landed in Colombo last

the first such honour g

foreign leader.

further destabilize the region and

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

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

PM Modi Accorded Grand Ceremonial

Welcome At Colombo's Independence Square

people, lie ahead," he said.

President Dissanayake.

Officials said it was the first

time a foreign leader was accord-

ed such a welcome at the Indepen-

dence Square. Modi is now hold-

ing delegation-level talks with

to come out with around 10 ambi-

tious outcomes, including a de-

fence cooperation agreement and

frameworks for deeper engage-

If signed, the MoU on defence

ment in the energy sector.

The two sides are expected

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 numer ous 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.

jor upward trajectory in India-Sri

Lanka defence, leaving behind

the bitter chapter relating to In-

dia pulling out the Indian Peace

Keeping Force (IPKF) from the is-

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 ex-

tended financial assistance worth

USD 4.5 billion.

The prime minister's visit to

land nation around 35 years ago.

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.

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 incharge of Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, thanked BookMyShoew CEO Ashish Hemrajani for keeping its portal "clean and keeping such artist out of the list of pure entertainment"

When contacted, Book-MyShow team said they have no comments to offer as of now.

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

"Hello @bookmyshow can vou please confirm if I have your platform to list my shows if not 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 vour 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 Mumbaikars 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 Sainiks for allegedly vandalising the studio where Kamra had performed and alluded to Shinde while making a traitor iibe, 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.

future & mutual prosperity of our cooperation is set to signal a ma-N E W S MAKERS

Iran President Fires Deputy Over Pricey Antarctica Trip EHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday dismissed his

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.

deputy for parliamentary affairs over a

costly trip to Antarctica, as the country

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

he Madhya P"adesh district officials are investigating allegations of a fake doctor performing heart surgery on patients, who allegedly killed atleast 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 Vikramaditva 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.





CoF Holds Meeting To

SRINAGAR: A meeting focussing 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 Pro-

The meeting conducted a

thorough review of the current situation, analyzed the causes of the fires, and strategized on enhanced preven-

tion 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

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



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



wellness across the campus.

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-

moting physical fitness and age 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.

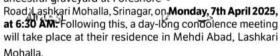
Dr. Seema also emphasized the importance of staying fit and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, urging participants to continue with their fitness journeys beyond the event.

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



BEREAVED FAMILY 7889836160, 7006084903

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 Neuromodulation 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 Elec-

tro 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

The other facilities available are tDCS (Transcranial Direct Current



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 Psychology Lab for Psychological Assessments, IQ As-

sessment, Psycho-diagnostics, Psychological Interventions, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Motivational Enhancement Therapy & Relapse



Anantnag, was critically injured

Prevention and addiction Treatment Facility.

Ahmad was shifted to SKIMS Sou-

ra for advanced treatment, where

he breathed his last after battling

for three days.

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

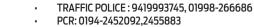
Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT

Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal

9070806160

Chowk, Srinagar







PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)

HIGHWAY STATUS



Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar-Leh-(Open) **PRAYEXS**



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

This Day In History

- t Pollentia: Roman army under Stilicho
- 1320 The Scots reaffirm their independence by signing the Declaration of Arbroath
- 1327 Italian poet Petrarch 1st sets eyes on his beloved
- 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
- 1664 France & Saxony sign alliance
 - 1672 France declares war on Netherlands
- 1722 Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, ends tax on men with beards
- of Reform

1859 - US recognizes Liberal government in Mexico's War

- 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 interna-tional 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-
- 1924- Italy fascists receives 65% of vote of parliament
- 1930- 1st transcontinental glider tow completed 1930- Hostess Twinkies invented by bakery executive
- 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

James Dewar

- 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 &
- 1967- Premier Georges Pompidou forms new French
- 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

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

he 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 corrup-

The author is a Hisar-based freelance journalist.

COUNTERVIEW

"An erosion of India's secular framework"



Ranganathan Sivakumar

he 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

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 Chennaibased 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

he 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 tralopyril, 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

1 & 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 grounded--consuming only grass and bushes. This was, in fact, Forest Minister's recent reply to BJP MLA from Udham-pur 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



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 prefire 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

Surasyar-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

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 altering 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 Con-

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 lit 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

- Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen 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.

overnment hospitals are the back-_bone 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,

OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT



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 checkups should not fall on their attendants. Instead, hospital staff should be assigned to carry out these tasks, allowing both patients and attendants to remain stressfree 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.

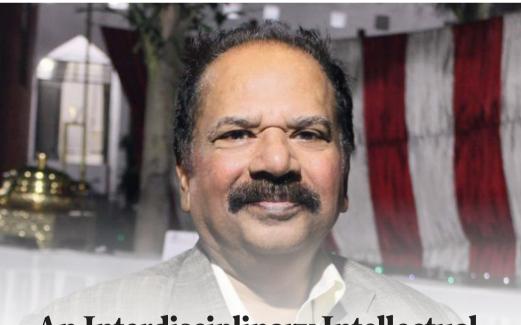
While the government already invests in infrastructure and treatment quality, the impact is undermined if there aren't enough personnel managing the system. Cleanliness and hygiene in hospitals

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 patientfriendly 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

- 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

any scholars are specialists, while the most impactful ones often have a combi-■ nation 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 in-

tricate ideas without feeling overwhelmed. By breaking down challenging topics into understandable 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 Naqeebul 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?

'ew 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-percent 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-theboard 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

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

Ghulam Mohammad Rather F/o:- Ayesha Jan

R/O:- Noorbagh palapora Srinagar

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fko

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 In donesia 32 per cent, and Thailand 36 per cent.

The sources also said the commerce ministry is reaching out to domestig exporters regarding thes tariffs. Work is progress ing to prepare the export promotion mission for extending support meas sures to exporters.

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

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Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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Public Notice..

I Ghulam Mohammad Rather want to change my daughter'

name in her aadhar card bearing no 7489 0995 1615 from Azra

Jan (old name) to Avesha 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 enter

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

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 objec-

tion for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office

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 per-

taining to birth of Hamdan Bashir Ganie D.o.B 10/02/2024, ishrat 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.

within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

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

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 24376 rinagar): 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu) Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: classification com/helpdeskjakbopee@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
- 4. The e-Information Brochure can be downloaded from the BOPEE website, viz:
- 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
- 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

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:

- 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),
- Qualifying marks (12th Class) certificate (where the result is declared).
- Date of Birth Certificate (only Matriculation Certificate issued by the Board).
- Valid Reserved Category Certificate, if any.
- Any other documents, as required

However, it is for the information of all the concerned that afore-titled documents, as required for sion 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:

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

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.

- 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
- 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

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

- The CDP category candidates are advised to write their priority (01-08) in the online Application
- 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.
- 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.

E&OE

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

Sd/-(Prof. Gurvinder Rai Verma) J&K BOPEE

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

Dated 03-04-2025

J&K Receives Rs 10.42 Cr Under Mission Shakti in Two Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A total of 22 empowerment hubs for women are operational in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under the Government of India's Mission Shakti scheme, according to data from the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Jammu & Kashmir has one State Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) and 20 District Hubs (DHEWs), while Ladakh has one SHEW and two DHEWs functioning across its districts.

Each hub is required to have two gender specialists as per Mission Shakti guidelines.

In terms of funding, Jammu & Kashmir received Rs 7.25 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 3.17 crore in 2024-25, totaling Rs 10.42 crore in the past two years. Ladakh received Rs 45.75 lakh each in 2022-23 and 2023-24, and Rs 59.25 lakh in 2024-25, amounting to Rs 1.50 crore over three years.

Mission Shakti is aimed at institutionalising women's safety, support, and empowerment at state and district levels.

Waqf Amendment Bill Opposed by All Communities: MP Mian Altaf

Observer News Service

KANGAN: National Conference MP Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi reaffirmed his stance on the Waqf Amendment Bill during a public interaction in Mamer Kangan, stating the bill is being opposed across communities and not just by Muslims.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating a local shop, the MP said he had already expressed his views in Parliament. "The people have seen my position and there is no need to elaborate further," he added.

He emphasized that opposition to the bill cuts across communities. "This is not just a Muslim issue. Thinkers, intellectuals, and people from vari-



ous regions and religions are raising objections," he said.

Mian Altaf said public engagement would continue on the matter, promising vigilance and updates as the situation

The bill proposes structural changes to the management of Waqf properties, sparking debate and protests across regions, with critics fearing increased control by authorities.

Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat Reaffirms Support For CM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior Congress leader and Bandipora MLA Nizamuddin Bhat reaffirmed full support for Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while hitting out at internal dissenters attempting to malign the party.

Speaking at the JKPCC headquarters, Bhat said, "The decisions taken yesterday through unanimity shall stand. The party is fully committed to them." He emphasized Congress's

backing of the CM, calling him the leader of the House. "Our party stands firmly behind him," Bhat said.

Bhat praised Congress's national role and the 2024 reorganisation of J&K Congress,

which brought Tariq Hameed Karra to the helm. He called the new leadership a blend of experience and fresh energy.

Without naming anyone, Bhat warned about individuals no longer associated with Congress who were allegedly attempting to damage the party's reputation. He accused them of acting on behalf of "Congress's enemies" and misleading the

He clarified that only district presidents and senior leaders attended a recent Delhi meeting. "Indiscipline cannot be tolerated," he said.

Bhat called for unity within party ranks, reaffirming Congress's historical significance in Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

Two Drug Peddlers Arrested In Anantnag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of its ongoing crackdown on the drug menace, police in Anantnag arrested two alleged drug peddlers and recovered contraband substances from their possession in two separate incidents.

In the first case, a police team from Police Station Srigufwara intercepted a suspicious motorcycle at Chenar Crossing, Sirhama. A search led to the recovery of 300 grams of cannabis powder hidden beneath the seat. The accused, identified as Faizan Ahmad Bhat, son of Gh. Hassan Bhat of Marhama, was taken into custody and the vehicle was seized.

In a separate incident, personnel from Police Station Uttersoo stopped a suspicious individual at a checkpoint in Padderpora, Chittergul. Upon search, approximately 250



grams of charas powder concealed in a polythene bag was recovered. The accused was identified as Gulzar Ahmad Hajam, son of Nund Hajam of Padderpora, Chittergul.

Both individuals were arrested and cases under relevant legal provisions have been registered. Investigations are underway.

Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and support efforts to eliminate drug abuse from the community, assuring firm action against all involved in narcotics-related activities.

SC Collegium Recommends Justice Arun Palli To Be New CJ Of J&K, Ladakh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended appointment of Justice Arun Palli, Judge, High Court of Punjab & Haryana, as Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu

& Kashmir and Ladakh. The recommendation comes just a few days before incumbent Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan retires on April 9.

Born on September 18, 1964, Justice Palli graduated in Commerce and completed his Bachelor of Laws from Panjab University, Chandigarh, in 1988. Justice

Palli was designated as a Senior Advocate on April 26, 2007 and served as Amicus Curiae in various contentious matters before

the High Court. Justice Palli was elevated to the Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on December 28, 2013. He has also been serving as Executive Chairman of Haryana

State Legal Service Authority since 31 May 2023. Justice Palli was nominated as a Member of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on October 31, 2023, for a tenure of two

Govt Resolved To Combat Drug Menace: CS

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Saturday formally launched a massive five month long Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan.

He reaffirmed the UT government's resolve to combat the drug menace through sustained awareness, rehabilitation and coordination at all administrative levels.

The Chief Secretary stated, "Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir is not just a campaign, it is a mission to protect the youth and secure our future. We must address the roots of drug abuse while ensuring that affected individuals receive timely counselling, support and rehabilitation."

As part of the formal launch, the Chief Secretary unveiled several key initiatives including the official web portal of the campaign providing a centralised interface for awareness activities and real-time updates.

The Chief Secret also inaugurated the INSPIRE Podcast Series of the Department of Information and Public Relations, which will feature weekly discussions with experts, field officers and individuals sharing real-life experiences. The initiative will engage the youth in conversations on drug de-addiction. Additionally, a dedicated web banner and an official campaign logo was also launched on the occasion.

Chairing a high level review meeting following the launch, the Chief Secretary assessed preparedness of the departments for the extensive campaign to be rolled out in every panchayat, Urban Local Body (ULB), educational institutions and major public spaces across the Union Territory.



clude 6,776 planned events for which a pool of 5,923 trained resource persons from the Social Welfare, Health, Police, Education and JKRLM departments has been developed through 51 training sessions across the 20 districts.

The Chief Secretary directed the district administrations to ensure inclusive public participation, stressing that the quality of content and delivery must be of the highest standards. He added, "this effort requires sincerity, empathy and innovation. Districts may deploy mobile IEC vans, send personalised messages to the participants and create immersive awareness models that resonate with the local population."

He instructed the senior district functionaries including ADDCs, ADCs and others to remain actively involved in field level activities, ensuring consistent momentum throughout the five month campaign.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that awareness is only the beginning and rehabilitation and counselling must follow as essential support pillars.

In a detailed discussion with Secretary Health, Dr. Abid Rasheed Shah, the need for confidential counselling, creation of doctor pools and institutional frameworks for long-term de-addiction efforts was reiterated.

The Chief Secretary stated, "it is essential to guide the in-

dividuals not only away from drugs but towards new paths of purpose, be it through education, skill training or selfemployment."

Issues regarding helpline numbers at the district level were also discussed with the Chief Secretary, underscoring the need for a multi-layered support system that ensures that no recovering individual feels isolated or neglected.

The Health Department was tasked with leading intersectoral coordination with the Deputy Commissioners and line departments to ensure unified implementation.

The Divisional Commissioners and DCs provided status reports on resource calendars. session planning and logistics.

The DIPR was directed to undertake an aggressive publicity strategy using print, electronic, social and outdoor media to reach the citizens of all age groups and backgrounds.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Education, Shantmanu; Principal Secretary Home, Chandrakar Bharti; Additional Director General of Police, Manish Sinha; Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Sanjeev Verma; Commissioner Secretary General Administration and Information , M. Raju and Director Information, Nitish Rajora, along with other senior officers in person and through virtual mode.



IT IS ESSENTIAL TO GUIDE THE INDIVIDUALS NOT ONLY AWAY FROM DRUGS but toward new paths of purpose, be it through education, skill training or self-employment."

Passport Processing Time Drops Sharply In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The processing time for issuing passports in Jammu and Kashmir has una significant transformation over the last five years, with recent years showing a remarkable improvement in efficiency.

Data from the Ministry of External Affairs shows that in Jammu, the average time for processing normal passport applications was just 4 days in 2020. However, it sharply rose to 62 days in 2021. This delay was rectified the following year, with the time dropping to 6 days in 2022, and stabilizing at 11 days in both 2023 and 2024.

Notably, there were no sep-



arate Tatkaal processing times recorded for Jammu during these years.

Srinagar experienced a similar trajectory. The Regional Passport Office processed applications in just 3 days on average in 2020. This dramatically escalated to 89 days in 2021—the highest among all RPOs in the country. Subsequently, it dropped to 9 days in 2022 and 2023, and currently

stands at 10 days in 2024.

A senior government official said that if police verification and related procedures proceed smoothly, applicants can expect their passports within ten days.

These figures reflect average processing times at Passport Seva Kendras and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras and exclude police verification time, which varies by region.

The Ministry attributed the improvement to online systems such as the 'mPassportSeva' app and Passport Portal. Moreover, the establishment of Post Office Passport Seva Kendras in every Lok Sabha constituency in J&K has made services more accessible in remote areas.

IGP Kashmir Reviews Security Arrangements Ahead Of Amit Shah's Visit

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V.K. Birdi, chaired a high-level joint security review meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR) in Srinagar, bringing together senior officials from the Police, Army, BSF, CRPF, ITBP, and intelligence agencies to strategize security measures ahead of an upcoming VVIP visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

Present in person were IGs of BSF and CRPF (KOS), DIG CKR Srinagar, DIG ITBP, SSPs from PCR Kashmir, Srinagar, Budgam, Traffic (Rural and City), Security Kashmir, CID CIK, APCR Kashmir, and other topranking officers. The meeting also saw virtual participation from DIGs of North and South Kashmir Ranges and all District SSPs from the Kashmir Zone.

Officials presented detailed security plans, focusing on threat assessment, intelligence coordination, and enhanced deployment strategies. IGP Birdi



stressed heightened vigilance and improved intelligence gathering to counter any potenal threats.

Emphasis was laid on the security of critical infrastructure and sensitive areas, with directives issued for 24/7 patrolling, quick response teams, and strict surveillance of key entry and exit points. The importance of briefing personnel on standard operating procedures (SOPs) and maintaining a proactive posture across the Valley was reiterated.

Concluding the session, IGP Kashmir urged all forces to work in close coordination to ensure a secure environment for the VVIP visit and to safeguard public peace and order.

Kashmir Apple Growers See Promising Season As Demand Rises

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Apple growers in Kashmir are seeing a surge in demand this season for produce stored in Controlled Atmosphere (CA) units, leading to improved earnings and early release of stock.

Traditionally, apples in storage begin reaching markets in mid-February, but this year's dispatches started as early as January, thanks to strong demand.
"We're getting good prices,

which is encouraging early sales," said Mehraj Ahmad, an orchardist from Shopian. He said 10-kg apple boxes are fetching Rs 1200, and premium 16-kg boxes are selling for Rs 1,500 or more. excluding storage charges.

In 2023, nearly 20% of stored apples remained unsold due to competition from imported varieties. This year, growers are hopeful, citing that 60% of cold storage chains have already been cleared.

Shahid Ahmad, a manager at storage facility, highlighted the role of CA units in preventing distress sales. "Cold storages let us wait for the right market," he said.

However, he stressed the need for better packaging and grading to compete globally. "Our taste is unmatched, but presentation matters," he added.

'Govt Committed To Ensure Robust **Healthcare System For Pilgrims'**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Health & Medical Education, Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, successfully conducted the National Review Meeting for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in Srinagar.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders, senior officials, and experts to review past experiences, discuss preparedness, and enhance the coordination framework for medical services during the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, a statement issued states.

Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah (IAS), Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME), J&K, who was the Chief Guest, delivered a keynote address highlighting the government's commitment to ensuring a robust healthcare system for pilgrims.

He emphasized the need for streamlining the process of issuance of Compulsory Health Certificates by the States and putting in efforts to ensure that the certificates that are issued are done after thoroughly accessing the health status of the intended pilgrim. This measure will help in curb-

ng the morbidity and mortality and save lives. He also appreciated the states for deputing specialists and medical officers for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra duties over the years and expressed hope that the states and the Government of India institutions depute the staff as per the requisitioned numbers for the forthcoming Yatra 2025.

He especially focused on the requirements of Cardiologists, Respiratory Physicians and Anesthetists. This was followed by the unveiling of the Yatra Booklet and the distribution of certificates of appreciation to States and MoHFW.

General Body Elections Held For Atya Patya Association



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The General Body Elections of the Jammu & Kashmir Atya Patya Association were successfully conducted today in Srinagar, marking a significant step in the organizational development of the sport within the Union Territory. The elections were held in accordance with the rules and guidelines laid down by the Atya Patya Federation of India and were supervised by Waseem Raja Khan, Vice President of the Federation, who served as the official Observer for the event. His presence ensured that the entire electoral process was carried out in a fair, free, and transparent manner, with all due protocols diligently followed.

Upon the conclusion of the polling process, the results were announced unanimously, leading to the formal constitution of the new Executive Body for the term 2025-2029. Mo-

hammad Yaseen has been elected as the President of the Association, while Mohammad Yaqoub Mir will serve as the Senior Vice President. Zakir Hussain has been chosen as the Vice President representing the Kashmir region, and Saksham Sharma has been elected as the Vice President from the Jammu region. The responsibility of General Secretary has been entrusted to Sameer Ahmad Shah, with Shadab Rashid and Rita Devi elected as Joint Secretaries for Kashmir and Jammu respectively. Murtaza Amin will serve as the Treasurer of the Association.

In addition to the core leadership, the Executive Committee comprises Sajid Ali, Nusrat Sofi, Iqra Bano, Junaid labbar, and Livagat Hussain, who were all elected as members of the governing body. Their collective experience and commitment are expected to bring renewed energy and focus to the promotion of Atya Patya across the region.

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT **TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER ANANTNAG**

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 05.04.2025 Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamps and CDR mentioned below are invited from registered restaurants /hotels for the supply of various food items for District TB centre Anantnag for the year 2025-

Food items CDR of Rs 2000/- in favour of "Member Secretary District TB Control Society Anantnag".

Tenders should be sent through courier or delivered in person. The Tenders should reach to this office within a period of 10 days from the date of publication of the Tender Notice which will be opened at 02:00pm on the last date of receipt of tenders or any subsequent day may be convenient by a purchasing committee of the officers/officials nominated

The purchasing committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender offers without assigning any reason thereof.

Vendor selected for food items has to deliver food items anywhere in District Anantnag/Kulgam. Dealers / Firms must have to attach following documents with Tenders:

for the purposes in presence of such tenders who may like to be present.

GST Registration. Latest GST Return.

No: DTC/ANG/NTEP/ 04

26 subject to following conditions:

No convectional certificate

FOOD ITEMS					
	S. NO	ITEMS	QUANTITY		
	1	Chicken Biryani	Full/Half		
	2	Mutton Kabab	Full/Half		
	3	Chicken piece	1/4 th of chicken		
	4	Tea and Toast/Bagair khani/Girda	Per cup		
	5	Saffron Kehwa	Per cup		
	6	Water Bottle	1 litre/500ml		
	7	Chicken Kanti	Full/Half		
	8	Mutton Kanti	Full/Half		
	9	Mutton Rista	Per piece		
	10	Plain Nan	Per piece		
	11	Rice	Per Plate		

DIPK-111-25 District Tuberculosis officer DT: 05/04/2025 Anantnag

IPL 2025: Struggling SRH Lock Horns With Upbeat Gujarat Titans

Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: Sunrisers Hyderabad will certainly look to introspect on their no-holdsbarred attacking philosophy in a bid to stem the rot caused by a hat-trick of defeats as they face a buoyant Gujarat Titans in their fifth IPL encounter here on

Having started the tournament with a bang, scoring 286 in the opening game, SRH's template of attack at all costs has boomeranged in the next three games with team totals of 190, 163, and 120 to show for their efforts.

They are currently placed 10th in the league table and it seems like the team under multiple world champion skipper Pat Cummins is imploding.

Last year's runners-up are unable to find the right balance between aggression and ultraaggression with most of their batting stars coming dud in the more a reflection of their bat-



To their relief, SRH would be

back in Hyderabad at the Uppal Stadium, which is known for run-feasts. Even in the match against Lucknow Super Giants, which SRH lost, the hosts had scored 190 – a total that was ters' profligacy than the opposition's bowling.

But Travis Head, Ishan Kishan, Heinrich Klaasen have to do much better in order to keep SRH interested towards the business end as a couple of more losses could push them towards a point of no return.

The bowling also seems to be a concern as none of the bowlers save young leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari (4 wickets at ER 9.75) has looked menacing. Skipper Cummins has been hammered at an economy rate of 12.30 runs per over, while countrymate Adam Zampa has

DREAMI

gone at an ER of 11.75. Veteran Mohammed Shami has also been expensive, conceding 10 runs per over.

Titans, at the other end, are slowly gaining momentum and would be raring to go after a smashing win against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Chinnaswamy with batting mainstay Jos Buttler hitting the

straps.
With B Sai Sudharsan providing solidity at the top alongside skipper Shubman Gill and Buttler coming in at one drop, Titans' batting arsenal bears a solid look.

Sherfane Rutherford and Rahul Tewatia are two big-hitting finishers in the middle-order with Shahrukh Khan looking like the only weak link.

The Titans will however be hamstrung by the absence of their pace bowling spearhead Kagiso Rabada, who has gone back home due to personal reasons.

Match Starts: 7:30 pm.

J&K Throwball Association Holds 2 Events At Legends School



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Throwball Association recently organised two significant events at Legends School, Srinagar. The first event was a special felicitation ceremony to honour the girls'

Throwball team for their outstanding participation in the National Throwball Champi-onship held in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, last year. The team was lauded for their hard work, dedication, and exceptional performance on the na-

The second event was the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the J&K Throwball Association for 2025, where key issues concerning the growth and development of the sport in the region were discussed. The AGM was attended by the Association's office bearers, district presidents, secretaries, and senior players, who all contributed to the discussion and decision-making process.

During the felicitation ceremony, the girls' team was honoured by Senior Faculty members of Legends School, Mohammad Ismail and Shahida Parveen, who presented them with awards for their

District Anantnag Tennis Ball Cricket C'ship Begins In Bijbehara

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The three-day Cricket Championship kicked off at Govt. Boys Model Higher Secondary School Bijbehara on Saturday. The District Championship was inaugurated by the Principal of the institution, Mohd Iqbal Ganie.

In his address, he praised all players for their participation in the championship and stated that participation will bestow countless benefits to all participants. He further lauded office bearers of District Anantnag Tennis Ball Cricket Association for organising the event.



In the championship, 24 teams in Senior Boys, 8 Teams in Senior Girls, 8 team in Junior Boys and 4 teams in Junior girls have registered. The championship is meant for both Boys and Girls teams of Senior, Junior & Sub Junior Categories of district Anantnag.

On the opening day, the championship witnessed participation of 390 players which included senior boys and girls. The championship will conclude on April 7. The Championship is organized by the District Anantnag Tennis Ball Cricket Association, which is affiliated with J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association. The Championship is sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

Real Kashmir To Fight For I-League Title v Churchill Today



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC will play its most crucial match of the season against Churchill Brothers Goa on Sunday, a game that could decide the winner of the I-League

The match is scheduled to begin at 4 PM, with adequate arrangements being made for the event.

Currently, four teams are in contention for the I-League title. Churchill Brothers Goa lead the table with 39 points, followed by Gokulam Kerala with 37, and Real Kashmir and Inter Kashi with 36 points each. All teams have played 21 matches and have just one game remaining, which will decide the champion of

If Churchill Brothers win their final match, they will finish with 42 points and be crowned champions. However, if the Snow Leopards win and Gokulam Kerala lose or draw their match, the Kashmir-based team could clinch the title.

This is the first time Real Kashmir is in contention for the I-League title. The club's owner, Arshad Shawl, has been rebuilding the team since last vear. He thanked fans for coming out to watch matches in large numbers and supporting the team. Led by coach Ishfaq Ahmad, the team has been providing opportunities to local talent from the valley.

Addressing a pre-match press conference on Saturday, Real Kashmir head coach Ishfaq Ahmad said the match against Churchill Brothers is a significant one.

"We want to finish on a high note and maintain our unbeaten record at home. If we manage a win with a good margin, we could also become champions. We will give our best and try to get the result in our favor,"

When asked to evaluate the team's overall performance, he responded, "The performance of the entire squad has been commendable. Since last season, we have shown consistency. The inclusion of local players has also brought good results at the

On whether Kashmir could host ISL matches if RKFC qualifies, he said, "We need a better ground. Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar could host ISL matches if it is properly developed."

The coach also appealed to fans to come out and support the team in this match, decisive game of the

RKFC player Mohammad Hammad expressed excitement about playing the last match of the season at home. "We will give our best to win. We appeal to fans to come and watch the match. Their support has played a vital role in our home victories.

Short TAKES

ZPEO Bijbehara Holds Inter School Chess, TT & Badminton Competitions

The Zonal Physical Education Officer Bijbehara conl cluded Inter-School Zonal-Level U-14 and U-17 competitions of Chess, Table Tennis and Badminton in boys category on Saturday at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Bijbehara.

In the competitions, almost 189 students participated. In the U-14 Chess competition, MS Laribal emerged as winner and BMS HP Tawala emerged as runner up. In U-17 Chess, BHSS Bijbehara emerged as winner. In U-17 Table Tennis, HSS Marhama emerged as winner and HS Semthan emerged as runner up. In U-14 Badminton, BMS HP Tawala emerged as winner and GMS Semthan emerged as runner up.

IPL: DC Beat CSK By 25 Runs

Cenior batter KL Rahul set up Delhi Capitals' comprehensive 25-run win over Chennai Super Kings in their Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

Rahul top-scored with 77 off 51 balls as Delhi Capitals posted 183 for 6 after opting to bat first at the Chepuk. Abishek Porel chipped in with 33 while Tristan Stubbs remained not out on 24.

Chasing 184 for a win, CSK struggled to get going as they ended at 158 for 5 in 20 overs.

Vijay Shankar made an unbeaten 69 off 54 balls while MS Dhoni also remained not out on 30 off 26

Leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam (2/27) was the most successful bowler for DC. **Brief Scores:**

Delhi Capitals: 183 for 6 in 20 overs (KL Rahul 77, Abishek Porel 33; Khaleel Ahmed 2/25).

Chennai Super Kings: 158 for 5 in 20 overs (Vijay Shankar 69 not out, MS Dhoni 30 not out; Vipraj Nigam

PCB Condemns Verbal Abuse Of Pakistan Players By Afghan Spectators

The PCB on Saturday strongly denounced the alleged use of inappropriate remarks against Pakistan players by a group of Afghan spectators during the third ODI against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui on Saturday.

Two spectators of Afghanistan origin were later ejected from the ground following the Pakistani team's

Pakistan lost the match by 43 runs to suffer a 0-3 whitewash in the one-day series. The tourists had lost the five-match T20 series 1-4.

"When anti-Pakistan slogans emerged, cricketer Khushdil Shah stepped in and urged the spectators to refrain. In response, the Afghan spectators escalated the situation by using further inappropriate language in Pashto," the PCB said in a statement.

In the past there have been incidents of clashes between Pakistani and Afghan spectators at different grounds when both countries have played against each

Vinícius Misses Penalty As Real Madrid Loses At Home To Valencia

Inícius Júnior missed a penalty and Real Madrid conceded an injury-time goal in a stunning 2-1 home loss to Valencia on Saturday as the defending champion stumbled in the La Liga title race.

Hugo Duro came off Valencia's bench and headed ome the winner that silenced Santiago Bernabeu Stadium deep in stoppage time.

Goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili saved Vinícius' early penalty and moments later Mouctar Diakhaby headed the visitors in front in the 17th

Vinícius scored from close range to equalize in the 50th, but Mamardashvili and the defense held on until Duro struck and gave Valencia its first away win of the

Barcelona, leading Madrid by three points, could capitalize on its closest rival's stumble when it hosts Real Betis later Saturday.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti had to play thirdstring goalkeeper Fran González, who made his first-team debut for Madrid at age 19, because Thibaut Courtois and Andriy Lunin were injured.

Arsenal Drop Points At Everton To Boost Liverpool's Premier League Title Chances

Agencies

LONDON: Everton did local rival Liverpool a big favor in the Premier League title race by taking points off second-placed Arsenal on Saturday.

A 1-1 draw at Goodison Park left Arsenal 11 points behind Liverpool with seven games to play in what is looking like an increasingly forlorn task to catch the leader. Iliman Ndiaye converted

a penalty in the 49th minute to earn Everton a point after Leandro Trossard gave the lead in the 34th to Arsenal, which left key players — like Martin Odegaard and Bukayo Saka — out of its starting team ahead of hosting Real Madrid in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Liverpool's game in hand is at Fulham on Sunday, with the Reds' task having gotten much easier as they look to secure a record-tying 20th English top-flight title.

Saka went on as a halftime substitute for Arsenal, four days after making a



goal-scoring return to action against Fulham after 3 ½ months out.

Arsenal is five points ahead of third-placed Nottingham Forest, which visited Aston Villa later Saturday.

Relegation race almost overThird-from-last wich squandered the lead and lost at home to fourthfrom-last Wolverhampton 2-1, leaving the bottom three teams well adrift in the relegation race.

Ipswich dropped to 12 points behind Wolves, while the bottom two of Leicester and Southampton were already virtually sure to be relegated.

Indeed, Southampton will be down with seven games to spare if it loses to Tottenham on Sunday.

Red-card spreeThere were three late red cards and nearly 14 minutes of stoppage time in a crazy end to Crystal Palace's 2-1 win over Brighton at Selhurst Park. Palace was reduced to

10 men in the 78th minute when substitute striker Eddie Nketiah collected a second yellow card and then nine men when England center back Marc Guehi did the same in the 90th.

Brighton center back Jan Paul van Hecke was then sent off in the sixth minute of stoppage time, also for two yellow cards.

Before that, Jean-Philippe Mateta — wearing a protective mask to cover his lacerated ear that required 25 stitches following an injury in the FA Cup last month – and Daniel Munoz scored for Palace either side of Danny Welbeck's equalizer.

The result hurt eighthplaced Brighton's unlikely bid for Champions League qualification.

Also, Brazilian striker Evanilson scored twice for Bournemouth in a 2-2 draw at West Ham. (AP)

NZ Attracts Criticism From Ex Players & Fans **Press Trust of India**

KARACHI: Pakistan's debacle in the limited-over tour of New Zealand, which ended on Saturday, attracted strong criticism from former cricketers and fans, with batting great Javed Miandad calling for "sidelining" of players and officials who have not given 100 per cent to the team's cause.

New Zealand defeated Pakistan by 43 runs in the third and final ODI at Mount Maunganui on Saturday for a 3-0 clean sweep in the 50-over series. Pakistan had lost the preceding five-match T20I series 1-4, thereby winning just one match in the whole limited-over tour.

Reacting to the abject surrender of the team, former captain and batting legend Miandad said the players, team officials and those in the authority should be made accountable.

"Some sensible decisions need to be made and once they are made the board



Pakistan's Debacle In Limited-Over Tour Of

needs to stick to them on a long term basis. Any player or official not willing to give more than 100 percent for the team needs to be sidelined," he said. "At the same time, those

who make the appoint-ments and final calls in cricket matters also need to be held accountable."

Former Test captain and chief selector Inzamam ul Haq said he had never seen Pakistan struggle so badly in New Zealand.

"The problems we have seen are not just about our batting, the bowlers have also not come through for a while now whereas in the past bowling was always our strength," he said.

Pakistan Test vice-captain Saud Shakeel urged the Pakistan Cricket Board to appoint a permanent head coach and other staff for the national team.

The Pakistan team has had an interim head coach in both red ball and white ball formats since last December after Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillispie resigned, citing issues over authority and decision making with the PCB.

Naqvi appointed senior selector Aaqib Javed to manage the team as interim head coach. Another former captain

PCB Chairman Mohsin

Rashid Latif said the results of the matches in New Zealand indicated the players had lost the will to give their best. 'The team has been beat-

en soundly, but is our team/ players that bad? I don't think so, this same combination won ODI series in Australia and South Africa a few months back.

"I think the disappointment of the Champions Trophy at home has mentally upset the players," Latif said.

The rout in New Zealand also attracted backlash from the fans on social media. One fan tweeted that

while other teams had 3-4

tail-end batters, it appeared that the Pakistan team had 11 tail-end batters.

Another fan advised the team to focus on playing weak teams like Hong Kong, Nepal, Canada.

94 Blazes Reported

around Rajwalta, Kalakote, Samba, Kathua, and Lakhanpur. "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

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 until 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

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 proportional 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 sixmonth deadline. Every day, the committee explains to the chief minister how many representatives it met and what developments took place," she

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 subcommittee 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

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

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

"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

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 I&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 narconetwork 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

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 develop-

ment 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, Ranbireshwar 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 Dhwajarohan 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

"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 Ruqayia 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

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





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