

Srinagar's Housing Strain: Can The City Keep Up With Its People?

Suhail Sofi

Srinagar: A housing crunch is tightening its grip on Srinagar. With the city's population set to swell from 1.78 million to nearly 3 million by 2035, according to the Srinagar Master Plan-2035, the demand for shelter is skyrocketing. Urban planners say Srinagar must add at least 300,000 housing units in the next twenty years, a target

Srinagar Population Growth Projection



that poses serious logistical, economic, and environmental



Property Prices In Srinagar

Average property rate:	Rs 11,348 per sq ft
High-end property rate:	Up To Rs 14,285 per sq ft

Land-use Distribution In Srinagar Master Plan Area



Total area designated:	766 sq km
Ecologically fragile:	28%
Flood-prone:	14%
Already Developed:	20.9%
Remaining Land:	97.1%

expert. "We need a radical shift in policy, backed by strategic development and sustainable practices, to avoid a housing collapse."

Currently, Srinagar faces a housing deficit of approximately 18,750 units. The city's expansion is constrained by geographical and environmental factors. Out of the total 766 square kilometers designated for development, only 160 square kilometers are

JKBOSE Class 12 Results By April 30

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) is likely to announce the Class 12th examination results by 30th April.

Official sources in the Board of School Education (JKBOSE) said that the preparation of the results is almost complete, but a final date has not yet been confirmed. "Some formalities are still pending, which need to be completed before declaration. But results are most probably to be declared by April 30," an official source said.

They further added that the result date may vary by a day or two from April 30, but the board is making every possible effort to declare the results as directed by the Education Minister.

It is important to note that the Education Minister Sakina Masood Itoo earlier headed the meeting of the Education Department where the JKBOSE was directed to declare the results of Class 10, 11th, and 12th by the end of this month.

JKBOSE soft zone exams commenced from February 15 to March 17, 2025, while the hard zone exams were conducted from February 20 to March 20, 2025. (JKNS)

Heavy Rains, Hailstorm Hit Kashmir Parts

MeT Issues Warning Till April 21

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Widespread rains lashed parts of the Kashmir Valley on Friday, while a severe hailstorm wreaked havoc in South Kashmir, particularly in Shopian district, causing extensive damage to orchards.

The fresh spell of inclement weather comes amid a yellow and orange alert issued by the Meteorological Department, warning of more intense rainfall and snow-fall over the next three days.

According to the MeT Department, an active Western Disturbance is expected to impact Jammu and Kashmir till April 21, bringing widespread light to moderate rain in the plains and snowfall in higher reaches. Peak intensity is expected

between the night of April 18 and late night of April 19, with heavy precipitation likely in areas including Pir Panjal, Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Sinthan Pass, Shopian, Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg, and Kupwara-Sadhna Pass.

The advisory warns of strong winds (40-50 kmph, gusting up to 70 kmph), thunderstorms, lightning, and the possibility of hailstorms. Disruption in surface transport, especially along Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Leh highways and other major hilly routes, is expected. Authorities have also cautioned about landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones in vulnerable areas, along with rising water levels in rivers and streams. | More on P6



Cryptocurrency Now Fuels Narco Dealings: LG Says Dark Web Emerging As New Marketplace For Drug Trade

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said cryptocurrency is being used in narco dealings as the dark web is emerging as the new marketplace for drug trade.

Speaking at the passing out parade at Police Training School, Manigam, in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, Sinha said technology is changing at a very rapid pace and the use of new technology outside



the training schools, and up-gradation of skills to tackle the challenges put up by enemies are the need of the hour.

"The threat of drug smuggling

has not remained conventional now. Smugglers and narcotics terrorists are changing their ways of communication every day. Dark web is emerging as

Counter-Terror Grid Being Strengthened: DGP

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday said that J&K Police are strengthening the counter terrorism grid and efforts are on to tackle the cyber criminals. Addressing a passing out parade

here in Central Kashmir, DGP Prabhat said, "We are thankful to Centre and Ministry of Home Affairs for providing us with all the support and help." "J&K Police are committed to stand by with the families of | More on P6

End of an Era

Tens of Thousands Bid Adieu to Agha Syed Baqir



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a moment marked by profound grief and reverence, Kashmir on Friday bade farewell to one of its most esteemed religious luminaries, Allama Agha Syed Baqir Al-Mousvi Al-Najafi, who passed away in the early hours of Friday at SMHS

Hospital, Srinagar. He was 85. Agha Baqir, the most prominent member of the Agha dynasty of Budgam, had been unwell for some time. As his health deteriorated, he was admitted to SMHS Hospital, where he breathed his last around 1 a.m. on Friday.

A Sea of Mourners
In a rare | More on P6

Ayatollah Sistani Sends Condolence

Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Sistani, revered Shia religious authority based in Najaf, Iraq, has expressed sorrow over the demise of the esteemed Kashmiri scholar Agha Syed Muhammad Baqir. In a condolence message issued on 19th Shawwal 1446 AH, Ayatollah Sistani offered prayers for the elevation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathies to the bereaved family, the people of Kashmir and the admirers of the late scholar. Here is the Translation of the Message which was originally written in Persian. In the name | More on P6

Article 370 Controversy A Legend, Not Collaborator: Dulat Defends Farooq

Agencies

New Delhi: The launch of former RAW chief Amar Singh Dulat's explosive memoir "The Chief Minister and The Spy" in New Delhi on Friday has reignited political tensions, with the book making startling claims about National Conference (NC) patriarch Dr. Farooq Abdullah's role during the abrogation of Article 370. Addressing the audience during the book launch, Dulat dismissed the brewing controversy and said "Dr. Saheb (Farooq Abdullah) is not here. I don't know how this started, but few have read the book. Someone picked one paragraph from page 208 and twisted it - English is a difficult language," Dulat said in his speech. "This book isn't about that



DR. FAROOQ IS THE SULTAN OF POLITICS. He will emerge even greater than Sheikh Abdullah.

paragraph. Read what comes before and after. The story is about a great man - the tallest leader of Kashmir, one of India's tallest. He's among the world's tallest leaders. Dr. Saheb is a legend. That won't change," he said. | More on P6

Congress Team Meets CM, Discusses J&K Situation

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A high-level Congress team led by national general secretary Syed Naseer Hussain on Friday called on Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and discussed the current political landscape in the Union Territory.

Flanked by AICC general secretary G A Mir and Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra, the Rajya Sabha MP met Abdullah at his

residence, the party leaders said. They were engaged in a productive meeting with the chief minister, they said.

"The discussion focused on the INDIA alliance and the current political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting collaborative efforts and the importance of addressing contemporary challenges in the region," a senior leader said.

The Congress is a coalition partner in Omar Abdullah's government. | More on P6

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Srinagar | Saturday | 19-04-2025

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Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed Homestay unit under the name & Style of M/s. BREZNEES HOMESTAY " situated at KhanKahi Moulla SR Gunj Srinagar 190002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./ Breznees Shah S/o Amir Din Shah R/o Ghan Khan Khan Kahi Moulla SR Gunj Srinagar 190002 intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Homestay unit under the name and style" M/s. BREZNEES HOMESTAY" situated at KhanKahi Moulla SR Gunj Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/ newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed Homestay unit under the name & Style of M/s. FEEL AT HOME " situated at Gulshan Nagar Nowgam Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mrs./Rukhsana Jabeen C/o Mohd Aftab mir R/o House no 11 Green Avenue Majeed Bagh sanat Nagar Srinagar intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Homestay unit under the name and style" M/s. FEEL AT HOME " situated at Gulshan Nagar Nowgam Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

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Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..

The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hira Rashid D/o Abdul Rashid Mir R/o Golipora Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 04/04/2008 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

fko SD
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 Mudasir Ali Mir s/o Ghulam Hassan Mir R/o Kripalpura Payeen with verified date of birth 28/01/2023 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..

fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub . issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ab Hameed Lone s/o Ab Ahad Lone R/o Zangam tehsil pattan with verified date of birth 03/02/1978 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko SD
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 Touha Ahmad Lone S/o Gh Ahmad Lone R/o Goushbugh Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 10/07/2020 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.

fko SD
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 khushboo Majeed d/o Abdul Majeed Khanday R/o Khanday mohalla pattan with verified date of birth 29/05/2010 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

fko SD
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 Muskaan Bashir D/o Bashir Ahmad Khan R/o Aram Mohalla Pattan with verified date of birth 24/07/2008 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name , M/S STAY INDIA Tour and Travels " situated at 48 B Samandar Bagh Lal chowk Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr Bushra Qayoom C/o Abdul Manan Nadaf R/o Goji Bagh Srinagar 190008 Tour and Travels intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style" M/ s STAY INDIA Tour and Travels "situated at 48 B Samandar Bagh Lal chowk Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/ newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name , M/S TRAVEL EQUAL Tour and Travels " situated at Beehama Ganderbal ssp office

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr Imtiyaz Ahmad Rather R/o Beehama Ganderbal 191201 Tour and Travels intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style" M/ s TRAVEL EQUAL Tour and Travels "situated at Beehama Ganderbal ssp office Srinagar Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/ newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed Homestay unit under the name & Style of M/s. RIVERBEND RETREAT HOMESTAY " situated at Surraw Gund

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./ Showkat Ahmad Baba S/o Ghulam Rasool Baba R/o Surraw Sofar Raw Kangan intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Homestay unit under the name and style" M/s. RIVERBEND RETREAT" situated at Surraw Gund under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/ newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name , M/S CHERISH Tour and Travels " situated at Alam-Dar colony Lane no1 Nowgam Bye Pass Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr Munazir Noor S/o Mohammad Noor R/o Kursoo Raj bagh Srinagar 190008 Tour and Travels intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style" M/ s CHERISH Tour and Travels "situated at AlamDar colony Lane no1 Nowgam Bye Pass Srinagar 190015 Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department), Bank statement (minimum balance 1000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting), Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@ gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/ newspaper of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir DISTRICT INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION & TRAININGS, PULWAMA (PAMPORE), KASHMIR

email: dietpulwama@gmail.com

Tel/fax-0193322445

Subject: Tender for the supply of Dietary items to DIET Pampore (Pulwama) for participants of different Trainings/Events for the FY-2025-26.

TENDER NOTICE

Online Tenders through GeM for the supply of dietary items to be served at D.I.E.T Pampore (Pulwama) or the venues selected by DIET Pampore for the financial year 2025-26 are hereby invited from the Registered Vendors permitted to supply the same through GeM Portal under Service STC of GeM Portal who shall quote/offer item wise rates detailed as

S. No	Packaging Type	Item Description
01	Regular Thali Veg, Non-Veg & Tea)	1. Basmati Rice of fine quality (250g per plate)
		2. Water Bottle (250ml, 500 ml, 01ltr, 20ltr big bottle)
		3. Non-Veg dishes shall include either of the following to be served on rotational basis:
		a. Mutton/Chicken (150 gm raw weight/piece)
		b. Rogan josh 150g/piece
		c. Rista 120g/piece
		d. Yekhni 120/piece
		e. Kabab V2
		f. Danhiwal Kurma 150g/piece (All Pure Mutton)
		g. Lipton Tea 150ml/cup with Biscuits of Rs.10, Goodday/sun feast/oatmeal/unibic
		h. Tea 150ml with 1/4th regular cake.
		i. Half biryani with 1/8th chicken 275 gram j. Full biryani 400 gram with 1/8th chicken
		4. Veg dishes shall include either of the following to be served on rotational basis:
		a) Mattar Mushroom (1/4 plate)
		b) Mixed Vegetable (1/4 plate)
		c) Dal (Rajma/mong/chola, per plate)
		d) Veg biryani 400 gram
		e) Palak Paneer (per plate).
		f) Salad mixed 100g/plate
		5. During the month of Ramadan the following items should be Provided in a clean, sealed and silver foil packaged manner: -
		a) Half Chicken
		b) Half Mutton Fresh Kabab
		c) Dates 05 no. (Amber/Ajwa)
		d) Banana 02 no.
		e) Orange 02 No.

The successful party/bidder shall have to strictly follow the below mentioned terms & conditions along with the Special Terms and Conditions for Catering Services as laid down on GeM Portal and those as laid down below in the supply order and ensure smooth service in serving the dietary items to the participants:

- The dietary items are to be served during the different events and trainings hence the duration of the programs, menu and quantity will be intimated to the successful bidder prior to the conduct of the event as laid down in the supply order/GeM terms and conditions and the quantity shall increase or decrease after due approval by the Authorities. Any Increase or Decrease in the quantity/number of servings shall be intimated to the Supplier well in time and payments shall be made against actual number of servings.
 - Service Provider shall possess a valid license issued by Food Safety & Standard Authority of India (FSSAI), State Govt. Central Govt., PAN, and copy of GST registration certificate from appropriate authority.
 - The crockery used shall be clean, not old or faulty (cracked, scratched); the packaged food packets (if required) should not leak, and the outer, and paper napkins should be fresh and clean.
 - The eatables served by the Service Provider to the participants/guests shall be completely hygienic, free from any sort of adulteration or foreign ingredients etc.
 - The items have to be delivered in the (8) different Zones of District Pulwama as and when required.
 - The payment shall be made only after receipt of the supplies in full.
 - In case any of the dietary item is found to be substandard, it will not be accepted and the bond/agreement shall be cancelled immediately and action as warranted under relevant provisions of law shall be initiated against successful Bidder.
 - An undertaking duly attested by Judicial Magistrate First Class should be furnished by the successful Bidder to the effect that the dietary items shall be of standard quality and delivered on time on already approved rates. The bond/agreement shall remain in force during the session 2023-24 only.
 - The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the tender or forfeit the bid at any point and the same shall be intimated to the supplier(s) with full reasons.
 - The successful bidder shall be responsible for maintaining decorum and discipline during the serving of food at the event venues. Any misconduct or complaint regarding service quality, staff behavior or hygiene will lead to immediate termination of the contract and blacklisting from future tenders.
- DIPK-516/25
dated: 18-04-2025
- Principal, District Institute of & Trainings,
Pulwama.

PUBLIC NOTICE



It is informed to the General public that my name and Date of Birth (DOB) in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 4392 7512 2849 has been wrongly mentioned as Sara Bano . DOB 20.03.1955 instead of Sara Begum DOB .01.01.1945 Now I am applying for its Correction as per Date of Birth record .if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Sara Begum
W/O. Late Wali Mohammad Khanday
R/O :- Yaroo .Tehsil :- Langate
Distt :- Kupwara .Pin Code 193302.

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application Abdul Rauf Zargar, Muhammad Arif Zargar & Sumayyah Ashraf wards of late Muhammad Ashraf Zargar R/o Thindma Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his/her/their favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC. In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Thindima of tehsil Kreeri and belongs to Zargar Community having annual income of Rs. 140000/- One Lac Forty Thousand. The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S. No	Name Of The Family Member	Relationship with the Applicant	Age	Occupation
01	Haleema Begum	Mother	60 Yrs	Housewife
02	Muhammad Arif Zargar	Son	34 Yrs	Student
03	Meher Jan (W/o Muhammad Arif Zargar)	Daughter-in-law	30 Yrs	Housewife
04	Abdul Rauf Zargar	Son	28 Yrs	Student
05	Sumayyah Ashraf	Daughter	24 Yrs	Student

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from the public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days [seven days] positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar
Tehsil Kreeri
FKO

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>
email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 6191-2566528 <f>2566530
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: Rejection of candidature for the post of Scientific Assistant in Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing.

Notice
Dated: 17.04.2025

Whereas, the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, vide letter No.FST-GAZ/4/2022-02-Forest Department dated 05.04.2022 read with letter of number even dated 16.09.2022 among others, referred 03 posts (OM=01, RBA=01, SC=01) of Scientific Assistant in the department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, to the J&K Public Service Commission for selection; and,

Whereas, the posts were advertised vide Notification No. 25-PSC (DR-P) of 2022 dated 31.10.2022; and,

Whereas, the written test was conducted on 29.08.2024 and 17 candidates were declared to have qualified the written test vide Notification No. PSC/Exam/S/2024/69 dated 05.11.2024; and

Whereas, upon scrutiny of the documents, it has been found that Mr. Krishana Kumar Pangotra, Roll No. 2500416, does not possess the requisite qualification for the said post.

Now, therefore, the candidature of Mr. Krishana Kumar Pangotra, Roll No. 2500416, is hereby rejected. If the candidate feels aggrieved with the rejection of his candidature, he may represent before the Appellate Authority of the Commission with documentary evidence in support of his claim within 10 days from the date of issuance of this Notice. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

DIPK-533/25
dated: 18-04-2025

(Uttam Singh Palsar) JKAS
Under Secretary
J&K Public Service Commission

No: PSC/DR/F, E&ED/Scientific Assistant/2024

Dated: 17.04.2025

Illegal Parking By Car Dealer Sparks Public Outrage In Barbar Shah

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Residents of Barbar shah area in Srinagar have raised serious concerns over persistent illegal parking by a local car dealer, who continues to occupy public roads with multiple vehicles, obstructing movement and violating traffic norms.

According to locals, the car dealer has turned portions of the public road into an unofficial extension of his showroom. Despite repeated complaints and a formal report lodged at the concerned police station on April 17, the issue remains unresolved. On Friday, traffic department officials visited the spot to tow the illegally parked vehicles. However, the dealer reportedly resisted the operation. Shockingly, shortly after the officials left,

the dealer resumed parking vehicles at the same location, disregarding the warnings and enforcement efforts.

“This is a public road, not private property,” said a local resident. “We support the administration, but such blatant defiance of the law must not go unchecked.”

Locals are urging the traffic department and Srinagar Municipal Corporation to take strict and sustained action against the violator. They have also demanded regular monitoring of the area to prevent recurrence of such violations.

Illegal parking has been a growing menace in several areas of Srinagar, causing traffic jams and posing safety hazards for both pedestrians and motorists. Residents hope that this time, the authorities will act decisively.

Tourism Deptt Issues ‘Safety Guidelines’ For Shikara operators

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Days after a boat capsizing incident, the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, has issued a set of mandatory safety guidelines to prevent mishaps and ensure smooth operations.

As per an official order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir Observer, all shikaras must be registered with the Tourism Department and display their registration numbers clearly. Any unauthorized or unregistered shikara found in operation will be seized immediately, it reads.

“Life jackets are now compulsory, with each shikara required to carry jackets equal to or more than the number of passengers. Child-sized jackets must be made available if minors are onboard. No shikara will be allowed to operate unless

every passenger is wearing proper safety gear.”

Additionally, each shikara must display its maximum passenger capacity, registration number, and emergency contact numbers of the tourism police, disaster response teams, and nearby fire and rescue stations. Carrying valid identity and registration documents while operating is mandatory. Overloading is strictly prohibited and will lead to strict action,” the order states, the order added.

“Boat owners must conduct regular inspections to maintain the structural integrity of their vessels. Those found in poor or unsafe condition will be barred from operating. During hours of low visibility, such as dawn or dusk, functioning navigation lights and waterproof whistles are now mandatory,” the order reads.



Nearly 400 Posts Vacant In SMHS Hospital, Reveals RTI

‘Despite Staff Shortage, Around 17,000 Surgeries Performed In A Year’

Agencies

Srinagar: Despite being one of the largest and busiest tertiary care hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir, the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital in Srinagar is grappling with a severe staff crunch, with nearly 400 posts currently lying vacant.

This information was disclosed through a Right to Information (RTI) file obtained by RTI activist M M Shuja.

According to the details, the vacancies span various departments and include critical positions such as doctors, nurses, paramedics and technicians. This shortfall has added pressure on the existing staff, who are managing a massive patient load under challenging circumstances.

The vacancies include the post of Deputy Medical superintendent, Assistant surgeons, senior grade nurses, junior grade nurses, pharmacists, ECG assistants, laboratory assistant, radiotherapy assistant, drivers, laundry operators, multitasking staff, cook sweepers and others.

Details reveal that four drug counters are functioning in the



The vacancies include the post of Deputy Medical superintendent, Assistant surgeons, senior grade nurses, junior grade nurses, pharmacists, ECG assistants, laboratory assistant, radiotherapy assistant, drivers, laundry operators, multitasking staff, cook sweepers and others.

93,000 were treated in IPD, according to details, adding that 3521 deaths were reported in the hospital in 2023 and 2214 were reported in 2024.

Around 21,000 surgeries were performed at the hospital in 2023 and 17,000 in 2024.

A senior official at the hospital said that despite the human resource shortage, the hospital has managed to perform nearly 17,000 surgeries in the past one year.

“From general surgeries to specialised procedures, our doctors and staff have done remarkable work. But we are stretched thin, and the unfilled posts are affecting overall efficiency and patient care,” he said.

The hospital caters to thousands of patients daily, not just from Srinagar but from across the Kashmir Valley, said a doctor wishing anonymity.

“When such a large number of posts remain unfilled in a major hospital, it can compromise patient care, delay procedures, and lead to burnout among staff,” the doctor said.

Patients and attendants also said that a shortage of staff often leads to delays in diagnostics, consultations and follow-ups.(kno)

hospital, including two Amrit drug counters, hospital drug counter and Janaushadhi drug counter.

A total of 9,86,174 patients were treated in OPD in the year 2023-24 while around 108000 were treated in IPD and in 2024, 825070 were treated in OPD and

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



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR

20 Shawwal
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 28
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5: 12
Magrib	7:08
ISHA	8: 34

This Day In History

- 607 - Comet 1P/607 HI (Halley) approaches within 0.0898 AUs of Earth
- 1012 - Martyrdom of Alphege in Greenwich, London.
- 1451 - Alam Shah of Delhi resigns throne
- 1524 - Pope Clemens VII fires Neth inquisitor-general French Van de Holly
- 1529 - 2nd Parliament of Spiers bans Lutheranism
- 1539 - Charles, protestant German monarch, signs Treaty of Frankfurt
- 1591 - Chartres surrenders to king Henry IV in France
- 1713 - Emperor Karel VI ends Pragmatic Sanctions
- 1770 - Amsterdam buys Van Aerssens family 1/3 part of Suriname
- 1770 - British explorer Captain James Cook first sights Australia
- 1775 Minutemen Capt John Parker orders not to fire unless fired upon
- 1775 - American Revolution begins - Lexington Common, shot "heard round the world"
- 1775 - New England militiamen begin the siege of Boston, hemming in the British army garrison
- 1775 - Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott are captured by British troops riding from Lexington to Concord, Prescott escapes to warn Concord
- 1782 - John Adams secures Dutch Republic's recognition of the United States as an independent government and house he purchased in The Hague, Netherlands became first American embassy.
- 1810 - Venezuela achieves home rule: Vicente Emparan, Governor of the Captaincy General is removed by the people of Caracas and a Junta is installed.
- 1836 Nikolai Gogol's "Revisor" premieres in St Petersburg

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Tameel Imtiyaz Bhat while his correct name is Abdullah Imtiyaz Bhat. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rukhsana Rashid
W/o Imtiyaz Manzoor Bhat
R/o Wanigam Payeen

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the Date of Birth of my daughter: namely Tazkiya Hafeez in her school records as 24.04.2012 instead of 29.04.2012. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the Principal, Lyceum International School, Pulwama, within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no claim/objection whatsoever shall be entertained.

Hafeez Ullah Thoker
F/O Tazkiya Hafeez
R/O Gudoora, Pulwama

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my father is recorded as Mohd Kazim in the service records, whereas his name as per the marks card is Mohmad Kazim Mir. I wish to correct his name in the service records to match the marks card, i.e., Mohmad Kazim Mir.

Fayaz Ahmad Mir
S/o Mohmad Kazim Mir

saj

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that in my daughters Aadhaar Card vide No. 30692939088 her name has been wrongly mentioned as Raina Suzain while as her correct name is Bareenah Beti Reyaz D/o Mohd. Reyaz UL Bashir Raina. Now i want to make necessary corrections in her Aadhar Card through the concern office.

Mohd. Reyaz UL Bashir Raina F/o Bareenah Benti Reyaz
R/o GundPora, Bandipora

inf

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) KASHMIR
Tel: 0194-2474234 Fax: 2482032 email:kashflori@rediffmail.com

Subject: - Extension Notice No. 03.

In view of zero response, the Bid Submission end/opening date (Online) of technical/financial bid in respect of e-NIT No. 08 of 2025 dated:-21.02.2025 invited by this office under endorsement No: DOFK-GSOTNDR/11/2024/E-7593648/e-NIT-08 Dated:- 21/02/2025 with regard to "Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing system of Rani Bagh Park Anantnag" is hereby extended as per details given below:-

1.	Bid Submission End date & time	02.05.2025	up to 02:00 PM
2.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06.05.2025	at 02:00 PM

Other terms & conditions shall remain same as laid down in the concerned e-NIT.

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)
Floriculture Department,
Kashmir.

No: - DOFK-GSOTNDR/11/2024/E-7593648/e-NIT-08
DIPK-545/25
Dated.18.04.2025

انتقال پر ممال

انتہائی فوس ورچ کے ساتھ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ
حکیم فدا حسین بن حکیم غلام حسین سائن ٹیگوری بازار، پیدیل موزہ
17 اپریل 2025ء مطابق 18 شوال المکرم 1446ھ حرکہ
مختصر علالت کے بعد انتقال کر گئے مرحوم بیک سیرت، متقی،
اور محبت اہلبیت علیہم السلام تھے۔ ان کی زندگی خدمت خلق،
حسن اخلاق، اور دینی شعائر سے وابستگی میں گزری مرحوم کی
اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی
بروز اتوار موزہ 20 اپریل 2025ء
کو صبح 7 بجے مقبرہ میان پور نزدیک دارالعلوم مفتاح العلوم،
عمیدگلہ میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعد ازاں مرحوم کے دولت
خاندان پران بھرتی مجلس کاسلہ جاری رہے گا۔
سوگواران
عزیز و اقارب

کُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE
From Intizamia Masjid Imam Mahdi (A.S.)
Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak

With hearts full of sorrow and eyes moistened with grief, we, the Intizamia Masjid Imam Mahdi (A.S.), Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak, extend our deepest condolences over the demise of **Allama Agha Syed Baqir al-Mousavi al-Safavi (R.A.)**, a revered scholar, spiritual guide, and true servant of the religion of Islam.

Allama Sahib was a symbol of piety, humility, and wisdom. His vast knowledge of the Qur'an, Sunnah, and particularly Fiqh, illuminated the minds and hearts of countless seekers. His lifelong service in the path of Islamic propagation, and his steadfast adherence to the path of Ahlul Bayt (A.S.), stand as an eternal source of inspiration.

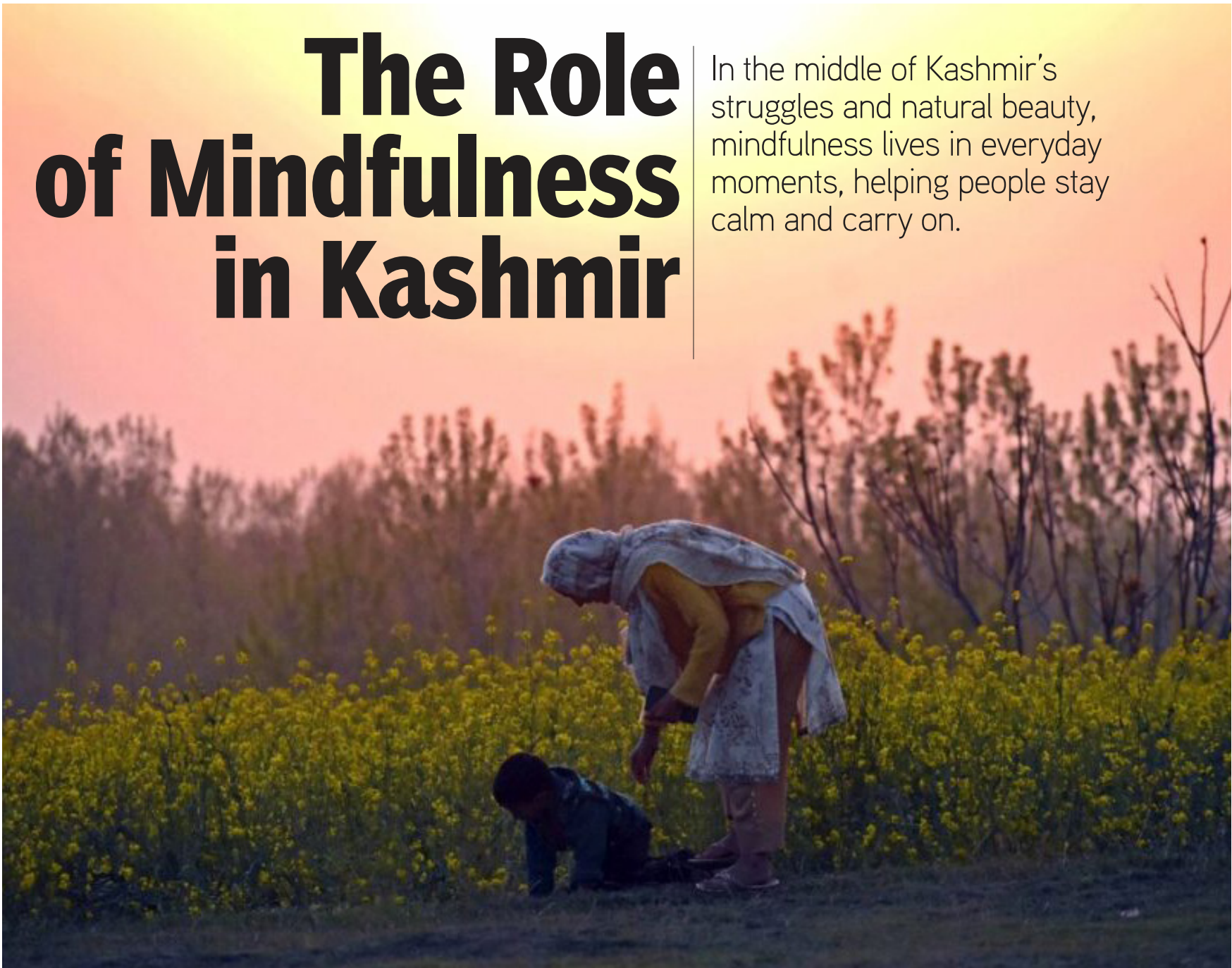
His noble presence, compassionate demeanor, and scholarly contributions will be missed deeply, not only in Budgam but across the entire valley. Indeed, the loss of such a towering personality is not just the loss of a man, but of an era.

We pray to Allah (SWT) to shower His infinite mercy upon the departed soul, elevate his ranks in Jannah al-Firdaws, and grant him companionship of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his pure progeny (A.S.).

We also express our heartfelt condolences to the entire Safavi family and to all his students, followers, and admirers. May Allah (SWT) grant them sabr and strength to bear this irreparable loss.

"إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ"
"Verily we belong to Allah, and verily to Him shall we return."

With Prayers And Sympathy,
Intizamia Committee
Masjid Imam Mahdi (A.S.)
Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak



The Role of Mindfulness in Kashmir

In the middle of Kashmir’s struggles and natural beauty, mindfulness lives in everyday moments, helping people stay calm and carry on.

Gowher Bhat

“The people of Kashmir have been practicing mindfulness for generations, whether they label it or not. A farmer’s patient tending to crops, a tailor’s focus as they stitch fabric, or even a child’s wonder as they watch ants march, all these are forms of mindfulness

Life in Kashmir moves slowly. The harsh winters, frequent power cuts, rough roads, and financial instability shape every day. Yet, in the face of these constant challenges, people persevere — opening shops, drinking tea, praying. How do they manage? The answer is mindfulness, a practice so deeply ingrained in daily life that it is seldom named, yet it is the key to their survival. Mindfulness in Kashmir is not a trendy term or something one actively labels. It is simply about being present, whether in the mundane act of making tea, walking through a crowded market, or quietly sipping tea with a friend. This awareness of the present moment is as much a part of the region’s essence as its landscapes. It is in the rhythm of life, in the stillness between breaths, and in the vastness of nature. Mindfulness in Kashmir is about being in the moment without striving for anything more. It is living with the land, feeling it in your bones. John Kabat-Zinn, who pioneered research in mindfulness, defines it as “paying attention in a particular way: on purpose, in

the present moment, and nonjudgmentally.” His research has shown mindfulness reduces stress and improves emotional regulation, especially in difficult circumstances. For people in Kashmir, mindfulness is a tool for managing life’s daily stressors, not by solving the problems, but by offering a space to breathe amidst them. It provides clarity where chaos reigns. The challenges of Kashmir are constant: financial hardship, political strife, harsh winters. Stress becomes a companion to every aspect of life. But mindfulness offers a refuge. It won’t erase these problems, but it helps to process them with a steadier mind and a calmer heart. Mindfulness activates parts of the brain that reduce the stress hormone cortisol. Studies show that it lowers anxiety, fosters emotional resilience, and helps people navigate difficulties without becoming consumed by them. The beauty of Kashmir, with its towering mountains, flowing rivers, and rustling trees, creates an environment that naturally nurtures mindfulness. The land demands stillness. The vastness invites reflection. There is no

need for meditation apps or wellness programs; nature itself acts as a guide. Every element of the landscape—snow, rain, or the morning sun—offers a reminder to pause, to notice, to be present. The people of Kashmir have been practicing mindfulness for generations, whether they label it or not. A farmer’s patient tending to crops, a tailor’s focus as they stitch fabric, or even a child’s wonder as they watch ants march, all these are forms of mindfulness. The beauty of Kashmir lies not just in its breathtaking scenery but in these small, quiet moments that allow individuals to reconnect with themselves and the world around them. Mindfulness, however, is not about avoiding life’s struggles. It is about meeting them with presence. In a place like Kashmir, where uncertainty is constant, mindfulness becomes a stabilizing force. It teaches people to slow down, to tune into their senses, and to stay grounded in the present moment. It becomes the anchor in a sea of unpredictability. Research has shown that spending time in nature has profound mental health benefits. People in Kashmir, liv-

ing so closely with nature, are already benefiting from this connection. Mountains, rivers, and the serenity of the land offer a form of mindfulness that urban spaces simply cannot replicate. In Kashmir, nature is both a healer and a teacher. Mindfulness is not a complicated practice. It doesn’t require special tools or hours of meditation. It’s found in the simplicity of everyday tasks. Whether it’s walking to the market, washing dishes, or sitting in silence with a loved one, these moments become small meditations when done with full attention. In Kashmir, these acts of mindfulness form the foundation of resilience in a land where uncertainty and hardship are constant. Mindfulness is not a quick fix. It will not eliminate Kashmir’s difficulties, nor will it solve its political and economic problems. But it offers a way to navigate them with greater awareness, emotional strength, and a sense of peace.

— The author is an English-language expert based in Pulwama

Know the Health of Your Political Life

At a time when the world is facing political instability, authoritarian tendencies, and civic apathy, assessing and preserving the health of political life has never been more urgent.

Dr. Younis Ahmad Sheikh

In a democratic society, knowing the health of our political life is just as vital as knowing the state of our physical or economic well-being. Yet, political health often goes unnoticed, even though it shapes every aspect of our collective existence. Here lies the quiet, yet significant role of political scientists. These individuals are often mistaken for politicians, but their work is far more analytical, reflective, and foundational to the democratic process. Political scientists are not involved in party politics or election campaigns. Instead, they act as society’s doctors: diagnosing the political well-being of a country, identifying the symptoms of democratic decline, and prescribing remedies for political dysfunction. They observe how power is distributed and exercised, how institutions function, and how citizens engage with the system. Political health can be assessed

through several key indicators. Among the most important are the level of political participation, the strength of civil liberties, the efficiency of government institutions, and the stability of political structures. When citizens vote actively, engage in public discourse, and participate in movements, it indicates a living and breathing democracy. When freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and media independence are protected, it shows that the body of democracy is strong. Efficient governance, quick service delivery, and a responsive administration show that institutions are working effectively. Political stability, marked by peaceful transitions of power and the absence of violence, completes the picture of a politically healthy society. When any of these factors begin to weaken, it is the political scientist who raises the alarm, offering not just critique but also guidance. Political science is not a subject of the ivory tower; it is a tool of public importance. It helps us understand why voter turnout might be falling, why trust

“Political scientists are not involved in party politics or election campaigns. Instead, they act as society’s doctors: diagnosing the political well-being of a country, identifying the symptoms of democratic decline, and prescribing remedies for political dysfunction

in government is eroding, or why protests erupt in the streets. It can recommend solutions, from civic education and legal reform to strengthening democratic institutions and civil society organizations. Political science also reminds citizens that the health of democracy does not lie only with politicians or bureau-

crats. A vibrant political life depends on engaged, informed, and empowered citizens. Understanding political processes allows people to claim their rights, demand accountability, and ensure justice. In this way, political science is not merely the study of politics, it is a guide for political living. At a time when the world is facing political instability, authoritarian tendencies, and civic apathy, assessing and preserving the health of political life has never been more urgent. Political scientists may not stand at podiums or lead rallies, but their insights are essential to keeping democracy alive. Just as we rely on doctors for our physical health, we must turn to political science to keep the heart of democracy beating strong.

— The author is an assistant professor (Contractual), Department of Political Science, GDC, Awantipora. Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect KO’s editorial policy

Whispers in the Flame

As the Valley marks Fire Services Week, a dramatic spike in forest fires and dwindling water reserves reveal deep vulnerabilities in Kashmir’s disaster response infrastructure.

Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Each year from April 14 to 20, India observes Fire Services Week in memory of 66 brave firefighters who died in the 1944 Bombay Dock explosion. In Kashmir, the observance has grown from a ceremonial occasion into a pointed reminder of the region’s escalating ecological and infrastructural crises — and of the people who continue to battle them on the frontlines.

Fire Services Week in Jammu and Kashmir this year comes amid an unprecedented increase in forest fires. The region recorded 1,243 fire incidents in forests during the 2024-25 fiscal year, more than double the 607 reported in the previous year. These fires affected over 3,500 hectares of land — a significant portion of Kashmir’s treasured green cover. The Pir Panjal, north and south Kashmir hills, and parts of Jammu have witnessed recurring blazes, many threatening human settlements and wildlife habitats.

Between March 24 and April 3 alone, 94 major forest fires were reported across 15 districts. In many cases, the fires raged for hours — even days — before they were brought under control, underscoring both the scale of the problem and the limits of current firefighting capacity.

Officials attribute the spike to a confluence of factors: a long dry spell, a second successive winter with low snowfall, rising average temperatures, and careless human activity. Where once Kashmir’s mountains were blanketed with snow through spring, today many peaks remain bare. This has implications not only for the region’s water security but also its ability to contain fire. Water sources that would have supported firefighting operations are themselves drying up.

The state government’s Forest Department has launched a 20-year State Action Plan on Forest Fire (SAPFF) to tackle the crisis, with proposals to install early warning systems, conduct satellite-based monitoring, and train dedicated forest firefighting teams. However, implementation has been slow and sporadic. Equipment shortages persist, and coordination between fire, forest, and disaster response departments remains uneven.

As part of Fire Services Week, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services has intensified public engagement. This includes school lectures, first aid workshops, awareness drives in hospitals, mock drills in government offices, essay and painting competitions for students, and medical checkups for both the public and firefighters. The department has reportedly conducted 7,551 public outreach programs in the past year, reaching over 823,000 people across the UT.

This year’s theme — “Unite to Ignite a Fire Safe India” — emphasizes collective responsibility. In Kashmir, this message is particularly urgent. Despite the best efforts of officials and volunteers, many forest fires are exacerbated by human negligence — from open burning of agricultural waste to irresponsible picnicking in vulnerable forest areas. The Department now plans to expand outreach to village heads, religious leaders, and civil society actors to foster a broader sense of ownership over fire prevention.

A standout initiative during the week was a joint skill exchange program hosted at the Fire Headquarters in Srinagar. It brought together personnel from the Fire and Emergency Services, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and Forest Department for a hands-on training module in wildfire response. Officials say such exercises are key to ensuring inter-agency readiness for the coming summer months.

The fire services, however, are stretched thin. Many firefighters lack modern gear to tackle forest blazes, which often require entirely different tactics than residential or commercial fires. The terrain is often inaccessible, water scarce, and winds unpredictable. Last year’s Bandipora and Anantnag fires, for instance, spread so quickly that even experienced teams could do little more than contain the edges while letting the blaze burn itself out.

Property loss is also significant. Fires in densely populated areas — such as Kishtwar, Sonamarg, Baramulla and Kadipora Anantnag — have razed homes and businesses, leaving hundreds displaced and property worth crores lost in a matter of hours.

Experts say a more ambitious, technology-driven strategy is required. This includes investment in aerial firefighting equipment, real-time mapping using drones and satellites, and stricter enforcement of land-use laws to prevent encroachments and risky construction near forest belts.

Legislation is another frontier. Many environmentalists are calling for new laws to restrict human activity in vulnerable forest zones, particularly during peak fire seasons. Banning campfires, regulating access, and penalizing open burning could go a long way in reducing incidents.

As the week of remembrance draws to a close, it leaves behind more than tributes. It demands introspection — and action. Kashmir’s forests are not only vital ecological buffers but also repositories of culture, livelihood, and resilience. Protecting them will require more than brave firemen. It will require a united society, ready to act before the next spark becomes a catastrophe.

— The author is a columnist based in Qazigund, Kashmir.

The Artisan's Advocate

Aashiq Hussain Andrabi

When you meet Zainab Syed, what stands out first isn't the fact that she's an intellectual property lawyer; it's how deeply she cares about stories. Not just the stories people tell, but the ones they build with their hands, invent in their workshops, or pass down through generations.

Zainab runs Kashmir's first IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) law firm, and for over a decade, she's been helping artists, artisans, entrepreneurs, and small businesses protect the work they create.

Her office in Srinagar is often full of people who've never met a lawyer before—carpet weavers, sculptors, tech founders, farmers with ideas. She listens closely, not with the distance of legalese, but with a sense of shared purpose.

For her, IPR isn't about paperwork or patents for the sake of it. It's about recognition, fairness, and giving people the language and tools to claim what's theirs.

We sat down with Zainab to talk about what brought her to this kind of work, what it means to protect creativity in a place like Kashmir, and why intellectual property is for anyone who's ever made something with heart.

Interviewer: Choosing law in a place like Kashmir, where more traditional career paths are encouraged for girls, must've taken conviction. What drew you in?

Zainab Syed: Back when I chose law, it was widely considered a fallback option—something you did if you didn't get into medicine or engineering. But I never saw it that way. Law, to me, was intellectually alive, constantly evolving, rooted in ethics, and deeply impactful. Thankfully, my family has always been supportive. We've doctors, scientists, entrepreneurs, and that openness helped. I didn't waste time defending my choices to skeptics. Instead, I let my work speak for itself.

Interviewer: You've built your name in Intellectual Property Rights, something not many law students aim for. Why IPR?

Zainab Syed: IPR fascinated me because it was where creativity met the law. You see the finest manifestations of the human mind - an artisan's intricate weaving, a startup's disruptive idea, a



musician's original score. The field rewards a keen eye for detail and relentless curiosity. It's not easy, but incredibly fulfilling. I've never considered switching. IPR gives me purpose. It protects dreams.

Interviewer: J&K's economy is steeped in crafts and tradition, yet IP awareness seems limited. What's been the hardest part of bridging that gap?

Zainab Syed: The biggest challenge is shifting mindsets, getting artisans to see their creations not just as heritage, but as intellectual property. Many have heard of GI tagging, but few understand the broader IP landscape: trademarks, design rights, copyrights. We've conducted sessions across universities, districts, and even remote villages to raise awareness. I want artisans to understand that IP isn't just legal protection, it's a livelihood strategy. Through

the IPR Facilitation Centre established by the J&K administration, and our work, we're helping small creators turn knowledge into economic power.

Interviewer: Has there been a case that tested you legally, ethically, or emotionally?

Zainab Syed: Many. I can't share specifics due to confidentiality, but a memorable one involved a client asserting rights over a mark his late father had used decades ago. Unfortunately, the original application had lapsed and couldn't serve as evidence. Even though India is a "first-to-use" country, lack of documents meant we faced a tough order. It taught me how critical accurate records are, and how fragile legacy can be without legal backing. We're still fighting that case, and I'm hopeful we'll revive that family's brand.

Interviewer: Does representing Kashmir on national and international stages come with pressure?

Zainab Syed: Of course. But I've learned to separate expectations from authenticity. I represent Kashmir not just in geography but in spirit—resilience, heritage, and innovation. It's never been about where I'm from, but how I represent what I believe in. There's something powerful in showing the world that beyond the headlines, Kashmir has creators, thinkers, and builders. I'm just one voice among many.

Interviewer: Some argue India's IP laws still fall short for small creators. Do you agree?

Zainab Syed: Not entirely. I've defended small creators successfully against large corporations. The law exists, it's about how you use it. Fairness, for me, means taking the time to educate and em-

power. It's not about one case or client, it's about shifting systems to recognize those who've long been ignored.

Interviewer: Working with clients who don't fully understand the law must be demanding. How do you manage the emotional toll?

Zainab Syed: Patience is key. Empathy is essential. Some clients need constant updates, others just want results. I see my job not just as legal support, but as relationship building. You can't help someone if you don't meet them where they are. Burnout happens when you forget the human side of law. I try not to.

Interviewer: As a woman in a male-dominated field, have you faced gender bias?

Zainab Syed: Personally, I've been lucky. I've always had space

to prove myself, whether in courts, firms, or policy meetings. But I know that's not everyone's experience. Many women are still made to feel like they have to earn their place twice over. The legal field needs to reimagine leadership. Empathy, emotional intelligence, and collaboration should be strengths, not weaknesses. Women don't need support, they need recognition.

Interviewer: Is there a particular craft or innovation from J&K you feel needs stronger global IP protection?

Zainab Syed: Absolutely, it has to be Pashmina. Not just the term, but the actual hand-spun, hand-woven shawls crafted from Changthangi goat wool. This is not just a product, it's a story, a lineage. Sadly, global counterfeiting has turned "Pashmina" into a marketing term for machine-made shawls. The artisans are invisible. We need international GI recognition that truly works, not just a label, but legal teeth. Without real protection, the art—and the artist—will fade. And with them, a whole legacy.

Interviewer: Your work spans from grassroots clients to international brands. What's a sacrifice you've made that shaped your journey?

Zainab Syed: Early on, I turned down several lucrative job offers that would have taken me away from Kashmir. It was hard, especially when money was tight, but I knew I had a purpose, to introduce and build IPR awareness in my region. That meant starting from scratch. Today, when I see artisans from rural Kashmir holding certificates of ownership over their creations, I know it was worth it. I didn't just build a career, I built a legacy.

Interviewer: What does success mean to you now?

Zainab Syed: Success is when a weaver in Bandipora can defend his design. When a young woman in Srinagar learns how to copyright her music. When people in Kashmir start seeing IP not as an elite concept, but as a tool for justice. Titles and accolades don't matter as much to me. I'm just trying to educate, empower, and evolve with purpose. And in that, I feel I've already succeeded.

Parenthood Is Not a License to Harm

From choosing careers to life partners, are parents listening or just deciding?

Er. Haya Aijaz

Parenthood is one of the most profound responsibilities a human being can undertake. It's a role that extends far beyond the act of raising a child. It's about nurturing, guiding, supporting, and preparing a young soul to find their place in the world with confidence and dignity. When rooted in love, understanding, and mutual respect, parenthood becomes a beautiful journey of growth for both the parent and the child.

However, in many households, especially within rigid cultural or social frameworks, this journey is often tainted with unrealistic expectations, imposed decisions, and emotional neglect. Instead of becoming a source of security, the parental role sometimes transforms into a burden for the child. This often happens when parents misuse their position of authority under the guise of discipline, tradition, or protection.

Children are frequently silenced in matters that directly impact their lives. They are considered too young or too inexperienced to make choices, and their voices are often dismissed without consideration. While it's true that parents possess more life experience, it's equally important to allow children to express themselves, to feel heard and valued. A child who's encouraged to speak up, even when wrong, grows up to be more emotionally secure and self-aware.

Unfortunately, this freedom is often denied. Parents, in their attempt to do what they believe



is right, end up imposing life-changing decisions, like choosing a career path or even a life partner without acknowledging the child's interests or emotional readiness. Marriage, for instance, is one of the most critical decisions in life, yet in many families, children are pushed into it at the will of their parents. This disregard can leave deep emotional scars that may manifest later in the form of anxiety, emotional withdrawal, or depression.

Moreover, in a bid to maintain social image, many parents choose to discipline their children publicly. Scolding or embarrassing a child in front of guests or relatives is more about showcasing control than correcting behaviour. Such

acts don't instill discipline, they instill fear, shame, and a sense of worthlessness.

In today's world, another growing trend is the over-dependence on day cares and creches. While these services are a necessity for working parents, an increasing number of stay-at-home mothers are opting to send children as young as 18 months to these centers, merely to find relief from caregiving duties. This detachment during the early formative years can affect a child's ability to form secure attachments.

The obsession with boarding schools is another area of concern. Some parents choose to send their children away at a very young age,

not necessarily for better education but to control or fix behaviours. The child, however, suffers emotional loneliness, robbed of essential parental warmth, bedtime stories, and spontaneous hugs.

In the modern digital age, parenting has also shifted toward gadgets. Instead of storytelling or engaging with children emotionally, many parents place smartphones or tablets in their little hands. While it keeps them quiet, it also distances them from the parent, replacing love and bonding with artificial stimulation.

Comparison culture further adds to the burden. Statements like "Look at your cousin, he's so good at studies," or "She never talks back

to her parents," create self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy.

Every child is unique, and expecting them to mirror someone else's achievements crushes their individuality. What's even more heartbreaking is the cyclical nature of this detachment. Parents who distanced themselves from their children emotionally or physically often find themselves lonely in old age. Children, who never felt truly loved or accepted, fail to form strong attachments to their parents. The same hands that once pushed them into hostels are left empty when they seek companionship in their later years. Consequently, many of these elderly parents find themselves sent to old age homes. They're ironically craving the very care, love, and presence they had once denied their own children.

To break this cycle, parenthood must shift from control to connection. It must evolve from authority to empathy. It's about guiding with love, not fear. It's about listening without judgment, allowing mistakes, and building mutual respect.

A child raised in such an environment becomes emotionally strong, more connected to family, and less likely to seek validation from the outside world. And when the time comes, they return that love with loyalty and care. Because ultimately, what we sow in a child's early years is exactly what we harvest in our old age.

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Israeli strikes kill at least 25 in Gaza, Huckabee makes first appearance as US ambassador

Agencies

Deir al-Balah, Apr 19: Israeli airstrikes across Gaza killed at least 25 people on Friday including children, hospital workers said, as the new US ambassador to Israel made his first public appearance in Jerusalem.

The dead included 15 people killed in three strikes on the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Ten people were killed in Jabaliya, including eight from the same home, according to the Indonesian Hospital, where the bodies were brought.

The strikes came a day after more than two dozen people died in Gaza as Israel continued attacks, pressuring Hamas to return the hostages and disarm.

US Ambassador Mike Huckabee visited the Western Wall on Friday, the holiest Jewish prayer site in Jerusalem's Old City. He inserted a prayer into the wall, which he said was handwritten by US President Donald Trump.

"Those are his initials, D.T.," said Huckabee while showing the note to the media.

In his first act as ambassador, Huckabee said Trump told him to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Huckabee also said every effort was being made to bring home the remaining hostages held by Hamas. A one-time presidential hopeful, Huckabee has acknowledged his past support for Israel's right to annex the West Bank



and incorporate its Palestinian population into Israel but said it would not be his "prerogative" to carry out that policy.

During his first term, Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital over Palestinian objections and moved the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv. Palestinians seek the eastern part of the city, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, as their future capital.

Huckabee's arrival comes at a pivotal time in the 18-month war, as international mediators including the U.S. are trying to get a broken ceasefire back on track.

Israel is demanding that Hamas release more hostages at the start of any new ceasefire and ultimately agree to disarm and leave the territory. Israel has said it plans to occupy large "security zones" inside Gaza.

Khalil al-Hayya, head of Hamas' negotiating delegation, said Thursday the group had

rejected Israel's latest proposal along those lines. He reiterated Hamas' stance that it will return hostages only in exchange for the release of more Palestinian prisoners, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and a lasting truce, as called for in the now-defunct ceasefire agreement reached in January.

Hamas currently holds 59 hostages, 24 of whom are believed to be alive. Friday's airstrikes came a day after aid groups raised alarm over Israel's blockade of Gaza, where it has barred entry of all food and other goods for more than six weeks. Thousands of children have become malnourished, and most people are barely eating one meal a day as stocks dwindle, the United Nations said.

Israel's Defense Minister says the blockade is one of the "central pressure tactics" against Hamas, which Israel accuses of siphoning off aid to maintain its rule. Aid workers deny there is significant diversion of aid, saying the U.N. closely monitors distribution. Rights groups have called it a "starvation tactic."

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Most of the hostages have since been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Israel's offensive has since killed over 51,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants. The war has destroyed vast parts of Gaza and most of its food production capabilities. The war has displaced around 90 per cent of the population, with hundreds of thousands of people living in tent camps and bombed-out buildings.

Deadly US airstrike on Yemeni oil port escalates Trump's campaign against Houthis

Dubai, Apr 18 (AP) A US airstrike on an important oil port held by Yemen's Houthi rebels killed more than 70 people and wounded many others, the Iranian-backed rebel group said Friday, marking a major escalation in the military campaign President Donald Trump launched against the faction last month.

The overnight strike on the Ras Isa port sent massive fireballs billowing skyward and turned tanker trucks into burning wrecks. It was the first American attack on a Houthi-controlled oil facility since the US began its new bombing campaign.

It also came just before the resumption of negotiations in Rome between the US and Iran over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, which Washington has linked to its Yemen campaign.

The US is targeting the Houthis because of the group's attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, a crucial global trade route, and on Israel. The Houthis are the last militant group in Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" that is capable of regularly attacking Israel.

The port serves as a major hub for incoming fuel shipments that power areas of Yemen held by the Houthis, and analysts say the airstrike could seriously affect daily life there.

The Houthis, who said the attack killed at least 74 people and wounded 171 others, aired graphic footage of the aftermath on their al-Masirah satellite news channel, showing corpses strewn about the port and

smashed tanker trucks. They denounced the strike as a "completely unjustified aggression."

"It targets a vital civilian facility that has served the Yemeni people for decades," the group said in a statement.

US Central Command declined to answer any questions about possible civilian casualties but referred to a statement in which it said "this strike was not intended to harm the people of Yemen."

"US forces took action to eliminate this source of fuel for the Iran-backed Houthi terrorists and deprive them of illegal revenue that has funded Houthi efforts to terrorise the entire region for over 10 years," it said in its statement.

A US official said the attack sent a message to those supplying fuel to the Houthis despite sanctions. The official spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public.

Hours after the US strike, the Houthis launched a missile toward Israel that was intercepted, the Israeli military said. Sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and elsewhere. Meanwhile, the Houthis said they shot down another American MQ-9 Predator drone, which the US official acknowledged.

The Ras Isa port is a collection of oil tanks and equipment that sits in Yemen's Hodeida governorate along the Red Sea. It is just off Kamaran Island, which has been targeted by intense US airstrikes in recent days.

Before the Houthis took control of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in 2014 and sent the government

into exile, oil from the country's energy-rich Marib governorate moved through Ras Isa for export. But since the Houthis don't control that region, the port now serves as an import hub for gasoline, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas that help power those parts of Yemen the Houthis control.

A deadly escalation of Trump's Yemen campaign

The new US operation against the Houthis under Trump appears more extensive than attacks on the group were under President Joe Biden, an AP review found. The new campaign started after the rebels threatened to begin targeting "Israeli" ships again over Israel blocking aid from entering the Gaza Strip.

From November 2023 until this January, the Houthis targeted more than 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones, sinking two of them and killing four sailors. That has greatly reduced the flow of trade through the Red Sea corridor, which typically sees USD 1 trillion of goods move through it. The Houthis also launched attacks targeting American warships without success.

Assessing the toll of the month-old US airstrike campaign has been difficult because the military hasn't released information about the attacks, including what was targeted and how many people were killed. The Houthis, meanwhile, strictly control access to attacked areas and don't publish complete information on the strikes, many of which likely have targeted military and security sites.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Srinagar's Housing

already developed. Approximately 28% of the area is ecologically fragile, and 14% is prone to flooding, further limiting available land for housing.

"These limitations are not just numbers; they are real barriers," says Raja Muzaffar Bhat, Kashmir's top eco-activist. "Urban growth must be in harmony with the environment. If we don't prioritize sustainable development, we risk exacerbating environmental degradation."

The housing shortage has already led to a surge in property prices. Average property rates in Srinagar have reached Rs. 11,348 per square foot, with some areas commanding prices as high as Rs. 14,285 per square foot. This escalation has made homeownership increasingly unattainable for many residents.

"A lot of middle-class families are finding it almost impossible to buy a home in Srinagar now," says Iqbal Mehraj, a local real estate agent. "The price hikes are pushing young people to look outside the city for affordable housing."

To address the crisis, the government has introduced policies like the Land Pooling Policy and Transferable Development Rights (TDR). These initiatives aim to facilitate planned development by allowing landowners to pool their land for infrastructure projects and receive development rights in return.

The government has also extended the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) scheme until December 31, 2025, to complete all sanctioned houses. Under this initiative, 118.64 lakh houses have been sanctioned nationwide, with 90.25 lakh completed so far.

Despite these efforts, challenges persist. The real estate market in Srinagar is experiencing a downturn, with an oversupply of properties and a decline in demand. This imbalance has led to a slowdown in new construction projects.

"While there is an oversupply, it's mostly in the luxury and high-end houses," says Shakir Hassan, a real estate consultant in Srinagar. "Affordable housing is still a huge gap. Until we focus on low-income groups, the crisis won't resolve."

In response to the housing crisis, the government has proposed the development of nearly a dozen townships across Jammu and Kashmir. The Srinagar Development Authority has selected land at Bemina Bypass for one such township, aiming to improve affordable housing availability and meet the increasing demand for residential spaces.

Furthermore, the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) has announced plans to create a satellite township in Srinagar, spanning 406 acres and costing Rs 15,000 crore over five years. The project will offer residential plots, luxury villas, commercial spaces, and a five-star resort, with initial plot sales financing further development, including affordable housing and commercial areas.

"This satellite township could offer much-needed relief to the housing crisis," says Shabir Lone, an urban development consultant. "However,

it's crucial to ensure that the development includes affordable options for working-class families who are struggling to find a home."

While these initiatives aim to alleviate the housing shortage, experts argue, effective implementation and regulation are crucial. Balancing development with environmental sustainability and ensuring affordable housing for all remain key challenges for Srinagar's urban future.

"The road ahead is difficult, but there is hope," concludes Dr. Dar, quoted above. "With the right mix of policy, planning, and accountability, Srinagar can rise to meet this challenge."

Cryptocurrency Now

these challenges," he said, assuring that the J&K administration and the central government stand with the security forces with full might.

Appreciating the security forces for curbing terror incidents in Kashmir to a large extent, Sinha said attempts were being made to revive terrorism in the Jammu region.

"In the last few years, J&K Police, Army and other security forces have succeeded to a large extent in controlling terrorism in the Kashmir valley. Attempts are being made to revive terrorism in the Jammu region, which was peaceful in comparison. I have faith in J&K Police. It is the collective resolve of J&K Police and other security forces to make both Jammu and Kashmir regions terror-free," he said.

The LG said he was sure the way the security forces succeeded in putting brakes on terror incidents in the Kashmir valley, "you will repeat that resolve in Jammu".

"All the agencies have to come together as a strong team to take a resolve to uproot the neighbouring country's conspiracy," he added.

He asserted that the Jammu and Kashmir Police has to be made a future-ready police force which is equipped technologically, and capable of tackling emerging challenges of terrorism and crime.

"J&K Police is very different from other forces in the country because it has a huge responsibility. On one hand, our brave soldiers face terrorism, and on the other, they have the responsibility to maintain law and order and help in creating a conducive atmosphere for development in J&K," he said.

In the last few years, Sinha said, the performance of Jammu and Kashmir Police in real-time intelligence sharing and swift response has been appreciable.

"I hope the combination of special strategy, advanced technology, and specific intelligence will put the last nail in the coffin of terrorism and its whole support system. In future, the success of the anti-terror operations and (maintenance of) law and order missions will depend on the effective use of the technology," he added.

Counter-Terror

martyrs," the DGP said. Congratulating the passouts, the DGP said, "You have become the part of one of the best police forces in the country. I see discipline and resolve in

you and wish you all the best for your future."

A total of 438 recruits, including 86 women, completed their rigorous training at the PTS Manigam. Among them, 211 constables have previously served as Special Police Officers (SPOs).

It may be recalled that during Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, DGP Prabhat had thanked him for his support and "zero-terror" strategy.

He had said the successful implementation of Shah's decisions like the "zero terror" plan coupled with his support have made the J&K Police strategically a very strong force.

He had thanked the Union Home Minister for meeting the families of the martyrs and personally handing over appointment orders to them. "Our force will not rest till terrorism is completely wiped out of J-K," he said.

Heavy Rains

Waterlogging is likely in low-lying areas.

Farmers have been strongly advised to suspend all agricultural operations until the afternoon of April 21.

Tens of Thousands

display of unity and sorrow, tens of thousands from across the Kashmir Valley—transcending sectarian and political divides—gathered in Budgam to offer funeral prayers. His son, Agha Syed Ahmed, led the prayers, and the revered scholar was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard amid scenes of deep mourning.

A Life Devoted to Knowledge and Spirituality

Known for his profound scholarship, eloquent oratory, and significant contributions to Islamic literature, Agha Baqir had served the community since 1982, following the death of his father, Agha Syed Yusuf.

He began his religious education at Babul Ilm in Budgam and later pursued higher theological studies at the Hawza Ilmiyya in Najaf, Iraq, one of the world's most prestigious centers of Shia scholarship. He also served as the representative of Grand Ayatollah Syed Ali Sistani in Kashmir.

A scholar of remarkable intellect and humility, Agha Baqir remained above political affiliations, dedicating his life to faith, ethics, and public service.

"He never aligned with any political party or ideology," recalled one mourner. "His focus remained steadfastly on faith, humanity, and selfless service. He believed religious leadership should remain untouched by political entanglements."

Shops Shut, Streets Silent

As a mark of respect, a complete shutdown was observed in Budgam and several Shia-majority areas of Srinagar. Shops and businesses remained closed, black flags were

hoisted in mourning, and the usually bustling streets wore a somber silence.

Tributes Pour In

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who attended the funeral, expressed his deep sorrow:

"The immense crowd is testament to the love and respect he commanded. His contributions to religious thought, social harmony, and community service will be remembered with great reverence."

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Kashmir's chief cleric, said:

"His passing is a significant loss to the religious and scholarly circles of Jammu & Kashmir. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and followers and pray Allah grants him the highest place in Jannah."

MP Ruhullah Mehdi, a family member, offered an emotional tribute:

"Allama Agha Syed Baqir was an Islamic scholar of rare brilliance, deeply versed in theology and jurisprudence. With his demise, we have lost the last living link to our family's rich scholarly heritage."

Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari, a noted Shia leader, stated:

"He didn't just preach religion—he lived it. His life was a reflection of Islamic values, integrity, and devotion."

Molvi Imran Reza Ansari, leader of the Peoples Conference, said:

"Today we mourn not just a religious figure but a man whose integrity, humility, and commitment to truth earned him admiration from all quarters."

Legacy of Wisdom and Solace

Oral historian Ilyas Rizvi remarked:

"Agha Baqir's Dewankhan was a sanctuary for seekers of truth. He welcomed those burdened with spiritual or philosophical questions, offering clarity through calm and reasoned counsel. Unlike many traditional clerics, his appeal transcended boundaries—he drew scholars, students, and skeptics alike."

A devoted scholar of Al-Ghadeer, Agha Baqir spent years in secluded research, far from the clamor of material life. His home was a beacon of wisdom and reflection.

Ghulam Ali Gulzar, intellectual and writer, said:

"He had a deep understanding of Iqbal's philosophy. His ability to dissect the poetry of Hafiz and Rumi would reveal layers of meaning few could grasp. His writings, judgments, and sermons reflect an unmatched blend of passion and scholarship."

Final Words from Family

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, family member and prominent Shia leader Agha Syed Hadi said:

"Even in death, Agha Sahab's

message remains clear—religion must unite, not divide. His passing has left a void that will be hard to fill. Despite political and ideological differences, people came together to pay their respects. His legacy transcends every boundary."

Ayatollah Sistani

of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we shall return.

The news of the passing of the esteemed scholar, Hujjat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen, Hajj Sayyid Muhammad Baqir Mousavi Kashmiri (may Allah rest his soul in peace), has caused immense sorrow and grief.

That noble personality dedicated many years of his honorable life to the propagation of the true religion and service to the believers, enduring numerous hardships in this path.

We extend our heartfelt condolences on this great loss to all our faithful brothers and sisters in Kashmir, especially to the respected family members and the honorable admirers of the late departed.

We ask the Almighty God to elevate his rank in the hereafter and to grant his survivors beautiful patience and immense reward.

There is no power nor strength except with Allah, the Most High, the Most Great.

Pertinently, Agha Syed Muhammad Baqir Al-Mousavi passed away early on Friday after a brief spell of illness. He was 85.

A Legend, Not

When pressed about allegations that Abdullah tacitly supported the Article 370 revocation, Dulat was unequivocal. I really don't know what transpired. I did ask Dr. Sahab and Omar as well, and they said, "We were told nothing at all. While writing this book, I again asked Dr. Sahab, and he said, ask Omar, but...The response I got from both father and son was that they had been told nothing. So, it's got nothing to do with what people are saying today. It's a lot of rubbish—that's all I can say."

Dulat added further that no one in Kashmir supported the 370 repeal. "There was not a single Kashmiri anywhere who supported the abrogation. And there were a lot of Indians who spoke against it—I did. I wrote against it, spoke against it, and so did many others. I remember our former Union Home Minister, Chidambaram, speaking with a lot of passion in Parliament, referring to it as a "monumental blunder." So, there's no question of any Kashmiri supporting it. Now, of course, as time has passed and the Supreme Court says everything is okay, Kashmiris probably feel that 370 is not coming back—though they're still willing to fight for it."

He recounted a poignant February 2020 meeting: "What transpired between Dr. Farooq and me was that he couldn't fathom why, after being with India all his life—his family, his father, everybody—they had to lock him up. That was the crux of it. So he said, "If they had to do this, why couldn't they take us into confidence?" That's the

crux of the whole thing."

Dulat blamed media sensationalism, claiming that The Hindustan Times story wrecked everything. "As I said, I don't know who started this deliberately—somebody did, obviously—because that first story in Hindustan Times wrecked everything. It rattled everyone, and I think it probably shook Dr. Sahab too. I don't know what frame of mind he's in, but obviously, it disturbed him. I can't say who is responsible. It's very difficult to say, and I don't want to name names here because I think this is a happy occasion and ought to end happily. But yes, somebody was responsible—I don't know who."

The ex-spy revealed how Kashmir became his life's work. "In 1988, I thought it was a holiday posting. By 1989, bombs were exploding. That winter, everyone fled – we lost four officers in weeks. Jagmohan had me removed, calling me 'Farooq's man.' But Kashmir never left me."

He named three figures, who targeted him: "Jagmohan, Mufti Sayeed, and Arun Nehru – they wanted me out."

Reflecting on the insurgency's origins, Dulat said: "We wasted a chance in 1989-90. The JKLF boys didn't understand 'azadi.' Pakistan's ISI exploited them – General Durrani told me even they were surprised by the militancy's spread."

On the Pandit exodus, Dulat said that then governor Jagmohan should not be blamed for the exodus of pandits however he was happy about it. "I was there when it started. A prominent Kashmiri Pandit (quoted in my book) came to me desperately, saying, "We have to go." There was so much fear—especially after Judge Ganju was killed on Hari Singh High Street. Nobody came for hours to retrieve his body—he bled to death. A lot of blame is put on Jagmohan—but I don't think he was responsible for the exodus. He was happy with it because if Pandits stayed, more would've been killed, and he'd have gotten the blame."

Recounting the 1999 Kandahar hijacking, Dulat revealed during the book launch that Farooq Abdullah [then Chief Minister] theatrically threatened to resign when Delhi demanded prisoner releases. "We went to Governor Saxena at 10 PM – he served Black Label and said to Dr Farooq, 'You're a big man, don't resign.' Farooq relented," claimed Dulat.

In a stunning historical assessment, Dulat declared that history will judge Farooq Abdullah greater than his father. "He is a man with very strong and good political instincts, but he's also a very brave man to have endured all that he has. As a politician, I think he's one of the best. I have written in the book that he's the Sultan of Politics. When history is written, Dr. Farooq will emerge even greater than Sheikh Abdullah. Now, I'm not saying spending 12 or 13 years in jail is easy, but the Sheikh had Mahatma Gandhi on his side. He had Nehru on his side. You know the story—when the Sheikh was finally released, he came to Delhi and stayed as the Prime Minister's guest. Would that happen today?" (KNO)

Condolences Pour In As Kashmir Mourns Loss Of Agha Syed Baqir

Political Leaders and Public Figures Pay Tribute to Late Cleric

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The passing of Allama Agha Syed Baqir Al-Mousavi, one of Kashmir's most respected religious scholars has triggered an outpouring of condolences and tributes from across the political, religious, and civil society spectrum.

The 85-year-old scholar, known for his spiritual depth was laid to rest in Budgam on Friday amid a sea of mourners.

Political & Religious Leaders Express Grief

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the Mirwaiz of Kashmir, expressed sorrow over the loss, calling it a major blow to religious and scholarly circles of the region.

"Express my deep sorrow on the passing away of respected religious scholar Aga Syed Mohammad Baqir Al-Moosavi. His demise is a great loss to the religious and scholarly circles of Jammu & Kashmir. I convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and the entire community, and pray to Almighty Allah to grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannah," he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in a heartfelt tribute, said the demise of Allama Baqir marked the end of an era.

"Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. Deeply saddened by the passing of distinguished Shia scholar, cleric, and religious leader Allama Agha Syed Mohammad Baqir Al-Moosavi. His profound contributions to religious thought, social harmony, and public service in J&K leave behind a legacy that will be remembered with deep respect and affection. Heartfelt condolences to his family and followers mourning this great loss," Omar wrote on X.

PDP President Mehbooba Mufti remembered the scholar as a prolific author and theologian.

"Deeply saddened to know of the passing away of revered Shia cleric, prolific author & theologian Aga Syed Baqir Moosavi Sahab. May Allah SWT grant him the highest place in Jannah & give patience to his family & legion of admirers," she wrote.

Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Gani Lone, described the scholar as a revered guide:

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Allama Aga Syed Mohammad Baqir Al-Moosavi Al-Najfi of Budgam. A revered scholar and guide. May Allah SWT elevate his ranks and grant him Jannat al-Firdous (Ameen)."

Apni Party President Syed Altaf Bukhari, described his passing as a tremendous loss to the community.

"The passing of Allama Aga Syed Baqir Al Safvi Najafi marks



the end of an era. He will always be remembered for his profound contributions as a distinguished religious scholar and revered leader. His teachings and wisdom will continue to inspire and guide people for generations to come. This is a tremendous loss, especially for the Muslim community of Kashmir. May Almighty Allah grant his soul the highest place in Jannah."

Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of Peoples Democratic Front (PDF), also paid glowing tributes to the late cleric:

"Allama Al-Moosavi's unparalleled contributions to religious discourse, interfaith harmony, and public welfare in Jammu and Kashmir have left an indelible mark. He was a beacon of unity whose teachings inspired generations across communities. His demise is a monumental loss not just to the Shia community but to all who value peace, wisdom, and spiritual integrity."

Noted Scholar from South Kashmir Dr Sameer Siddiqui said he was deeply pained to hear the sad demise of noted religious scholar, author and orator Aga Syed Baqir al Moosavi alNajafi who throughout his life worked tirelessly for upholding the teachings of Islam and amity and brotherhood among Kashmiri Muslims. May his soul rest in Jannah.

Prof Sheikh Showkat Hussain who taught at Kashmir University says, "Agha Syed Baqir conducted significant research on Ijtihad and the poetry of Iqbal, though his work did not receive the recognition it truly deserved." One reason for this, according to Sheikh Showkat, was his ascetic temperament and his deep aversion to showmanship, a quality he adhered to strictly until his final days.

"I had, on several occasions, requested the late scholar to allow formal book launch ceremonies for his publications, but he always declined, saying such events often involve praise and glorification of the author—something that did not suit his nature."

CS Discusses Plans To Boost Tourism In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant move towards revitalising tourism in Jammu division, the Department of Tourism Friday presented a strategic and action oriented roadmap to the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, regarding promotion of tourism across the region, during an exclusive meeting held here in this regard.

Besides Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Secretary, PWD and Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, the meeting was attended by CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Deputy Commissioners Jammu, Reasi and Udhampur; Director Tourism, Jammu and other concerned officers of the department. In addition, the meeting was also attended by the major tourism and travel operators including hoteliers and traders.

Dulloo impressed on the department to redouble efforts towards vigorous promotion and publicity of the tourism circuits. He enjoined upon them to be proactive across all the social media platforms, using the services of influencers there to reach out to the masses. He asked for starting rafting and paragliding at some of the places across the region, taking utmost care of the safety parameters. He also asked for roping in the professionals in this tourism trade activity to train the youth.

The Chief Secretary asked the department to frame the Homestay policy as soon as possible with other guidelines for registration of BnB enterprises. He also directed for



devising the loan product for development of Home-stays in the region as per the past directions.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yashash Mudgal, gave a presentation detailing the multifaceted approach focused on thematic circuits, adventure tourism, heritage experiences, infrastructural upgrades and promotion of offbeat destinations, aimed at making Jammu a year-round diversified tourist destination.

She threw light on five major tourist circuits envisaged by the department to make tourism a major activity across Jammu region. These circuits were discussed to ensure multi-day stay of tourists in the region based upon their choice and interests.

Several itineraries were proposed in these circuits based on thematic, heritage, adventure, pilgrim and other offbeat destinations to prolong the stay of tourists here besides encompassing the tourism spots across adjacent districts.

The identified major tourist circuits that were unveiled during the meeting included the Katra-Shivkhori Circuit, emphasizing on pilgrimage, adventure and border tourism.

This circuit integrates spiritual hotspots like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Shivkhori and heritage sites such as Krimchi Temples and Raghunath Temple, Rambheshwar besides nature trails of Mantalai and Patnitop and border tourism (Suchetgarh). Chenab Valley Circuit covering Bhaderwah, Kishtwar and Doda and white water rafting at Shibnote, trekking trails and valley tourism (LalDraman, Warwan). This route blends adventure, natural beauty and cultural richness with activities like rafting at Baradari and scenic treks through Warwan Valley. The itineraries taps into Bhaderwah, a region with growing tourist footfall and the newly accessible Tatapani, now linked via Sanagidan Railway Station.

Samba-Kathua Circuit focused on religious, heritage and water-based tourism, highlighting Basohli, Ranjit Sagar Lake and Sarthal besides the pilgrim sites of Budha Amarnath and Gurudwara Nangali Sahib.

Similarly, Pir Panjal Circuit encompassing Rajouri and Poonch, this circuit offers fort tourism, cultural immersion and alpine treks, promoting sites like Peer Ki Gali and Budha Amarnath Ji.

DULLOO IMPRESSED ON THE DEPARTMENT TO REDOUBLE EFFORTS TOWARDS vigorous promotion and publicity of the tourism circuits. He enjoined upon them to be proactive across all the social media platforms, using the services of influencers there to reach out to the masses.

GMC Sgr Hosts Live Operative Workshop

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The PG Department of Minimal Access and General Surgery, GMC Srinagar, in collaboration with JAKASL, successfully hosted a Live Operative Workshop on Advanced Laparoscopic GI and Gynae Oncosurgery on Friday at the GMC Auditorium.

The event witnessed the participation of surgical faculty and postgraduates from across the region, a statement issued to Kashmir Observer reads.

The highlight of the workshop was the presence of Dr. Shailesh Puntambekar, an in-

ternationally renowned laparoscopic oncosurgeon from Galaxy Hospital, Pune. Dr. Puntambekar showcased his unparalleled expertise by performing Laparoscopic Whipple's Procedure, Lap LAR for Carcinoma Rectum, and Lap Wertheim's Hysterectomy for Carcinoma Endometrium, setting a benchmark in surgical excellence and innovation.

Inaugural ceremony was held under the patronage of Prof Dr Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal and Dean GMC Srinagar, with Dr Puntambekar as the Guest of Honor, Prof Rukhsana Najeeb - Principal GMC An-

antnag & Prof. Dr Fazl ul Qadir Parray - Principal SKIMS Medical College as special guests.

Special appreciation is extended to Prof. (Dr.) Iqbal Saleem Mir, HOD Surgery and Organising Chairman, whose visionary leadership and tireless efforts were instrumental in the success of this academic event. His commitment to advancing surgical education in the region continues to inspire generations of surgeons.

The workshop also offered 4 CME credit hours and reaffirmed GMC Srinagar's dedication to academic excellence and clinical advancement.

Dy CM Reviews Progress On Water Supply Projects In Nowshera

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Aiming smooth water supply in Nowshera Constituency in ensuing summer season, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who is also the local MLA, Friday reviewed functioning of Jal Shakti department besides assessing progress on works being executed under JJM, NABARD and UT Capex during a meeting held here in this regard.

The Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, apprised that there are total 70 schemes functioning in the constituency including 51 under Jal Jeevan Mission, 18 under Languishing/UT Capex and one under NABARD to overcome the water crisis in Nowshera.

It was also informed in the meeting, that out of 18 schemes under UT capex, 11 have been completed while 7 are under process. Similarly, 75 percent of the work has been completed on the only scheme under NABARD.

Regarding the financial status of 51 schemes under JJM, the concerned official apprised that out of Rs 358.59 crore estimated cost an expenditure of Rs. 212.77 crore has been achieved on procurement of material and development of infrastructure. He said that remaining work on most of the schemes shall be completed soon and will be commissioned next month. It was further informed that there are three schemes of irrigation sector, one of flood control under NABARD in which two DPRs of Irrigation sector are under process and one DPR of Flood control has been submitted.

The Dy CM, after taking scheme wise review of all sec-

tors, instructed the officers to strictly adhere to quality parameters and complete the projects within the stipulated time frame.

Choudhary emphasized that the only priority should be maintaining regular supply of water in view of the ensuing summer season. He asked all the departments including Jal Shakti, Irrigation and Flood Control, JPDCL, Ground Water to work in synergy providing maximum relief to the people.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked to expedite the pace of progress on various developmental initiatives, focusing on timely commissioning of schemes. He also stressed upon them to ensure that the public service delivery mechanism shall be speeded up so that the people do not face any inconvenience.

He said that measures are underway to further improve and upgrade the existing infrastructure of PHE and PDD departments.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister chaired a meeting to review the legal cases of Industries and Commerce, Geology and Mining, Public Welfare Works and Labour and Employment departments pending in the High Court and CAT.

The Senior Law Officer apprised the Dy CM that a total of 1083 cases of I&C are pending, of which, objections have been filed in 946 cases while out of 321 cases of G&M pending in court, objections have been filed in 58 cases. It was also informed that there are around 2200 cases of PWD pending in the Court which are mainly pertaining to land acquisition, services matter and contractual liabilities among others.

MLA Kupwara Reviews Developmental Scenario

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kupwara, Mir Mohammad Fayaz chaired a meeting of concerned officers and stakeholders here at D.C Office Kupwara to review the developmental scenario of Kupwara town.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan was also present in the meeting.

On the occasion, MLA emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to improve public infrastructure, sanitation, road connectivity, and overall urban services in the town. He reviewed the status of key projects including road macadamization, drainage improvement, solid waste management, street lighting, and ongoing works under the District Capex Budget.

Stressing on the need for ac-

countability and transparency, MLA directed concerned departments to strictly adhere to timelines and maintain quality standards in all works. He also called for expediting the completion of pending projects and initiating new development works in response to public demands.

During the meeting, Mir Fayaz took note of several public grievances related to basic amenities and directed officials to ensure swift redressal. He assured that the government remains committed to the holistic development of Kupwara town and urged officials to work with dedication and a people-first approach.

Deputy Commissioner also spoke and emphasized the importance of coordination among various departments for achieving better results on the ground.

Fire Guts Seminary In Bemina

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: At least four firefighters were injured after a blaze broke out in Gousia Colony, Bemina area of Srinagar city on Friday evening, damaging Madrasa Sabeel-un-Huda and two residential structures, officials said.

An official said that teams of Fire and Emergency Services rushed to the spot immediately after receiving the fire alert, while local residents also joined the efforts to stop the flames from spreading further.

"The fire first engulfed the madrasa and then spread to two nearby structures. Firefighters are making every effort to control the situation," an official said.

He added that four firemen sustained injuries while battling the blaze and were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Moreover, eyewitnesses said thick flames and smoke were seen rising from the area, as multiple water tenders were deployed at the scene, and the cause of the fire was not known at the time of filing this report, and the fire had been controlled now.

Sgr Police Attach Vehicle Of Terrorist Aide Under UAPA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In its relentless efforts to dismantle the terror-ecosystem, Srinagar Police has attached a vehicle belonging to a terrorist associate under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).

"A motorcycle bearing registration number PB17A-3362 (Chassis No. 379870, Model year 2007), in the possession of an individual namely Fahad Bashir Siddiqui son of Bashir Ahmed Siddiqui resident of Akilmir Khanyar, has been attached by Srinagar Police," a police spokesman said in a statement issued Kashmir Observer.

This decisive action has been carried

out under Section 25 of the UAPA, as part of ongoing investigations linked to case FIR No. 55/2021 registered in Police Station MR Gunj, police said.

"Notices prohibiting the sale, transfer, or rental of the attached vehicle under legal procedures have been duly served in accordance with the law. The attachment was executed by a duly constituted police team in full compliance with the laid down legal procedures."

Meanwhile, the spokesman said that Srinagar Police remains committed to acting firmly against those involved in or supporting unlawful and terror-related activities.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

email: exengineer12@gmail.com

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Ref:- e-NIT no. STD/Gbl/22 of 2024-25 Dated 12-03-2025.

Name of the work: - Hiring of 4x4 Pickup Vehicle for restoration of power supply for 33KV Bandipora Gurez Line for the financial year 2025-26 in respect of STD Ganderbal.

After opening of the technical bids it has been observed and established that only two bidders out of three are found responsive namely M/S Baba contractors & Associates and M/S Baba Transport Company and Carriage Contractors. Moreover it has been found that the same three bidders have participated in the tender last year also thereby raising the suspicion of pooling as in terms of rule 5.6.5 of M.F.P.W. sometimes a group of bidders may resort to such tactics as to avoid / control true competition in a tender. Further the said rule also mentions providing encouragement to new firms to participate.

In-view of the above conditions, the above-referred e-NIT is hereby cancelled and a fresh tender shall be published separately.

No: - STD/GBL/Ts/56-58
DIPK-NB-251/25 Dated:- 18-04-25

-Sd/-
Executive Engineer
STD Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD-VI (6), BEMINA, SRINAGAR

Tele No: 0194-2492429 Fax: 0194-2492429. Email: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: TLMD-VI/01 of 2025-26 Dated: 18/04/2025

Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina Srinagar on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT invites e-tenders (In Two Cover System) valid for 180 days from reputed, experienced and financially sound Contractors and Executors fulfilling the eligibility criteria specified in the standard bidding documents for the work detailed below. E-Tenders need to be accompanied by earnest money deposit (EMD) in the shape of DD/CDR from any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank pledged to Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina Srinagar, J&K.

The complete bidding process is online. However, hardcopies are to be submitted only by the Lowest Bidder in the office of Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI Bemina Srinagar, on the day which will be communicated to lowest bidder. Financial bids must be submitted online only as per prescribed format.

The Standard Bidding Document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

S.N o	Scope of work	Qty	Tender Fee (Rs)	Adv. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of EMD (in Rs)
1	"Replacement of existing low accuracy CT & PT Units at 100MVA 132/33kV Grid Station Mattan and other miscellaneous works"	Refer BOQ for details	₹1000 (refer SBD for details of making payment)	₹32.327 lacs	₹65000/-

The information regarding schedule of downloading of the tender document and submission dates thereof is as per the table below:

CRITICAL DATES:-

1.	Issue of e-NIT.	18-04-2025
2.	Downloading of bidding documents (Start).	18-04-2025 (16:00Hrs)
3.	Downloading of bidding documents (End).	08-05-2025 (12:00Hrs)
4.	e-Bid submission (Start) date & time (Submission).	20-04-2025 (10:00Hrs)
5.	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission supporting documents in PDF formats).	08-05-2025 (14:00Hrs)
5.	Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid opening date and time.	09-05-2025 (12:00Hrs)
6	Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids.	Office of the Executive Engineer. TLMD-VI, Bemina, Srinagar
7	Cost of e-Bid document (to be submitted in the form of DD/Online Transfer as per account details in SBD Pledged to executive engineer TLMD-VI, JKTPCL Srinagar).	₹1000/-

Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.

Clarifications can also be sought from the office of the under signed on E-mail: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com.

Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions.

The department reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

No: TLMD-VI/344-46
Dated:- 18-04-2025

DIPK-NB-245-25
DT: 18/04/2025

Executive Engineer
TLMD-VI, Bemina Sgr.

UNRAVEL KASHMIR