

J&K Experiencing Spiritual, Cultural Renaissance: LG

Urges Youth to Connect With Sacred Shrines SAYS DREAM OF MAKING J&K NATION'S SPIRITUAL HEART NOT DISTANT

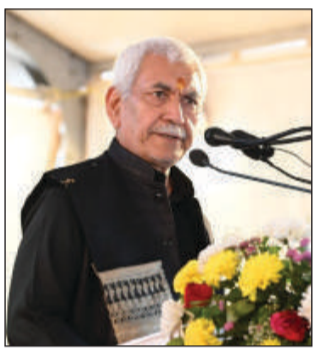
Observe News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a "spiritual, cultural and social renaissance" and reiterated that the government's objective is to transform the Union Territory into the spiritual heart of the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor made these remarks while inaugurating infrastructure upgradation and beautification works at the holy Shiv Khori shrine in Reasi district. The works were carried out by the JSW Group under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director of JSW Group, and his team for undertaking the project.

"I see this as a profound act of kindness for humanity's shared



heritage," he said. Sinha said that since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with JSW Group in 2023, the administration had been awaiting the completion of the works.

"Shiv Khori's awakening begins. We have not only upgraded infrastructure but fortified faith itself. I have always held a firm conviction that the light of spirituality must be readily accessible to every person in society," he said. | More on P6

Women Shaping A Fairer, More Equitable Society: LG

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday extended greetings to the women of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of International Women's Day, observed annually on March 8. In his message, the Lieutenant Governor conveyed his felicitations to women across the Union Territory for their contributions to | More on P6

IT IS MY PRIME OBJECTIVE TO MAKE JAMMU KASHMIR A VIBRANT, breathing spiritual heart of the nation. After five years of sustained efforts, I can say with quiet satisfaction that dream is no longer distant."

Intensify Drive Against Anti-Nationals, Drugs: DGP

Observe News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday stressed the need for intelligence based operations and proactive policing to maintain peace and stability in the Union Territory.

The DGP was chairing a comprehensive review meeting to assess the overall security situation, counter terror operations and law and order scenario in Awantipora police district of south Kashmir's



Pulwama district. During the meeting, Prabhat took a detailed review of the prevailing security scenario with special | More on P6



Normal Life Resumes In Kashmir After Restrictions Lifted

Observe News Service

Srinagar: Life returned to normal across Kashmir on Saturday after authorities lifted restrictions that had

remained in place for nearly a week following protests in several parts of the Valley over the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Officials said restrictions on movement and assembly were withdrawn across the Valley as the situation remained peaceful. "Restrictions have been

lifted from all parts of the valley and the situation is normal," officials said. Security forces also removed barricades that had been erected | More on P6

Iran To US: Surrender Not An Option

Reaches Out To Gulf States As War Triggers Fears of Global Meltdown

Trans Asia News Service

Tehran: Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday rejected US President Donald Trump's repeated calls for Iran to surrender, declaring that such hopes were "a dream they should take to their grave" as the conflict between Iran, the United States and Israel intensified across the Middle East.

Delivering a televised address exactly one week after the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei that triggered the war, Pezeshkian praised Iranians for their resilience and vowed that the country



would continue to resist. "The enemies who hope Iran will capitulate will take that dream to the grave," he said, adding that the country remained committed to international law and human rights despite what he described as

aggression by Washington and Tel Aviv.

The war has rapidly expanded across the region, rattling global markets, disrupting air travel and exposing Gulf countries to waves of Iranian missiles and drones. Hours before Pezeshkian's address, strikes disrupted operations at Dubai International Airport, targeted a major Saudi oil facility and forced residents in Bahrain to repeatedly take cover.

Pezeshkian, who is part of a three-member interim leadership council overseeing Iran after the Supreme Leader's assassination, also attempted to calm tensions with neighbouring Gulf states. | More on P6

Trump Warns Of Killing More Iran Leaders

US President Donald Trump warned in a social media post on Saturday that more Iranian officials would become targets in the war, writing:

"Today Iran will be hit very hard!" "Under serious consideration for complete destruction and certain death, because of Iran's bad behaviour, are | More on P6

Aim For Zero Casualty Of Linemen On Duty: CM

Observe News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday directed the Power Development Department to adopt strict safety measures for field staff and emphasised the need to work towards achieving the goal of "zero casualty" among linemen while on duty.

Chairing the 'Lineman Diwas' celebration organised by the Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDCL), the Chief Minister said the government and the power department are committed to ensuring the safety and protection of every lineman engaged in electricity-related work.

The event recognised linemen as the frontline technical workforce responsible for maintaining electricity supply across Jammu and Kashmir. It



also highlighted their role during emergencies and natural calamities to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

In his address, Omar described the occasion as an important and long-overdue recognition of the contribution made by linemen.

"Power makes virtually all other aspects of our lives function. Government services such as healthcare, education and irrigation | More on P6

Meet J&K's UPSC Achievers: Stories Behind The Ranks

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a moment of pride as several candidates from the region cleared the prestigious Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination 2025, with stories of perseverance and determination emerging from different parts of the Valley.

Visually Impaired Irfan Lone Overcomes Odds

Among them is Irfan Ahmad Lone, a visually impaired candidate from Manzpora in the Naidkhai area of Bandipora district, who secured an All India Rank (AIR) of 957.

Having lost an eye in a



school accident during childhood, Lone refused to let the setback define his future. He completed his schooling at the National Institute for the

Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities in Dehradun before graduating from Hindu College, University of Delhi. He later pursued Political Science

at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Lone had earlier cleared the probationary officer examination of the Punjab National Bank and is currently working as an Assistant Administrative Officer in the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

His success has brought celebrations to his hometown, with family members, neighbours and well wishers visiting his residence to congratulate the family. "His journey shows that with determination and focus, even the most challenging goals can be achieved," said his cousin Feroz Ahmad.

Neighbours said Lone's father, who worked as a casual labourer on modest wages, ensured that financial constraints did not hinder his son's education.

His younger sister Shabia said the family had always believed in his abilities.

"I always believed he would succeed. He worked extremely hard and managed his job while preparing for the exam. His dedication has paid off," she said, adding that the achievement has made the entire district proud.

Towseef Ahmad Ganie's Story of Determination

From south Kashmir, Towseef Ahmad Ganie from Puchal area of Pulwama district also scripted an inspiring success story. The son of a labourer, Ganie secured AIR 254 in his second attempt.

Currently working as a veterinarian in Poonch district for the past two years, | More on P6

Nida-e-Mashriq Founder Abdul Rashid Passes Away

Observe News Service

Srinagar: Senior Kashmiri journalist and Chief Editor of the Urdu daily Nida-e-Mashriq, Abdul Rashid Shah, passed away in Srinagar early Saturday after a protracted illness. He was 78.

Born in June 1948 in Chinkral Mohallah, Habba Kadal, in old Srinagar, Shah was a respected figure in Kashmir's journalistic circles and served the profession for several decades. He was widely known for his thoughtful editorials that often reflected the sentiments and concerns of the people of



Kashmir. Shah began his career in journalism with the Urdu daily Alsafa, where he worked as a part-time editor. In 1992, he resigned from his job at the State Information Department and founded Nida-e-Mashriq, which soon carved out a niche among Urdu newspapers published from Srinagar. | More on P6

EPG Flags Alleged Illegal Excavation Near Doodhganga Embankment

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) has expressed concern over an incident of alleged illegal excavation carried out in the hinterland of the flood embankment of Doodhganga Nallah near the Channapora Bridge crossing during the intervening night.

According to the group, unidentified individuals reportedly excavated earth to a depth of nearly five feet in an area adjoining the embankment.

EPG said such activity is illegal and could have serious implications for flood control and the stability of the embankment.

The group stated that excavation in close proximity to the embankment may weaken its structural integrity, particularly during periods of high water discharge or flood situations.

According to KNT, officials said the site where the excavation reportedly took place falls on government land belonging to the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department.

EPG said any unauthorised excavation or encroachment on

such land is a matter of concern from both environmental and safety perspectives.

Following the incident, the Environmental Policy Group said it immediately brought the matter to the notice of the Superintending Engineer, Flood Control Budgam and the Executive Engineer of the Irrigation and Flood Control Division Narbal.

During discussions with the officials, the group highlighted the possible risks posed by excavation activities to the safety of the Doodhganga Nallah embankment.

The officers concerned, after taking note of the issue, assured that necessary steps would be taken to stop the work at the site and prevent any encroachment on government land.

EPG also said that residents of the area reportedly intervened and helped stop the excavation activity.

The group has urged the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, to issue appropriate directions to ensure that illegal excavation and encroachment on government land are prevented.



A VENDOR ARRANGES PILES OF DATES at a roadside cart on the 17th day of Ramadan, as people shop for Iftar essentials. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Traffic Police Gear Up to Manage Rush with Schools Reopening

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Traffic Police have put in place necessary arrangements to manage vehicular movement in Srinagar as schools set to reopen after the winter break, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic City Srinagar Ajaz Ahmad Bhat said here, on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters, SSP Bhat, as per KNO, said the department is fully aware of the traffic congestion that usually occurs during morning hours due to the movement of school buses and private vehicles dropping students.

"We are aware of the timings of school buses and the pressure on roads during school hours. Traffic personnel have been deployed accordingly to ensure smooth movement," he said.

He said the department is also exploring the possibility of staggered school timings to reduce traffic congestion during peak hours.

"Efforts are being made to work out staggered timings so that the rush during morning hours can be minimised," Bhat said.

The SSP added that traffic po-



WE ARE AWARE OF THE TIMINGS OF SCHOOL BUSES AND THE PRESSURE ON ROADS DURING SCHOOL HOURS. Traffic personnel have been deployed accordingly to ensure smooth movement,"

lice teams are already on the ground to regulate traffic at key junctions and ensure that school-related movement does not lead to major bottlenecks.

Appealing to the public for co-operation, he urged parents and drivers to follow traffic rules and park their vehicles properly while dropping off or picking up students.

"Improper parking often leads to congestion. People should park their vehicles in designated places so that traffic movement remains smooth," he said.

MLA Tanvir Reviews Utilization of Funds



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A meeting was convened at JLN Hospital, Rainawari Srinagar by MLA Zaidal, Tanvir Sadiq to review and discuss the proposed agenda for utilization of funds under the RKS and Kayakalp programs for the year 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by the Medical Superintendent, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar, Deputy Director Information, various Executive Engineers, Tehsildar Khanyar, Ward Officer SMC, Project Officer ICDS, and several Heads of Departments of JLN Hospital.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding the proposed works and

procurement of items aimed at improving hospital infrastructure, sanitation facilities, patient amenities, and medical equipment at the hospital. The agenda items were thoroughly deliberated upon and were positively received by the MLA.

On the occasion, Tanvir Sadiq appreciated the initiatives taken by the hospital administration for strengthening health-care facilities and improving patient services. He assured full support for the proposed works and emphasized the need for timely implementation of the planned initiatives.

The MLA also promised to facilitate the provision of electric wheelchairs and an ambulance for the hospital to further enhance patient care and accessibility.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE AT GANDEBAL

Caveat Application No..... /2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Imaad Parvez Rohella
Aged about 25 years,
S/o Talat Parvez Rohella
R/o House No. 17, Sector-B,
Umarabad, Peerbagh,
District Badgam, Jammu & Kashmir

.... CAVEATORS

VERSUS

... NON-CAVEATOR

PUBLIC AT LARGE

IN THE MATTER OF : CAVEAT APPLICATION
MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That, the Caveators have been declared eligible for license to run the Petrol Pump by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. at Village Sonmarg, Left Hand Side on National Highway (from Sonmarg towards Leh), Ganderbal, Jammu & Kashmir.
2. That, the Caveators apprehend that the Non-Caveators may approach this Ld. Court and file a civil suit for injunction against the caveators or institute any other proceedings on false and frivolous grounds, and may succeed in getting an ex-parte interim order against the Caveator, therefore, the Caveator may be given an opportunity of being heard by being put to notice before any direction or order is passed in the event the Non-Caveators approach this Ld. Court.
3. That the notice of this Caveat application has been published in a leading local daily newspaper and the cutting of the said newspaper is filed herewith and marked as Annexure-I.

PRAYER

In the premises, it is therefore, prayed that in the event the Non-Caveators approach this Ld. Court by filing a Suit or any other proceedings against the caveators, the Caveators be given an opportunity of being heard before any ex-parte order/s is passed against the Caveator.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE APPLICANT AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.

Caveator Through Counsel

Aswad R Attar

(Advocate)

Ph. 9055516542

DATED: 03.12.2025

PLACE: Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th / 11th / 12th) under Roll No. 121024001 Session Annual Regular 2025 through the J&K Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my Mother's Name as Shabnum Bano instead of Shugusta Bano. Now I have applied for correction in the J&K Board of School Education Magam. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary JKBOSE MAGAM within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public.

The correction particulars be recorded as under:

Name: Sabreena Farooq

Father's Name: Farooq Ahmad Ganai

Mother's Name: Shugusta Bano

Date of Birth: 08-08-2008

Residence: Kunzer, Ward No. 6 Mobile No.: 9906228594



FKO

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.
| Fax No: 0194-2497093 | website: www.medkashmir.org |

CORRIGENDUM FOR DATE EXTENSION

Name of work :-

- 1) Restoring functionality through repairs / maintenance of Bore Well No. 14 and 16 of _Department of Agriculture_ in District Pulwama under implementation of National Mission of Saffron (under Culuster-1)
- 2) Restoring functionality through repairs / maintenance of Bore Well No. 102 of department of Agriculture in District Pulwama under implementation of National Mission of Saffron (under Culuster-1).
- 3) Restoring Functionality through Repairs / Maintenance of Bore well Schemes No. 72 (under RR-1) (Cluster-1) of Department of Agriculture in district Pulwama, under implementation of National Mission on Saffron command area 23.52 Ha.
- 4) Restoring Functionality through Repairs / Maintenance of Bore well Schemes No. 24 (under RR-1) (Cluster-1) of Department of Agriculture in district Pulwama, under Implementation of National Mission on Saffron command area 23.52 Ha.
- 5) Restoring Functionality through Repairs / Maintenance of Bore well Schemes No. 101 (under PR-1) (Cluster-1) of Department of Agriculture in district Pulwama, under Implementation of National Mission on Saffron Command area 23.52 Ha/MDSK/TS/2025-26/16 Dated 03/07/2025
- 6) Restoring functionality through repairs / maintenance of Bore Well No. 103 and 42 of department of Agriculture in District Pulwama under implementation of National Mission of Saffron (under Culuster-1).
- 7) Restoring functionality through repairs / maintenance of 8 No.Bore Wells (17,19,54,58,60,61,91 and 96 (under priority-11 Culuster-2) of department of Agriculture in District Pulwama under implementation of National Mission of Saffron

Due to no response, the critical dates of the the following e-NIT's are extended as under :-

S.No.	e-Nit no., date and tender Id.	Extension No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01	MDSK/TS/2025-26/10 Date:25-06-2025 1)2025 PWDJK 279744 3 2)2025_PWD- JK_279744_4	18	Last date of downloading/ sub- mission of bids	06-03-2026 upto 06:55PM	16-03-2026 upto 09:00AM
			Date of opening of bids online	07-03-2026 at 02:00 PM	18-03-2026 upto 2:00PM
02	MDSK/TS/2025-26/11 Date:27-06-2025 Tender Id:- 2025_PWDJK_279966_1)	21	Last date of downloading/ sub- mission of bids	06-03-2026 upto 06:55PM	16-03-2026 upto 09:00AM
			Date of opening of bids online	07-03-2026 at 02:00 PM	18-03-2026 upto 2:00PM
03	MDSK/TS/2025-26/14 Date:02-07-2025 Tender Id:- 2025_PWDJK_280311_3)	17	Last date of downloading/ sub- mission of bids	06-03-2026 upto 06:55PM	16-03-2026 upto 09:00AM
			Date of opening of bids online	07-03-2026 at 02:00 PM	18-03-2026 upto 2:00PM
04	MDSK/TS/2025-26/15 Date:02-07-2025 Tender Id:- 2025_PWDJK_280324_3)	11	Last date of downloading/ sub- mission of bids	06-03-2026 upto 06:55PM	16-03-2026 upto 09:00AM
			Date of opening of bids online	07-03-2026 at 02:00 PM	18-03-2026 upto 2:00PM
05	MDSK/TS/2025-26/16 Date:03-07-2025 Tender Id:- 2025_PWDJK_280428_3)	15	Last date of downloading/ sub- mission of bids	06-03-2026 upto 06:55PM	16-03-2026 upto 09:00AM
			Date of opening of bids online	07-03-2026 at 02:00 PM	18-03-2026 upto 2:00PM
06	MDSK/TS/2025-26/20 Date:16-07-2025 1)2025 PWDJK 281548 3 2)2025_PWD- JK_281548_4	15	Last date of downloading/ sub- mission of bids	06-03-2026 upto 06:55PM	16-03-2026 upto 09:00AM
			Date of opening of bids online	07-03-2026 at 02:00 PM	18-03-2026 upto 2:00PM
07	MDSK/TS/2025-26/54 Date:29-10-2025 Tender Id:- 2025_PWDJK 293574 1)	11	Last date of downloading/ sub- mission of bids	06-03-2026 upto 06:55PM	16-03-2026 upto 09:00AM
			Date of opening of bids online	07-03-2026 at 02:00 PM	18-03-2026 upto 2:00PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/TS/6839-43
Date: 07-03-2026.

DIPK-11617-25
DT: 07/03/2026

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

All praises to Allah,
the Most Merciful and the Most Generous.

Ramzan Appeal 2026~
Ration Kits for Needy Families

Feeding a fasting family is among the most beloved deeds in the sight of Allah.

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.

As the blessed month of Ramazan 2026 approaches, Idara Falahi Aam Waqf humbly appeals for the distribution of Ramazaan Ration Kits for poor and deserving families.

Distributing Approximately
300 Ration Kits
Approximate cost of one kit. ₹2,400/
Each kit provides essential food items for entire family.

Contribute Generously:

J&K BANK ACCOUNT
NO: 1112040102856261
J&K BANK Branch Alamgari Bazar
IFSC: JAKAALMGRI

Idara Falahi Aam Waqf
Alamgari Bazaar, Srinagar

Middle East in Flux

Iran's retaliation against US-Israeli bases signals a new Middle East era, awakening Muslim unity and diminishing old superpower influence.



Nayeema Ahmad Mahjoor

If we believe that the current aggression towards Iran will change the Persians, we must be deluded.

In fact, it will not only reshape the contours of the Middle East, especially the Gulf, but also diminish the power of the US to merely a country and Israel, the most arrogant and hubristic nation.

That would transform the world's geopolitics, which Washington and its allies have thus far dominated. A few more countries from the global south will take centre stage, displacing the US and other old colonial powers.

The influence of social media has revolutionised opinions, stories, and beliefs. Mainstream media is undoubtedly a victim of the digital era, particularly amid the current global unrest.

Iran and Israel have a long history of hostility. The recent escalation mainly arises from Israeli occupation and aggression towards Palestine, along with its ongoing policies of attacks, killings, and expansionism, which have covert support from Gulf countries, enabling espionage bases in the Middle East.

While the United States adopted a policy of intimidating Iran and strengthening Israel, it interpreted any hostility towards Israel as its own. However, nobody expected that the Jewish lobby in the United States would cross such a red line that it would compel the US President to attack Iran twice during negotiations.

That has come as a surprise to its citizens, as reflected in recent poll results.

The United States has not only overlooked Israel's faults, excesses, or violations, but has also tacitly collaborated in its aggression against many neighbouring nations. It is as if the agenda to destroy the Muslim world is set by Israel for the US and its allies, and has been followed in both letter and spirit from Afghanistan to Iran.

During the US-Iran talks in June last year, the United States immediately joined in Israel's aggression. It announced the destruction of Iran's nuclear facilities through



twelve days of air strikes. After pounding the Persians, the world believed that Iran's nuclear enrichment was over and that no further attacks would occur in the region for the foreseeable future. However, it did not satisfy Israel, and the exposure of the Epstein files hung like a Damocles' sword.

To avoid further confrontation, Iran resumed negotiations, and it was believed that an agreement would likely be reached between Iran and the United States on nuclear matters. Meanwhile, another deal worth three hundred and fifty million dollars for the sale of oil was expected to be made domestically to satisfy the transactional President, which Israel strongly opposed.

Despite the negotiations, Israel attacked Iran to prevent any semblance of closeness between Iran and the United States, sabotaging talks and subsequently pushing the United States into a war for which the Americans themselves have seen no justification.

During the two and a half years of brutality in the Gaza Strip, President Biden and then Trump's silence, and later the inclusion of Muslim countries in the Board of Peace, no one except Iran spoke about the nefarious plan to assimilate Palestine into Israel, which would give Israel a free hand over Palestinians who are killed, tor-

tured, and starved by the same country shielded by Washington.

Most of the US President's close associates and supporters of 'MAGA' have openly criticised Israel for the first time, claiming that Israel has damaged the American image and that Prime Minister Netanyahu has overshadowed Trump.

The well-known journalist Carl Tuckerson sharply criticised Israel for drawing Washington into its expansionist plans in the Middle East while relying heavily on American support. He argued that Israel's actions have damaged the United States' global image and placed its leadership in a difficult position. "President Trump's slogan 'Make America Great Again' was a hollow promise, and the claim of being a peacemaker of the world is a big lie," Tuckerson said, tearing into Trump's campaign pledge.

Within the US, the distorted image of President Trump was confirmed by public opinion polls. The Epstein scandal added fuel to the fire. At the same time, internationally, widespread criticism of US aggression towards Venezuela and then Iran began, with most of the European allies of the US taking a leading role for the first time.

As a result of the US and Israeli belligerence, Iran's retaliation against more than twenty-four

This war may have weakened Iran, distorted the United States' standing, and caused political damage to Israel. Still, it has undeniably awakened the Muslim world, which is likely to become more vigilant in reshaping, reorganising, and preserving the unity of the Ummah.

military bases in the Middle East came as a surprise to the Gulf countries. Neither the US nor Israel expected these attacks at all.

Both aggressors believed that Iran would never attack its Muslim neighbours and that Tehran lacked the air power to strike so many bases at once. That assumption quickly collapsed.

Missiles and drones created chaos across the Gulf, while the United States showed little interest in protecting its regional partners.

Iran has since clarified that it is not targeting its Muslim neighbours. According to Tehran, the strikes focused on US bases used for espionage and attacks against Iran. Iranian officials have also stated that no further assaults will be directed at neighbouring Muslim countries.

Although neighbouring countries showed patience at first, the situation changed when some attacks began to affect their civilian assets. They then issued stern warnings to Iran, stating that they reserved the right to retaliate.

This, in turn, shows Israel's broader aim of weakening these Muslim countries and provoking them to turn against one another.

The Gulf countries have urged the United States to cease its attacks, but President Trump has so far ignored these appeals, surprising many of Washington's regional allies. Internal discussions about dismantling US bases have already begun, a development that could mark a turning point for the Gulf

and potentially narrow the gap between Persians and Arabs.

One reality now haunts the Gulf region: the United States left Arab countries exposed while rushing missile interceptors to protect Israel, even as defensive systems in the Gulf became increasingly scarce.

It was widely understood that the United States was sacrificing certain countries to protect Israel. This decision has created significant problems, as the people of these nations are increasingly angry with their rulers.

The U.S. military bases, which were established to exert pressure on Iran, have come under scrutiny. If this anger continues to grow, the kings and monarchs of these countries may find themselves forced to flee in the dead of night.

Currently, the world is focused on Iran and its ability to withstand aggression from the U.S. and Israel. Contrary to the expectations of these countries, Iran has demonstrated its air superiority and reiterated its intention to continue the conflict.

Meanwhile, many nations are striving for a truce, although these efforts have so far been unsuccessful. But, surely, Iran will soon exhaust its stock of missiles and drones. Still, the decision to stand up to a superpower has not been taken lightly, especially given the support of its 90 million citizens.

The U.S. had hoped for civil unrest as a means to achieve its goals, but that outcome has yet to materialise.

It appears that Iran is not ready for a ceasefire and remains intent on causing significant harm to Israel. In contrast, the United States is covertly pushing for an immediate end to the conflict.

Despite this, even if Iran's leadership were to fall, the US-Israeli aim of inciting a popular uprising in Iran and fragmenting parts of the country would still be unattained.

Many observers believe that achieving regime change in Iran through this war may prove to be challenging.

However, there is optimism that political upheaval could occur in Israel and the United States. Nevertheless, restoring America's image may take decades.

This war may have weakened Iran, distorted the United States' standing, and caused political damage to Israel. Still, it has undeniably awakened the Muslim world, which is likely to become more vigilant in reshaping, reorganising, and preserving the unity of the Ummah.

— The author is a veteran broadcaster and analyst from Kashmir. She can be reached at nayeema7@gmail.com.

When the Sky Shook in Dubai

A native of Jammu and Kashmir describes the moment distant conflict suddenly felt close, as emergency alerts, sirens, and fear turned an ordinary evening into a night of uncertainty.



Seema Sangra

On February 27, I attended an Iftar party at a friend's house, where discussion naturally turned to the escalating tensions in the region. But little did I know that the next day would bring alarming news that would shake my understanding of distance and safety.

As I prepared for a class on conflict reporting scheduled for Monday, I opened my laptop to research. Typing in "conflict," the first headline that caught my eye was about an attack in Iran.

Conflicts in this area aren't new, so I initially dismissed it as an event occurring 2000 kilometers away.

However, as the day unfolded, my phone buzzed incessantly with news alerts and forwarded messag-

es. By evening, my WhatsApp group was abuzz with inquiries like, "Did you hear that loud thud?"

It became clear that this was not a distant threat anymore. It was a situation that could affect us directly.

In our neighbourhood, known for its lively Arabic and Indian restaurants, an unsettling silence replaced the usual sounds of families breaking fast and children playing.

A friend living closer to Abu Dhabi repeatedly asked if we could hear the blasts. Each time, I replied with a firm "no," but the tension was quite intense.

I stepped out to the balcony, hoping to find some calm, when suddenly the entire building shook. The deafening sound felt as if a bomb had dropped just across the street.

I rushed to the elevator, and upon reaching the ground floor, I found a crowd gathering in the lobby.

Confusion and fear were etched on everyone's faces. Some cried while others tried to maintain a brave front.

As I made my way outside, I joined a larger crowd, all eyes turned skyward. Some pointed to a fireball in the distance, as the wailing of sirens filled the air.

An ambulance approached and stopped nearby. An Arab woman rolled down her window, not to



scold us for being outside, but to inquire if everyone was alright.

Her calm demeanor was a brief comfort amid the chaos.

Just then, our phones beeped simultaneously with an emergency alert: "Due to current situation, potential missile threats, seek immediate shelter in the nearest building. Stay away from windows, doors, and open areas. Await further instructions."

We rushed back to the lobby, where sleep was the last thing on our minds that night. Since then, receiving such alerts has become routine.

Thankfully, the follow-up message now reads: "Thank you for your co-operation. We reassure you that the situation is currently safe. You may resume your normal activities while continuing to remain cautious, take

COMING FROM A REGION WHICH IS PRONE TO DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND UNCERTAINTY, I wonder while conflicts may be unavoidable, can people around us make it less stressful? Is staying hopefully also staying realistic?

the necessary precautions, and follow official instructions."

Even as normal life resumes, the message reminds people to stay alert and continue following official guidance.

Amidst the uncertainty, gestures

of solidarity have emerged. The UAE government has arranged accommodations and covered meal expenses for stranded tourists, while taxi drivers have offered free rides to those in need. Airlines have provided full refunds and rebooking options for affected passengers.

Heartwarming moments have been shared on social media, like President H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Prince Faza enjoying Iftar at Dubai Mall, mingling with visitors, alongside public appearances by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

As I write this on the eighth day of conflict, I remain uncertain about what lies ahead, whether I will be able to travel back home soon, or when normalcy will return.

Coming from a region which is prone to difficult situations and uncertainty, I wonder while conflicts may be unavoidable, can people around us make it less stressful? Is staying hopefully also staying realistic?

Some questions have no straight answers.

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A Compass for Kashmiri Youth

Amid uncertainty and rising anxiety, consultation and prayer can help Kashmiri youth make balanced decisions about education, careers, and migration



Dr. Rameez Ahmad

Life in Kashmir has grown heavier over the years. Economic uncertainty, political tension, and social expectations touch every part of daily life. For young people, even stepping out of the valley for studies or work at times feels risky.

After the recent Delhi suicide attack, I saw friends hesitate and reconsider journeys that once seemed simple. Profiling, stereotyping, and suspicion have become routine. Fear now shapes decisions that used to depend on ambition or curiosity.

From my perspective as someone who studies society, this feels like what Émile Durkheim called excessive regulation.

When expectations, scrutiny, and moral pressures pile up, people shrink under the weight. I see young Kashmiris caught between performing perfectly for others and avoiding misjudgment.

Families, once sources of warmth, drift into routine. Friendships weaken, community bonds strain, and anxiety grows silently in homes and streets.

Some young people I know shrink their own worlds, choosing what to do, where to go, and even what to dream based on fear.

I have often thought about how Islam addresses such moments.

Two practices, Istisharah and Istikharah, speak directly to the uncertainty we face.

Istisharah is seeking advice from those with experience and wisdom. Istikharah is turning to God when our own judgment falters.

Together, they teach that decisions should not come from panic or pressure. They encourage patience, reflection, and trust in guidance that is greater than our immediate fears.

I recall reading how the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, sought advice from companions, including some younger than himself.

He showed that listening to others is a sign of wisdom, than weakness. Istisharah asks us



to speak, listen, and weigh counsel.

I think of my own life and of the young Kashmiris I meet, and I realize how often a conversation with someone trusted could prevent rash decisions.

Leaving the valley for studies, work, or migration should never come from fear. It should come from careful consultation and reflection.

Istikharah completes this process.

When human advice reaches its limit, turning to God provides calm. I have practiced it myself when fear blurred judgment. It reminds me that clarity is always near if I pause long enough to ask for it.

In a world crowded with digital misinformation, political manipulation, and com-

munal mistrust, Istikharah has become my anchor. It teaches that some decisions require surrender and trust.

This guidance feels significant for Kashmiris because pressures on young people are growing. Families face economic challenges. Communities are fragmented. Young people see lifestyles that impress but leave them hollow.

Decisions often happen in reaction to fear of judgment, failure, isolation, or profiling.

I have spoken to friends who avoid opportunities because anxiety holds them back. I have seen depression rise silently among those carrying the weight of social expectations.

When pressure builds, faith often steps aside, and fear rushes in to fill the space.

I have come to see Istisharah and Istikharah as tools for survival. They remind young Kashmiris to pause, seek counsel, pray, and weigh decisions carefully.

They restore agency in moments when the world feels threatening and confusing. They teach that clarity comes through patience, courage through reflection, and trust can grow even in the valley's uncertainty.

I remember friends who rushed decisions out of fear. I remember families who discouraged travel because they could see the risks I could not.

In moments like these, I learned that consulting others and turning to God are acts of courage. They protect the mind, heart, and



WHEN I LOOK AT YOUNG KASHMIRIS TODAY, I SEE FEAR, BUT I ALSO SEE POTENTIAL.

I see ambition that needs direction and a generation that can thrive if it learns to pause, seek advice, and trust. Istisharah and Istikharah can give that direction.

body from choices made in haste.

I now tell young people around me: pause before you decide. Seek advice, pray sincerely, and consider consequences. Step beyond the valley with thought instead of fear.

Guidance is always close, but we have to reach for it. Clarity comes when we pause and ponder. Calm grows when we let go of fear. Strength comes from patience, careful thought, and trust.

For Kashmiris, these practices can ease anxiety, restore confidence, and guide decisions toward safer and more fulfilling paths.

They protect mental health, reduce the silent suffering of those carrying societal pressure, and restore purpose to a generation facing uncertainty.

When I look at young Kashmiris today, I see fear, but I also see potential. I see ambition that needs direction and a generation that can thrive if it learns to pause, seek advice, and trust.

Istisharah and Istikharah can give that direction.

They can provide clarity, calm, and courage. They can help us face life beyond the valley with eyes open and hearts steady.

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The Battle of Badr

The Prophet's strategic alliances around Medina and the Red Sea corridor brought Meccan power face to face with a rising Muslim force.



Mushtaq Hurra

The situation in Mecca was getting worse by the day. The Prophet, peace be upon him, and his companions were living in constant fear and uncertainty. The pagans were determined to harm them, so leaving for Yathrib seemed like the only real option.

While Mecca grew darker, Yathrib was opening up to Islam. The people there were ready to accept the faith and pledge their loyalty to the Prophet.

In the twelfth year of his mission, seventy-five pilgrims from Yathrib met with him at midnight. This meeting changed everything. They accepted Islam and invited the Prophet to come live among them, offering him full leadership and protection. This was a genuine offer of trust and authority, which marked the beginning of a true Islamic state.

The people of Yathrib knew exactly what they were getting into. Welcoming the Prophet meant facing the full force of Quraishi's anger. They understood they might pay a heavy price. But these seventy-five men stood firm.

Under the stars in Mecca, they took an oath to stand by him no matter what.

Asad Bin Zurarah, one of their leaders, spoke up and warned them straight: "Listen carefully. If we take in the Prophet, all of Arabia may turn against us. Our people might be killed. Our families could be torn apart. Can we handle an attack from his enemies? If you're ready for this, take his hand. If not, leave now. God may forgive you tonight, but not forever."

Another leader, Abbas Bin Ubadah, added: "You know this could cost you everything you own and even your families. If you're still committed to making him your leader, then shake his hand. Great rewards await you."

With one voice, they pledged their lives, their families, and everything they had to follow the Prophet to Yathrib, whatever the cost.

This became known as the Second Pledge of Aqabah, a defining moment in Islamic history.



The people of Quraish watched the Prophet's rise with growing anxiety. His strength and appeal kept drawing followers, which threatened them deeply.

Yathrib's welcome was like a knife to their hearts. It gave Islam room to grow, and that scared them.

The Prophet's success meant the end of their old way of life. Muslim influence threatened their beliefs as well as their wallets.

The trade route between Syria and Yemen ran along the Red Sea coast and was crucial to Mecca's wealth. They knew if the Prophet made it to Yathrib, he could strike at their economy. The trade route was their lifeline.

They were shaken by his plans and tried hard to convince the people of Yathrib not to shelter him. They failed.

Desperate, the pagans turned to their final option: assassinating the Prophet.

They picked young men from every clan except his own to carry out the killing. But God foiled their plan, and the Prophet slipped away in the night, heading for Medina.

Furious, Quraish tried to bribe Abdullah Bin Ubayy to expel the Prophet from Medina, but that scheme failed too.

That same year, Sa'ad Bin Muaaz faced Abu Jahl's rage at the gates of the Kaaba when he came to perform a minor pilgrimage.

"You're guilty of sheltering an apostate and his followers," Abu Jahl shouted. "You'd be dead by now if you weren't a guest of Um-

mayah Bin Khalaf."

Sa'ad stood his ground and replied: "By God, try to stop me and I'll block your trade routes through Medina."

The Syria-Yemen trade route through Medina was the heart of Meccan commerce. Recognizing its strategic value, the Prophet treated it as his strongest playing piece.

He built alliances across the desert to squeeze Mecca's economy. This was his way of pushing back against Meccan threats.

Carefully and precisely, he made agreements with tribes who controlled the Medina-Red Sea corridor. The clans of Kinanah, Bani Damrah, and Bani Mudlij joined him early on.

The road to Mecca was now within his reach. The Prophet had another move ready. He sent small groups of Muslim migrants to patrol the Red Sea-Yathrib route, almost like military demonstrations. It was a stark message to the Meccans that Muslim power in Medina was growing.

He wanted his enemies to know the tables had turned.

Unlike typical Arab raids, there was no looting or bloodshed. The Prophet showed restraint. Mecca responded by sending raiders and troublemakers, like Kurz Bin Jabir's group, who attacked the outskirts of Yathrib and stole cattle.

Then, during the second year after the migration, scouts Talha Bin Ubaidullah and Sa'id Bin Zaid brought news to the Prophet.

They reported a Meccan trade caravan loaded with 50,000 gold dinars, protected by only 40 men led by Abu Sufyan, traveling through the Red Sea-Yathrib corridor.

For the Muslims, this was a perfect chance to seize wealth and shake the foundations of Arabia's pagan power structure.

But Abu Sufyan's spies warned him of a possible Muslim ambush, and panic set in. He sent Damdam Bin Amr racing to Mecca with alarming news.

The messenger rode his camel until it collapsed. Then in his frenzy, he mutilated the animal, cutting off its nose and ears. He tore his own clothes, flipped his saddle upside down, and shouted before the Kaaba: "Quraish, your goods are in danger! Abu Sufyan's caravan is being attacked by Muhammad and his followers! They're closing in! I can't say what's happened to them! Help! Help!"

Damdham's desperate cry sent shockwaves through Mecca. Quraish rushed to arms, vowing to crush the Muslims once and for all.

A massive force of nearly 1,300 soldiers assembled. One hundred cavalry, hundreds of camels, six hundred armored warriors, burning with revenge and blinded by their own strength, marched north toward Badr.

Then another message arrived from Abu Sufyan: "Turn back. The caravan is safe. We've escaped the Muslim attack."

Abu Sufyan had managed to slip past the ambush.

The Meccan army was ready to turn home when Abu Sufyan's second message arrived. But Abu Jahl's pride wouldn't allow it.

"March on to Badr!" he snarled. "We'll feast, we'll drink, and we'll crush those insolent Muslims!"

Pride and arrogance clouded their judgment. Abu Jahl was determined to punish the upstarts and prove Quraish's dominance across Arabia.

But the tribe of Banu Zahrah refused to join his aggression and broke away, heading back to Mecca. The Quraish army was drunk on its own arrogance.

The moment of truth had arrived. The Prophet knew this was do or die for him and his followers. Getting complacent would be fatal. One mistake could bury Islam forever. A Quraish victory would mean total destruction, wiping out the faith and its people from existence.

dina.

At this critical crossroads, he gathered his companions and laid out the two options. "The caravan riches lie to our north, and the Quraish army waits to our south. Choose."

Many eyes turned toward the treasure, but the Prophet had something else in mind. His focus was elsewhere.

Then, in a wave of loyalty, both the migrants and the helpers united, pledging unshakable faith in his call. They would back the Prophet, they would back the cause.

A band of 300 to 317 warriors formed the Muslim army. Eighty-six migrants, sixty-one from the Aws tribe, and one hundred seventy from the Khazraj. They were poorly equipped and prepared. Just two horses, seventy camels, and only sixty sets of armor.

Outnumbered and outmatched, their eyes burned with fire. If greed had driven them, they would have gone for the caravan. But they weren't in this for money. Pleasing God and bringing glory to Islam was their only purpose.

Finally, the sands of Badr erupted. Two armies clashed on the 17th of Ramadan. The odds were brutal. Each Muslim soldier faced three pagan fighters.

The migrants faced a cruel reality: brother against brother, father against son.

In the chaos, the Prophet pleaded with God: "O Lord, the Quraish have come with all their arrogance and pride to belittle your messenger. O Lord, send the help you promised me. If these brave men are killed here, no one on earth will remember your name."

God's unseen help turned the tide for the Muslims.

The small group led by Prophet Muhammad won the battle, changing the course of history on the sands of Badr.

The pride and arrogance of the Quraish were shattered. The victory belonged to the simple, poorly equipped believers who had come with faith in their hearts.

Seventy Meccan leaders were killed in the fighting, and seventy others were taken prisoner. War spoils were collected, strengthening the young Muslim community.

The victory at Badr opened a new chapter for Islam. From that moment on, Medina emerged as the stronghold and beating heart of the growing Muslim world.

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Illegal Mining Razed J&K's Sukhnag River, Confirms Govt Report; NGT Forms Panel For Probe

Agencies

New Delhi: A government-constituted fact-finding committee has confirmed that illegal riverbed mining has caused massive destruction to the Sukhnag River in the Beerwah area of Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district, officials said on Saturday.

The seven-member panel, formed by the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam in August last year following a directive from the National Green



Tribunal (NGT), has submitted its report to the Tribunal through the J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC).

According to the report, the river—recognized as a designated trout fish stream—has suffered severe ecological degradation due to extensive and illegal mining operations.

To restore the water body, the committee, led by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Beerwah and the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Pir Panjal, has recommended filling the deep trenches created by mining, levelling the riverbed, and constructing gabion structures

and check-dams. The panel has also suggested the creation of artificial pools to facilitate trout breeding.

The NGT, which is hearing a petition filed by Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, had previously constituted a supervisory committee to oversee the investigation. This panel includes the Member Secretary of the JKPCC, the Regional Officer (Chandigarh) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC),

and a nominee from the GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE).

In a virtual meeting held on February 24, members of the supervisory committee noted that the report is largely qualitative. Dr. Sandipan Mukherjee, a Scientist with the NIHE, stressed the need for a physical spot visit to assess the damage accurately. Dr. Khurshid Alam Khan from the MoEF&CC pointed out that additional quantitative data is required to determine the exact

extent of the damage and fix responsibility.

During the recent hearing on February 26, the NGT directed the expert panel to visit the site within weeks. The tribunal specifically ordered the committee to assess the losses suffered by Peerzada Rayees, a local trout fish farmer from Sail Beerwah, whose farm was reportedly damaged. The directive references a communication from the J&K Director of Fisheries confirming the loss.

"The expert committee is expected to visit the site shortly as the case is listed for the next hearing on March 27, 2026," said the petitioner, Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat. He added that the report must be submitted to the tribunal a week prior to the hearing.

The NGT had previously imposed a complete ban on mining in the Sukhnag river in January 2025 after a joint fact-finding team reported extensive devastation during a site visit in December 2024. (KNS)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Experiencing

The Lieutenant Governor said the upgradation of infrastructure at the shrine reflects broader efforts to revive and strengthen the region's spiritual heritage.

"The infrastructure upgradation of Shiv Khori is an announcement that the holy shrines of our ancient tradition are being reawakened and restored to life. Today, devotees' perseverance bears fruit and we have fulfilled the vibrant dreams of our ancestors who yearned for it," he said.

Sinha said spiritual values have guided several initiatives taken by the administration in recent years.

"Our strong belief in spirituality has guided every effort, from the historic upgradation of the Baba Amarnath Yatra to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's vision of transforming the entire region into a living spiritual corridor and placing Shiv Khori firmly on the map of India's great centres of devotion," he said.

Reiterating his vision for the region, the Lieutenant Governor said the aim is to develop Jammu and Kashmir into a vibrant spiritual hub.

"It is my prime objective to make Jammu Kashmir a vibrant, breathing spiritual heart of the nation. After five years of sustained efforts, I can say with quiet satisfaction that dream is no longer distant," he said.

He added that the Union Territory is witnessing a revival of its cultural and spiritual legacy.

"Today I say with deep confidence that after centuries, Jammu Kashmir is experiencing a genuine spiritual, cultural and social renaissance. This Union Territory is re-emerging as a centre of knowledge, art, music and philosophy," he said.

Sinha said the region's ancient spiritual traditions are once again being revitalised.

"The flame of tapas and dharma for which this land was once renowned across the world, we are relighting it with full conviction," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the youth to maintain balance between inner and outer life and connect with the region's spiritual heritage.

"This renaissance is for you. Come to the sacred shrines of this land and allow yourself to feel what centuries of unbroken devotion feel like when it meets you in silence. That energy does not belong to the past. It flows still and it is yours to draw from," he said.

Sinha also highlighted several upcoming facilities aimed at improving the safety and convenience of pilgrims visiting the shrine.

"The new helipad is slated for completion this month. Heli services for the devotees of Shri Shiv Khori are also expected to start from April. To protect pilgrims from unpredictable weather and shooting stones, a protective track shed will also be completed soon," he said.

He added that a future development roadmap has been prepared to handle increasing pilgrim footfall.

"Recognising the heavy rush during festive seasons, an alternative track between Ram Mandir and Shiv Khori will be constructed to ease congestion. Comprehensive repair and renovation of the Ransoo shrine building and existing tracks will also be undertaken, while adequate sanitation facilities will be provided along the route," he said.

A serai and langar facility for pilgrims will also be developed in Ransoo, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Shiv Khori Shrine Board could also introduce a sound and light show to enhance the experience of devotees and that the feasibility of a ropeway project may be explored.

"We are fully committed to creating a thriving ecosystem where local traders, artisans, youth and women can access new opportunities, ensuring prosperity for every family," he said.

During the event, the Lieutenant Governor also flagged off a garbage collection vehicle donated by J&K Bank to the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board.

The works inaugurated on the occasion include renovation of Shivam Dwar (Darshani Deodi), repair and renovation of Mahadev Bhawan including the Yatra registration counter, refurbishment of the existing ghat near Shivam Dwar, construction of gazebos near the bathing ghat and Shani Mandir, toilet complexes, renovation of the medical kiosk near Ram Mandir, construction of a pony shed at Ransoo near Darshani Deodi and installation of lights at various locations.

Member of Legislative Assembly from Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, JSW Group Chairman and Managing Director Sajjan Jindal, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Chairman of Shiv Khori Shrine Board Ramesh Kumar, DIG Udhampur and Reasi Range Sarah Rizvi, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, senior officials, prominent citizens and a large number of devotees attended the inaugural ceremony.

Women Shaping

society and their role in shaping the future of the region and the nation.

"On the occasion of International Women's

Day, I extend my greetings and felicitations to all my sisters of Jammu Kashmir in their steadfast commitment and unwavering drive to forge the future of the Union Territory and our great nation. I trust this occasion will inspire them to step forward as vital partners in the country's development journey," he said.

Sinha emphasised that women's empowerment plays a crucial role in achieving development and eliminating poverty.

"Women's empowerment stands as the strongest catalyst for development and poverty eradication. Today, our women tirelessly work to reshape society into a fairer, more equitable order," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that many talented women from Jammu and Kashmir are excelling in different fields and contributing to the region's progress.

"Countless talented women from the Union Territory are excelling in their respective fields, each poised to help build a peaceful and prosperous Jammu Kashmir," he said.

He said International Women's Day offers an opportunity to reaffirm commitment towards protecting women's rights and ensuring their welfare.

"International Women's Day offers us a vital moment to reaffirm our dedication to upholding women's rights, ensuring justice, safeguarding their security and advancing their well-being," he added.

Calling for collective efforts to create an inclusive society, Sinha said equal opportunities for women are essential for overall progress.

"Let us unite in building a society where women enjoy equal chances, advancing and thriving through their true potential," he said, while extending his best wishes for a successful observance of the day.

LPG Cylinder

The price increase, the website showed, is effective from March 7.

This is the second increase in rate in 11 months. The price was last hiked by Rs 50 in April last year.

Alongside, the price of commercial LPG - the one used by establishments such as hotels and restaurants - was increased by Rs 114.5 per 19-kg cylinder. It now costs Rs 1,883 in Delhi. This increase comes on top of Rs 28 per 19-kg cylinder raise effected on March 1.

Commercial LPG rate has risen by Rs 302.50 this year.

Industry officials said the increase follows a steep rise in global energy prices since the US and Israel attack on Iran last weekend triggered a wider military conflict in the oil and gas-rich Middle East.

The conflict has led to a near halt in tanker movement through the Strait of Hormuz - the narrow but critical sea lane between Iran and Oman used by Middle Eastern producers to export oil and gas to global markets. The disruption has sharply curtailed energy shipments from the region, triggering a spike in global oil and gas prices.

Since the conflict broke out on February 28, US crude soared 35.63 per cent for the biggest weekly gain in the history of the futures contract dating back to 1983. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures closed at USD 90.90 per barrel. Brent jumped about 28 per cent for its biggest weekly gain since April 2020, to settle at USD 92.69 per barrel.

Asian spot prices for liquefied natural gas (LNG) have also jumped to around USD 25.40 per million British thermal units (MMBTU) - a three-year high and more than double of last week's levels of around USD 10 per mmbtu amid fears of supply disruptions and halted exports from Qatar.

LPG markets have also tightened as shipments from key Gulf exporters face logistical disruptions, pushing international propane and butane benchmarks higher and raising concerns over supply availability for major importers such as India.

Despite Saturday's price increase, cooking gas in India is priced at the lowest when compared with neighbouring countries, industry officials said.

In Mumbai, non-subsidised LPG now costs Rs 912.50, Rs 939 in Kolkata and Rs 928.50 in Chennai, according to the IOC website.

Rates differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT.

The Strait of Hormuz is also a critical conduit for India's energy imports, with roughly half of the crude oil the country buys from overseas transiting through the narrow waterway. In addition, nearly 40 per cent of India's natural gas imports, largely in the form of LNG from Gulf suppliers like Qatar and the UAE, also pass through the strait.

For LPG, the strait is more important. India consumed 31.3 million tonne of LPG in 2024-25, of which only 12.8 million tonne were produced domestically, with the remainder imported. Of the imported quantity, 85-90 per cent come from countries like Saudi Arabia that rely on the Strait of Hormuz for transit.

The Strait has been effectively blocked following a week-old escalation in the region, after US and Israeli strikes on Iran prompted Tehran to retaliate against US bases in neighbouring countries.

To augment domestic supplies, the

government on Friday invoked sparingly used emergency powers to direct oil refineries to ramp up LPG production.

Oil Price Surge

Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said on Saturday.

KCCI General Secretary Faiz Bakshi said the escalating tensions in West Asia have already triggered a sharp rise in global crude oil prices, which could directly affect India as the country relies heavily on imported oil.

Bakshi said the situation has created uncertainty in global energy markets, especially due to concerns surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil transit routes.

"India imports nearly 90 percent of its crude oil requirements. Any disruption in global supply chains or shipping routes could significantly affect our energy security and economic stability," he said.

He noted that a major share of India's crude oil imports passes through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway linking the Persian Gulf with international markets.

Experts estimate that around 35 to 50 percent of India's oil imports are transported through this route, making it a critical energy corridor for the country.

"If tensions escalate further and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is affected, India could face serious challenges in securing oil and gas supplies," Bakshi said.

He warned that rising crude prices could lead to higher fuel costs, increased inflation and additional pressure on the country's economic growth.

Recent developments in global markets have already pushed oil prices above \$90 per barrel, raising concerns about inflation and economic stability in several countries.

Bakshi said higher oil prices would also increase India's import bill and could weaken the rupee, which in turn would affect trade and domestic markets.

He added that sectors dependent on fuel and transportation could face additional pressure if the conflict continues for a prolonged period.

The KCCI leader said the situation needs close monitoring as prolonged instability in West Asia could have wider ripple effects on India's economy through energy supply chains and rising commodity prices.

Normal Life Resumes

at several locations, including Srinagar's Lal Chowk city centre, to prevent the gathering of protesters.

The iconic Ghanta Ghar at Lal Chowk had been sealed with barricades after it witnessed massive protests on Sunday following reports of Khamenei's killing in a joint strike by the United States and Israel.

Officials said normal life resumed on Saturday morning with shops and other business establishments reopening in Lal Chowk and other parts of the city. Both public and private transport also operated normally.

Authorities had earlier suspended mobile internet services and prepaid SIM card services across the Valley on Monday amid the protests. The services were restored on Friday evening.

However, educational institutions continued to remain closed and are scheduled to reopen on March 9, officials said.

They added that while barricades and a majority of police and paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel have been withdrawn from various areas of Srinagar, the situation continues to be closely monitored.

Authorities had imposed strict restrictions in parts of Kashmir on Monday after large-scale street protests erupted in several districts.

Kashmir, which has a sizeable Shia population estimated at around 15 lakh, witnessed protests in areas including Lal Chowk, Saida Kadal, Budgam, Bandipora, Anantnag and Pulwama soon after news of Khamenei's killing spread.

During the protests, demonstrators were seen beating their chests and raising slogans against the United States and Israel.

While most protests remained peaceful, a few areas witnessed minor clashes between protesters and security forces, officials said, adding that limited force was used to maintain law and order.

Intensify Drive

focus on ongoing counter terror operations, including both kinetic and non kinetic measures.

He also reviewed the steps being taken by the police to curb drug abuse and other criminal activities across the Awantipora police district.

Emphasising the need to intensify the drive against anti national elements, drugs and crime, the DGP directed officers to take strict and effective action against those involved in unlawful activities.

He urged officers to remain vigilant, disciplined and proactive in their respective areas of responsibility to ensure peace and stability.

Prabhat also highlighted the importance of strong coordination and intelligence led policing in dealing with security challenges.

The police chief appreciated the efforts of officers and personnel and urged all ranks to

remain alert, disciplined and mission oriented while performing their duties.

Iran To US: Surrender

Apology to Neighbours

"I should apologise to the neighbouring countries that were hit from Iran on my own behalf," he said. "From now on, they should not attack neighbouring countries or fire missiles at them, unless we are attacked from the bases of those countries. I think we should solve this through diplomacy."

"We have repeatedly said that they are our brothers. We aim to work hand-in-hand with our dear brothers and neighbours in the region to establish lasting peace and stability," Pezeshtkian said, reiterating that Iran has never planned an invasion of any neighbouring state.

Echoing the president's remarks, Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters said in a statement that the Iranian Armed Forces respect the national interests and sovereignty of neighbouring countries and have not carried out any act of aggression against them.

The statement, issued on Saturday, stressed that Iran's military operations were not directed at neighbouring states. However, it warned that all military bases and interests belonging to the United States and Israel on land, at sea and in the air across the region would be considered legitimate targets of powerful strikes by Iran's Armed Forces.

However, Washington signalled that the conflict could intensify further. Shortly after the Iranian president's remarks, Trump warned on his Truth Social platform that additional Iranian officials could become targets.

"Today Iran will be hit very hard!" Trump wrote, adding that areas and groups previously not considered targets were now "under serious consideration for complete destruction and certain death".

The Trump administration has also approved a new USD 151 million arms sale to Israel while US officials warned that an even more intense bombing campaign could begin in the coming days. Israel said it had launched a fresh wave of airstrikes on Tehran, with footage showing explosions lighting up the night sky over western parts of the capital.

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations said the country would "take all necessary measures" to defend itself.

So far, the war has killed at least 1,230 people in Iran, more than 200 in Lebanon and 11 in Israel, according to officials in those countries. Six American soldiers have also been killed.

Iranian missile barrages continued on Saturday, sending residents in Israel rushing to bomb shelters and triggering loud explosions in Jerusalem, though there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The conflict has also raised fears of a global economic shock. Qatar's energy minister, Saad al-Kaabi, warned that the war could "bring down the economies of the world", predicting that disruptions to Gulf energy exports could push oil prices to USD 150 per barrel.

Benchmark US crude prices have already climbed above USD 90 a barrel, their highest level in more than two years.

Meanwhile, fighting has also spread to Lebanon. The Iranian-allied Hezbollah group said its fighters clashed with Israeli forces that landed in the mountains of eastern Lebanon late Friday.

Lebanon's health ministry reported that 16 people were killed and 35 wounded in Israeli strikes following the clashes. Since Monday, Israeli attacks have killed more than 200 people in Lebanon and wounded over 800, according to officials.

Despite the widening war, Pezeshtkian insisted that diplomacy remains the only sustainable path forward.

"The ball is in the court of those who started this aggression," he said, warning regional groups and outside powers not to become "puppets of imperialism" and urging unity among Iranians in defending their country's sovereignty.

Trump Warns

areas and groups of people that were not considered for targeting until this moment in time," Trump wrote, without elaborating.

Aim For Zero

cannot operate without electricity," he said, adding that behind every switched-on light is a lineman working to keep the system running.

He described linemen as the "actual foot soldiers and indispensable workforce of the power department," and praised their dedication during challenging situations.

Referring to their service during Operation Sindoor and the floods of 2025, the Chief Minister said linemen continued their work despite difficult and risky conditions.

"You brave adverse circumstances such as war and natural calamities. You put your lives on the line of duty just like our brave defence forces," he said.

Highlighting safety concerns, Omar said the administration must work towards ensuring that no lineman loses his life while performing duty.

"We have to aim for achieving the goal of zero casualty of linemen during work. The

entire J&K government and the power department will ensure the safety of each individual lineman," he said.

The Chief Minister stressed that procuring safety equipment alone is not sufficient and that the department must ensure such equipment reaches the field staff along with proper training for its use.

He directed the engineering leadership of the department to strictly enforce safety protocols and standard operating procedures to prevent accidents.

Officers responsible for supervising field work, he said, must ensure that all safety measures are followed and that no work is carried out in haste or without necessary precautions.

During the event, the Chief Minister also felicitated 20 linemen with certificates and mementoes in recognition of their dedicated service.

He suggested that future editions of 'Lineman Diwas' should include cash awards to further encourage and recognise the contribution of linemen.

JPDCL Managing Director Guralp Singh, who also spoke on the occasion, said the corporation provides electricity to more than 12 lakh consumers across the Jammu region.

Meet J&K's UPSC

Ganie pursued civil services despite financial constraints and limited resources.

His father, Mohammad Ishaq, said his son had always been a bright student and dreamed of achieving something significant.

"After completing his Bachelor's in Veterinary Science, he told me he wanted to prepare for the IAS examination even though it required significant expenses," Ishaq said.

To support his children's education, Ishaq said he sold his land and worked as a labourer in different parts of the Jammu region.

"I am thankful to God that our sacrifices have paid off. People have been calling continuously to congratulate us," he added.

JKAS Officer Clears Exam

Another successful candidate is Muneeb Parrah, a serving Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer from Kandigam village of Bijbehara in Anantnag district, who secured AIR 581.

His elder brother Irfan said Parrah had cleared the examination in his second attempt.

"He was already in JKAS, but he continued to work hard for the civil services. This is a proud moment for our family and the entire area," he said.

Local residents and well wishers congratulated the families of the successful candidates, describing their achievements as inspiring for the youth of the region.

Overall, 17 candidates from Jammu and Kashmir have qualified the UPSC Civil Services Examination this year, one of the highest numbers from the region in recent years.

Other candidates from J&K who have figured in the final merit list include Suvan Sharma (Rank 148), Sugandha Gupta (Rank 207), Ritika (Rank 456), Sooyash Shivam (Rank 572), Ghulam Din (Rank 683), Dwarika Gaadhi (Rank 721), Akash (Rank 747), Koh E Safa (Rank 763), Yasaar (Rank 811), Abhishek (Rank 820), Pankaj (Rank 856), Mohammad Ajaz (Rank 869), Azhar (Rank 886), and Sarfaraz (Rank 936).

The results were declared by the UPSC on Friday. Anuj Agnihotri, an MBBS graduate from AIIMS Jodhpur, secured the first rank, followed by Rajeshwari Suve M, an engineering graduate from Anna University, Chennai, and Akansh Dhull, a BCom graduate from the University of Delhi.

Nida-e-Mashriq Founder

During the turbulent years in Kashmir, Shah also faced serious challenges. In 1995, he was among three journalists abducted from the Press Enclave in Srinagar by counterinsurgents.

In April 2001, Shah was part of the media contingent that accompanied the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his official visit to Iran.

For many years, Shah's editorials conveyed the voice of a sensitive Kashmiri, reflecting deep concern over the gradual disempowerment of his native land. In his later years, he largely remained away from public life due to health issues.

Shah's demise has been widely mourned in journalistic and social circles across Kashmir, with many describing his passing as a significant loss to the media fraternity.

He is survived by his daughter and son, Haroon Rashid, who currently serves as editor of Nida-e-Mashriq.

Shah, widely respected in journalistic circles, was remembered by colleagues and members of the media fraternity across the region as a senior journalist who made a valuable contribution to the growth of Urdu journalism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, President of the Press Club of Kashmir, Mohammad Saleem Pandit, expressed deep grief and sorrow over Shah's passing.

Members of the Press Club offered prayers for the departed soul and extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, wishing them strength to bear the irreparable loss.

Low Jhelum Level Raises Concerns For Paddy Season

MeT Forecasts Light Rain In Plains, Snowfall In Higher Reaches Till March 12

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Concerns are mounting over the upcoming paddy cultivation season in Kashmir as the water level in River Jhelum has dropped to unusually low levels amid deficient winter precipitation, officials said. According to hydrological data, the water level in the Jhelum was recorded at

minus 0.86 feet at Sangam in south Kashmir, which officials described as significantly low for early March. Experts attribute the decline to below normal snowfall and rainfall across many parts of the Valley during the winter months, resulting in reduced inflow into the river and its tributaries. The low water level has raised worries among farm-

ers who depend heavily on irrigation channels fed by the Jhelum for paddy cultivation during the summer season. Agriculture experts said prolonged dry conditions could affect irrigation planning if precipitation does not improve in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy

weather with light rain in the plains and light snowfall over higher reaches across Jammu and Kashmir from March 7 to March 12. Weather officials said the expected wet spell could lead to a drop in daytime temperatures by around three to five degrees Celsius in several parts of the Union Territory. The MeT department said

intermittent cloud cover along with scattered rainfall is likely in the plains, while higher reaches of Kashmir and Jammu divisions may receive light snowfall during the period. Officials said the forecast precipitation may bring temporary relief from the prevailing dry spell, though the situation continues to be closely monitored.

J&K Bank Teams Up with NBFCs for a Big Retail Push in Home & Gold Loan Segments

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant step towards expanding its retail lending footprint especially outside the UT and enhancing credit access, J&K Bank formally launched its co-lending arrangements with the country's leading NBFCs - Home First Finance Company India Limited (HFFC) for the home loan segment and IIFL Finance for the gold loan segment. Presided over by MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee, the MoU signing ceremony was held at the Bank's Jammu Zonal Office in the presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Chief General Managers Sunit Kumar, Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat and Rajesh Malla Tikoo, General Manager (RAM) Rakesh Magotra, DGM Aneet Kanwal Singh and other senior officers. General Manager (S & IT) Mohammad Muzaffar Wani along with General Manager & Divisional Head (RO) Khurshid Muzaffar also attended the signing

ceremony virtually. General Manager Rakesh Magotra signed both the MoUs on behalf of the Bank while MD & CEO Manoj Viswanathan and Senior Vice President & Head - Strategic Alliances Kirti Timmanagoudar put in their signatures representing HFFC and IIFL respectively. HFFC's Deputy CEO & CBO Ajay Khetan, Head - Treasury & Investor Relations Sunil Anjana and Product Lead - Co-lending Ajinkya Chandorkar were also present at the signing ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee described the initiative as an important milestone in the Bank's retail growth journey. MD & CEO said, "Co-lending is a powerful model that blends the strength of our strong deposit franchise and wide branch network with the domain expertise and agile credit delivery mechanisms of the leading NBFCs. Through these partnerships, we aim to accelerate credit delivery, deepen financial inclusion and

reach customer segments that require customized and timely financial solutions. Highlighting the Bank's retail growth focus in rest of India, he further added, "As we continue to sharpen our strategic focus on the RoI markets, partnerships with well-established players like Home First Finance Company India Limited and IIFL Finance will help us accelerate growth in key retail segments. This collaboration will enable us to tap into new customer segments, strengthen our presence in emerging markets and deliver faster, technology-driven lending solutions." In his remarks on the occasion, Executive Director Sudhir Gupta extended his best wishes to both our partner institutions. He said, "As we embark on this collaborative journey, I am confident that these partnerships under the co-lending framework will create strong synergies, enabling us to expand responsible credit delivery while unlocking new growth opportunities for all stakeholders involved."

J&K Bank Elevates Ashutosh Sareen and Rajesh Malla Tikoo to CGM Posts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Strengthening its top-tier leadership further, J&K Bank elevated its two General Managers, Ashutosh Sareen and Rajesh Malla Tikoo, to the position of Chief General Managers on Friday. Congratulating the officers on their elevation, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "These elevations reflect the Bank's commitment to recognising experience, merit and leadership potential within the organisation. As we pursue our strategic growth agenda, strengthening our leadership pool remains a key priority." He added that the Bank has institutionalised a structured and transparent career progression framework to prepare the next line of leadership and ensure continuity in driving the Bank's long-term strategic goals. Notably, the elevations are part of the ongoing career progression process across cadres.



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
IAPM Department, Zonal Office Srinagar,
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College),
Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.
0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 06.10.2025 thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely 1) Abdul Majid Bhat S/O Abdul Salam Bhat (Borrower), 2) Manzoor Ahmad Shah, 3) Aijaz Ahmad Bhat (both Guarantors), 4) Mohammad Abdullah Bhat, 5) Ghulam Nabi Bhat, 6) Nazir Ahmad Bhat, 7) Abdul Ahad Bhat and 8) Maryam Jan (All legal heirs of deceased mortgagor-cum-guarantor namely Abdul Salam Bhat S/O Assadullah Bhat) to repay an amount of Rs. 63,90,561.90 (Rupees Sixty Three Lacs Ninety Thousand Five Hundred Sixty One and Paise Ninety only) being the balance outstanding as on 30.09.2025 in the account of the borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 07.03.2026.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 68,25,840.90 (Rupees Sixty Eight Lac Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty and Paise Ninety only) together with future interest thereon from 28.02.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
Land measuring 01 Kanal 03 Marlas bearing Khasra No's: 779/443/63, Khewat No 28 of Khata No 80 situated in Syed Colony Nishat Mouza Nishat Bagh, standing in the name of Mr. Abdul Salam Bhat S/O Assadullah Bhat R/O Old Nishat, Srinagar (and after his death having devolved upon his above mentioned legal heirs)

Authorized Officer

SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF KASHMIR (SKUAST-K)
OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS
MAIN CAMPUS, SHALIMAR, SRINAGAR - 190025
(Cell) 0194-2463998 | (Mail) coexam@skuastkashmir.ac.in

Subject: Revised Examination Timings for Skill Proficiency Test (Descriptive / Practical) for the post/s of Media Producer & Editor and Print & Online Journalist.

Reference: No.AU/CoE/R-5/2026/2407-2410 dated: 19.02.2026.
In partial modification to this office notice referenced above, the revised examination timings for the Skill Proficiency Test (Descriptive / Practical) for the post/s of Print & Online Journalist and Media Producer & Editor, scheduled on 9th & 10th March, 2026 respectively shall be as under:

Sr. No.	Post	Venue	Date/Examination Timing	REVISED TIMINGS
01	Print & Online Journalist	SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE), SKUAST-K, Shalimar.	9th March, 2026 (Monday)	Reporting Time: 9:30AM Examination Time: 10:00AM
02	Media Producer & Editor	Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar.	10th March, 2026 (Tuesday)	Reporting Time: 9:30AM Examination Time: 10:00AM

The other details as notified earlier/mentioned on the admit cards shall remain same.
No. AU/CoE/R-5/2026/2450-55
Dated: 05.03.2026
DIPK-NB-3515-25
DT: 07/03/2026
Prof. (Dr) K. N. Qaisar
Controller of Examinations

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sara Bano, W/o Mohammad Akbar Najar, R/o Drari-Pora Adina, Magam, do hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly written as "Sara Begum" in some of my documents. My correct and actual name is "Sara Bano." The same may kindly be read and recorded as Sara Bano for all present and future official purposes. I am bearing Aadhaar No. 4664 5021 7638. If anybody has any objection regarding this name correction, they may file the same before the concerned authority within the stipulated period from the date of publication of this notice.

Sara Bano
W/o Mohammad Akbar Najar
R/o Drari-Pora Adina, Magam
Contact: 7006165557 / 9906089122

PUBLIC NOTICE
Corrections of name in the service records
I, Mohd. Shafiq Najar, S/o Gh. Ahmad Najar, R/o Nagam, Chadoora, District Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir, have applied for correction in the parentage column from GHULAM Ahmad Najar to Gh. Ahmad Najar in the service records before the concerned authorities. If any person has any objection regarding my name change, he/she may submit the same in writing to the Range Police Headquarters Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no one has any objection, and the process of name change will proceed accordingly.

Mohd. Shafiq Najar, S/o Gh. Ahmad Najar
R/o Nagam, Chadoora, District Budgam, J&K

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG
NIT NO 170 OF R&B/Anantnag/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/ 13626-35, DATED 06-03-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.(In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Computer Room and ACR at Shri Ravi Jee Higher Secondary School Khanabal	32.35 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 27.42 + (18% GST Amount 4.93)	1100	64700/-	02 Working Seasons	PM Shree PAB 2025-26)	AAy & BEE Class Only
2.	Minor Repair at Shri Ravi Jee Higher Secondary School Khanabal	1.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 0.84 + (18% GST Amount 0.16)	200	2000/-	15	PM Shree PAB 2025-26)	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority: Directorate of SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, J&K.
Position of AAA: Accorded vide Society Order No. 396 - Chirag of 2026, Dated 04.02.2026.
Position of TS: Accorded.

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-03-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 06-03-2026 (02:00 PM) To 12-03-2026 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 06-03-2026 (02:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 12-03-2026 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	13-03-2026 (10:30 AM)

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag(Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK-11642-25
DT: 07/03/2026

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (U.T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILLOO
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No. 120/10191-10200 of R&B/Vailloo/2025-2026/e-tendering DATED:05/03/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Approved Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (in Rs)	Earnest Money (2% of Adv.Cost) (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Project Intending Department	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Construction of Girls Toilet at Boys Higher Secondary School Anantnag	03.482	200	6964	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
2	Construction of Girls Toilet at High School Cheerpora	01.695	200	3390	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
3	Construction of Girls Toilet at Girls Middle School Gadole	01.745	200	3490	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
4	Construction of Girls Toilet at Boys High School Gopalpora	01.748	200	3496	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
5	Construction of Girls Toilet at High School Gowran	01.701	200	3402	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
6	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Gratwalipora	01.702	200	3404	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
7	Construction of Girls Toilet at Girls High School Hiller	01.701	200	3402	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
8	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Laigaripora	01.687	200	3374	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
9	Construction of Girls Toilet at High School Lisser	03.329	200	6658	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
10	Construction of Girls Toilet at High School Narsangrie	01.699	200	3398	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
11	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Ami Behak	01.746	200	3492	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
12	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Bon Mathindoo	01.732	200	3464	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
13	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Gadole Bala	03.469	200	6938	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
14	Construction of Girls Toilet at Higher Secondary School Guridraman	03.388	200	6776	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
15	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Rain	01.693	200	3386	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
16	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Senzi	01.747	200	3494	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
17	Construction of Girls Toilet at Girls Middle School Soaf	03.486	200	6972	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
18	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Noonwani	01.748	200	3496	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
19	Construction of Girls Toilet at Middle School Sheikhpura	01.687	200	3374	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB
20	Construction of Girls Toilet at Primary School Rakhibrah Bala	01.747	200	3494	25 Days	Education	DEE Class	PAB

Position of AA: Accorded
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05.03.2026
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 05.03.2026 05.00 pm To 05.03.2026 05.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 05.03.2026 05.00 pm To 10.03.2026 05.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 10.03.2026 05.00 pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	11.03.2026 at 10.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailloo

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD in favor of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailloo(Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (If the NIT comprises of only one item, Name of work/Item No is not mandatory) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Vailloo (Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and the validity at the time of opening of bids shall be for a period of 45 days beyond bid validity of 120 days)

2. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of defective liability period of the work.

3. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security.

4. Only those contractors are eligible for taking part in the bidding process whose contractor registration card is enrolled online on the JKPWDOMS portal and the Proof of that needs to be uploaded with this bid mandatorily.

5. The Advertised is cost is inclusive of GST@18%. The bidder has to quote the rate exclusive of GST.

6. Security Deposit shall be deposited by the contractor within 10 days of issuance of LOI, failing which the concerned tender

7. The contractor shall initiate the work within 10 days of entering into the agreement, failing which the undersigned shall terminate the contract and issue a fresh tender after imposing penalties viz forfeit security/LD as per T&C of the Bid document and recommend contractor for blacklisting.

8. The work shall be completed by the concerned contractor as per the timeline stipulated in the bid document/agreement, failing which action shall be initiated against contractor by forfeiting EMD and shall be recommended for blacklisting.

9. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Vailloo (Tender receiving authority).

10. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

11. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

22. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

-Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division Vailloo

DIPK-11632-25
DT: 07/03/2026

Oil, Gas Prices Surge as Iran War Rattles Markets

Cathy Bussewitz (AP)

New York, Mar 7: The price of oil surged higher and showed no signs of halting its rapid climb a week after the US and Israel launched major attacks on Iran that escalated into a war in the Middle East.

The conflict, in which nearly every country in the Middle East has sustained damage from missiles or drone strikes, has left ships that carry roughly 20 million barrels of oil a day stranded in the Persian Gulf, unable to safely pass through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Gulf that is bordered on its north side by Iran.

The disruption and damage to key oil and gas facilities in the Middle East has led to an interruption in the supply of oil and gas.

Oil prices surpassed \$90 a barrel Friday, with American crude settling at \$90.90, up 36% from a week ago, and Brent, the international standard, climbing 27% over the course of a week to land at \$92.69.

The fallout is ratcheting up what consumers and business will pay for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, with some drivers already feeling it at the pump.

"It's crazy. It's not needed, especially at a time when people are already struggling, but not unexpected from all this turmoil that's going on," said Mark Doran, who was pumping gas in Middlebury, Vermont Friday. "I don't think there's been an end in sight to any Middle East conflict that's been started by us, so the fact that they say that there's going to be an end that quickly is not believable, and the Middle East is, you know, a place that the US is not going to solve."



On Monday, President Donald Trump said that the US expected its military operations against Iran to last four to five weeks but has "the capability to go far longer." And on Friday, Trump appeared to rule out talks with Iran absent its "unconditional surrender."

"The more news we get, the more it seems like this is going to last a really long time," said Al Salazar, head of macro oil and gas research at Enverus.

In the US, a gallon of regular gasoline rose to \$3.32 on Friday, up 11% from a week ago, according to AAA motor club. Diesel was selling for \$4.33 a gallon Friday, up 15% from a week ago.

The price shocks were felt even more heavily in Europe and Asia, markets that rely more heavily on energy supplies from the Middle East. Diesel prices doubled in Europe, and jet fuel prices rose by close to 200% in Asia, according to Claudio Galimberti, chief economist at Rystad Energy.

Energy prices climbed throughout the week as Iran launched a series of retaliatory attacks, including a drone strike on the US Embassy in Saudi Arabia, and the conflict widened. Iran also hit a major refinery in Saudi Arabia and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Qatar, halting flows of refined products and taking about 20% of the world's LNG supply offline.

"We keep seeing news of vessels being hit or refineries or pipelines, so the list is very long," Galimberti said. As a result, roughly 9 million barrels of oil per day are off the market because of facilities being hit or producers taking precautionary measures, he said. "Right now, with all of this shut in, we are in a situation of extreme deficit."

The US is a net exporter of oil, but that does not mean it is immune to increases in the price of oil or gasoline, or that its producers can just make up the difference.

Oil is traded on global markets, so even the oil produced in the US has risen in price based on what's happening in the Middle East. And for many American oil producers, "if you put more wells in the ground, there's about a six-month lag before you get that production uplift," Salazar said.

In addition, the US can't simply turn all of its crude oil into gasoline. That's because most of the oil produced in the US is light, sweet crude, and refineries on the East and West coasts are primarily designed to process heavier, sour crude. As a result, the US exports some of its crude oil and imports some refined products such as gasoline.

Jerry Dalpiaz of Covington, Louisiana, said he started filling up his cars and gas cans on "the day that they announced that the United States has started military operations against Iran" because he assumed gas prices would climb.

"I can weather the storm

because I'm in good financial position, but I feel sorry for my fellow citizens who are living paycheck to paycheck because they have to drive to get to work and they have to change their oil and all those things," Dalpiaz said. "And they need some relief and it doesn't seem to be coming anytime soon."

Trump issued a plan Friday to insure losses up to approximately \$20 billion in the Gulf region, aiming to restore confidence in maritime trade, help stabilize international commerce and support American and allied businesses operating in the Middle East.

But some energy experts said extra insurance won't solve the problem.

"The problem is that in the oil trading, oil shipping world, people are worried about counterterrorism," said Amy Jaffe, director of the Energy, Climate Justice and Sustainability Lab at New York University, adding that they're worried about automated drone speedboats, weapon-carrying, flying drones and mines or other devices. "In order for the United States to create the atmosphere that undoes the current bottleneck at the Strait of Hormuz, there has to be some credible demonstration of solutions to the counterterrorism problem."

Salazar wondered what the "new normal" would look like if the Strait of Hormuz was effectively re-opened, and what effective security would look like.

"All it takes is one individual with a RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) to stand on the shore and take out a tanker, right?" Salazar said. "And this is forever, do you know what I mean?"

Trump Officially Threatens Iranian Civilians



Agencies

WANA (Mar 07) - As the war imposed on Iran by the United States and Israel enters its eighth day, Donald Trump published a message on the social media platform Truth Social, making sharp accusations against Iran—claims that were accompanied by open threats against new targets and the killing of people in Iran.

In the message, Trump claimed that Iran had been "severely hit" following the military attacks by the United States and Israel and had apologised to neighbouring countries in the Middle East. He also alleged that Tehran had promised it would no longer launch missiles toward countries in the region—a pledge which, according to him, was made solely because of the "relentless attacks by the United States and Israel."

However, what Trump described as Iran's "apology" or "surrender" was in fact a reference to recent remarks by Masoud Pezeshkian, the President of Iran. In a message issued today emphasising de-escalation in the region, he stated: "We have no intention of aggression against neighboring countries. As I have said many times, they are our brothers, and in this region we must work hand in hand for peace and stability."

Pezeshkian also explained that, based on a decision by the temporary leadership council and its communication to the armed

forces, Iran would not continue missile strikes toward neighbouring countries so long as no attacks against Iran were launched from their territory.

This is a position Iran has maintained since the beginning of the war imposed upon it—and even earlier in response to threats—having reiterated it on numerous occasions.

Nevertheless, Trump went on to make more severe claims, writing that Iran is no longer the dominant power in the Middle East but the region's loser, and that it could remain in such a condition for decades.

The most controversial part of his message, however, came when he spoke directly about expanding the list of targets. Trump warned that "Today Iran will be hit very hard," adding that areas and groups of people that had not previously been included among military targets are now "under serious consideration for complete destruction and certain death."

Such wording can be interpreted as a direct threat against civilian targets—an issue that, if realised, could significantly intensify the humanitarian dimensions of the war.

This explicit threat against civilian areas, at a time when air and missile strikes continue in multiple parts of Iran and tensions remain high across the region, is widely seen as crossing the red lines of international law.

Courtesy: WANA News

IRAN WAR 100 Flights Canceled at Delhi, Mumbai Airports



Press Trust of India

New Delhi, Mar 7: At least 100 international flights were cancelled at the Delhi and Mumbai airports on Saturday as the Middle East crisis continued to impact flight operations.

As many as 35 departures and 36 arrivals were cancelled at the Mumbai airport, while 22 departures and 17 arrivals were cancelled at the Delhi airport, according to officials.

Delhi airport operator DIAL, in a post on X, said due to the current situation in the Middle East, some west-bound international flights may experience delays or schedule changes.

The conflict involving the US, Israel, and Iran that started on February 28 has significantly impacted flight operations, as some of the airspaces in the Middle East are closed. Many airlines are only operating a limited number of services.

Two Akanksha Singhs Claim UPSC Rank 301

Press Trust of India

Patna, Mar 7: A controversy has surfaced following the declaration of the UPSC results, with two women from different states claiming the same rank. The dispute centres on the 301st rank, with both candidates named Akanksha Singh claiming the position.

On one hand, Akanksha Singh from Ara in Bihar, granddaughter of Brahmeshwar Singh, founder of the banned militia Ranvir Sena, has been widely reported to have secured the rank. On the other hand, another candidate, also named Akanksha Singh from Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh, has claimed that the rank belongs to her.

The row intensified after an admit card circulating on social media appeared to show the same name and roll number, further complicating the matter. With conflicting claims emerging, attention is now on the Union Public Service Commission for an official clarification.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Brahmeshwar Singh's granddaughter Akanksha claimed that she secured the 301st rank in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025 in her second attempt.



"I was confident about securing the result this time around. This was my grandfather's dream. He had a lot of belief in me," she said. Brahmeshwar Singh was murdered in 2012.

Akanksha said she studied for eight to 10 hours daily during her preparation.

"I used to study 8-10 hours a day. My parents played a great role in my success. Last year, when I failed to clear the exam, they kept supporting me without any frustration or anger," she said.

Meanwhile, another Akanksha Singh from Ghazipur posted on Facebook alleging impersonation.

"It has come to light that my rank and identity are being impersonated by others," she wrote, attaching two documents that she claimed were her original ID and e-summon in the FB post. While the name and roll numbers are the same, the fathers' names differ.

She, however, could not be contacted for further comments.

Pak Court Jails 47 Leaders of Imran Khan's Party for 10 Yrs

Press Trust of India

Islamabad, Mar 7: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday sentenced 47 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and supporters to 10 years imprisonment and a PKR 5,00,000 fine each in absence for vandalism and violence during the May 9, 2023, protest.

The countrywide protest was launched by workers and leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) following the arrest of former premier and party founder Imran Khan in Islamabad.

A group of protesters also tried to storm the General Headquarters, the seat of the army chief, in Rawalpindi, resulting in vandalism of the properties.

The case was registered

at the RA Bazar Police Station, Rawalpindi, soon after the incident.

The PTI supporters were charged with arson, siege, vandalism, attacks on police, and damaging government property, specifically in connection with attacks on the GHQ gate, Hamza Camp, the Army Museum, and Sixth Road Metro Station.

The anti-terrorism court (ATC) Rawalpindi judge, Amjad Ali Shah, issued the verdict against the 47 who had already been declared as proclaimed offenders.

The court found them guilty and sentenced each of them to 10 years imprisonment, along with a fine of PKR 5,00,000 per convict and the confiscation of their movable and immov-

able properties.

In the event of non-payment of the fine, the convicted accused will be required to serve additional imprisonment.

Among the convicted PTI leaders are Omar Ayub Khan, Shibli Faraz, Shahbaz Gill, Zulfi Bukhari, Murad Saeed, Zartaj Gul, Hamud Azhar, Kanwal Shauzab, Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, Ejaz Khan Jazi, Shaikat Ali Bhatti, Usman Saeed Basra, Muhammad Ahmad Chattha, Rai Hassan Nawaz, and Rai Muhammad Murtaza, among others.

According to the court's written verdict, the convicted accused were found involved in the conspiracy behind the May 9 incidents, with a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) identifying them

as key suspects in the planning of the violent protests.

The 47 individuals were tried separately under Section 21 L of the Anti-Terrorism Act, as they had been absent from court proceedings and were declared proclaimed offenders.

The May 9 GHQ attack case is part of a broader prosecution in which a total of 118 accused, including PTI founder Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were also indicted, with charges formally framed against all 118 in December 2024.

Khan is currently in Adiala Jail, facing multiple cases which were instituted against him after his government was removed in April 2022.

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