

## Rain, Snow, Gusty Winds Forecast This Weekend

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast a spell of unsettled weather across Jammu and Kashmir later this week, with rain, snow-fall in higher reaches and gusty winds expected from the night of March 28.

According to officials, weather conditions will remain generally dry on March 25, followed by partly cloudy skies with a possibility of light rain or snow at isolated places on March 26.

A significant shift in weather patterns is expected from the night of March 28, which could impact agriculture, travel and routine activities in several parts of the Union Territory.

"March 27 and 28 will largely remain dry till evening. Thereafter, light rain, snow-fall, thunderstorms and gusty winds are likely at many places," an official from the MeT Centre Srinagar said.

The forecast indicates that from March 29 to 31, generally cloudy conditions will prevail, with light to moderate rain in the plains and snowfall over higher reaches at several locations. Thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph are also expected during this period.

Officials

# West Asia Crisis: PM Flags 'Serious Side Effects', Sets Up 7 Panels

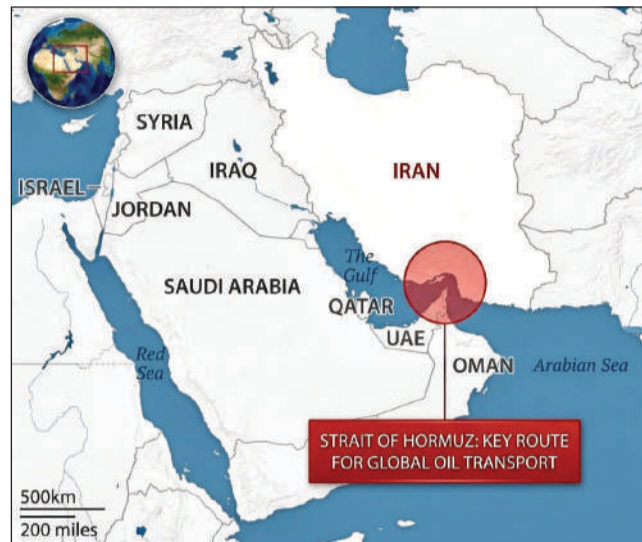
## Focus On Fuel, Fertilisers, Supply Chains & Inflation | Says Attacks on Strait of Hormuz Unacceptable

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced the constitution of seven empowered groups to address the potential long-term fallout of the ongoing West Asia conflict, underlining the need for a coordinated "Team India" approach between the Centre and states to navigate the emerging crisis.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister flagged the "serious side effects" of the war, particularly on energy supplies, fertilisers, and global supply chains. Drawing parallels with the COVID-19 response, he said the newly formed empowered groups, comprising experts and senior officials, would devise both immediate and long-term strategies to mitigate the impact on key sectors such as petroleum, diesel, natural gas, fertilisers, and inflation.

"These groups will work with a comprehensive strategy



to address every aspect of this crisis—short-term, medium-term, and long-term," Modi said, expressing confidence that coordinated efforts would help India effectively navigate the situation.

Reiterating India's stance on the conflict, the Prime

Minister said dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable path to restoring peace in West Asia. He noted that India is in constant touch with all stakeholders, including Iran, Israel, and the United States, to push for de-escalation.

Acknowledging | More on P6

## Modi, Trump Discuss Hormuz; India Calls For De-escalation

India backs the swift restoration of peace in West Asia and keeping the Strait of Hormuz open for global shipping, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday when US President Donald Trump dialled him to discuss the crisis.

It was the first conversation between the two leaders since the West Asia conflict began on February 28.

In the conversation, PM Modi underlined the importance of ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible, noting that it is vital for global peace, stability and economic well-being.

The phone call came a day after President Trump extended Washington's

deadline by five days for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

"Received a call from President Trump and had a useful exchange of views on the situation in West Asia," Modi said on social media.

"India supports de-escalation and restoration of peace at the earliest. Ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible is essential for the whole world. We agreed to stay in touch regarding efforts towards peace and stability," he said.

Global oil and gas prices have surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the | More on P6

## Asiya Andrabi Awarded Life Term

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A special NIA court on Tuesday sentenced hardline separatist Asiya Andrabi to life imprisonment for conspiring to wage war against India, observing that any leniency for the Duktaran-e-Millat chief would only "infuse fresh vigour" into her efforts to secede Kashmir.

Additional Sessions Judge Chanderjit Singh also handed down 30-year prison sentence to Andrabi's close associates, Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen, for their roles in the conspiracy.

After convicting Andrabi (62), Nasreen (58), and Fehmeeda (48) in the case in January this year, the court gave a reasoned 28-page order for the quantum of sentence for them.

The judge said "no remorse has been shown by any of the convicts in respect of their acts rather it is submitted that they are proud of what they were doing and also that they will continue to do the same work".

He drew a similarity of this case with that of 26/11 accused and lone terrorist arrested, Ajmal Kasab, who had shown no remorse for his act of violence while raining bullets in Mumbai on November 26, 2008.

The judge | More on P6

# Position J&K As Leader In TB Elimination: LG

Health Teams Directed To Ensure No Case Goes Undetected

Says Awareness Is Our Most Powerful Medicine

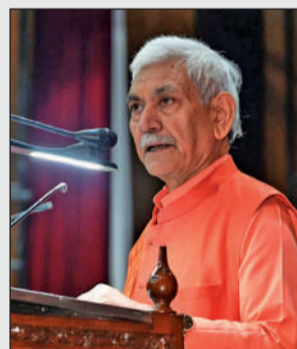
Observer News Service

Jammu: Calling for a people-led fight against tuberculosis, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday urged authorities and citizens to intensify testing, expand outreach and ensure that no patient is left unsupported, as he launched the "TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan-100 Days Campaign" in Jammu.

Addressing the UT-level programme at the Convention Centre on World Tuberculosis Day, the Lieutenant Governor said awareness and community participation would be central to eliminating the disease from Jammu and Kashmir.

"Awareness, I believe, will be our most powerful medicine. Leave no patient behind. Detecting TB is only half the battle. Walking beside a patient through the entire course of treatment and recovery is the real challenge," Sinha said.

The nationwide campaign, launched by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, aims to accelerate TB elimination through intensified,



targeted and technology-driven interventions.

Highlighting the scale of the effort, the Lieutenant Governor said the 100-day campaign must evolve into a mass movement rooted deeply in communities across the Union Territory.

"It is our resolve to transform this campaign into a people's movement in Jammu Kashmir. This year's campaign must be more focused and deeply rooted in communities. I urge all stakeholders to position our UT not just as a participant, but as a leader in this national drive," he said.

Sinha | More on P6



Kashmir in Bloom: A boy carries a lamb through mustard fields in Pampore. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

## Tourist Rush Ahead Home Secy Orders Vigil At J&K Tourist Spots

KO Web Desk

Srinagar- With Jammu and Kashmir expecting a significant influx of visitors in the coming weeks, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Monday directed the Union Territory administration to ensure foolproof security arrangements at all tourist destinations across the region.

Official sources said that the home secretary chaired a high-level review meeting via video conferencing and laid special emphasis on strengthening the security grid around major tourist hotspots to prevent any untoward incident and ensure

a safe environment for visitors.

The meeting, attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Home Secretary Chandraker Bharti, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, and other senior police and intelligence officials, was convened to review the overall security scenario with a particular focus on safeguarding tourists ahead of the upcoming tourist season, sources said.

The home secretary directed the security apparatus to maintain heightened vigilance at all key tourist locations, including Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, and other prominent | More on P6

## J&K Likely To Allow Pvt Universities Bill

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move to expand the higher education landscape in Jammu & Kashmir, the government is likely to bring legislation for the establishment of private universities in the Union Territory, sources disclosed.

Sources said that the NC-led government is expected to introduce the legislation during the second leg of the budget session starting on March 27. The proposed law would pave the way for setting up self-financed private universities in Jammu & Kashmir.



Minister for Education, Sakina Masood Ittoo, confirmed the development. "We will try our best to introduce

the bill during the budget session," she said.

In February this year, the minister informed the

Legislative Assembly that there are currently no private universities in the Union Territory. She, however, emphasised that the establishment of private universities is the need of the hour and that demands have been received for their creation. Unlike many states where private universities have become a major part of the higher education system, Jammu & Kashmir continues to rely on government-run institutions. Every year, thousands of students from J&K go to other states and Union Territories to pursue higher education due to the | More on P6

# 509 Minor Girls Reported Missing In J&K In 2023, 300 Still Untraced

502 Cases In 2022, 443 In 2021, 350 In 2020, & 355 In 2019

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that hundreds of cases of missing girl children have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir over the past five years, with a significant number yet to be traced.

Replying to an unstarred question, the Minister of State for Home Affairs said data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that in 2023, a total of 509 girl children below the age of 18 were reported missing in the Union Territory. Of



these, 209 have been traced, while 300 remain untraced.

According to figures, 502 such cases were reported in 2022, 443 in 2021, 350 in

2020, and 355 in 2019, indicating a persistent trend over the years.

The minister said the Centre is supporting states and Union

Territories through various initiatives, advisories and schemes to address the issue of missing children.

He informed the House that digital platforms such as TrackChild and Khoya-Paya have been integrated under Mission Vatsalya to help trace missing children. These systems are also linked with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) to improve coordination among law enforcement agencies.

The government has also issued standard operating procedures for handling such cases and | More on P6

## No Policy On NHM Staff Regularisation In J&K: Centre

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Union Government has stated that there is no central policy for the regularisation, pay parity or absorption of National Health Mission employees in Jammu and Kashmir, clarifying that such matters fall under the jurisdiction of the respective State and Union Territory administrations.

Responding to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha by Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav said public health and hospitals are state subjects, placing the responsibility of managing human resources on State and UT governments.

The query flagged concerns over NHM employees in Jammu and Kashmir who have been

working for more than 18 years without regularisation, job security or equal wages, and sought clarity on any roadmap for their absorption into regular posts.

In his reply, the Minister said that while the Centre provides technical and financial support under the National Health Mission, decisions on regularisation, pay parity and service conditions are taken by the respective State or UT governments.

He added that NHM funding is based on proposals submitted by States and UTs through Programme Implementation Plans, which are approved by the National Programme Coordination Committee.

The Centre also noted that it is the responsibility of States and UTs to ensure adequate health-care personnel by creating regular posts | More on P6

## J&K Bank Faces ₹400 Cr Tax Notice

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd. has received a Goods and Services Tax (GST) demand notice of approximately 400 crore from the Additional Commissioner of the Central GST Commissionerate, Jammu, the bank said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday.

The demand includes a GST liability of about ₹200 crore along with an equal amount as penalty, officials said.

"This is to inform that the Bank has received a demand dated March 23, 2026 from Additional Commissioner, Central GST Commissionerate, Jammu for GST liability of Rs 200,20,80,009 with applicable interest and penalty of Rs 200,20,80,009," the bank said in its exchange filing.

The development comes even as the bank reported improved financial performance for the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

The notice is significant as it raises compliance and financial implications for the bank, although officials have not yet indicated whether the demand will be contested or settled.

According to the filing, the GST component stands at over ₹200 crore, with a matching penalty amount, effectively doubling the total exposure to around ₹400 crore, excluding applicable interest.

Financial experts said such tax demands are subject to legal | More on P6



To place an advertisement  
**CALL +91-194 2502327**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform that I, Fayaz Ahmad Gojree S/O Noor Mohd Gojree R/o Wathora Chadoora, have applied for upgrade of my Class B contractor Card " M/s CREATIVE LEAGUE CONSTRUCTIONS AND TRADING PVT LTD" registration issued vide No. SE(R&B) SB-B-154 of 2018-19 to Class A . If any person have any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections(if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer, CID wing JKSPDC Kashmir, Bemina, Srinagar or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B), Civil Secretariat Jammu within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Contact No.7889619298

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420170037018 issued in favour of MOHD YOUSUF BHAT Parentage AB AZIZ BHAT

Whereas an application has been received by one MOHD YOUSUF BHAT Parentage AB AZIZ BHAT wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHAMMAD YOUSUF BHAT Which needs to be changed as MOHD YOUSUF BHAT.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420140023201 issued in favour of BILAL AHMAD SHEERGOJREY Parentage GHULAM AHMAD SHEERGOJREY

Whereas an application has been received by one BILAL AHMAD SHEERGOJREY Parentage GHULAM AHMAD SHEERGOJREY wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as BILAL AHMAD SHEER GOJREI Parentage GH AHMAD SHEER GOJREI Which needs to be changed as BILAL AHMAD SHEERGOJREY Parentage GHULAM AHMAD SHEERGOJREY.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 559026381058 the name is entered as SONAM SINGH while actual name is SEERAT RASOOL. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SEERAT RASOOL  
W/O AMIR RASHID  
R/o HUMHAMA BUDGAM  
mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my name from (old name) BEG MEHBOOB AFZAL to (New name) MEHBOOB BEG . In future i will be known as (new Name) MEHBOOB BEG.

If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My father's name and Mother's name has been wrongly written in my school records as Abdul Rashid Ganie , Rubena Akhter while their correct name is Ab Rashid Ganie , Rubena Akhter respectively, if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in concerned office within seven days After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fazil Rashid  
Ab Rashid Ganie ,  
R/o Lolpora

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Toyib Bhat s/o Tanveer Ahmad Bhat R/o Chichilora Tehsil kawarhama with verified date of birth 10/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my name from (old name) Aaliya Nabi to (new name) Aaliya In future I will be known as (new name) Aaliya.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar, within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

media line advt

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hasnain Hussain Dar s/o Showkat Ahmad Dar R/o Nowlari Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 05/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aabiroo Zainab D/o Zulafkar Ali Hajam R/o Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 19/02/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR**

Subject: Select list for the post of Lecturer History in school Education Department.

**NOTICE**

Pursuant to the recommendations of the J&K Public Service Commission vide letter No. PSC/DR/Lect/School Edu./History(7816430) Dated 13-02-2026, the following candidates are hereby directed to submit their e-mail id and contact number details in the School Education Department, (Gazetted Section) Civil Secretariat, Jammu, in person or on e-mail id: school-edu@jk.gov.in within a period of fifteen (15) days positively, for uploading their verification rolls on the Employees Verification System Department.

S. No	Name	Parentage	Address	Category
1.	Aabid Hussain Mir	Mohd Yasin Mir	Gagren Shopian, Shopian	OM
2.	Rizwan Ur Rehman	Abdul Rehman Dar	Nowdal Tral	OM
3.	Syed Wiqar Hussain	Syed Tariq Ahmad	122 Lalpora Beerwah	OM
4.	Jirfan Ahmad Bhat	Gh Hassan Bhat	Kanelwan Bijbehara	OM
5.	Shahid Nabi Wani	Nazir Ahmad Wani	124 Soaf Shali Kokernag	OM
6.	Khurshid Ahmad Rather	Mohmad Sultan Rather	Shukur Ud Din Mohalla Hajin	OM
7.	Ishfaq Ahmad Naikoo	Gh Qadir Naikoo	98 Bidder Kokernag	RBA
8.	Gulshan Kumar	Bittu Ram	Village Pathi Panchari	SC

9.	Nadeem Raza	Mohd Aslam	Near Old Tehsil Ward No. 6 Surankote	ST-1
10.	Rafaqat Hussain	Barket Hussain	53 Village Godasan Balla Tehsil Thannamandi	ST-1
11.	Raja Arbass Ali Khan Bamba	Raja Mohammad Abass Khan Bamba	House No. 144 Pehlipora Boniyar	ST-2
12.	Rakhi Sharma	Lekh Raj	R/O Bagnoti P/O Bagnoti Nowshera	ST-2
13.	Priya Choudhary	Pushpinder Kumar	Vill Hansa PO Chakrohi Hansa Suchetgarh	ALC
14.	Tariq Ahmad Kumar	Gh Nabi Kumar	84 Hugam Srigufwara	SLC

DIPK-12087/25  
dated: 24-03-2026

(Sheetal Pandita)JKAS  
Deputy Secretary to the Government

Dated: 24.03.2026

No. Edu-Lect/37/2026-01-(7735727)

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG**

E-Bid Document (Auction ID: 32354)

Outsourcing of One No. (01) Mobile Kiosk (Meals on Wheels) for installation & Operation at New Bypass near bridge Junction only at Sonamarg for a period of 05-years, through GeM portal.

No: CEO/SDA/2026/5261-69

dated: 23/03/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-bids are invited online through GeM Portal for One No. (01) Mobile Kiosk (Meals on Wheels) for installation & Operation at New Bypass near bridge Junction only at Sonamarg for a period of 05-years. The details are as under:

S.No	Particulars	Date/Time	Remarks
1	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	23/03/2026 at 4.00 PM	-NIL-
2	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	27/03/2026 at 1.00 PM	-NIL-
3	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date	28/03/2026 at 1.00 PM	-NIL-
4	EMD Start Date	28/03/2026 at 2.00 PM	-NIL-
5	EMD End Date	30/03/2026 at 10.00 A.M	-NIL-
6	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR/FDR/DD	Rs. 10000/- (Ten Thousand only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority
7	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	30/03/2026 at 10.30 AM	-NIL-
8	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	31/03/2026 at 12.00 AM	-NIL-
9	Reserve bid amount	Rs. 0.70 Laes (Rupees Seventy Thousand only)	-NIL-

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

- The bidder should be a domicile of J&K and shall upload a valid domicile certificate.
- The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Police Station or alternatively copy of a valid Passport.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.
- The bidder shall upload Average Annual Financial Turnover Statement of last three years ending of previous financial year & should be at least 50% of basic bid amount.
- The bidder shall have to upload undertaking that if found successful after the culmination of auction process as per following:
  - That I shall abide by the all terms & conditions of the contract.
  - That I will deposit the offered bid amount within a period of 07 days after culmination of auction, failing which result in automatic cancellation without notice along with forfeiture of CDR.
  - That I will handover the asset in good condition as received from the department on the day of expiry of auction contract.
  - That I will not approach the Courts for extension of contract period.
- The bidder has to upload FSSAI Certificate.
- Experience certificate relating to management of hotel & restaurant.

**Terms and Conditions:**

- The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process and the physical position of the site/asset shall stand on "as is where is" basis. As such, no claim of any deficiency, addition, alteration, rectification in the asset would be entertained during/after bidding process.
- The bidder participating in the e-bid process must apply in his name or the firm name duly registered in his name.
- Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e-bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD (after qualifying Pre-Qualification) in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- Previous defaulters shall not be allowed to participate in the bidding process.
- The minimum reserve bid has been fixed at Rs. 0.80 Laes (Rupees Eighty Thousand only). However, the bidder has to pay GST @ 18% of the offered bid. All other applicable taxes including, Income Tax, Labour Cess, and any other taxes as may be levied under the law shall be paid by the bidder on its own under an intimation to this office.
- There will be an escalation of 15% compounding on the offered bid amount of previous years for each successive year and thereafter to be deposited before two months from the start of every year. The bid offers should be above the minimum reserve bid.
- The licensee has to insure the property through any Nationalized Insurance Company in the name of the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority for which a letter of authority shall be issued by this office. The premium on this account shall be borne by the licensee.
- The period of outsourcing shall be on license basis for a period of 05-years which will commence from the date of issuance of the formal allotment letter.
- The contract shall be awarded for one year in the first instance and renewal of the same shall be subject to depositing of rentals for the each successive year in advance including 15% escalation of the maximum bid before the expiry of the 1<sup>st</sup> year contract.
- The successful bidder has to take prior permission before start of the operation regarding the type of business he/she intends to undertake in the asset. Without the explicit permission of CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, the successful bidder will not be issued allotment order.
- The successful bidder shall have to use the asset only in the area as designated in the auction notice. Violation in this regard may invite cancellation of the contract.
- In case the successful bidder fails to fulfill the term of contract, or leaves the contract half way or the contract is cancelled due to any disqualifications/non-payment of advance rent, the CDR shall be forfeited.
- The safety, security and upkeep and watch & ward of the asset shall be sole responsibility of outsourcee during the period of contract. The successful bidder shall ensure all safety measures like firefighting equipments, first aid kit etc. Sonamarg Development Authority shall not be responsible for any loss of life and property within the asset during the period of the contract.
- The successful bidder shall have to charge rates for various allotted services as per approval of the SDA from time to time.
- The electric/water consumption charges shall be payable by the outsourcee & CDR shall be released after obtaining NOC from PHE & PDD.
- The bidder should not be employee in any Govt. Deptt. or a Public Sector undertaking.
- The out-sourcing committee reserves the right to reject any or all the e-bids without assigning any reason therefor.
- The successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement with CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority regarding adherence to the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Department during the course of the contract period. The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for executing this agreement/ license deed.
- The successful bidder shall have to handover the asset to the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority after completion of contract period with the list of inventory, received by him at the time of allotment/taking over.
- The licensee shall not make any alterations or additions to the space/unit allotted, without seeking written permission from the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- The licensee shall provide necessary uniform & name plates to the staff working in the premises & shall be responsible for any unfair act of the staff member for which, he shall be liable for criminal/civil action under rules/law if any required.
- The successful bidder/Licensee shall strictly adhere to all rules and regulations regarding commercial establishment, sanitation in vogue with focus on preservation of environment etc. within the territorial area and shall clear all applicable taxes, within the stipulated time. Any default on this account will be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder.
- The successful bidder shall ensure arrangement of furniture, electricity back up and availability of standard crockery/cutlery in the unit, on his own.
- The licensee shall not, in any case, sub-let the asset to any other party.
- The successful bidder shall arrange on his own all necessary stationery, staff or any other requirements for providing efficient services to the clients.
- The successful bidder shall have to provide services to the best satisfaction of tourists/locals. The bidder shall have to ensure that there isn't any complaint of misbehavior with the visitors/locals or by any of the staff member employed by the bidder in this regard. In case any complaint is received, action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the bidder and penalty shall be imposed upon the defaulters.
- In case of any negligence in running the service or compliant pertaining to bad performance, the contract shall be terminated without any notice by the department.
- The allotted asset shall be inspected periodically by the departmentally authorized officers and in case the services of the licensee are not found satisfactory, the contract shall be liable for cancellation without any notice.
- Any damage caused to the Government property at the site will invite penalty amounting to double the cost of damage or replacement of the same whatever the case may be, as per assessment to be made by the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- The Department shall reserve the right for using the asset for any purpose or function or event, as it may deem fit and no fee shall be charged by the licensee in this regard.
- The successful bidder will have to abide by all the orders/communications issued by Department from time to time during the period of contract as may necessitated in light of public unrest and law & order, security and in case of any other administrative requirements
- During the contract period the maintenance of the asset/area, watch and ward as well as upkeep and daily cleaning/sweeping shall be the sole responsibility of the licensee.
- Any natural or Anthropogenic/manmade calamity occurs. The highest bidder/ licensee shall not seek extension of lease or relaxation, nor such claims shall be entertained by Sonamarg Development Authority.
- Any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred Arbitration of Administrative Secretary incharge Tourism Department, Government of J&K, whose decision shall be final & binding upon the parties. The proceedings of the Arbitration shall be conducted under the provisions of the J&K, Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1997 & rules and its amendment if any, framed there under.
- If the bidder intends to withdraw the agreed contract, he shall have to notify the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority before three months without claim for refund of existing contract year.
- If any minor repairs of the Departmental assets such as electrification, sanitary maintenance etc are to be done and these will be carried out by the licensee at his own cost, however, after seeking permission from the competent authority as per the direction of the inspecting authority from time to time which will help in maintenance of the asset.
- No extensions shall be granted. The asset shall be outsourced afresh at the end of the license term.
- The successful bidder has to run the asset as per the norms and conditions as prescribed within Tourist Trade Act in vogue.
- The successful bidder shall follow the regulations of FSSAI and any other regulations framed in this regard.
- The Authority shall not be responsible for any monetary loss due to any climate untowardness or due to any other reason

Sd/-

Chief Executive Officer  
Sonamarg Development Authority

DIPK-NB-3665/25  
dated: 24-03-2026

**Public Notice**

I, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Malla, S/o Ali Mohammad Malla, R/o Khanpora, Tehsil Baramulla, District Baramulla (J&K UT), hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter Haziqa Mohi Ud Din was inadvertently recorded as Haziqa Mohi Ud Din Malla in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9011-9590-1858.

The recorded name is incorrect. Her actual and correct name is Haziqa Mohi Ud Din. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Waris Farooq s/o Farooq Ahmad Parry R/o Aglar Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 08/09/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Fatima Shabir D/o Shabir Ahmad Wani R/o Khanpeth Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 17/03/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my name from (old name) BEG NIGHAT MEHBOOB AFZAL to (New name) NIGHAT BEG . In future i will be known as (new Name) NIGHAT BEG . If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

mcb

## Paras Health Srinagar Leads Women's Wellness Efforts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Paras Health Srinagar organized a series of awareness sessions and community interactions between March 14 and March 17 to highlight the importance of preventive healthcare and early screening among women. The initiative brought together doctors, local representatives, and members of the community, with a focus on encouraging timely diagnosis and regular health check-ups.

Specialists from multiple departments led the sessions, including Dr. Shabnam Bashir, Director - Breast and Colorectal Cancers & Non-Cancer Disorders; Dr. Sabreena Qadri, Senior Consultant - Psychiatry; Dr. Sadia Lankar, Consultant - Obstetrics & Gynaecology; Dr. Seerat Fatima, Consultant - Dermatology; Dr. Nadia Jeelani, Consultant - Pathology; and Ms. Aisha Trumboo, Dietitian. Discussions focused on key areas such as early cancer detection, mental health, reproductive health, skin care, diagnostics, and nutrition, with doctors addressing common concerns through interactive question-and-answer sessions.

A panel discussion held on March 17, attended by DC Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chibb as Special Guest, further stressed the need to improve awareness and access to healthcare services, particularly for women across different age groups.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Murtuza Habib, Facility Director, Paras Health Srinagar, said, "Many health conditions in women go unnoticed until they become serious, largely due to a lack of awareness or delayed medical consultation. Initiatives like these are important to bridge that gap by encouraging early screening and informed decision-making. The more we normalise conversations around women's health, the better the outcomes we can achieve."

As part of the outreach, the hospital also introduced a range of women's health screening packages at subsidised rates to promote early detection. These include a preventive health package priced at 4,400 covering screenings such as Pap smear, mammogram (breast X-ray), bone density scan (Dexa), and ultrasound. Additional packages include an infertility screening package priced at 1,800 and a PCOS screening package priced at 5,200, along with routine diagnostic tests such as an anaemia panel priced at 999. Several other packages focused on cancer screening, mammography, hormonal health, and post-menopausal care are also being offered. The offers are valid until April 16, 2026.

The initiative reflects a broader push towards preventive healthcare, with a focus on early detection and timely intervention to improve long-term health outcomes for women.



## SKIMS Adopts Tech-Driven Ward-Based Care

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has adopted a decentralised, technology-driven ward-based care model to enhance patient services, Director Dr Muhammad Ashraf Ganai said on Tuesday, while announcing plans to fill 1,100 posts to reduce waiting time.

The move is aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery within Jammu and Kashmir and reducing the need for patients to travel outside the region for advanced investigations and treatment.

"We don't want any patient to go outside Jammu and Kashmir for any investigation," Ganai told KNT, outlining the institute's vision to upgrade services and ensure accessibility to high-end medical care locally.

He said SKIMS is working on bridging gaps in infrastructure and

manpower while simultaneously planning a futuristic programme to expand advanced services across departments.

According to the Director, around 1,100 vacancies will be filled through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC), a move expected to significantly improve service delivery and reduce patient load pressure.

He said the recruitment drive is part of a broader effort to streamline operations and improve response time in wards and specialised units.

Ganai said the institute has also commissioned advanced medical equipment across wards, including a linear accelerator worth approximately 39 crore, aimed at strengthening cancer treatment services.

"In every ward, we have commissioned equipment to ensure patients re-

ceive timely and efficient care," he said.

He added that the decentralised ward-based system allows for quicker diagnosis, better monitoring and improved coordination among healthcare professionals.

The Director said SKIMS is making notable progress in research, patient care and academics, positioning itself as a leading tertiary care institution in the region.

"We are excelling in research, patient care and academics," he said, adding that efforts are underway to build a comprehensive healthcare ecosystem capable of meeting future challenges.

According to KNT, he said the introduction of advanced technology and specialised equipment is expected to enhance treatment outcomes and reduce dependency on external healthcare facilities.

## KU Holds Conference on Regenerative Tourism Development

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure Studies (DTHLS), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a one-day national conference on "Beyond Sustainability: Advancing Regenerative Models in Tourism Development" at the Main Campus.

The conference aimed to bring together practitioners, scholars, policymakers and industry stakeholders to examine current trends in tourism development, address sustainability concerns, and explore regenerative approaches that focus on restoration, inclusivity and long-term resilience.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, "Tourism development must move beyond conventional sustainability frameworks and adopt models that restore ecosystems, support local communities, and respond

to emerging environmental and social challenges."

She also emphasized the role of academic institutions in generating research-driven insights to guide policy and practice in the tourism sector.

In his keynote address, former Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Ashok Aima, spoke on the need to reimagine tourism through interdisciplinary approaches that integrate ecological responsibility with economic development.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said that such platforms facilitate informed discussions on emerging issues in tourism and contribute to the development of practical and policy-oriented solutions. Dean, School of Business Studies KU, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Darzi, highlighted the importance of aligning tourism practices with changing market dynamics, technological advancements and sustainability imperatives.

## DC Inspects Progress of Works on New Revenue Complex

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Tuesday undertook a visit to Zewan area of District to oversee the progress of ongoing works being executed on construction of Migrant Transit Accommodation for PM Package employees at Zewan, Srinagar.

He also inspected construction works on the new Revenue Complex for housing Tehsil Office Panthachowk.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, SE PDD, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, SDPO Panthachowk, Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer

PDD, Executive Engineer PHE, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Chief Sanitation Officer and other concerned Officers.

While reviewing the progress of works at Migrant Transit Accommodation Zewan, the Deputy Commissioner took a round of the various under construction Blocks and completed Blocks of the project. He was apprised that the work on the project for construction of 39 accommodation blocks comprising 936 flats is going on in full swing and as on date 26 Blocks comprising 624 flats stands ready.

He was further informed that out of the remaining 13 accommodation Blocks 6 blocks are also ready while remaining 7 accommodation blocks will be completed by April, 2026.

The Deputy Commissioner was further apprised that the boundary wall and approach road for the project

are nearing completion, while macadamization works are set to commence in the first week of April.

The DC was informed that the process of installation of electricity transformers (DTs) has been completed and power related setup will be in place within a week. While water supply facilities have already been made functional at the transit accommodation facility.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized timely completion of the prestigious project which is being monitored at the higher level. He directed the concerned Officers and executing agencies to expedite the pace of internal finishing and allied works while ensuring strict adherence to quality and safety standards. He was informed that the installation of lifts has begun in the blocks of Transit Accommodation.

### Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal-Shakti (I & F.C.) Division, Baramulla Fresh e-NIT No.19-IFCD.Bla. Of 2025-26 Dated: 18/03/2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K, e-tenders on percentage basis (in Single Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Government, for the following nature of works as shown hereunder: -

S. No.	Name of the work	Advertised Cost (In Lacs)	Earnest Money CDR (In Rs.)	Time for completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs)	M.H. of Account	Tender ID
1.	Restoration, Repair and Maintenance of OFC Baramulla and its tributaries and allied Nallahs on its Right side for the year 2026-27	12.00/-	24000/-	365 Days	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	1200/-	2711-M&R	2026_IFC_306396_1
2.	Restoration, Repair and Maintenance of OFC Baramulla and its tributaries and allied Nallahs on its Left Side for the year 2026-27	12.00/-	24000/-	365 Days	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	1200/-	2711-M&R	2026_IFC_306396_2
3.	Annual Stage Contract by providing men, machinery, materials etc. for the execution of emergent/unforeseen works as per requirement falling under the jurisdiction of Irrigation Sub Division Watergam for the year 2026-27.	10.00/-	20000/-	365 Days	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	1200/-	2702-M&R	2026_IFC_306396_3
4.	Annual Stage Contract by providing men, machinery, materials etc. for the execution of emergent/unforeseen works as per requirement falling under the jurisdiction of Irrigation Sub Division Baramulla for the year 2026-27.	10.00/-	20000/-	365 Days	BEE/ CEE/ DEE	1200/-	2702-M&R	2026_IFC_306396_4
5.	Annual Stage Contract by providing men, machinery, materials etc. for the execution of emergent/unforeseen works as per requirement falling under the jurisdiction of RHL Sub Division Traggora for the year 2026-27.	06.00/-	12000/-	365 Days	CEE/ DEE	600/-	2701-M&R	2026_IFC_306396_5

Position of fund = Budgetary Provision under M&R for the year 2026-27.  
Position of A.A.A. = Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Jal Shakti District Bla/Bpr H.Q. Sopore's order No. 31-SE/Hyd/DB of 2025-26, Dated: 16/03/2026.  
Position of T.S. = Being stage contract the Technical Sanction for the works shall be granted individually.

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of terms and condition of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.

1.	Date of Publishing	18-03-2026 from 1800Hours
2.	Start of downloading	18-03-2026 from 1800Hours
3.	Bid submission start date	18-03-2026 from 1800Hours
4.	Bid Submission end date	27-03-2026 upto 1800 Hours
5.	Date of opening of Tender	28-03-2026 at 1400 Noon

No: I&FCDB/CS-30/10172-91  
DIPK-12069/25 Dated:24-03-2026

Executive Engineer  
Irrigation & FC Division  
Baramulla

• TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686  
• PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883  
• PDD: 0194-2450213  
• FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155  
• CAPD: 18001807011  
• SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081  
• Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +9194841 00200

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**PRAYERS**

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
05- Shawwal  
1447

FAJR 5: 05  
ZUHR 12:40  
ASR 4: 58  
Magrib 6:49  
ISHA 8: 08

**This Day In History**

- 1802 - Great Britain and the French Republic sign the Treaty of Amiens
- 1817 -Tsar Alexander I recommends formation of Society of Israeli Christians
- 1820 -Greece freedom revolt against anti Ottoman attack
- 1821 - Greece gains independence from Turkey (National Day)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Fareeda Bano to Farida. Henceforth, I shall be known as Farida for all purposes. If anyone has any objection to this name change, they may contact the Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of this period, no objections shall be entertained.  
From: Farida  
R/o Ikhawan Chowk, Munawar Abad, Srinagar

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date 15.04.2026 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No. 764A-TRD-JAT-2025-26			
Name of work	TRD work in c/w reliability improvement in Mirthal - Bhogpur Sirwal section in Jammu Division.		
Approx. Cost (in ₹)	₹2,79,42,792.39	Earnest money (in ₹)	₹2,89,700/-
Cost of Tender Form (in ₹)	Nil	Completion period	Twelve (12) Months
Date & Time for submission of Tender Up to 15.04.2026 15:00 Hrs			
Opening of tender	15.04.2026 after 15:00 Hrs		
Website particulars	www.ireps.gov.in		

Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.  
No.: 764A-TRD-JAT-2025-26 Dated: 23.03.2026 988/2026

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Zulfikar Ali S/o Altaf Hussain and mother name Rubaba Bano residing at Balti Bazar Kargil hereby inform the general public that I have lost/misplaced my original Diploma Certificate with Roll No. 339059098 and Registration no. 2046002000750027 of Class 12th Studying in Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Jawahar Nagar Srinagar issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. Now, I am applying for the issuance of duplicate Diploma Certificate from the concerned authority. Objections, if any may kindly be conveyed to the concerned authority i.e. Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Zulfikar Ali S/o Altaf Hussain and mother name Rubaba Bano residing at Balti Bazar Kargil hereby inform the general public that I have lost/misplaced my original Marks Card with Roll No. 146038267 and Registration no. 2046002000750027 and Diploma Certificate of Class 10th Studying in Munshi Habibullah Mission School Baimathang Kargil issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. Now, I am applying for the issuance of duplicate Marks Card and Diploma Certificate from the concerned authority. Objections, if any may kindly be conveyed to the concerned authority i.e. Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice.

**WANI FAMILY BEREAVED**

It is with profound grief and sorrow that we inform the passing away of Mohammad Amin Wani, S/o Late Habib Ullah Wani, R/o Wani Pora (Manchowa), on 22/04/2026. Born on 01/01/1965, he was a kind-hearted and respected soul who touched many lives with his warmth and generosity. His departure has left a deep void in the hearts of his family, relatives, and well-wishers. May Almighty grant him the highest place in Jannah and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. Ameen.

Bereaved Family:  
Wahid Amin Wani  
Mohammad Uzair Wani  
Tawsia Amin Wani  
Ph: 7006874347 | Ph: 9682585171 iko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Ibrahim Wani, S/o Ishtiyak Rasool Wani, hereby inform the general public that certain corrections have been made in my records. My mother's name was previously recorded as Saima Wani, which is incorrect. The correct name is Saima Bashir. Further, my father's name was earlier written as Ishtiaq, whereas the correct name is Ishtiyak Rasool Wani. Henceforth, the correct names shall be Saima Bashir and Ishtiyak Rasool Wani for all official purposes. If anyone has any objection, they may file the same within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Ibrahim Wani fko\_r

## KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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# Trump's 'Might Makes Right' Moment

The Iran war reveals a solipsist in the Oval Office and a world order cracking under the weight of raw power.



K.P. Yadav



**“The world watches an American president who recognizes no authority beyond himself: neither courts, nor Congress, nor alliance obligation, nor diplomatic custom, nor the accumulated weight of international treaties signed by his predecessors.**

Three weeks into the US-Israel war with Iran, the damage stretches far beyond the 2,000 strikes pounding Iranian energy infrastructure or the 1,400 lives already lost.

The Strait of Hormuz sits blocked, choking off 20 percent of global oil and liquefied petroleum gas traffic while oil prices surge worldwide and allies scatter in confusion.

At the center of this storm stands a president who governs through instinct, impulse, and the conviction that power alone determines what is just and lawful in international affairs.

This is Donald Trump's "might makes right" moment, stripped completely bare for the world to witness.

The rebellion within his own ranks tells the essential story of this presidency.

Joe Kent, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, resigned rather than endorse a war he judged unnecessary because Iran posed no imminent threat to American security.

Britain refused to join what officials called the "wider war" despite traditional loyalties. Spain barred the United States from using Rota Naval Station and Morón Air Base for operations against Tehran. Germany's defense minister raised a cutting question that resounded across European capitals: what exactly did Trump expect from European frigates when the mighty United States Navy could not manage the task alone?

Beyond diplomatic rifts or temporary disagreements between friends, these represent something far larger and more troubling: the collapse of fundamental trust in American leadership and the values it once claimed to represent.

Trump approaches global affairs as a solipsist approaches reality, placing himself at the center while everything else orbits his personal will and immediate desires.

The investigative psychiatrist Robert Jay Lifton drew this distinction with precision and care: narcissists crave approval and validation from others, solipsists need none whatsoever. Without any external frame of reference, every action feels right simply because it originates from the self.

This psychological pattern explains the behaviour that has stunned observers worldwide: insulting Volodymyr Zelenskyy and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in public settings, ridiculing his own Federal Reserve chair for independent judgments, threatening to abduct Venezuela's president as if borders meant nothing, plotting the outright seizure of Greenland from a NATO ally, imposing tariffs on every nation including 50 percent duties on a strategic partner like India, dismissing Supreme Court rulings against his trade policies as irrelevant nuisances, and now waging open war against a nation that had attacked no American interest or personnel.

The cruelty carries its own distinct signature that reveals the inner workings of this presidency.

During his inaugural address, Trump mocked former President Joe Biden while Biden sat nearby on the platform, an act of public humiliation that revealed emotional blindness rather than mere political aggression or competitive instinct.

When fire swept Trump Tower in 2018, he congratulated firefighters while stating no condolences whatsoever to the family of Todd Brassner, the resident who died in the flames above.

The pattern holds with disturbing consistency across contexts: victims of Los Angeles wildfires received scant attention, displaced Palestinians in Gaza register as abstractions, political rivals face character destruction, even his own tenants have described cold indifference. None register as fully human in Trump's calculus, because the solipsist recognizes only the reality of the self.

Economist Jeffrey Sachs has labeled this approach delusional instability with good reason.

Trump operates through bullying and irresponsible announcement rather than coherent strategy or deliberative policy process. The Iran war serves no clearly defined objective beyond control of West Asian oil reserves and leverage over China, which purchases heavily from Tehran and relies on Hormuz transit.

The Pentagon has already requested 200 billion for continued operations, and military analysts see no sign of fighting ending in the immediate future. The conflict spreads risk across the entire Gulf region while American credibility burns alongside Iranian refineries.

Trump's "Golden Dome" missile defense initiative for Greenland, denounced by Greenland's Prime Minister Jens Frederik Nielsen and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, would plant more American troops and installations on territory he openly covets for strategic resources and territorial expansion.

His tariff war, imposing 10 to 15 percent global duties, has drawn lawsuits from American states and direct judicial pushback from federal courts. He responded by calling the judges "fools and lapdogs," treating the third branch of government as an annoyance rather than a constitutional equal.

When Brazil prosecuted former President Jair Bolsonaro for his attempted 2022 coup against democratic institutions, Trump threatened 50 percent tariffs unless the case softened or disappeared. He warned Argentina that backing President Javier Milei meant the difference between receiving American assistance and complete economic isolation, regardless of what Argentine voters might prefer.

This is the "Donroe Doctrine" in full action: direct power exertion backed by brute force, overwhelming military might, and systematic economic coercion.

Alliances become purely transactional instruments rather than relationships built on shared values. International law becomes optional depending on presidential mood. Territorial integrity becomes negotiable when resources tempt.

The rules-based order that American leaders spent seven decades building, however imperfectly and inconsistently, now crumbles under the weight of one man's imperial appetite and absolute disregard for constraint.

Indrajeet Parmar, professor of geopolitics at the University of London, warns that Trump risks far more than alienating traditional allies or embarrassing the State Department. He actively erodes domestic consent for global engagement and inflames counter-hegemonic forces that will organize against American power for generations.

Given an ego-driven presidency that recognizes no legitimate opposition, we should prepare for wars to continue and expand beyond current theaters. The regional conflagration may yet draw in Qatar and Saudi Arabia as Iran retaliates against Gulf cooperation

with Washington.

Trump may invoke post-9/11 authorization to bypass Congress entirely, treating the separation of powers as an obstacle rather than a safeguard. He will paint Iran as existential threat to mobilize his political base, even as his international credibility gap widens and allies refuse to fall into line behind military adventures they view as reckless and illegal.

The world watches an American president who recognizes no authority beyond himself: neither courts, nor Congress, nor alliance obligation, nor diplomatic custom, nor the accumulated weight of international treaties signed by his predecessors.

"Might makes right" once described the law of jungles and empires in centuries past. Now it describes policy emanating from the White House with disturbing regularity.

The consequences will outlast this administration and poison the well of American leadership for decades to come.

The fractures in the global order will not heal simply because a different president eventually takes the oath of office on some future January day. Nations remember who abandoned them in moments of crisis.

They adjust their strategic calculations accordingly, arm themselves more heavily, hedge relationships with multiple powers, and seek alternatives to dependence on a superpower that treats friendship as weakness and loyalty as disposable.

Trump has given them every reason to start looking elsewhere for security, partnership, and stability in an increasingly dangerous world.

*The author served as Director General of Audit for the Government of India and retired as Principal Accountant General of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in October 2025.*

### KO VIEW

## Living With Positivity

Social media updates, news alerts, and endless timelines these days pull attention in multiple directions and add tension to daily life. People juggle several roles, each carrying expectations. Positivity thrives when individuals make a conscious choice to bring it into their day.

Senior citizens remember afternoons filled with talk, laughter spreading through narrow lanes, and evenings when visitors stayed long after lamps went out.

Those memories show that human connection creates lasting joy. Modern routines feel faster and busier, but small moments still appear in a neighbour stopping by, sharing a cup of tea, or a child helping without being asked.

Simple gestures inspire happiness. Asking about someone's day, sharing a meal, or listening without rush builds trust and care. Families, neighbours, and friends create spaces where optimism grows naturally.

Life feels fuller when attention moves toward kindness, presence, and engagement rather than tension.

People often find calm in open spaces. A walk along a river, sitting under a chinar tree, or laughter in a marketplace reminds everyone of small pleasures.

Music, storytelling, and art bring generations together, allowing young and old to enjoy life side by side. Joy does not wait for big occasions. It appears when people nurture it intentionally.

Challenges exist, but conscious effort brings brightness. People organize gatherings, help others, and celebrate small achievements. Positivity thrives when it receives attention and care.

Acts, large or small, create ripples that move from homes into streets, shops, and neighbourhoods.

Life becomes lighter when optimism receives focus. Daily routines feel richer when laughter fills rooms, kindness spreads warmth, and human bonds grow stronger. Happiness emerges in shared moments, in attention offered, and in care given.

Communities flourish when people contribute to hope, curiosity, and engagement.

Choosing joy opens space for energy, warmth, and fulfillment. Smiles, gestures, and acts of care create steps toward a life where happiness exists alongside work, responsibility, and daily life.

Positivity grows when it is chosen, tended, and celebrated moment by moment.

### CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

## Metal Myths

Even in times of war, gold and silver may not be the safe haven investors expect.

Irshad Mushtaq

In times of conflict, many instinctively turn to gold and silver as a safe place for their money. It is a natural reaction. After all, these metals have been symbols of security for centuries. But recent trends suggest that during the current conflict, this instinct may not pay off as expected, especially for Kashmiri savers.

Gold and silver, though near all-time highs in early 2026, have recently seen prices dip. Gold is slightly below its recent peak, and silver has fallen even more, down nearly 20 to 45 percent from its peak. This shows an important lesson: war does not automatically guarantee metal profits.

Several factors explain this. High interest rates are pulling money away from metals into deposits that offer steady returns. A strong US dollar also puts pressure on gold and silver, making them less attractive globally. Central banks have slowed their buying, reducing the demand that usually helps push prices higher. And investors looking to book profits often wait two to three years after a rally, which further delays any gains.

For Kashmiri investors, the takeaway is clear. Metals should be treated as insurance, rather than a primary growth plan. Experts suggest keeping only about five to fifteen percent of total wealth in gold and silver instead of half or more. The rest of a balanced portfolio can come from equities for growth and debt instruments for stability.

Thinking in percentages rather than emotions is key. Metal prices fluctuate, and even in war time, they can go down. By planning carefully and keeping perspective, savers can protect their wealth without relying solely on the shine of gold or silver.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

### Letter to Editor

## Gulf States Seek Freedom Beyond Dollar-Priced Oil

The Middle East sits atop vast crude reserves that transformed deserts into financial powerhouses.

Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates now boast some of the world's highest per capita incomes. Skyscrapers, hospitals, and universities rose where Bedouin once roamed, creating urban centers of commerce from nomadic societies.

This prosperity stems from a pact forged during the 1970s energy crises when Richard Nixon detached the dollar from gold.

Gulf nations agreed to price oil exclusively in dollars, creating the petrodollar system. In return, Washington offered military protection, investment, and market access. The arrangement enabled

rapid modernization and deep integration with Western financial systems.

The results are visible everywhere. Dubai grew from a fishing village into a global hub, Saudi universities produce thousands of skilled professionals, and Qatar hosts major sporting and diplomatic events. Kuwait provides citizens generous subsidies and public employment. Dollar-denominated oil revenues funded this leap into modernity.

But the same dependency now constrains these nations.

American monetary shifts ripple through Gulf banking systems, while sanctions freeze assets and block transactions, punishing states like Iran and Syria and forcing strategic compromises on conflicts in Palestine, Yemen, and Iraq.

Oil price crashes worsen the problem: government budgets collapse when crude dips below fiscal break-even points, austerity follows, and social unrest often erupts, as seen during the 2014 price crash.

Some states are responding. The UAE invests in artificial intelligence and solar energy, Saudi Arabia builds futuristic cities like Neom, and Qatar expands finance, hospitality, and technology sectors. These efforts aim to reduce dollar reliance and create sustainable alternatives.

Progress is slow, as the global financial system revolving around the dollar, makes sudden exits risky. True diversification demands decades of education, workforce development, institutional

reform, and investment. Ironically, petrodollar wealth currently funds the very transition away from its constraints.

The Middle East now faces a historic crossroads. Reliance on dollar-priced oil leaves nations exposed to external pressures, perpetuating dependence and limiting sovereignty.

Real freedom must convert hydrocarbon wealth into economies resilient to market fluctuations, driven by innovation, manufacturing, and services.

Oil bought modernity, but only economic transformation buys freedom.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Ayoub Ganai  
khaliqayoub@gmail.com

# Kashmir's Fatigue Crisis

Feeling tired after simple tasks may signal deeper fitness issues linked to inactivity and lifestyle habits.



Dr. Musawir Mohsin Parsa

People head to offices each day, scroll through phones during breaks, and squeeze in occasional gym sessions.

They assume this routine keeps them fit enough, but reality paints a fuller picture.

True fitness goes far beyond appearance or scale readings. It depends on how smoothly the body handles everyday demands. Young adults in India and Kashmir gradually see this balance shift when movement stays low.

Recent studies highlight that forty to fifty percent of Indian adults keep physical activity below essential guidelines. Low activity levels raise chances for major health concerns. Sedentary patterns dominate among young adults, where more than half dedicate long stretches of the day to sitting. This trend of unseen decline brings visible effects in daily life.

Doctors treated a twenty-five-year-old gym enthusiast in Lucknow. He developed a slipped disc after he lifted heavy loads without correct form. Pain and restricted motion stopped his normal routine for several months.

Physicians in Ahmedabad document a forty percent climb in spine conditions among young adults. Extended time on screens, improper

posture, and limited movement drive these changes.

Doctors in Bengaluru identify fatty liver conditions in young professionals. Inactivity and lifestyle patterns link to these diagnoses. Fatigue often appears first, and people tend to pass it off as ordinary.

These examples repeat in cities nationwide and point to a common experience. Similar patterns appear in Srinagar where young professionals juggle demanding schedules with limited movement.

Clear signals emerge when the body calls for greater movement and care. Energy levels drop after routine efforts and indicate reduced cardiovascular fitness along with metabolic shifts.

Sedentary behaviour lowers energy production and elevates long-term disease chances. Neck and back stiffness follows hours of desk work or phone use. Poor posture combined with extended sitting now creates musculoskeletal challenges for young Indians.

Doctors see problems in teenagers and office workers that earlier appeared mainly in older groups. Heavy screen time and low activity levels explain the shift.

Balance becomes harder to maintain during regular movements. This ability demonstrates strong connections between brain, muscles, and joints. Inactivity and posture issues often reduce proprioception, the sense of body position in space.

Shortness of breath appears with light tasks such as stair climbing. This response shows lower cardiovascular fitness, a condition that spreads with inactive habits.

Sitting occupies the majority of the day for many. Experts compare excessive sitting to harmful habits of the past. Studies link more than seven hours of daily sitting to greater chances of heart disease and diabetes. Urban areas in India report



**SIMPLE ACTIONS BRING FITNESS BACK INTO REACH AND STRENGTHEN OVERALL FUNCTION.** Daily movement of thirty minutes or more builds essential capacity. Breaks every thirty to forty-five minutes from sitting maintain circulation and energy. Correct posture at the workspace protects the spine and supports comfort. Strength training paired with flexibility work enhances mobility and power. Close attention to body cues allows smarter decisions throughout the week.

climbing sedentary rates, and some data place inactivity near sixty-five percent for professionals. Mild aches or discomfort surface often. Many major issues begin with

these gentle cues including slight pain, tightness, or low energy. Early response prevents escalation. Young adults sometimes develop fatty liver disease with initial vague

sensations, and quick action keeps complications at bay.

Physical inactivity stands among the main drivers of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and

heart disease.

India sees a notable increase in non-communicable diseases within young adult groups. Lifestyle habits connect directly to this rise. Worldwide, close to one third of adults hold activity levels below suggested targets and encounter parallel health pressures. Daily habits combine to create the situation.

Extended sitting works alongside poor posture, abundant screen exposure, uneven sleep schedules, and persistent stress.

Simple actions bring fitness back into reach and strengthen overall function. Daily movement of thirty minutes or more builds essential capacity. Breaks every thirty to forty-five minutes from sitting maintain circulation and energy. Correct posture at the workspace protects the spine and supports comfort. Strength training paired with flexibility work enhances mobility and power. Close attention to body cues allows smarter decisions throughout the week.

Fitness extends past visible muscle definition or online images of workouts. It centers on efficient movement, steady breathing, solid balance, and quick recovery.

Contemporary routines slowly diminish these qualities even as outward appearance stays acceptable.

Your body communicates constantly through sensations you encounter. Each individual holds the power to engage with those messages and cultivate enduring vitality.

The next time energy dips or stiffness arrives, pause and respond. Your body already knows what it needs.

The real strength begins the moment you act on that knowledge.

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# Women of Moonlight

Modern Kashmiri women shine professionally, but the language and wisdom of their foremothers fade.



Uzma Qadir Mir

A nine-year-old girl stopped me near Rajbagh last autumn. She asked about my running shoes. I answered with a common phrase of comfort: *Keh chune parwaye*.

She stared blankly, uncomprehending. The child spoke English with polished fluency. Kashmiri remained foreign to her ears.

This encounter illuminates a deeper crisis. Kashmiri women have gained tremendous professional ground. They pilot aircraft through mountain passes, perform complex surgeries, manage banks, and launch technology startups. Young women master artificial intelligence and biomedical research.

These achievements deserve genuine celebration, but something essential fades beneath these triumphs.

Fourteenth-century Lal Ded and sixteenth-century Habba Khatoon built an intellectual tradition that modern professional success often ignores.

Lal Ded stripped away Brahminical orthodoxy through intense spiritual inquiry. She taught that truth lives inside the self, rendering temples secondary. Habba Khatoon elevated the Vatsun folk form into high art. She sang of the *Lo-lo*, that specific Kashmiri longing that transcends ordinary heartbreak. She transformed personal exile into political commentary.

Both women mastered their interior lives first, external achievements followed naturally.

Current discussions about Kashmiri women focus heavily upon victimhood or endurance. These frames restrict the debate, and position women as objects rather than originators of thought. We need a shift toward intellectual leadership.

This means more than holding positions or earning substantial salaries. It requires commanding the philosophical traditions that once made Kashmiri women spiritual anchors for their communities.

Today's feminist moment celebrates visibility above all. We see the pherand-clad activist, the technology founder, and the social media influencer. Images travel faster than ideas. This emphasis produces a hollow empowerment.

Real power involves shattering the jar of ego, a task deeper than breaking glass ceilings.

The glass ceiling metaphor comes from Western corporate feminism. It focuses upon entry into boardrooms. The jar of ego comes from Sufi psychology. It focuses upon exiting the prison of self-importance.

Habba Khatoon sought validation from her own emotional depth and the mountains around her. She looked toward Pampore rather than Paris. Her authority came from specificity and rootedness.

Lal Ded wandered through markets, singing verses that challenged religious power. She needed zero institutional approval to attain mastery over truth itself.

Language presents the clearest example of our current distance from these models. Kashmiri children speak excellent English while their mother tongue gathers dust. Many consider Kashmiri a backward dialect suited only for kitchens.

A friend received mockery from her educated peers after speaking Kashmiri to her mother during a picnic. The group treated her heritage as a mark of low status. The child in Rajbagh represents thousands who cannot access Lal Ded's verses in their original tongue.



**HABBA KHATOON SOUGHT VALIDATION FROM HER OWN EMOTIONAL DEPTH AND THE MOUNTAINS AROUND HER.** She looked toward Pampore rather than Paris. Her authority came from specificity and rootedness. Lal Ded wandered through markets, singing verses that challenged religious power. She needed zero institutional approval to attain mastery over truth itself.

This represents intellectual bankruptcy. Lal Ded and Habba Khatoon exceeded mere speech. They forged the language itself, and proved that Kashmiri handles complex theology, philosophy, and politics with grace.

Dropping this tongue cuts women off from specific ways ancestors understood joy, sorrow, and endurance. It forces translation through colonial filters.

We need an intellectual excavation rather than simple nostalgia. The sixteenth century lies behind us. We should build new institutions that honour old principles.

Women need spaces for rigorous theological discussion, economic analysis, and climate debate filtered through Kashmiri values.

These intellectual Khanqahs would surpass mere networking, and generate knowledge specific to this soil.

Sacred and secular wisdom must meet again. Lal Ded merged spiritual inquiry with daily life seamlessly. A doctor treating patients in 2026 extends that same tradition of service. An engineer solving water scarcity follows the same calling.

Professional work gains meaning when connected to these deeper currents. Financial independence matters little without philosophical grounding.

Habba Khatoon bore the name Zoon, meaning moon. She would urge today's women to find that same light within themselves. The moon remains constant while tides change around it.

Kashmiri women have always been poets, mystics, rulers, and philosophers. They participated actively in history as creators and leaders.

True power involves more than securing a seat at someone else's table. It demands the authority to determine the conversation itself.

When a young woman opens her laptop in Srinagar today, she stands upon centuries of intellectual tradition. She should speak with a voice that needs zero apology. She should speak Kashmiri.

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## Vande Mataram Week CUKashmir VC inaugurates exhibition

Observer News Service

Ganderbal, Mar 24: In connection with the ongoing celebration of Vande Mataram Week, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath inaugurated an exhibition featuring a Poster Competition, Sketch Competition, and On-Spot Painting Competition at Tulmulla campus here on Tuesday.

Vice-Chancellors of universities from other parts of the country, visiting Professors, Dean Academic Affairs, Deans of Schools, Registrar, Heads and Coordinators of Departments, Dean DSW, faculty members, Special Phase Campaign Nodal Officer, Youth Welfare Officers, senior functionaries of the university, administrative staff, scholars and students were present during the event organised to mark the 150th year of the National Song and paying tributes to the sacrifices of freedom fighters.

Addressing the participants, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath described Kashmir as a seat of learning and knowledge. He urged students to evolve from knowledge seekers into knowledge creators, emphasizing the transformative role of education in shaping the society and overall development of the nation. Highlighting India's demographic dividend, he said the youth hold immense potential in nation-building and can significantly contribute towards realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 as envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji. He appreciated the Government of India for organizing Vande Mataram Week, stating that such initiatives play a crucial role in instilling patriotism and a sense of nationalism among the youth. He called upon students to actively participate in all the activities being organized under the aegis of the Dean Students Welfare (DSW) to nurture creativity and civic consciousness. On the occasion, a documentary on the National Song Vande Mataram was screened, followed by a mass singing of the song.

## IUST Observes World Water Day 2026 with Focus on Water Governance and Gender Inclusion

Observer News Service

Awantipora, March 24: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), today observed World Water Day 2026 through a day-long programme organized by the Department of Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change at the campus.

Delivering the keynote address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A Romshoo described water as the most vital natural resource of Jammu & Kashmir, noting that the region, along with Ladakh, is often referred to as the "water tower of Asia." He expressed concern over increasing threats to water resources, including rising pollution levels, rapidly declining glaciers, and changing climate patterns leading to prolonged dry spells. He called for collaborative efforts among stakeholders and greater engagement of policymakers to strengthen water governance.

Highlighting the theme of the programme, Prof. Romshoo noted that women are disproportionately affected by water



scarcity, as they are primarily responsible for ensuring water availability at the household level. He stressed the need to actively include women in discussions and decision-making processes related to water management and governance.

Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, spoke about the significance of the day and underscored IUST's contributions to national missions. He stressed that the message of water conservation must be taken forward with urgency, advocating for effective water management and governance. He emphasized the importance

of water budgeting in view of future needs and highlighted the role of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, in improving water resource management.

Earlier, Dr. Sumira Nazir Zaz highlighted the critical intersections of water, women, and gender, emphasizing the need for inclusive approaches in addressing water-related challenges. The programme featured technical sessions, theme-based discussions on water and gender, and a panel discussion on key challenges for sustainable water resource management in Jammu & Kashmir.

## Katra-Amritsar Vande Bharat Train To Now Run Via Gurdaspur-Batala

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Indian Railways will soon operate the Vande Bharat Express train from Katra in J-K to Amritsar in Punjab via Gurdaspur and Batala instead of Jalandhar, officials said.

The premium train will depart from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 6:40 am and reach Amritsar at 11:40 am the same day. On the return journey, it will leave Amritsar at 4:40 pm and arrive at Katra at 9:45 pm the same evening, officials in the Jammu Division of Northern Railway said.

The train will halt at Jammu, Pathankot Cantt, Gurdaspur and Batala in both directions, they said.

According to railway officials, the route change aims to provide faster and more direct connectivity between Amritsar and Jammu while reducing the longer travel distance via Jalandhar.

The revised alignment will also extend Vande Bharat services to Batala and Gurdaspur, benefiting pilgrims and residents in the border areas, they said.

Senior divisional commercial manager, Uchit Singhal, said the decision was also taken to improve convenience for premium-class passengers and enhance travel experience.

The modification comes in response to high passenger demand and is expected to reduce travel time while providing safe, modern and world-class transport facilities, the officials said.

In a related development, trains will now halt at Pathankot Cantonment instead of Pathankot City.

Passengers are advised to check the updated schedules and stoppages on the official website of the Indian Railways, the National Train Enquiry System (NTES), or by dialling 139 before travel, they added.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Rain, Snow, Gusty

said moderate snowfall over a few higher reaches, along with thunder and lightning, cannot be ruled out between the night of March 28 and March 31.

In view of the forecast, authorities have issued an advisory asking farmers to suspend farm operations on March 26 and again from March 29 to 31 to avoid potential losses.

Travellers have also been advised to follow traffic advisories and plan their movement carefully, particularly in hilly and vulnerable areas where weather conditions may affect road connectivity.

From April 1 to 4, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy, with no major disturbances predicted during this period.

Officials said the situation will be monitored closely, and updates will be issued depending on the progression of the weather system. They added that such transitional weather patterns are typical for this time of the year, often driven by western disturbances that bring rain, snow and wind activity across the region.

### West Asia Crisis

the unprecedented challenges posed by the conflict, Modi pointed to disruptions in the supply of essential commodities such as crude oil, gas, and fertilisers. He stressed that strengthening self-reliance would be critical in the face of prolonged instability.

The Prime Minister also warned of a global energy crisis triggered by the conflict and cautioned against attempts to exploit the situation through black marketing and hoarding. He urged state governments to establish strict monitoring mechanisms and ensure swift action against such practices.

"The uninterrupted supply of essential commodities must be the topmost priority," he said, calling on states to ensure that welfare schemes, including the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, continue to reach beneficiaries on time, especially as vulnerable populations are most affected during crises.

Highlighting the government's preparedness, Modi said an inter-ministerial group is already reviewing import-export challenges on a regular basis and working on necessary interventions. He added that efforts are underway to secure crude oil and gas from all available sources to shield citizens from price shocks.

Assuring farmers, the Prime Minister said adequate arrangements have been made to maintain fertiliser supplies and that the burden of the global crisis would not be passed on to them.

He also emphasised the safety of Indian nationals in the Gulf region, noting that around one crore Indians live and work there. According to him, nearly 3.75 lakh Indians have returned safely so far, including about 1,000 from Iran.

Modi warned that the crisis could persist for an extended period and described the coming months as a "significant test" for the country. He stressed that cooperation between the Centre and states would be crucial to maintaining economic stability and ensuring uninterrupted supply chains.

Invoking the spirit of cooperative federalism witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic, he urged all stakeholders to work together irrespective of political differences. "With the combined efforts of all state governments and the central government, the country will be able to effectively confront this grave global crisis," he said.

The Prime Minister also raised concerns over attacks on commercial shipping and disruptions in key international waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz, calling them unacceptable. He said India is actively engaging through diplomatic channels to ensure safe passage for its vessels and to push for de-escalation in the region.

"Attacks on commercial vessels and obstruction of international waterways like the Strait of Hormuz are unacceptable. India has condemned attacks on civilians, civil infrastructure, and energy and transport facilities. Any threat to human life runs against the interests of humanity."

He said more than three weeks into the conflict, the movement of ships through the Strait

of Hormuz has become challenging, with many vessels stranded and a large number of Indian crew members among them. "India is working through diplomatic channels to ensure safe passage of Indian ships despite the prevailing situation," PM Modi added.

"The government is vigilant, it is ready, and it is taking every decision with utmost seriousness. The welfare of the people is paramount," Modi said, adding that patience, restraint, and calm decision-making would be essential in dealing with the evolving crisis.

### Modi, Trump

Gulf of Oman, that handles roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas).

West Asia has been a major source of India's energy procurement.

US envoy to India Sergio Gor also said that PM Modi and President Trump deliberated on the importance of keeping the key shipping lane open.

"They discussed the ongoing situation in the Middle East, including the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open," Gor said on social media.

Trump said on Monday that he has extended the deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and that he will hold off strikes against Iranian energy sites for five days.

The US president, without sharing any details, also said that there have been "productive conversations" between the US and Iran for "complete and total resolution" to the conflict in West Asia.

In the last few days, PM Modi has held phone conversations with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and the leadership of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states - Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He also spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In his phone call with Pezeshkian on Saturday, Prime Minister Modi condemned attacks on critical infrastructure in West Asia and called for keeping the critical shipping lanes "open and secure".

"Condemned attacks on critical infrastructure in the region, which threaten regional stability and disrupt global supply chains. Reiterated the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and ensuring that shipping lanes remain open and secure," the prime minister had said after his conversation with the Iranian leader.

Significantly, the Iranian president proposed setting up a regional security framework comprising West Asian countries to bring peace and stability in the region "without foreign interference," according to an Iranian readout of the talks.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also held phone conversations with several of his counterparts from GCC countries. Jaishankar met Iranian ambassador Mohammad Fathali on Tuesday.

Following his meeting with the Iranian envoy, Jaishankar said in a social media post that they discussed the conflict in West Asia but didn't share details.

"Appreciate the support provided to Indians in Iran in these challenging times," he said.

The phone call between Modi and Trump has to be seen in the context of India's outreach, which has focused on efforts aimed at ending the hostilities as soon as possible and ensuring the unimpeded flow of energy through the Strait of Hormuz, people familiar with the matter said while explaining the ramifications for the country's food, fuel and fertiliser security if the blockade of the shipping lane continues.

India wants an end to the conflict as soon as possible, they said, adding the consequences of the hostilities are going to be significant as it could soon impact food security in Africa as well as fertiliser supplies.

There could be another round of fuel and food insecurity as was witnessed after the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022, the people said.

At the same time, the Indian side has ruled out any possibility of getting involved in the situation in West Asia, they said.

The Indian Navy is focused on ensuring the security of Indian-flagged merchant vessels in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, they

said. (PTI)

### Asiya Andrabi

said showing any leniency will amount to infusing a fresh lease of life and vigour in the spirit of convicts which aims at secession of an integral part of India.

The court also reasoned that showing any tolerance to the convict has a potential to send a message to other with similar ideas that they can get away with such acts through incarceration for some years and may promote the ideas of causing secession of part of India.

It noted that the document on the introduction of Dukhtaran-e-Millat (DeM), an organisation founded by Andrabi, said that Jammu and Kashmir had never been part of India.

"Thus, accepting the contention of the convicts on the face value that they will continue to do their work and as established by the prosecution that convicts never minced their words regarding secession of Kashmir from India and its amalgamation in Pakistan," the order said.

"Treating the convicts with leniency will amount to infusing a fresh lease of life and vigour in the spirit of convicts which aims at secession of an integral part of India," it said.

Regarding the defence argument that the convicts were educated women with several health issues, the court said no complaints had been made regarding the medical treatment provided to them in custody.

"The fact of convicts being educated women aggravates the liability for consequences of their actions, rather than mitigating it as from an educated person, it is expected that they have taken an informed decision regarding their actions and have not done anything instinctively," the order said.

The court said the three convicts had not been misguided or lured into engaging in the offences, and they had proudly acknowledged their acts, besides emphasising that they would continue to do them.

"Therefore, the factor of convicts being educated women makes them all the more liable for their acts as they seem to be the acts which convicts have chosen knowingly and voluntarily," it said and underscored that the convicts' conduct was not a one-off incident, but rather a "continuous conduct".

The judge said that though the convicts did not use violence to achieve their nefarious design and aim, they indirectly promoted the use of violence by eulogising some slain terrorists.

"The acts of the convict brought on record may not apparently be the direct cause of inciting violence but infusing the minds of Kashmiris...that Kashmir is not part of India...it may lead them to use all kind of method including violence to seek the supposed liberation, the idea of which is wrongly seeded in their minds," the order said.

The judge highlighted that Andrabi was the leader, and the two other convicts played the role of ground soldiers in the conspiracy.

The court awarded the life term to Andrabi under Section 18 (punishment for conspiracy) of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), as well as under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 121A (conspiracy to wage war against the Government of India) of the IPC.

Under Section 121A, the law addresses conspiracies to commit offences punishable by Section 121, which carries the maximum penalty of death or life imprisonment for waging war against the state. The court clarified that all sentences for the convicts would run concurrently.

Fehmeeda and Nasreen were sentenced to 30 years of simple imprisonment under the same sections of the UAPA and IPC.

The three had been convicted on January 14, following which the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had sought life imprisonment for Andrabi, saying she had waged war against India, and a stern message was required to be sent that conspiring against the State would invite the harshest penalty.

In the detailed 286-page judgment passed in January, the court had observed that the trio had orchestrated a systematic campaign to destabilise the region.

Relying on evidence provided by the NIA, including videos and social media posts, the court noted that the accused repeatedly

claimed Kashmir was under "forced Indian occupation" and belonged to Pakistan.

"The material on record is rife with such speeches as well as various posts by all the accused, especially of accused 1 (Andrabi)," the court stated.

"It is clear that the accused are not merely stating that Kashmir is an unfinished agenda of partition; rather, this aspect is misused to support, endorse and propagate that Kashmir is not part of India," it said.

The judge had further noted that Andrabi used the DeM platform to create a "façade" that Kashmir's integral status was up for debate under the pretext of a "right to self-determination".

The court highlighted the radical narrative pushed by the convicts, which was premised on a religious "two-nation theory". The judgment noted their belief that because Kashmir has a majority Muslim population, it should belong to Pakistan.

Critically, it pointed out the convicts' total rejection of the Indian state and said, "It is clear that the accused do not bear an allegiance to the Constitution of India...they do not believe in the Constitution and are also not ready to uphold it and the sovereignty of India as they are seeking secession of an integral part of India."

Andrabi and her associates were originally charged in February 2021 following an extensive investigation into their efforts to incite the local population and coordinate with entities across the border to challenge India's territorial integrity.

### Position J&K

underlined that public health is a shared responsibility, extending beyond government departments. He called on health teams and communities in every district to work with a singular goal: reaching the last person, detecting the last case, and ensuring complete recovery.

"Our pledge for a TB-free Jammu Kashmir rests on this conviction. Health teams and people from the community must work tirelessly to provide every support a patient needs," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed the need to take healthcare to the doorstep of vulnerable populations. Under the campaign, Al-enabled portable X-ray tools will be deployed to tribal hamlets, migrant camps, urban slums and other high-risk areas, while mobile Ni-Kshay vans will deliver on-the-go screening and care.

Ayushman health camps will offer a range of services, including chest X-rays, NAAT tests, blood sugar, haemoglobin, blood pressure and BMI assessments, ensuring comprehensive screening in underserved regions.

Calling for coordinated action, Sinha directed the health department and district administrations to ramp up testing, identify TB-sensitive areas and spread awareness through door-to-door campaigns. He reiterated that testing and treatment for TB are free and that full recovery is possible if patients adhere to treatment.

He also emphasised the role of the Ni-Kshay Mitra programme in supporting patients through nutrition and care, urging all stakeholders to commit fully to the initiative.

"We must build a 100-day movement where every citizen feels ownership and contributes wholeheartedly. A health worker trekking rugged mountain paths to a remote home should become the campaign's greatest champion," he said.

To broaden participation, the Lieutenant Governor asked officials to rope in self-help groups, students, schools, industries, NGOs and public enterprises to amplify the campaign across the UT. He also called for a comprehensive review of testing equipment and medicine availability, and proposed a dedicated portal for citizens to report grievances.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment, Sinha said no individual should lose their future to tuberculosis.

"Every breath is precious; every life is unique. No case will go unnoticed and no patient will be unsupported," he said.

During the programme, the Lieutenant Governor flagged off Ni-Kshay vehicles and distributed Poshan kits to beneficiaries. District

Doda and Srinagar were also recognised for achieving TB Mukta Panchayat status. Ni-Kshay Mitras were felicitated, and a pledge for TB elimination was administered.

The event was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Mandep K Bhandari, Commissioner Secretary Health and Medical Education M Raju, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, senior officials, healthcare professionals and members of civil society.

### Home Secy Orders

destinations, to avoid any repeat of past incidents that could impact tourism.

He was also briefed on the ongoing anti-terror operations in forested and mountainous areas, with officials informing him that a coordinated strategy involving the Army, paramilitary forces, J&K Police, and the Special Operations Group (SOG) is being actively implemented to ensure stability across the region.

Govind Mohan stressed the need for proactive measures, close monitoring, and seamless coordination among all agencies to maintain peace and stability, particularly in areas frequented by tourists, sources further added.

### J&K Likely To

absence of private universities in the region.

(KNO)

### J&K Bank Faces

and procedural review, and companies often seek clarification or challenge them through appropriate forums.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Bank reported an 11% increase in net profit for the third quarter ending December 31, 2025.

The bank posted a net profit of 589 crore, compared to 531 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Total income during the quarter rose to 3,593 crore, up from 3,448 crore in the same period last year, reflecting steady operational growth.

Asset quality also improved, with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declining to 3% of gross loans in the December quarter of FY26, compared to 4.08% a year earlier.

Market reaction to the developments remained positive, with the bank's stock rising during trading.

Shares of J&K Bank surged as much as 5.03% to 114.83 before closing 3.46% higher at 113.11 apiece. This compared with a 1.78% gain in the benchmark Nifty index.

Analysts said the rise in share price suggests investor confidence in the bank's financial performance, despite the tax demand.

"The market appears to be factoring in the bank's improved earnings and asset quality, even as the tax issue emerges," a market analyst said.

Jammu and Kashmir Bank, a key financial institution in the region, continues to play a significant role in banking and credit delivery, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNT)

### No Policy On

in line with Indian Public Health Standards, while NHM is meant to supplement existing staff by addressing gaps at primary and secondary healthcare levels.

The response indicates that there is no immediate central intervention planned on the long-pending demands of NHM employees in Jammu and Kashmir, leaving the issue to be addressed by the Union Territory administration.

### 509 Minor Girls

directed all states and UTs to register FIRs immediately, treating missing children cases as abduction or trafficking unless proven otherwise.

Further, Child Helpline 1098 and the Emergency Response Support System 112 are operational round-the-clock to assist children in distress, while Anti Human Trafficking Units have been strengthened across the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister added that awareness programmes, improved monitoring mechanisms and better coordination among stakeholders are being prioritised to ensure the safety of children and enhance tracing efforts.

# CS Reiterates Zero Tolerance Policy against Black Marketing, Overcharging

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday reiterated zero-tolerance policy, against hoarding, black marketing, overcharging, or diversion of petroleum products.

Chairing a comprehensive review meeting here to assess the availability and distribution of petroleum products across Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary, according to KNO directed strict legal action against any person who at any level creates artificial scarcity of any essential commodity.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; senior officers of the Legal Metrology and Food Supply Departments along with the representatives of Oil Marketing Companies.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was apprised about the present stock position of all major petroleum products including Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD), aviation turbine fuel, and LPG available across the Union Territory.

While reviewing district-wise supply, he asked the Deputy Commissioners to furnish detailed reports on availability and distribution. He noted that no-doubt overall situation remains satisfactory but stressed that all eligible domestic and commercial consumers must receive LPG supplies without delay, with priority accorded to genuine beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the importance of doorstep delivery of LPG and directed Oil Marketing Companies to maintain adequate stock levels at retail outlets, dealer points, and buffer depots to ensure uninterrupted supply.



He also instructed the Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, to conduct regular reviews with district administrations, maintain close coordination, and keep the higher authorities informed. He emphasized the need for officers to remain accessible to the public and ensure prompt redressal of grievances.

On infrastructure development, the Chief Secretary direct-

ed the Divisional Commissioner and concerned Deputy Commissioners to resolve land acquisition and other bottlenecks to facilitate the early operationalisation of the under-construction gas pipeline. He also asked Urban Local Bodies to prioritise domestic connections once the trunk pipeline becomes operational in the districts of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, and Udhampur.

A detailed presentation by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhaghat, highlighted that the overall stock position across the Union Territory remains stable. Petrol stocks are sufficient for approximately 9-10 days, diesel for 16-17 days, and LPG for around 12-13 days, including transit stock, ensuring uninterrupted availability.

On LPG supply, it was informed that 100 percent domestic LPG demand is being met across J&K, with seamless distribution and no major complaints reported.

Supply coverage stands at about 24 days in urban areas and 35 days in rural areas, with OTP-based delivery systems ensuring transparency.

The Chief Secretary was also informed that a robust monitoring mechanism has been put in place, including real-time tracking and daily reporting of stock positions. District administrations have been directed to closely monitor supply and distribution, supported by district-level committees and task forces to ensure fair and transparent allocation.

Highlighting enforcement efforts, it was reported that 1,418 inspections and raids were conducted across districts between March 17 and 23, resulting in action against violators and seizure of commodities in several cases. Additionally, over 1,000 public grievances were addressed promptly, reflecting an efficient grievance redressal mechanism.

## Er Rashid Announces One-Month Salary Donation for Iran School Victims

**SRINAGAR:** Member of Parliament from Baramulla, Er Rashid, on Tuesday announced that he will donate his one-month salary towards rebuilding a school in Iran where children were killed.

Speaking in Parliament, Rashid expressing solidarity with civilians affected by conflict in Iran while also extending sympathy to victims in Israel. Highlighting public sentiment in Kashmir, he said people in the region had shown remarkable generosity by contributing to humanitarian causes abroad.

"Without restoring full political powers, policy decisions and development initiatives will remain ineffective," Rashid said, as per KNO.

Raising concerns over corruption, Rashid called for the formation of a national-level commission to investigate alleged black money and disproportionate assets amassed by politicians, bureaucrats, and officials over the past three decades. He said a substantial amount of public funds had been lost to bribery and misuse, and suggested that recovered assets could be redirected towards critical sectors such as education.

On regional development, Rashid pressed for infrastructure upgrades in Baramulla and adjoining districts. He called for increased corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending by both public and private sector entities in remote and border areas, and stressed the need to expand higher education facilities in north Kashmir. (Observer News Service)

## Science Must Serve People, Not Stay in Labs: Babila Rakwal

**JAMMU:** Commissioner/Secretary, Science and Technology Department Babila Rakwal on Tuesday said that science in Jammu and Kashmir must directly serve people and not remain confined to laboratories, while inaugurating a two-day Research and Development (R&D) workshop at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu.

The workshop brings together around 187 Principal Investigators from universities, technical institutions and research bodies across the Union Territory for a structured review of publicly funded research projects.

The initiative marks a significant shift towards outcome-driven research and transparent governance, with authorities aiming to align scientific work with real-world applications and public service delivery. "Science must not remain confined to academic institutions. Its value lies in the impact it creates on the ground," Rakwal said, emphasising the need for practical, policy-relevant research.

The programme covers a wide range of disciplines including agriculture, biotechnology, health sciences, engineering, renewable energy, environmental sciences and emerging digital technologies. During the inaugural session, the Department released a Mid-Term Appraisal Report of R&D projects, launched an end-to-end online R&D Project Management Portal and distributed certificates under the Science Talent Promotion Scholarship Programme. (Observer News Service)

## Two-day Agro and Food Fest Buyer-Seller Meet begins



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A two-day Agro and Food Fest Buyer-Seller Meet started in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday with an aim to promote agri-products from the Union Territory and strengthen market linkages.

The meet has been jointly organised by the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) and the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) at the SKICC here, officials said.

According to PTI, they said the event would bring together key stakeholders from the agro and food industry under one roof.

The event aims to showcase J-K's agro and food products and offer a platform for farmers, exporters, and industry leaders to engage directly

with buyers from across the globe, officials said.

Speaking to reporters, Sachin Kumar from the TPCI said approximately 50 buyers are coming in from different countries.

"We will have buyers from around 16 plus countries like the UK, Sweden, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and the UAE. The major opportunity that we see through these buyers is the export potential for the products, especially Saffron, fresh produce, honey, dry fruits, etc," he said.

"Getting feedback from these buyers will also help us to understand which markets will be lucrative for these products. These buyers also work as educators for these exporters..." he said. Kumar said the event provides a good opportunity for the exporters as well as the buyers.

## Thousands of Works under MGNREGA Executed across J&K: GoI

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday that thousands of works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are being executed across Jammu and Kashmir, with substantial expenditure recorded during the ongoing and previous financial years.

Replying to an unstarred question, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan said that in Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 1,81,828 works were completed in 2024-25 with an expenditure of Rs 33,058.18 lakh, while 3,89,873 works remained ongoing involving Rs 92,209.66 lakh.

For the current financial year 2025-26 (till March 20, 2026), the House was informed that 46,178 works have been completed with an expenditure of Rs 7,361.56 lakh, while 4,80,135 works are ongoing with an outlay of Rs 1,25,056.86 lakh.

The minister, as reported by KNO, further stated that in Nowshera block of Rajouri district, 655 works were completed during 2024-25,

while 2,032 works remained ongoing. In 2025-26 so far, 229 works have been completed, and 2,873 works are under execution, reflecting continued implementation of the scheme at the grassroots level.

He said that MGNREGS is a demand-driven wage employment programme aimed at providing at least 100 days of guaranteed work to rural households, leading to the creation of durable community assets.

Regarding fund flow, the government informed that material component funds are released to the Union Territory through the SNA-SPARSH system, and subsequently disbursed to districts by the UT administration. The Centre does not directly release funds to blocks or districts. As per the data, Rs 190.68 crore were released for the material component in 2024-25, while Rs 125.30 crore have been released so far in 2025-26.

The minister added that implementation of the scheme lies with the respective State and UT governments, which are responsible for execution and timely payment of liabilities.

## Rise in Cybercrimes against Women in J&K: Centre

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of India on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that a total of 68 cases of cybercrimes against women were registered in Jammu and Kashmir in 2023. The information was provided in response to an unstarred question raised by MPs Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Bapi Halder.

Replying to the query, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, as reported by KNO, said that as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, J&K recorded 39 such cases in 2021, 39 in 2022 and 68 cases in 2023, showing an increase in reported incidents.

He said that cybercrimes fall under the jurisdiction of States and Union Territories, as 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution.

The minister further informed that the Centre supplements the efforts of States and UTs through advisories and financial assistance for strengthening law enforcement agencies and cyber infrastructure.

As per official data, Jammu and Kashmir currently has two cyber police stations, while forensic support is being strengthened through laboratories and mobile forensic units.

## Centre says Low Incidence of Dowry Deaths in J&K

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Centre on Tuesday said that cases of dowry deaths in Jammu and Kashmir remain relatively low, while ruling out any proposal to extend the legal time limit under the relevant law.

The information was provided in response to an unstarred question raised by MP Dr Byreddy Shabari in the Lok Sabha.

Replying to the query, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that as per data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 9 cases of dowry deaths were registered in Jammu and

Kashmir in 2023, while 9 cases were also reported in 2022.

He said that during 2023, trials were completed in 9 cases in J&K, out of which only one resulted in a conviction, reflecting a conviction rate of around 11 per cent.

The minister, as reported by KNO, further informed that the NCRB collects and publishes such data under its annual report "Crime in India," with the latest report pertaining to 2023.

Highlighting legal provisions, he said that Section 80 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (earlier Section 304B of IPC) applies to dowry deaths occurring within seven years of marriage, while

other provisions continue to address cruelty and harassment related to dowry without any time limit.

The government, however, clarified that there is no proposal under consideration to review or extend this seven-year time limit.

He added that 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects, and the responsibility of investigation and prosecution of such crimes rests with respective State governments and UT administrations, while the Centre continues to support them through advisories and capacity-building measures. (Observer News Service)

## About 87% Tribal Welfare Funds Unutilised in FY 2025-26 in J&K: Officials

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Nearly 87 per cent of the funds allocated for tribal welfare schemes in Jammu and Kashmir during the current financial year remain unutilised, officials in the Tribal Affairs Department said.

According to the official figures, an amount of Rs 135.33 crore were released under various centrally sponsored and UT sector schemes for the welfare of the tribals in 2025-26, out of which only Rs 17.63 crore have been utilised so far, leaving Rs 117.69 crore unspent.

The officials said no expenditure has been made out of Rs 39.21 crore released under Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan and Rs 14.99 crore under Post-Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Tribe students during the current financial year.

Similarly, Rs 3.18 crore released for Tribal Research Institute sup-

port remain unspent, while under Tribal Sub Plan only about Rs 35 lakh have been utilised out of the allocated Rs 6.80 crore.

Under the UT sector scheme for Infrastructure for Welfare of Tribals, Rs 65.36 crore were received, but only Rs 13.99 crore have been utilised till mid-February, leaving the bulk of funds unspent.

With regard to Pre-Matric Scholarship, the officials said 15371 students are to be covered under the scheme for which Rs 3.96 crore are projected during current financial year plan. However, no money was released.

With regard to Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY), an amount of over Rs 9.32 crore was available as unspent balance of previous years and same are being utilised by the district development commissioners as per the approved plan proposal by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

## Panchayat polls on cards: Minister Javed Dar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Minister Javed Ahmad Dar on Tuesday said the government is preparing to hold panchayat elections, with necessary formalities currently underway.

Speaking during his Rafiabad visit, the Minister, as per KNO said the administration is putting required mechanisms in place before announcing the election schedule. "We are ready for panchayat elections. Some formalities need to be completed. Once that is done, elections will be held," he said.

On the OBC reservation issue, the Minister said the matter is being evaluated. He said discussions are ongoing and the policy will be implemented after completion of the required process.

Highlighting development works in Zaingeer Rafiabad, Dar said several projects have been initiated over the past year, adding that efforts are underway to revive tourism potential in the region, particularly in Zalloora, which was once a popular trekking destination linked to Lolab Valley.

The Minister said the more projects are in the pipeline including a Dak Bungalow at Bomai village, with focus remains on improving infrastructure over the next two to three years.

He also acknowledged gaps in health-care and education, including demands for a secondary school and a primary health centre, and said these will be addressed in a phased manner.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECHANICAL), PW(R&B), CENTRAL KASHMIR ENGINEERING COMPLEX (PMGSY BUILDING), RAJBAGH SRINAGAR KASHMIR-190008

DATE EXTENSION - 03

**Subject:-** Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of HVAC System at New High Court Rakh-i-Gund Aksha Bemina

**Reference:-** 1. eNIT No;- R&B/MDCK/NIT/26 of 2025-26. Dated:- 28.01.2026

Due to poor response, the last date of Bid Submission will be 27-03-2026 (16:00 hrs) & opening of technical bid will be 28-03-2026 (at 15:00 hrs.)

Rest, all other terms and conditions of the said e-NIT (with annexures & corrigenda) shall remain same.

No. XENMC/Sgr/3653-55

Dated:- 20.03.2026

DIPK-12080-25

DT: 24/03/2026

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

PW(R&B) Mechanical Division

Central Kashmir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA SRINAGAR

**Mrs. Shallu Aryan (Code No.5945),**

**Designation: Staff Nurse,**

**Department of Nursing Administration, SKIMS,**

**R/O: House No. 14, Azad Colony Muthi Camp, Jammu,**

**UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Pin Code: 190011**

**Subject: Unauthorized absence of Mrs. Shallu Aryan, Staff Nurse, Department of Nursing Administration, SKIMS Soura- Issuance of Show Cause Notice thereof.**

Whereas, you had submitted an application for grant of two years study leave to pursue M.Sc Nursing Course along with notification issued by the BOPEE vide No.105-BOPEE of 2025 dated: 23.08.2025; and

Whereas, before your case for sanction of study leave could be processed, you submitted departure report on 09.12.2025 and remained absent from your duties without obtaining prior approval from the Competent Authority; and

Whereas, an explanation was sought from you vide office No.SIMS/HA/5945/25-6974-77, dated: 27.12.2025 for remaining unauthorizedly absent from your legitimate duties. In response, you submitted a reply dated: 03.01.2025, which was placed before the authorities and was found unsatisfactory; and

Whereas, this sort of act and negligence towards essential services is unbecoming of a Govt. Servant which reveals your carelessness and insubordination. Your absence has created a lot of inconvenience and has hampered the smooth functioning of the patient care.

Whereas, you were also directed through a memo issued vide office No. SIMS/HA/5439/26-816-18, dated 11.02.2026, to resume your duties immediately, but you have failed to comply with the said directions and have not reported back to duties till date: and

**Whereas, under Article 128 of CSR Vol-I, "absence without leave or after end of leave involves loss of appointment."**

Now, therefore, you are hereby directed to show cause as to why disciplinary action as warranted under rules shall not be initiated against you for remaining unauthorizedly absent from your legitimate duties. Your reply must reach to this office within fifteen days (15) positively from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which action in accordance with Article-128 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Regulation-1956, shall be initiated against you, which even includes termination of your services, without any further notice.

No. SIMS /HA/5945/2026-1549-58

Dated: 23 .03 .2026

DIPK-NB-3666-25  
DT: 24/03/2026

Prof. Farooq A. Jan

Medical Superintendent

SKIMS

# Asia Boosts Coal Use as Iran War Squeezes LNG Supplies

AP

**BANGKOK:** Asian countries are turning to coal as the Iran war disrupts oil and gas shipments.

The continent is exposed because it relies on imported fuel, much of it passing through the Strait of Hormuz — a chokepoint for about a fifth of global oil and natural gas trade.

LNG is natural gas cooled to liquid form for easy storage and transport. It has been promoted as a bridge fuel in the shift from oil and coal to cleaner energy sources. The US has sought to expand exports of LNG across Asia. It burns cleaner than coal, but still emits climate change-causing gases, especially methane.

The war has countries shifting back to coal to cover LNG shortfalls. India is burning more coal to meet higher summer demand. South Korea has lifted caps on electricity from coal. Indonesia is prioritising using its domestic supply. Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam are boosting coal-fired power.

Burning more coal risks worsening smog in major cities, slowing the transition to renewable energy and increasing the region's planet-warming emissions.

Coal is a short-term fix, experts say, while renewables are the long-term solution. Continued reliance on coal exposes Asia to future shocks, said Julia Skorupska of the global coalition Powering Past Coal Alliance.

"This kind of crisis is a real sort of warning," she said.

## Rising demand drives Asia back to coal

Coal is integral to Asia's emergency energy plans. Its wide availability in Asia makes it the default backup when renewables or gas fall short, said Sandeep Pai, an energy expert at Duke University.

China, the top coal consumer and producer, has built record coal power generating capacity since 2021 to improve its energy security. Its national policy calls for continued use of coal, even as its vast clean energy capacity offers some relief.

India, the second-largest coal consumer and producer, is bracing for a scorching summer and will rely more on coal to meet peak demand of 270 gigawatts — nearly twice the electricity Spain can produce. It has enough coal for about three months, with some stockpiles earmarked for small

businesses.

Two Indian liquefied petroleum gas shipments totalling more than 92,700 tons recently made it through the Strait of Hormuz. Such imports will likely be directed to industries such as fertiliser production rather than power generation, Pai said.

Coal advocates such as Michelle Manook of FutureCoal say the shortfall would be worse without coal, and future use should be strategic. "The lesson has to be diversity," she said.

Pauline Heinrichs, who studies climate and energy at King's College London, points to China's boosting use of coal to offset hydropower shortfalls due to droughts, worsening emissions that contribute to climate change.

"You learn to respond to shocks generated by certain insecurities by reproducing the insecurity," she said.

## Indonesia keeps coal for its own use

Adding to the vulnerability for import-dependent countries, Indonesia, the world's largest exporter, is prioritising domestic use over exports. That could tighten regional supplies and push global prices higher, said Putra Adhiguna of the Energy Shift Institute.

Coal prices are set globally, leaving importers exposed to swings and disruptions. More coal does not guarantee cheap or reliable power, said Russell Marsh of E3G.

Vietnam is already facing that volatility. It increased imports after weather-related shortages, but supplies from Indonesia are now uncertain, so it's considering importing coal from the US and Laos, according to energy market tracker Argus Media.

The main price for coal used in Asia, called Newcastle coal from Australia, has risen 13 per cent since the war began.

Higher prices will also hurt Southeast Asia, the world's third-largest coal-consuming region. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday declared a state of national energy emergency.

## Relying on coal now could backfire

More coal use now will slow and possibly undermine long-term efforts to phase out coal-fired power.

Indonesia was already struggling to meet targets to retire coal plants early, with financing delays even before the Iran war.

Coal power in Indonesia was 48 per cent more expensive in 2024 than in

2020 due to ageing plants and higher costs, according to the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis or IEEFA. Subsidies to the national utility rose 24 per cent to USD 11 billion, about 5 per cent of the national budget.

Jakarta has promoted the use of LNG to ease a shift from coal. But the renewed coal use "sends a signal" that switching to gas "is not as easy as it sounds," Adhiguna said.

South Korea has pledged to retire most coal plants by 2040 and halve its emissions by 2035. But it is allowing more use of coal when air pollution is low, and LNG is in short supply.

In 2023, South Korea needed a major renewable expansion — about 8 gigawatts of new wind annually — to meet net-zero goals, Agora Energiewende said. Growth has been slow, with renewables supplying just 10 per cent of electricity in 2024, versus a global average of 32 per cent, according to IEEFA.

Over the past 11 years, South Korea has committed USD 127 billion to fossil fuels. That's 13 times more than it spent on renewables, with 60 per cent of export finance going to LNG and USD 120.1 billion spent on fuel imports in 2024 alone, said Joojin Kim of Solutions for Our Climate.

South Korea still plans to phase out the use of coal, but the recent moves could outlast the crisis, Kim said. "The concern is not just the decision itself. It is the precedent it sets."


For countries with limited coal, like Thailand, the impact on electricity prices would be minimal, as coal accounts for too small a share of capacity, said Jitsai Santaputra of The Lantau Group. Domestic coal makes up less than 10 per cent of the Thai energy mix.

## Coal brings dirtier air








Burning coal produces fine particles that lodge deep in the lungs and bloodstream, raising the risk of heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and chronic respiratory disease, according to the World Health Organisation, or WHO.

It's a problem across Asia, especially during seasons when farmers are burning their fields.

All 1.4 billion Indians breathe air with concentrations of these particles the WHO considers unsafe, according to a report by the Energy Policy Institute of Chicago. The government has now paused air-quality rules, allowing restaurants to burn coal to ease a gas shortage.



## NO SHORTAGE OF LPG IN J&K


-  Customers are requested not to panic, as there is sufficient stock of LPG available.
-  Do not believe rumours. Trust only official Verify information.
-  Every customer should book their LPG cylinders through diverse online modes, such as SMS, missed call, the concerned agency app, or the website.
-  Avoid panic booking. Your cylinder will be delivered at your doorsteps.
-  Book LPG refills only after 25 days from the last delivery.
-  Provide the DAC (Delivery Authentication Code) to the delivery person at the time of delivery.
-  All consumers must complete eKYC for a smooth delivery system, as it has been made mandatory by the government.

### For Assistance / Information Contact:

Divisional level Control Rooms-FCS&CA

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