

Lease Row, Daily Wagers Debate

J&K Assembly Sees Heated Exchanges

Lease Renewal Bill Triggers Row, BJP Flags 'Breach of Trust';

Daily Wagers Issue Heats Up, CM Reiterates Phased Regularisation



Observer News Service

Jammu: A mix of sharp exchanges, policy debates and a walk-out marked proceedings in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, with contentious issues ranging from a lease renewal bill to the long-pending regularisation of daily wagers dominating the House.

In a first since assuming office in 2024, the ruling National Conference allowed the introduction of a Private Member's Bill seeking renewal of lease rights for existing occupants, triggering a sharp political row in the House.

The Bill, moved by NC legislator Tanvir Sadiq, seeks to restore the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960, and its rules to their original form, effectively reversing the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grant Rules, 2022

introduced by the Lt Governor-led administration without legislative involvement.

The 2022 Rules had barred renewal of leases, particularly commercial ones, mandating that expired leases be put to fresh auction at market rates instead of the earlier nominal premiums. The proposed legislation aims to undo this provision and allow renewal of existing leases, offering relief to legal occupants.

The move assumes significance amid the expiry of leases of several commercial establishments, including hoteliers in Gulmarg.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, chose not to oppose the Bill at the introduction stage, saying the government would take a final position after a detailed debate.

"If I oppose | More on P6

No Family Should Be Left Out, No Genuine Need Unnoticed: LG

'Development Of Border Villages Is A Sentiment, A Resolve' | Pushes Priority Solutions Where Existing Schemes Fall Short

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said border villages are India's "first line of defence" and asserted that residents living along the frontiers must see tangible improvements in their quality of life, not just symbolic recognition.

Addressing a public gathering under Phase-II of the Vibrant Villages Programme at Makwal village in Jammu, the Lieutenant Governor said the people living in border areas are "the first face of India that any outsider sees" and stand foremost in courage, sacrifice and patience.

"Residents of border villages are serving the nation every single day. That service must not be honoured only in words, but reflected clearly in the quality of life of every family," he said.

Emphasising last-mile delivery of welfare schemes,



Sinha directed officials to ensure that no eligible household is excluded. "No family should be left out and no genuine need should go unnoticed," he said, while calling for priority solutions in areas where existing schemes fall short.

The Lieutenant Governor underlined that governance must translate into visible outcomes on the ground. "There must be no gap between what the government promises and what people actually receive," he said, adding that every family | More on P6

'Zero Tolerance On Drugs': LG Orders Crackdown In J&K

Calls For Multi-pronged Strategy, Crackdown On Trafficking Networks



Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday directed the adoption of a "zero tolerance" policy against the drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing a coordinated and

multi-pronged strategy to curb substance abuse and trafficking.

Chairing a high-level meeting at Lok Bhavan in Jammu with Deputy Commissioners, Senior Superintendents of Police and senior civil and police officials, the Lieutenant | More on P6

Pushes IFPRI Tie-Up For Data-Driven Agriculture In J&K

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss a proposed strategic collaboration between Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu and the International Food Policy Research Institute aimed at strengthening

evidence-based policy-making and driving sustainable agricultural transformation in the Union Territory.

The meeting brought together senior administrative officials, agricultural experts and representatives from IFPRI's South Asia office to deliberate on institutional frameworks and technical

interventions required to revitalise agriculture and rural economies in Jammu and Kashmir.

Welcoming the proposed partnership, the Lieutenant Governor said IFPRI's global expertise would play a critical role in enhancing institutional capacity and improving policy | More on P6

India's First Digital Census Begins

Prez Murmu, PM, HM Take Part In Self-enumeration Exercise

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a first for India's census history, President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday participated in the country's inaugural self-enumeration exercise, marking the digital rollout of Census 2027.

The exercise, launched in the national capital and seven other states and Union Territories, allows citizens to submit their household details online through a dedicated portal, introducing a major shift from the traditional door-to-door data collection.

Murmu completed her self-enumeration at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of senior officials, while Modi also filled out his details and urged citizens to take part in the process.

"Completed my self enumeration. Today marks the beginning of the first phase of Census 2027... I appeal to the people of India to self-enumerate their household details themselves and participate in the Census process," Modi said in a post on X.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar also joined the initiative, emphasising its importance in ensuring effective delivery of government schemes.

The first phase of the census, known as the House Listing and Housing Census, has commenced with a 15-day self-enumeration window. The facility is currently available in selected regions, including the Andaman and | More on P6

KPs' Return Hinges On Security: CM Govt's Responsibility To Protect Properties, Religious Shrines

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley depends on restoration of a secure environment, asserting that the government remains committed to protecting their religious sites and properties until their safe and dignified return. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly during a discussion on a private member's bill, the Chief Minister said the displacement of Kashmiri | More on P6

YOUR MANDATE NOW APPEARS to be used not for the public good, but to protect elite interests — be it Nedous, the Chief Minister's personal property, or a circle of influential, cocktail-circuit associates."

'Promoting Secessionist, Separatist Sentiments'

Kulgam Couple Chargesheeted Under UAPA

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A husband-wife duo, accused of spreading false and distorted narratives on social media regarding the situation in Kashmir at the behest of a terrorist outfit, were on Wednesday chargesheeted under the stringent UAPA in a special court here.

The counter intelligence wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police filed the chargesheet in the court of Special Judge designated under the NIA Act, Srinagar, against Dr Umer Farooq Bhat and his wife, Shahzada Akther, residents of Bugam area of Kulgam in south Kashmir, officials said.

They said the chargesheet was filed under sections 152- 62(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) that deal with acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India, like purposely or knowingly, using words, either spoken or written or by electronic communication, to excite secession or subversive activities or encourage feelings of separatist activities.

They have also been charged under sections 13, 38, 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Act (UAPA) which involve stringent penalties for membership in a terrorist organisation or support to a terrorist organisation.

The case was registered on the basis of "credible and reliable information" indicating that Akther, in a well-planned criminal conspiracy with members of the proscribed terrorist outfit Dukhtaran-e-Millat, and in active connivance with her husband, was involved in the deliberate creation and dissemination of false, fabricated and distorted narratives regarding the situation in Kashmir, the officials claimed.

They said the investigation revealed that the accused persons, "acting in concert with members of the proscribed organisation", were engaged in the "misuse" of social media platforms, including encrypted messaging applications, to "manipulate" facts and spread misleading information.

The content disseminated by them was aimed at promoting secessionist and separatist sentiments, thereby fostering disaffection, hatred, and enmity against the Union of India, they alleged.

Further | More on P6



Encounter in Ganderbal: An overnight encounter in Ganderbal district led to one terrorist dead, the Army said on Wednesday. A cordon and search operation was launched by security forces on Tuesday night, in

Arahama area of Ganderbal district based on inputs of suspicious movement in the region. Based on specific intelligence input, joint search operation was launched by the Army and Jammu and Kashmir | More on P6

J&K Tops CCTNS Pragati Dashboard Among UTs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Marking a significant milestone in technology-driven policing and improved citizen services in the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir has secured a top position on the CCTNS Pragati Dashboard of the National Crime Records Bureau.

According to official data, as of March 1, 2026, J&K ranked first among Union Territories (excluding Delhi), reflecting the sustained and coordinated efforts of the CCTNS team of the Crime Branch, J&K Police. In the overall national ranking of States and UTs, Delhi secured the top position.

data quality, timeliness, and accuracy across national policing platforms integrated with the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS). The Pragati Dashboard report highlights J&K's strong performance across all major indicators. These include robust connectivity of police stations, full implementation of core CCTNS applications, timely data synchronization with the National Data Centre, and effective integration with ICJS components. The Union Territory has also ensured round-the-clock availability of citizen-centric services through its JK Citizen Portal.

Officials said that this achievement will translate into tangible benefits for the public, including faster registration and tracking of cases, improved accuracy of police records, and seamless access to services such as verifications and grievance redressal. It is also | More on P6

Erratic Weather Till Apr 10; MeT, Traffic Advisories Issued In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The India Meteorological Department on Wednesday forecast continued erratic weather across Jammu and Kashmir till April 10, with spells of rain, snow, thunderstorms and gusty winds expected over the coming days.

An official at the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said light rain or snowfall is likely at isolated places on April 1 and 2, while a more active weather phase is expected between April 3 and 4, bringing widespread precipitation across the Union Territory.

"Thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds are likely



during this period, with moderate to heavy rain or snow expected at isolated higher

reaches," the official said. After a brief lull, fresh spells of rain and | More on P6

Despite WDs, March Rainfall 34% Below Normal

KO Web Desk

Jammu and Kashmir recorded a rainfall deficit of 34 per cent in March, despite the passage of multiple Western Disturbances during the month, officials said

on Wednesday, placing the region in the "deficient" category. According to official data, the Union Territory received 100.7 mm of rainfall against the normal of 152.9 mm during March. Srinagar recorded | More on P6



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CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
**Housing and Urban
 Development Department**
Civil Secretariat, Jammu

NOTIFICATION

Jammu, the 27th March, 2026

S.O. 77 :- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, the Government in consultation with the State Election Commission hereby make the following amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation (Election) Rules, 2003, namely:-

1. In Rule 20, in sub-rule (4), for the words and sign, "Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, or Other Backward Classes candidates" the words and sign "Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes, or women candidates" shall be substituted.

2. In Rule 28, for the words "Returning Officer", the words "Deputy Commissioner" shall be substituted.

3. For Form 1, Form 6, Form 6A, Form 7, Form 9, Form 11, the Forms "Form 1, Form 6, Form 6A, Form 7, Form 9, Form 11" appended to this notification shall be substituted.

4. In Form 22:-
 c. In Column 3 under the heading, "total No of" after the column under heading "Rejected Votes" a column under the heading "None of the Above (NOTA)" shall be added.
 d. After the Row under heading "total votes polled", the Row under the heading "counting of postal ballot", shall be added.

By Order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sd/-
 (Mandeep Kaur) IAS
 Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

No. HUD-LIT/60/2025 (E-7645389)
 :DIPK-7/26 Dated: 01-04-2026

Form 1
 [See rule 4]
ELECTORAL ROLL FOR THE YEAR.....
 Municipal Corporation.....Ward No.....Mohalla.....Tehsil.....District.....

S.No	House No.	Name of Elector	Father's / Mother's / Husband's Name	Sex	Age	Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number	Photograph of the elector
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Issued by Electoral Registration Officer.
 Form 6
 [See rule 19]
NOTICE OF ELECTION
 Election to the Municipal Corporation..... from (Ward / Constituency).
 Notice is to be given here by that:-
 1. An election is to be held of.....
 2. Forms and nomination paper may be obtained at the offices of the officers specified in paragraph 6 between the hours of.....and.....date to.....date;
 3. Nomination papers may be delivered between the hours of 11:00 A.M. in the morning and 3:00 P.M. in the afternoon by a candidate or his proposer to any of the officer specified in paragraph 6 at his office on any day not later than the.....day of.....
 4. The nomination papers will be taken up for scrutiny at.....(hours) on.....date at (place);
 5. Notice of withdrawal of candidature may be delivered by a candidate or his [authorized agent] or election agent to any one of the officers specified in paragraph 6 at his office before 3:00 P.M. on.....
 6. Nomination papers and notices of withdrawal may be delivered to any of the officers specified in the column of the following table at his office specified in the correspondence entry in the second column of the table:-

Designation of Officer	Location of Office
1	2
3. Returning Officer	
4. Assistant Returning Officer	

7. In the event of election being contested, the poll will take place on.....between the hours of.....and.....
 Place.....
 Date.....
 Returning Officer

Form 6A
 [See rule 20(1)]
NOMINATION PAPER

Election to the Municipal Corporation.....from the.....Ward / Constituency.
 I nominate.....(Name) Father's / Husband's Name.....resident of (full postal address) as a candidate at the above election.
 His name is entered at serial number.....in the electoral roll of Mohalla.....Ward.....

Date.....
 Signature of proposer

I, the above mentioned candidate, as sent to this nomination and hereby declare:-

- (a) That I have completed.....years of age;
- (b) That I am (setup) at this election by the.....party;
- (c) That the symbols I have chosen are in order of preference :-
 (i).....(ii).....(iii).....
- (d) That my name and my father's / husband's name have been correctly spelt out above in (name of the language);
- (e) That to the best of my knowledge and belief, I am qualified and nor also disqualified for being chosen to fill the seat in the Municipal Corporation.

[I further declare that I am a member of the.....caste / tribe / class which is Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe/ Other Backward Classes.]

Date.....
 Signature of the Candidate

Form 7
 [See rule 21]
NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

Election to the Municipal Corporation.....from the.....Ward / Constituency). Notice is hereby given that the following nominations in respect of the above election have been received up to 3:00 P.M. today:-

Sl. No.	Name of Candidate	Address of Candidate	Symbol	Photograph
1	2	3	4	5

Form 7-A
OATH FORM

I,.....having been nominated as a candidate to fill a seat in the.....do swear in the name of God / solemnly affirm that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, and that I will uphold the sovereignty of India.

Signature (Name of Candidate in Block letters)

Form 9
 [See rule 25(1)]
LIST OF CONTESTING CANDIDATES

Election to the Municipal Corporation.....from the.....(Ward / Constituency).

S.No.	Name of Candidate	Address of Candidate	Symbol	Photograph
1	2	3	4	5

Place.....
 Date.....
 Returning Officer

Form 11
 [See rule 28]
LIST OF POLLING STATIONS

Election to the Municipal Corporation.....from the.....(Ward / Constituency).

S.No.	Location of Polling Station	Name of Polling Station	Area covered in the Polling Station	Total No. of votes assigned	Whether for men only or for women only
1	2	3	4	5	6

Place.....
 Date.....
 Signature of the Deputy Commissioner (with seal)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that I am working in police department as Constable No 1351/BD, PID NO. EXK 135902, in my service book the name is entered as AJAZ AHMAD WANI while my actual name is AAJAZ AHMAD WANI. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact CONCERN DEPARTMENT within a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
 AAJAZ AHMAD WANI S/O MOHD QAZIM WANI mcb
 R/O GARIEND KALAN CELL. 7006317634

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "DEE Class" Contractor Card if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the R&B Division Pulwama within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Name - Kamran Qadir Wani
 S/O - Gh Qadir Wani
 Address - Malwari Pulwama J&K laa

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my service records bearing no ARMY 9078934 M NK as Afroza Akhter while my correct name as per school records is Afroza Bano. 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 office of the Record Officer JAKLI Caba Of 56 APO Srinagar within seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Afroza Bano
 D/o Mukhtar Ahmad Mir bmg
 R/O Mahrajpora Kongamdara

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN
Public Notice

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
 The registrar birth BDO Sherabad Khore has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohd Subhan Wani s/o Gh Qadir Wani R/o Khore Sherabad with verified date of birth 11/03/1963 occurred at home in this connection if anybody 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir, R/o Baharestan Kwarhama, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that the name of my son has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Arizu Mohi Ud Din. The correct name, as per school records, is Arizoo Mohi Ud Din. Hence, the same may be read as Arizoo Mohi Ud Din for all official purposes.
 If anyone has any objection, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Deponent fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Naika Bi W/o Jahangir Ahmad Khatama, R/o Sher Bag Dara Kassi, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly entered as Naika Begum in my Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 7016). My correct name is Naika Bi as per my Domicile Certificate and other official records. Henceforth, I shall be known as Naika Bi for all purposes.
 If anyone has any objection to this change, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained.
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bushra Khanam D/o Irshad Ahmad Khan, R/o Kunzer, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly entered in my Aadhaar Card as Bushra Irshad instead of my correct name Bushra Khanam. Now, I have changed/corrected my name from Bushra Irshad to Bushra Khanam as per my school records. Henceforth, I shall be known as Bushra Khanam for all official purposes.
 If anyone has any objection, he/she may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice; failing which, no objection shall be entertained.
 fko Bushra Khanam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farida Khnam, W/o Mukhtar Ahmad Peer, R/o Gul Neelofar Kralweth, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:
 That I am a permanent resident of Jammu & Kashmir since birth.
 That my name has been wrongly entered in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7064 5021 0033 as Fareeda Khanam instead of my correct name Farida Khnam.
 That I have now decided to correct my name as Farida Khnam in my Aadhaar Card as per my school certificate records.
 That henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by my correct name Farida Khnam for all purposes.
 If anyone has any objection regarding this name correction, they may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
 Deponent fko
 Farida Khnam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ghaguftha Akhter while my correct name is Shuguftha Akhters
 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 Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Ghaguftha Akhter fko
 D/o Mohammad Jamal Mir
 R/o Krishama Tehsil Kunzer

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Mazoora Begum while my correct name is Manzoora Begum
 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 Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Manzoora Begum fko
 W/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat
 R/o Hardu Aboora

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Javed Akbar Awan, S/o Akbar Ali Awan, resident of Gingal, Tehsil Uri, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that I want to change/update the particulars of my son namely eshaan javed studying in class 2nd roll no 5 under admission no 4779 New Era Public School, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
 Details are as follows:
 1. Eshaan Javed to Furqan Javed
 2. Javed Akbar to Javed Akbar Awan
 3. Wajida Tabassam to Wajida Tabbasum
 If any person has any objection to the above-mentioned changes, they may file the same before the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
 Sd/-
 Javed Akbar Awan
 (R/o Gingal, Tehsil Uri, District Baramulla)
 Ph.no 9906395004
 fkor

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
 Public Notice
 This office has received a written application from Shabir Ahmad Mir S/o Mohd Rajab Mir R/o BRATH Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in Shabir Shabir who was Born on 07-07-2011 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomial
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
 Public Notice
 This office has received a written application from Sabreena Fayaz D/O Fayaz Ahmad Chopan R/o Zoonipora Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in Sabreena Fayaz who was Born on 10-03-2013 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomial
 fko

Public Notice

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 121008332 Session: 2025/BI Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed Against my name as Musab Mehraj instead of Musaid Mehraj BY my parents at Admission TIME
 Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Budgam , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Magam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Musaid Mehraj
Father's name: Mehraj Ud Din Najar
Mother's Name: Jani Begum
DOB: 07-12-2005
Residence: Ialpora Pathkhal
Mobile no: 6006890096
 bmg

The Jammu and Kashmir
State Board Of School Education
 New Campus Bemina Srinagar
 Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her DOB certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-
Roll No: 220170
Class 10th
Year & Session 1991- pvt
Registration: 24099-KGB-IX-87
Name : Mushtaq Ahmad Dar
Father's Name: Gh Mohd Dar
Mother's Name : --
Date of Birth:- 15-01-1973
Residenc:- Poshkar
 According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
 (Besides the above referred "DOB /Marks-Certificate/s" bearing No: be treated as "CANCELLED")
 No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/BJ/KD/22
 Dated 09-11-2022
 Assistant Secretary
 Certificates, KD.
 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/his adhaar card as Gawhara Majeed while her correct name is Gulshan Majeed 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 Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Abdul Majeed Dar fko
 F/O Gulshan Majeed
 R/O Ghat Palhallan Tehsil Pattan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that the name of My son is wrongly written as Kousar Mehdi in the report card issued by the school instead of kousar Mehdi. Now I am applying for the correction of the same. Anybody has any objection may contact the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Kousar Mehdi S/O:- Mohammad Rafiq Wadood
Address:- Moti Mohallah khurd Meer Behri Dal, Sgr.
pH. No. 9797283683 inf

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE
BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR
ATTENTION PLEASE

I have passed /appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th.) under Roll No. 117005274 Session Bi-Annual Year 2025. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the Institution records against my Name as TRSHAD instead of IRSHAD.



Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, New campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under:
Name: IRSHAD HUSSAIN MALIK,
Fathers Name: BASHIR AHMAD MALIK,
Mothers Name, SAFIYA BANOO
Date of Birth: 23-09-2009, mcb
Residence:- PALLER. MOBILE: 7006295711

از نیابت خاص صاحب
 عنوان :- محلی عدوڈ اور ڈپٹی کمشنر محلی خاص صاحب 17/2025/17 MC/KSB/DandB مورے
 30-03-2026 نسبت تاریخ پیدائش مرتبہ محترمہ معارف مجاہد دلگشاہ بن مجاہد سائیکہ چوہانی ہولہ۔
استخبار اور ادراک گاہی ہر خاص و عام
 ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ استخبار گاہ کیا جاتا ہے کہ اس نے ایک درخواست تفریح حاصل تاج پیدائش پیش کی ہے۔ اس ضمن میں ملنے والے ریکارڈ سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ اس کا نام سائیکہ ہے۔ جو کہ سب سے زیادہ درست ہے۔
 نام سائیکہ
 تاریخ پیدائش
 01- محترمہ معارف مجاہد دلگشاہ بن مجاہد چوہانی ہولہ۔
 26-02-2025
 لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا عہدہ کو مذکورہ ریکارڈ میں سائیکہ کے نام کی غلطی یا غلطی ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر عدوڈ اور ڈپٹی کمشنر محلی خاص صاحب کو مطلع کرے۔ ورنہ اس کی غلطی قائم رہے گی۔
 تحریر العسود
 نائب تحصیلدار خاص صاحب mcb

از نیابت یومی زنگیگر
 عنوان :- درخواست نمٹانہ قاضی اقبال جاوید دلمر موم قاضی جاوید احمد سائیکہ
 بہر پورہ شگر گندہ برادر ادرائی Dependent Certificate مرتبہ محلی خاص و عام
استخبار ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمر میں سائل اسامہ نے ایک درخواست تفریح ڈیپنڈنٹ
 مرتبہ محلی خاص و عام کی ہے جو کہ زیر کارروائی ہے اس بار میں ہنوزی معلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی
 گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل اسامہ کا والد مورے 05-12-2025 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور موتی کے دارا خان جاوید پڑیل ہے
 طاہرہ بیگم بیوہ قاضی جاوید احمد گھر یلو کام 52 سال بیوہ موتی
 قاضی اقبال جاوید پسر موم زیر تعلیم 18 سال پسر موتی
 عظمت جاوید دختر قاضی جاوید زیر تعلیم 15 سال دختر موتی
 اس کے علاوہ موتی کا والد قاضی غلام محمد میر 90 سال اور والدہ بیوہ بیگم 85 سال تاحیات اور
 علیحدہ طور پر اپنے دوسرے بہر قاضی اشفاق احمد کے ساتھ رہائش پذیر ہے۔ اس سائل اپنے حق
 میں ڈیپنڈنٹ مرتبہ محلی خاص و عام کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ ہر مرتبہ محلی خاص و عام کے لئے اس نے
 اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غمناک یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ عدوڈ اور ڈپٹی کمشنر محلی خاص صاحب کو مطلع کرے۔
 اعتراض عدالت حد اکثر 7 روز کی مدت کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے سے یہ عیاں ہوگی کہ عدوڈ اور ڈپٹی کمشنر
 قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار FKO

CBI Arrests EPFO Commissioner, Assistant in Rs 50,000 Bribery Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested two public servants, including a Regional Provident Fund Commissioner and a Senior Security Assistant of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization in Srinagar, in a bribery case, officials said.

The arrests were made after the agency caught the accused allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 from a complainant in the Batamalo area of the city.

The development is significant as it involves senior officials of a key government organisation and highlights ongoing anti-corruption efforts in the region.

According to the CBI, the case was registered on March 31 following allegations that the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner had demanded a bribe of Rs 1.5 lakh from the complainant.

The demand was alleg-

edly made in exchange for not initiating adverse action and avoiding imposition of a penalty against the complainant's institution.

Officials said a trap was laid on the same day, during which the Senior Security Assistant was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 50,000 on behalf of the Commissioner.

The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner was subsequently arrested after it was established that the bribe was being received through the assistant acting as a middleman.

The accused were taken into custody and further investigation in the case is underway, officials said.

According to KNT, the Central Bureau of Investigation has reiterated that bribery is a punishable offence and urged citizens to report corruption.

Further proceedings in the case will be taken up as part of the ongoing investigation.



CEO SSCL Engages Traders, Directs Urgent Fixes to Sanitation, Drainage Issues

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a proactive effort to strengthen civic service delivery and ensure responsive governance, Chief Executive Officer of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Faz Lul Haseeb, conducted a comprehensive on-ground inspection at Lal Chowk, the city's central commercial hub.

During the visit, the CEO interacted directly with traders, shopkeepers, and other stakeholders, seeking first-hand feedback on pressing civic concerns, including sanitation, drainage, and public utility services. The engagement provided an open platform for stakeholders to highlight long-standing issues, which were attentively heard and acknowledged on the spot.

Local traders and business owners welcomed the initiative, terming it a significant step towards bridging the gap between the administration and the public. They appreciated the hands-on approach adopted by the authorities in addressing issues through direct field engagement.

Taking immediate cognizance of the grievances raised, Haseeb issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for prompt and effective resolution. The Drainage Wing was instructed to urgently clear bottlenecks and ensure proper functioning and maintenance of the drainage network in and around Lal Chowk.

The Chief Sanitation Officer of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was directed to further intensify sanitation drives and maintain

consistent cleanliness standards in the area, given its importance as a high-footfall commercial and public space.

Additionally, officials of SSCL were asked to prioritise the resolution of electrical and allied infrastructure issues to ensure uninterrupted public utility services for traders, commuters, and visitors. The inspection reflects the administration's continued focus on robust field monitoring, improved inter-departmental coordination, and time-bound grievance redressal, aimed at enhancing urban service delivery and improving the overall civic experience in Srinagar.

The CEO was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, SSCL; Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC; Executive Engineer of the Drainage Wing; and other senior officials from SSCL and SMC.

J&K NHM Employees Protest for Regularisation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Employees engaged under the National Health Mission (NHM) across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday launched a 48-hour sit-in protest, intensifying their long-pending demand for regularisation of services, salary enhancement, and comprehensive social security measures.

The protest, organised under the banner of the Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission Employees Association, witnessed participation from NHM staff in multiple districts, with a prominent gathering held at Srinagar's Press Enclave.

Demonstrators raised slogans and held placards highlighting their grievances, urging the administration to take immediate and concrete steps. The agitating employees expressed deep disappointment over

what they described as "unfulfilled promises" by the government, saying that repeated assurances over the years have not translated into any tangible policy decisions.

"We were left with no option but to protest. Our issues have been pending for years despite continuous representations," Abdul Rouf, Chief Spokesperson of the association, said, as reported by KNO.

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"We were left with no option but to protest. Our issues have been pending for years despite continuous representations," Abdul Rouf, Chief Spokesperson of the association, said, as reported by KNO.

Crime Branch Files Chargesheet in Job Fraud Case in Srinagar Court

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Special Crime Wing of Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir has filed a chargesheet in a job fraud case registered as FIR No. 02/2025 against an accused person before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar, officials said.

The chargesheet has been filed under Sections 420 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code against Farhat Abbas Malik, a resident of Tendala in Tehsil Chirpingal of Doda district.

The case was initiated following a complaint by a person who alleged that he was cheated on the pretext of being provided a job abroad after he lost his employment during the COVID-19 period.

According to officials,

the complainant came into contact with an office operating under the name "Fly High Business Consultant," allegedly run by the accused.

The accused reportedly assured the complainant of arranging a well-paying overseas job and, on that pretext, obtained a substantial amount of money along with original documents, including the passport.

During investigation, officials said it was established that the accused had no intention of fulfilling the promise and had cheated the complainant for wrongful financial gain.

"The accused neither arranged the job nor returned the money," officials said, adding that evidence indicated deliberate misrepresentation.

SKUAST-K Celebrates World Meteorological Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir celebrated World Meteorological Day at its Shalimar campus with the launch of a 'Climate Champion Club'. The event, held under the theme 'Observing Today and Protecting Tomorrow', drew a diverse audience of over 200 participants, including students from the Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K and RP School Nagbal.

The program was organised by the university's Division of Agrometeorology in collaboration with the Kashmir Chapter of the Association of Agrometeorologists and the Department of Students' Welfare. The day's activities were designed to bridge the gap between high-level climate science and practical, youth-led action.

Dr Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension attended the programme as the Chief Guest and provided a per-



spective on the region's ecological history. She contrasted the traditional, sustainable practices of earlier Kashmiri generations with the environmental degradation seen in modern times. Addressing the young participants, Dr Kanth emphasized that the responsibility for restoration now rests with the younger generation.

Dr Sameera Qayoom, Head, Division of Agrometeorology, underscored the vital link between climate services and agricultural success. She challenged the attending students to take personal ownership of the planet's future by mastering climate dynamics. Echoing this sentiment, Dean Students' Welfare and Guest of Honour, Dr Sajad Ahmad Gan-

goo, called for collective action to drive environmental conservation.

The technical sessions explored the intersection of technology and ecology, focusing on how Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, and carbon sequestration can build agricultural resilience. Beyond lectures, the event featured hands-on demonstrations. Dr. Latief Ahmad, the event organizer, alongside faculty members, trained students on the use of portable agrometeorological instruments.

The key highlight of the event was the initiation of Climate Champion Club. As part of this new outreach model, SKUAST-K announced the adoption of RP School Nagbal.

Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee

Parivesh Bhavan, Forest Complex | Silk Factory Road
Transport Nagar, Jammu, 180 006 | Rajbagh, Srinagar, 190 008

PUBLIC NOTICE

'Construction and Demolition waste' means the waste generated due to construction and demolition, remodeling, renovation, repair and maintenance activities, and comprises of soil, sand and gravel, bricks and masonry, concrete, metal, wood, plastic, ceramic and such other items.

The Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025 were notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India on 2nd April, 2025.

These rules shall come into effect from 1st April 2026.

These rules shall apply to all activities of Construction, demolition, remodeling, renovation and repair of any structure.

The following entities shall register on the portal, namely:

- Producer;
- Operator of intermediate waste storage facility;
- Recycler; and
- Collection point established by local or development authority.

An entity falling in more than one category shall register in those categories separately.

For further information, may contact at following:

<https://jkpcb.jk.gov.in/>

regdirjmu-pcc@jk.gov.in

regdirkmr-pcc@jk.gov.in

membersecy-jkpc@jk.gov.in

Contact Details:

0191-2476925 / 0191-2476926 / 0194- 2311842

DIPK-NB-22/26
dated: 01-04-2026



Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025

Issued in Public Interest by
J&K Pollution Control Committee





Government of India
Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
Directorate General of Training

CITS ADMISSION NOTICE - SESSION 2026-27

Admission to courses under **Craft Instructor Training Scheme (CITS)** at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Institute for Training of Trainers (IToTs) for the academic session 2026-27 will be made through **All India Common Entrance Test (AICET)**, scheduled to be held on **31.05.2026**. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to CITS in various trades through the website www.nimionlineadmission.in from 18.04.2026 to 10.05.2026. The AICET will be conducted as a Computer-Based Test (online) at various centres across the country.

For more details visit: www.nimionlineadmission.in



Last date to submit the applications
10.05.2026

cbc- 63101/11/0015/2526

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KO VIEW

Lost Aesthetics

Srinagar once spoke through its skyline. Sloping roofs, carved wooden facades, and narrow lanes created a visual language that felt rooted in history and place. That language now struggles to survive under a wave of new construction that favours trend over tradition.

A building boom has taken hold of the city, driven by aspiration and imitation. Glass fronts, sharp edges, and concrete-heavy designs rise quickly, often without any sensitivity with the surroundings. Builders chase what looks modern in other cities, while Srinagar's own architectural identity recedes into the background.

A sense of place gives way to a patchwork of styles that feel disconnected and temporary.

This shift goes beyond visual discomfort. It cuts into the cultural core of a city that draws visitors for its charming character. Travelers come to Srinagar expecting an experience driven by memory and continuity. They seek the warmth of old neighbourhoods, the intimacy of traditional markets, and the coherence of a city that tells a story through its streets.

When that story breaks, tourism risks becoming shallow and forgettable.

Efforts under recent smart city projects give glimpses of what thoughtful intervention can achieve. Revamped signboards and selective restoration in areas like Bohri Kadal and Maharaj Gunj show an awareness of heritage and presentation. These pockets feel curated and inviting, and they hint at a larger possibility.

At the same time, such efforts remain limited in scale and impact. A few polished stretches cannot define the identity of an entire city.

Srinagar holds a place among the oldest urban centers in South Asia, and that legacy demands a broader vision. Urban growth needs direction that respects history while accommodating change. European cities give one useful example, where modern life thrives within clear aesthetic guidelines that preserve the character of public spaces. Similar thinking could guide Srinagar toward a future that feels both current and rooted.

Stronger building norms can ensure that new structures align with local design principles. Materials, facades, and proportions can echo traditional forms without freezing the city in time. Such an approach would support tourism, strengthen cultural pride, and create a more coherent urban experience.

Many residents speak of an earlier Srinagar that embraced them through its built environment. Streets felt familiar, and homes connected naturally with their surroundings. Today's cluttered expansion often produces the opposite effect, where scale and design overwhelm rather than welcome.

The heritage city stands at a turning point. Choices made now will decide whether Srinagar evolves with continuity or drifts into visual confusion.

A deliberate approach to aesthetics can restore balance and protect a heritage that still holds meaning for those who live here and those who come searching for it.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Debt Trap

When weddings and houses drain the life out of small businesses.

Irshad Mushtaq

A familiar story plays out in Kashmir. A young entrepreneur builds a small business with patience and grit. A shawl shop grows, a dry fruit outlet finds loyal customers, a hardware store earns steady margins.

Income rises, respect follows, and then expectations arrive. Family and society begin to measure success through visible symbols. A big house becomes essential. A new car signals status. A grand wedding promises honour. The entrepreneur starts spending profits on construction, interiors, and celebrations. Savings shrink, and loans enter.

Banks offer easy credit, EMIs begin, and interest silently turns into a fixed monthly burden. A wedding adds another layer of expense, often running into several lakhs. Applause fills the air during celebrations, but the balance sheet tells a different story.

Many families today fund consumption instead of growth. Borrowed money goes into food, décor, jewellery, and vehicles that generate no income. Business capital weakens, cash flow tightens, and a single slow season then exposes the strain. Sales dip, but repayments stay constant.

Stress builds inside homes that once celebrated success. Payments get delayed, suppliers wait, education plans shift, and health expenses feel heavier. The same person once seen as successful now struggles to stay afloat.

This pattern does not come from greed alone. Social pressure plays a powerful role. Simplicity often gets judged, display earns approval, and families choose scale over sustainability to protect their image.

A reset begins with mindset. Income must grow before lifestyle expands. Loans must serve income rather than image. Weddings can stay warm and meaningful without excess. Real respect must shift towards stability, discipline, and foresight.

Kashmir values honour and hospitality. These values grow stronger when backed by financial wisdom. A stable home, a resilient business, and a debt-light life offer a deeper form of honour than any one-night display ever can.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

Witness to Vulnerability

Amid the uproar over personal security in the ongoing Assembly session, a senior scribe revisits a chilling memory where power, protection, and peril collided in real time.



Zafar Choudhary

The heated discussion, marked by emotional outbursts from several lawmakers over personal security matters in the Legislative Assembly yesterday, reminded me of a few anecdotes from the conflict landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Here is one particularly profound memory: In September 2002, veteran Daily Excelsior journalist and my friend Sanjeev Pargal and I accompanied Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ambika Soni to a campaign rally for Congress leader Chowdhary Mohammad Aslam in Surankote.

As the helicopter descended from the hills and hovered briefly while locating a touchdown point, we noticed highly unusual movement among the security personnel. Ambika Soni drew Azad's attention to it. He said, "This is for us."

As the helicopter descended further toward the landing site, we saw several dozen bulletproof cars closing in. The moment the helicopter touched down, they formed a complete circle around it. Police personnel rushed to the aircraft without even waiting for the blades to come to a halt.

This was certainly not the kind of protocol Azad had suggested to Soni just a short while earlier. Honestly, Sanjeev and I found ourselves oscillating between calm and excitement, anticipating what would unfold next.

A DySP signalled to the pilot of the Deccan Aviation chopper (Azad's proclaimed election lucky charm) to open the doors immediately. As the door on Azad's side opened, we heard loud gunshots being exchanged. We could then clearly see action unfolding in the maize fields right in front of us.

The DySP said, "Sir, there is an encounter going on," as he hurriedly escorted the leaders out and pushed them into a bulletproof car.

The scene was deeply moving for me, watching how the police were risking their lives to protect those classified as "protected persons" in security parlance, the political VIPs.

Pargal and I also made our way into one of those cars. It was quite a spectacle. Nearly two thousand people sat silently at the rally site, that too well within the firing range of the nearby encounter. Chowdhary Aslam had reassured them, saying, "Kuchh nahin hoga, Allah hamare saath hai."

Azad insisted on carrying on with the programme as scheduled.

We continued to hear occasional gunshots over the next two hours. I don't remember a single word from the speeches, as I knew they wouldn't make it to the next day's paper, the encounter had overtaken their news value.

If my memory serves me right, there were five deaths in that encounter.

Late in the afternoon, as it began raining and made it difficult for the helicopter to take off, we sat at the Dak Bungalow, where the leaders were served roasted corn. Poonch SSP Kamal Saini arrived shortly after. He had another story to tell.

"Today we made Mufti run away. He wanted to address a rally at the bus stand, taking advantage of the routine crowd. We didn't let that happen," he said. Everyone in the room laughed.

As the weather cleared, we began our return journey to Jammu. Azad had a well-known routine of addressing a press conference at the



Conference lost their minister to terrorists today in Kupwara."

Under the weight of that morning's trauma, Azad had perhaps not paused to consider which was the greater tragedy. He then immediately reconfigured his response, saying, "A highly competent political leader, an absolute gentleman, has been lost. If the National Conference cannot ensure the security of its own ministers, that is reason enough for people to vote them out."

Replacing the Farooq Abdullah government in November 2002, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed instituted an inquiry under Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Bharat Bhushan Vyas to examine the circumstances in which Farooq's Home Minister, Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, was killed. His primary task was to identify any security lapses.

The Vyas Commission report, the quickest in my memory, was tabled in the very next Assembly session. It noted that as many as 84 police personnel, paratroopers, and soldiers were present at the venue of Lone's public meeting.

He had a three-tier security cover, with additional deployment in view of the rally. Two men in pherans, with guns concealed inside, rose from the crowd and sprayed bullets at Mushtaq Lone.

By the time the security personnel could respond amid the panic, the assassins had escaped.

Mushtaq Lone is among hundreds of "protected" political leaders and other notable figures who have fallen to assassins' bullets over the last four decades of sustained and deliberate terrorist violence.

Anyone with even a basic understanding of security would know that for every successful assassination, there are many more, often far more, that security personnel manage to prevent. We should be grateful for each of those averted attacks.

Assassins have the advantage of surprise, but security arrangements provide a measure of reassurance necessary to function in such challenging circumstances.

Responding to these questions in recent times, authorities have often said, "We are building an atmosphere free of violence, where everyone feels secure without the need for a personal guard."

One hopes that such a situation is achieved sooner rather than later.

The author is a reputed journalist, author, policy analyst, and peace-building practitioner. He is the founding editor-in-chief of The Dispatch, focused on Jammu & Kashmir.



Upon landing in Jammu, Azad was received with a formal salutation by his security OSD, a senior IPS officer from Uttar Pradesh. Taking long, quick strides, Azad walked past him. The officer turned swiftly and rushed after him, requesting him to pause. "There is bad news, sir," he said in a hushed tone. The Minister of State for Home, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, has been assassinated.

end of each day's rallies. He took out a piece of paper, which he always kept in the chest pocket of his Nehru jacket, and jotted down some notes.

Upon landing in Jammu, he was received with a formal salutation by his security OSD, a senior IPS officer from Uttar Pradesh. Taking long, quick strides, Azad walked past him. The officer turned swiftly and rushed after him, requesting him to pause.

"There is bad news, sir," he said in a hushed tone. The Minister of State for Home, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, has been assassinated.

As we got into different cars, I do not know what further conversation followed.

At the press conference at Asia Hotel, Azad said, "Farooq Abdullah's National Conference government must go. No one is secure under them."

He hinted that the attack was carried out by forces intent on preventing the Congress from coming to power.

Veteran journalist Arun Joshi quipped, "I am glad you survived. But the National

Letter to Editor

Kashmir's Seasons Are No Longer Predictable

The sky over Kashmir used to tell us everything. Farmers read the clouds like scripture.

A certain gray meant snow within hours. A particular blue promised a mild summer. We never needed meteorologists. The mountains spoke, and we listened.

Those conversations have stopped.

In February 2026, thermometers in Srinagar hit 21 degrees Celsius, one of the hottest February readings in a decade. By July 2025, temperatures touched 37.4 degrees, matching records set generations ago.

These numbers arrive like postcards from a disaster we keep refusing to open. The message is simple: the weather has turned hostile, and the hostility grows more personal every season.

The Himalayas store the third-largest ice reserve on Earth. These glaciers function as Kashmir's water bank, re-

leasing steady flows into the Jhelum and its tributaries throughout the year. That system depends on cold.

When temperatures rise, the math collapses. Glaciers melt faster than snow replenishes them. Rivers swell dangerously in spring, then dwindle to trickles by autumn. Farmers who once planned harvests around predictable water cycles now gamble with every planting season.

Apple growers feel this first. Kashmir produces nearly 80 percent of India's apples. The fruit demands cold winters: chill hours below seven degrees Celsius to set proper buds. Warmer winters deliver smaller crops, bitter fruit, ruined livelihoods. A single failed harvest pushes families into debt. Three consecutive failures destroy them.

The causes surround us. Forest cover in Kashmir has declined consistently. Urban expansion swallows wetlands. Dal Lake chokes on waste

and silt. Illegal sand mining tears riverbanks apart.

Each damage reinforces the others, creating feedback loops that accelerate warming.

Individual action provides partial answers. Ace Kashmiri eco-activist Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat has spent years documenting environmental degradation, building local coalitions for protection. Journalist Rifat Abdullah transformed a barren hillside in Rathsun into a thriving green space, proving that dedicated effort can reverse damage.

Their work demonstrates capability. It also highlights scale. Personal commitment matters, but systemic change matters more.

Kashmir government must enforce existing environmental laws with genuine plan. Illegal mining operations require shutdown, prosecution, and prevention. Urban planning needs revision to preserve green corridors and water

recharge zones. Tourism, the region's economic lifeline, demands regulation that protects rather than exploits natural resources.

International climate frameworks treat glacier loss as a distant coastal cities by 2100. But the crisis for Kashmir operates on an accelerated schedule. Water stress arrives this decade, agricultural collapse follows, and mass displacement becomes plausible.

We called this place paradise. The word implied permanence, a landscape too beautiful to destroy. Beauty offers no protection, only deliberate, collective action preserves what remains.

The glaciers are melting. The question is whether we respond while any ice remains to save.

Sincerely,

Kaisar Ahmad Malla
kaisarmalla94@gmail.com

The Hoarding Habit

From petrol to bakery goods, excess buying fuels artificial shortages in everyday life.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

A few decades ago, a friend of mine spent his winters in Calcutta, running a shawl business. In those days, kerosene was the primary fuel, so people stored it in bulk to get through the season.

He often recalls an incident that left a deep impression on him.

One of his regular customers, a Post Master General, stood in a queue for kerosene. There was nothing unusual about the line itself. Kerosene was distributed only twice a week in Calcutta, and long queues were part of everyday life.

Out of respect, my friend offered him thirty liters of kerosene at no extra cost so he would not have to stand in line. The Post Master General replied with a lesson that still resonates: "Why should I hoard kerosene and deny a poor person? It is better to stand in the queue than to hoard."

Today, the commodities have changed. Kerosene has given way to petrol, grains to gas cylinders, but the mindset in our valley remains the same.

Time has moved forward, but our habits have not. At the slightest whisper of a crisis or a rumour of shortage, we rush to stock far beyond our needs.

Petrol pumps run dry within hours. Shops are emptied before the day ends, especially around Eid and other important occasions, leaving many with nothing.

We hoard everything, from rice and edible oil to charcoal for kangris, as if winter will not pass unless others are first deprived of warmth.

Before Eid, we crowd bakeries days in advance, buying far more



than we need. Much of it is later wasted. In the process, a poor person may struggle to buy even a single cake or a kilogram of bakery goods because others have already taken far more than their share.

The same pattern repeats with mutton. Fear of shortage drives people to overstore, while others are left with little or nothing.

A few weeks ago, when tensions between Iran, the USA, and Israel escalated, people in the valley rushed to petrol pumps and drained them dry. Fuel was stored in panic, and fear created an artificial shortage.

Those who needed petrol for their daily livelihood were left helpless, while others held more than they could safely use.



A FEW WEEKS AGO, WHEN TENSIONS BETWEEN IRAN, THE USA, AND ISRAEL ESCALATED, PEOPLE IN THE VALLEY RUSHED TO PETROL PUMPS AND DRAINED THEM DRY. Fuel was stored in panic, and fear created an artificial shortage. Those who needed petrol for their daily livelihood were left helpless, while others held more than they could safely use. The deeper issue is not a lack of supply. It is a lack of trust.

The deeper issue is not a lack of supply. It is a lack of trust.

We do not believe that tomorrow will provide, so we try to secure everything today. When one household stores excessively, another is forced to go without.

Hoarding does not solve a problem. It rather shifts the burden from the strong to the weak.

Its effects on society are serious, as it creates artificial scarcity, pushes prices upward, and encourages black marketing.

It also increases anxiety and turns simple buying into a race. It weakens social trust, as people begin to think only of securing their own share.

Markets suffer because goods are unevenly distributed.

When people buy only what they need, markets remain stable and goods circulate fairly. When fear drives bulk buying, shops empty quickly and many are left without essentials.

Islam forbids hoarding, but we often find ways to justify it.

Every morning, people gather outside kandur shops as if missing a single roti would bring hardship. Tempers rise, arguments follow, and patience disappears over something so basic.

We need to reflect.

Buy what you need, rather than what fear demands. Leave space for others in the market. Let the poor return home with honour. Avoid waste, because wasted food is a financial as well as a moral loss.

Trust that provision grows through fairness rather than through excess. Teach children restraint instead of indulgence. Practice patience in queues, because discipline itself is an act of generosity.

If we are honest, none of us would want our children to be deprived of food, fuel, or warmth because someone else chose to take more than necessary.

If that is true, then our actions must change.

The solution is simple but meaningful. Buy what you need, and trust in a system that works when people act responsibly. Let goods circulate, markets function, and others live with assurance.

Let us celebrate our festivals without overwhelming bakeries and mutton shops. Let us buy with awareness so others can also access what they need. A society that resists hoarding chooses justice over fear, compassion over greed, and faith over insecurity.

Change begins within us rather than in the market. A society is not judged by how much it consumes, but by how fairly it shares.

The question is simple: will we change, or will we continue to live only to consume?

— The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection in Kashmir.

Bodies in Distress

Young women across Kashmir are struggling with hormonal chaos, often in silence and without the support they need.



MANY GIRLS FEEL TOO EMBARRASSED TO TALK ABOUT IRREGULAR PERIODS OR FACIAL HAIR. Mothers often dismiss it. Teachers don't talk about it in schools. "We need more awareness," says Dr. Iffat. "Girls must know what's happening in their bodies."



Amaar Mir

You hear it in whispers during bus rides, in clinic waiting rooms, in college corridors. Girls skipping periods for months. Women in their 20s growing facial hair. Teenagers breaking down over sudden weight gain and cystic acne.

A silent crisis is gripping women in Kashmir, and it has a name: PCOD.

"I hadn't seen my period in five months," says 19-year-old Iqra from Anantnag. "I was scared, but the doctor just wrote it off as stress."

When she finally got an ultrasound, the image showed what doctors call a "string of pearls": rows of tiny, undeveloped follicles lining her ovaries. It confirmed what she had feared: Polycystic Ovarian Disease, or PCOD.

And she's not alone. A recent estimate suggests that more than 37% of women and girls in Kashmir may be affected by PCOD. That's more than one in three. Many doctors say it's not an issue that medicine alone can fix.

"We're seeing it in girls as young as 13," says Dr. Iffat Wani, a gynecologist based in Srinagar. "And we can't just hand them pills and send them off.

The root problem is deeper—lifestyle, food, stress, and too much sitting."

PCOD isn't just about irregular periods. It can mean hair growing where it shouldn't, acne that refuses to heal, sudden weight gain, and infertility.

Most of this is linked to hormonal confusion inside the body, especially when insulin and male hormones (called androgens) take over.

"People think PCOD is about cysts. But it's really a hormonal imbalance," says Dr. Wani. "The ovaries don't release eggs regularly. That throws everything off."

Inside the body, things get complicated fast. Hormones that are supposed to work in harmony begin to clash. The brain tells the ovaries to prepare for ovulation, but the signal gets scrambled. Instead of one egg maturing, multiple follicles start to grow and then stall halfway. These immature follicles appear on an ultrasound as cysts, though they're not the dangerous kind, they still mess with the cycle.

What triggers this chaos? Doctors say one word: insulin.

Insulin is the hormone that manages sugar in the blood. But when the body stops responding to it properly—a condition called insulin resistance—the pancreas pumps out more.

This extra insulin pushes the ovaries to produce more androgens. That, in turn, causes acne, unwanted facial hair, and irregular cycles.

Even more worryingly, this isn't just happening in women who are overweight.

"We've seen PCOD in thin girls too," says Dr. Nusrat, a clinical nutritionist in Pulwama. "Weight isn't



always the cause. It's about how the body handles sugar."

Still, excess belly fat adds fuel to the fire. Fat releases chemicals that mess with insulin and increase inflammation, making things worse.

Combine that with hours of sitting, a diet filled with processed foods and sugary drinks, and little to no exercise, and you have a perfect recipe for hormonal meltdown.

Iqra blames her habits too. "During the pandemic, I stopped going out. I gained 12 kilos, and my sleep was all over the place. I used to eat instant noodles every day. That's when my periods stopped."

Doctors across Kashmir echo the same concern: too much junk food, sugary beverages, late-night screens, and not enough movement.

"Our girls are drinking soda, skipping meals, eating cheese-loaded snacks, and then not moving an inch," says Dr. Nusrat. "It's a ticking

time bomb."

There's also another problem: social silence.

Many girls feel too embarrassed to talk about irregular periods or facial hair. Mothers often dismiss it. Teachers don't talk about it in schools. "We need more awareness," says Dr. Iffat. "Girls must know what's happening in their bodies."

Medical treatment does exist. Pills containing Myo-Inositol or insulin-sensitizers like metformin are commonly prescribed. But most doctors now push for a different kind of medicine: lifestyle change.

"Even losing 5% of body weight can make periods return," says Dr. Nusrat. "That's two to four kilos for many girls. And you don't need a gym. Just walking briskly, avoiding processed sugar, eating home-cooked food, drinking enough water—it all helps."

Stress is another silent culprit. The body responds to mental tension by

releasing cortisol, another hormone that can trigger insulin resistance.

Add erratic sleep patterns, social media doomscrolling, exam pressure, and it's a storm.

Sleep matters too. "Girls are staying up till 2am, eating chips at midnight," says Dr. Iffat. "The body's natural rhythm is disrupted. Hormones go out of sync."

So what works? Not pills. Not surgery. Just a return to the basics: more movement, eat real food, sleep on time, and unplug.

Some girls are turning their lives around. Iqra started walking every morning. She stopped drinking fizzy drinks, switched to homemade meals, and began journaling to manage stress.

"My periods came back after three months," she says, smiling. "I didn't even take medicines."

The problem is real. The numbers are scary. But the solution isn't out of reach.

The real challenge is not just medical, it's cultural. Can families talk openly about menstruation? Can schools educate girls early? Can society stop treating hormonal health as a private shame?

As PCOD creeps silently into the lives of young Kashmiri women, it's not just their bodies that are hurting, it's their confidence, their fertility, and their future.

But it doesn't have to be this way. The healing can begin with small, consistent steps: on the plate, on the track, and in the mind.

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West Asia War: PM Calls For 'All-Out Efforts' To Protect Citizens

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a special meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review India's preparedness amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, calling for "all-out efforts" to protect citizens from its impact.

The meeting, the second such high-level review on the issue,

assessed steps taken by various ministries and departments and deliberated on further measures to cushion the fallout of the conflict on essential supplies and key sectors.

According to an official statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Modi emphasised that safeguarding citizens must remain the top priority and directed all concerned departments to take every

possible step to address emerging challenges.

The Cabinet Secretary briefed the CCS on measures to ensure uninterrupted supply of petroleum products, including LPG and LNG, and adequate power availability. The government is diversifying sourcing channels, with fresh inflows of LPG and LNG being secured from multiple countries to avoid disruptions. It was informed that domestic

LPG prices have remained stable, while strict enforcement is underway to curb hoarding, diversion, and black marketing. Authorities are also working to expand Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections.

To meet peak summer power demand, the government has exempted gas-based power plants with a capacity of 7-8 GW from the gas pooling mechanism and increased coal logistics

to thermal power stations.

The Prime Minister also reviewed the availability of fertilisers, particularly in view of the upcoming Kharif and Rabi seasons. Officials said efforts are underway to maintain urea production and coordinate international supplies of DAP and NPK fertilisers. States have been asked to intensify monitoring and take strict action against hoarding and diversion.

On essential commodities, the government said retail prices have remained stable over the past month. Control rooms have been set up for continuous monitoring and coordination with states under the Essential Commodities Act, while prices of vegetables, fruits, and other agricultural products are being closely tracked.

The meeting also discussed potential challenges in sectors

such as agriculture, civil aviation, shipping, and logistics. The government is pursuing international efforts to ensure safe maritime movement, particularly through critical routes like the Strait of Hormuz.

Highlighting the importance of public communication, Modi directed authorities to ensure a smooth flow of authentic information to prevent misinformation and rumour-mongering.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Assembly

at this stage, members will not get an opportunity to speak. Let the House discuss it. The government will decide later whether to support it or not," he said.

The Speaker subsequently put the motion to a voice vote, with National Conference members backing the introduction while the opposition remained silent.

As per Assembly rules, the Bill will now proceed to the consideration stage, where it will be debated, followed by a final vote on its passage. Opposition Flags 'Elite Bias', High-Value Stakes

The Opposition BJP strongly criticised the move, terming it a "breach of trust" and alleging that the government was using its mandate to benefit a privileged few.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the move "raises serious concerns" and could lead to re-leasing of vast tracts of government land "at throwaway prices", continuing a pattern that has persisted for decades.

"Your mandate now appears to be used not for the public good, but to protect elite interests — be it Nedous, the Chief Minister's personal property, or a circle of influential, cocktail-circuit associates," he said.

The issue gains further traction in light of recent action on leasehold properties. In August last year, authorities ordered the eviction of the iconic Nedous Hotel in Gulmarg over alleged unauthorised occupation of government land. Earlier in 2023, around 40 kanals of land were retrieved at MA Road in Srinagar from the hotel's owners. The lessees of both properties are related to the Abdullah family.

Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone also criticised the move, alleging that the Bill is designed to benefit the "super elite" of Kashmir.

"The bill pertains to extending leases on some of the costliest land in Kashmir, worth tens of thousands of crores. What does it offer to the poorest sections?" he asked.

Lone also questioned the lack of transparency, asking the government to disclose the total land leased out and the revenue generated from it. "I am not against the bill, but it is the super elite who stand to benefit," he said.

Daily Wagers Debate, Walkout in House
The long-pending issue of regularisation of daily wagers also came into sharp focus, triggering heated exchanges and a walkout.

Responding in the House, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated that the process of regularisation would begin within the current financial year (April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027) and be carried out in a phased manner.

"We are awaiting the committee's report. Once it is submitted, we will implement its recommendations," he said, referring to the panel constituted on March 19 last year.

He clarified that the government's opposition to a bill moved by CPI(M) legislator M Y Tarigami was procedural and not against the sentiment, noting that there was broad consensus as many workers have served for nearly three decades. Tarigami later withdrew his bill.

However, PDP legislator Waheed Ur Rehman Para moved a similar proposal, terming the issue a humanitarian concern and criticising delays. As he attempted to raise related issues, including land grants, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather intervened and directed him to confine his remarks to the bill.

As the exchange escalated, Para protested and staged a walkout from the House.

The Chief Minister accused the opposition of politicising the issue for publicity and attempting to mislead the House, alleging that disruptions were being created deliberately.

Bureaucrats' Absence Raises Concerns
In a rare show of unanimity, members across party lines raised concern over the absence of senior officers from the Assembly during proceedings.

NC legislator Nazir Ahmad Gurezi pointed to empty seats in the officers' gallery and said such absence undermines the dignity of the House.

"This House is supreme, and all officials must be accountable and present," he said, adding that he had not witnessed such a situation in over two decades as a legislator.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather acknowledged the concern and said the matter would be taken up with the Chief Minister. He stressed that officers must be present when questions related to their departments are taken up.

BJP legislator Sham Lal Sharma also backed the demand, suggesting that a formal notice be issued and that proceedings be deferred if the concerned officers are absent.

No Family Should

in border villages is "not just living on the border, but standing guard for India."

Calling border settlements the "first villages of India, not the last," Sinha described life in these regions as an act of "extraordinary courage" and a powerful symbol of patriotism. He said decades of neglect had given way to focused intervention in recent years, with the Centre prioritising development in remote and frontier regions.

"More than a decade ago, border villages were routinely neglected. That time is over. Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the distance from Delhi has shrunk in a real sense," he said.

Sinha directed officials to remove

administrative bottlenecks and ensure that Makwal and other border villages receive adequate resources. He also called for the appointment of dedicated nodal officers and submission of monthly progress reports under the Vibrant Villages Programme.

"Our effort will be to ensure that more resources reach border villages than even cities of the Union Territory," he said, adding that all 541 border villages in Jammu district should develop with equal focus and energy.

Outlining the government's vision, the Lieutenant Governor said every border village must be equipped with better road connectivity, fully functional schools and enhanced livelihood opportunities. "We want every child in Makwal to receive the same standard of education as in any major city, and every farmer to have access to quality inputs, irrigation and reliable markets," he said.

Highlighting youth and women-centric initiatives, Sinha stressed the need to promote entrepreneurship and strengthen self-help groups. "There is no shortage of talent in these villages. What is needed is the right direction," he said, adding that young people should be able to see a future in their villages instead of migrating to cities.

The Lieutenant Governor said that over the past five to six years, the government has expanded infrastructure and welfare coverage across border areas. He noted improvements in road connectivity, electricity access and telecom services, claiming that all 541 border villages are now connected.

"Earlier, a significant number of families were below the poverty line. Today, a large proportion has moved out of poverty. Migration has reduced, and incomes have increased due to opportunities in agriculture, dairy and allied sectors," he said.

He also highlighted initiatives in border tourism and local fairs as contributors to rising incomes and economic activity.

Responding to local demands, Sinha assured that concerns raised by residents would be addressed. On land ownership rights of displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he said directions issued in 2024 are under implementation and instructed officials to ensure timely execution.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated and announced several development projects funded through Own Sources of Revenue, including a Model Anganwadi Centre, a synthetic volleyball and badminton court, a community hall with library and computer lab facilities, a health sub-centre at Makwal and a veterinary dispensary at Sohajana.

He also handed over a handheld X-ray machine to the health department and felicitated a tuberculosis warrior, progressive farmers and a land donor associated with the Anganwadi project. Appointment orders and sanction letters under Mission Yuva and other schemes were distributed among local beneficiaries.

The event was attended by MLA Marh Surinder Kumar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, senior administrative officials, and representatives of the Army, police and civil administration, along with a large number of local residents.

'Zero Tolerance

Governor said tackling drug abuse must remain the administration's top priority.

"Action against drug abuse must be our top priority. We need a collective mechanism to safeguard our youth and ensure a healthy future for Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised a comprehensive approach combining strict law enforcement with preventive and rehabilitative measures. He called for intensified efforts to dismantle drug trafficking networks, alongside sustained public awareness campaigns to deter potential users.

He also stressed the need to strengthen treatment, counselling and rehabilitation systems to support those affected by substance abuse, with the broader goal of making Jammu and Kashmir a drug-free Union Territory.

Directing officials to step up enforcement, Sinha called for stronger grassroots intelligence and coordinated action against drug smugglers. He underlined the importance of synergy between civil administration and police to ensure effective implementation on the ground.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for a dedicated three-month campaign under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan. The Lieutenant Governor urged senior officials to lead the campaign from the front and ensure participation of all sections of society, turning it into a mass movement against drug abuse.

"Every stakeholder must contribute to this effort so that the campaign becomes a people's movement," he said.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bhatti; Special DG (Coordination) S.J.M Gillani; ADGP Headquarters M.K. Sinha; ADGP CID Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Mandeep K. Bhandari; Divisional Commissioners, IGPs, DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officials.

The renewed push signals an intensified administrative focus on tackling drug abuse through enforcement, awareness and rehabilitation, amid growing concerns over its impact on youth in the Union Territory.

Pushes IFPRI Tie-Up

outcomes in the region. He emphasised the need for data-backed governance in agriculture to address structural challenges and unlock growth potential.

A key proposal discussed during the meeting was the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Food Policy and Data Analytics at SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with IFPRI. The Centre is envisioned as a knowledge hub to support continuous monitoring, policy evaluation and data-driven decision-making, while also contributing to national and global discourse on agricultural transformation, particularly in mountain and high-value production systems.

Experts from IFPRI, including Shahidur Rashid and Anjani Kumar, shared insights on institutional and technical support mechanisms required to strengthen agriculture and allied sectors. During the session, Kumar delivered a detailed presentation on "Institutional and Technical Supports for Revitalizing Agriculture and Rural Economies in Jammu & Kashmir," outlining pathways for improving productivity, resilience and market linkages.

The deliberations highlighted the need for convergence across major government initiatives such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jammu and Kashmir Climate Investment Programme (JKIP) and Mission YUVA. The focus, officials said, remains on enhancing farmer incomes, generating employment opportunities, strengthening value chains and ensuring inclusive growth.

Particular emphasis was laid on supporting smallholder farmers, women and youth through targeted interventions, improved access to technology and better institutional coordination.

Among those present at the meeting were Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Ashish Chandra Verma; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shailendra Kumar; Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Mandeep K. Bhandari; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B. N. Tripathi; along with senior officials, faculty members and domain experts.

The proposed collaboration is expected to provide a structured framework for integrating global research insights with local agricultural practices, enabling more responsive and impactful policy-making in Jammu and Kashmir's evolving agrarian landscape.

India's First Digital

—Nicobar Islands, Goa, Karnataka, Sikkim, Odisha, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, and parts of Delhi such as NDMC and Delhi Cantonment.—

Citizens can log in to the portal using their mobile numbers, fill in household details, and generate a unique self-enumeration ID, which will later be verified by enumerators during physical visits.

The door-to-door houselisting exercise is scheduled to begin on April 16, during which enumerators will collect data on housing conditions and basic amenities through a set of structured questions.

Officials said the Census 2027 will be conducted entirely through digital means for the first time, with enumerators using a dedicated mobile application. The exercise will be carried out in two phases, with the second phase focusing on population enumeration.

The Union Cabinet has approved Rs 11,718 crore for the exercise, which will also include caste enumeration for the first time.

Originally scheduled for 2021, the census was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

J&K Issues 807

demolition, and imposition of penalties. According to official figures, 578 illegal constructions have been detected in tourist areas. In Gulmarg, 21 illegal structures were identified, of which 20 were sealed and one demolished. In Pahalgam, 28 illegal constructions were reported, with 13 sealed and action underway in the remaining cases.

In Patnitop, 15 illegal structures were demolished, while several others were halted at the initial stage. In Verinag, four unauthorised constructions were penalised, and in Doodhpathri, 147 illegal constructions were identified, with notices issued and FIRs registered.

In Sonamarg, five illegal constructions were detected, while 358 notices were served in Baderwah.

The Chief Minister said that GIS-based inventories of authorised constructions are being maintained in major tourist destinations, including Sonamarg, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam, where approved Master Plans are in place.

In other areas, geo-coordinates of proposed assets are being collected prior to granting permissions to ensure monitoring and regulatory oversight, he said.

Regarding audits, Omar informed the House that a special audit of illegal constructions in Pahalgam was conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in 2025, and its report is awaited.

He added that audit and vigilance inquiries have also been carried out in Sonamarg, though findings are yet to be formally shared with the department.

Encounter in Ganderbal

Police in general area Arabama of Ganderbal,

Srinagar-based Chinar Corps said in a post on X. "During the search, vigilant troops observed suspicious activity. On being challenged, terrorists opened fire and own troops retaliated," the Army said.

The cordon was tactically reorganised amidst intermittent firing, the Army wrote, saying the troops effectively retaliated with calibrated response, resulting in elimination of one terrorist.

Officials said the anti-terror operation is in progress.

Erratic Weather

snow are expected between April 7 and 9. The intervening period of April 5 and 6 is likely to remain partly cloudy, with chances of isolated light rain.

The weather department has issued an advisory warning of gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph, along with risks of landslides, shooting stones and waterlogging at vulnerable locations.

Farmers have been advised to suspend agricultural operations on April 3 and 4 in view of the expected adverse weather conditions.

Traffic authorities have also issued advisories for key routes across the Union Territory, urging commuters to exercise caution.

On the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), slow movement was reported due to single-lane stretches. Commuters have been advised to travel during the day and avoid overtaking, with traffic expected to ply from both sides subject to weather conditions.

On the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road, only one-way traffic will be allowed from Srinagar towards Kargil for light motor vehicles. Heavy vehicles will be permitted up to a specified cut-off time, depending on weather and road clearance.

The Mughal Road will remain open only for light motor vehicles and passenger cars from both sides, while heavy vehicles have been barred due to ongoing maintenance work.

Meanwhile, vehicular movement on the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road (NH-244) remains temporarily suspended as per official orders.

Authorities said security force vehicles will be regulated separately on NH-44, and commuters have been advised to check the latest road status before undertaking travel.

Despite WDs, March

88.5 mm rainfall, registering a deficit of 23 per cent compared to the normal of 115.0 mm. The winter capital Jammu witnessed a sharper shortfall of 43 per cent, receiving 52.4 mm against the normal of 92.3 mm.

Several districts across both Kashmir and Jammu divisions recorded significant rainfall deficits.

In south Kashmir, Shopian recorded the highest shortfall at 74 per cent, followed by Kulgam at 61 per cent. Anantnag registered a 47 per cent deficit, Budgam 44 per cent, Bandipora 35 per cent, Pulwama 25 per cent and Kupwara 20 per cent below normal levels.

In Jammu division, Kathua recorded a 62 per cent deficit, Udhampur 51 per cent, Doda 52 per cent, Ramban 38 per cent, Kishtwar 37 per cent and Reasi 36 per cent, indicating a broader pattern of suppressed precipitation across the region.

Despite the overall deficit, a few districts bucked the trend.

Poonch emerged as the wettest district, recording 207.3 mm rainfall, which is 26 per cent above normal. Samba also reported excess rainfall of 39 per cent.

Baramulla (13 per cent deficit) and Rajouri (7 per cent deficit) remained close to normal, while Ganderbal recorded a marginal excess of 10 per cent.

Why Western Disturbances Fell Short
Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said the frequency of Western Disturbances does not always translate into effective precipitation.

He noted that several systems during the month were either fast-moving, moisture-deficient or lacked proper alignment with local atmospheric conditions, limiting their rainfall potential.

Experts warned that the rainfall deficit could have implications for soil moisture, agriculture and water availability, particularly in districts that recorded large shortfalls.

"As the region transitions into April, the March deficit may impact moisture levels and crop cycles," Arif said.

Seventh Consecutive Deficit Winter
The March shortfall follows an already deficit winter, marking the seventh consecutive year of below-normal precipitation in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the core winter period from December to February, the region recorded a massive 65 per cent deficit, receiving just 100.6 mm rainfall against the normal of 284.9 mm.

December saw a 78 per cent deficit, with only 13.0 mm rainfall against the normal of 59.4 mm. January recorded 73.4 mm against 95.1 mm (23 per cent deficit), while February witnessed a steep 89 per cent deficit, with just 14.2 mm rainfall compared to the normal of 130.4 mm.

Since 2019, winters in the region have consistently recorded rainfall deficits, reflecting a sustained pattern of declining precipitation.

Data shows that while recent years have

seen repeated deficits, earlier winters had recorded surplus rainfall. The winter of 2016-17 saw a 29 per cent excess, 2018-19 recorded a 36 per cent surplus, and 2012-13 saw a 14 per cent excess.

However, the persistent deficits in recent years point to increasing variability in precipitation patterns, raising concerns for water resources and climate stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Tops CCTNS

expected to enhance coordination across different pillars of the criminal justice system.

By leveraging advanced technology and data-driven processes, J&K Police continues to strengthen transparency, accountability, and public trust, reaffirming its commitment to efficient, responsive, and citizen-centric policing across the Union Territory, said an official.

Kulgam Couple

investigation established that the accused were also involved in uploading and circulating content intended to create disharmony and criminal ill-will among different religious groups, with the deliberate intent to provoke and radicalise youth, incite violence, and disturb public order, they added.

"Such activities posed a serious threat to peace, tranquility and the sovereignty and integrity of the nation," the officials said.

They said that upon culmination of the investigation, sufficient evidence has been collected substantiating the involvement of both accused persons in the commission of offences punishable under the relevant provisions of the BNS and the UAPA.

Accordingly, the chargesheet has been filed before the competent court for judicial determination, they said.

KPs' Return Hinges

Pandits is an undisputed reality and a deeply sensitive issue that requires careful handling.

"No one can deny that Kashmiri Pandits were compelled to leave the Valley under extremely difficult circumstances. Unless that sense of safety is fully restored, their return cannot be expected," he said.

Return Linked to Restoration of Confidence
Omar said successive governments, both at the Centre and in Jammu and Kashmir, have reiterated their commitment to facilitating the return of the displaced community since 1990, but conditions on the ground have not yet reached a level where they feel secure.

He stressed that rebuilding confidence within the community is essential before any meaningful return can take place.

"Without restoring that confidence, expecting their return would not be realistic," he told the House.

'Protection of Properties, Shrines a Priority'
The Chief Minister said that until such time, it is the government's responsibility to safeguard the properties of Kashmiri Pandits, particularly their religious places and land.

"All steps will be taken to keep these religious institutions and properties intact," he said, adding that protection of religious sites linked to the community remains a priority.

Referring to past measures, he noted that after the 1996 elections, a law was brought in to prevent distress sale or transfer of properties belonging to Kashmiri Pandits to ensure their protection.

Bill Opposed, Govt Open to Law with Consensus

Omar made the remarks while opposing a private member's bill moved by National Conference legislator Arjun Singh Raju, which sought better management, protection and governance of Kashmiri Hindu shrines in the Union Territory.

He said the government is willing to bring legislation on the issue, but only if there is broad consensus within the community.

"If the community unites on a common platform, the government is ready to bring a law. Taking steps without consensus may lead to further divisions," he said.

The Chief Minister recalled that a similar proposal he had introduced earlier had faced resistance from sections of the community, who argued it could be detrimental to their interests.

Following the discussion, Raju withdrew his bill.

Narratives and Ground Reality
The Chief Minister also touched upon competing narratives surrounding the displacement, saying while the plight of Kashmiri Pandits is often highlighted, stories of communal harmony receive less attention.

"In many areas, local Kashmiri Muslims have safeguarded and preserved temples in the absence of Pandits," he said.

He added that while such narratives may not attract the same attention as more polarising accounts, they reflect an important dimension of the ground reality.

Commitment to Dignified Return
Reiterating the government's stand, Abdullah said all possible measures will be taken to ensure the welfare, protection and eventual dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits.

The focus, he said, remains on creating conditions that guarantee safety, preserve community assets and avoid further divisions while addressing one of the most enduring challenges in Jammu and Kashmir.

Resolution Seeking NHPC Projects Transfer to J&K Govt Comes Up Today

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A crucial resolution seeking the transfer of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)-owned projects in Jammu & Kashmir to the Union Territory Government is set to be taken up in the J&K Assembly on Thursday.

The resolution, submitted by NC MLA Sajad Shaheen, as per KNO has been listed in the business of the House for April 2-one of the two days fixed for Private Member Resolutions. It is among seven resolutions selected through balloting.

The text of the resolution



reads: "This House resolves to recommend that the Government of India may be urged to

consider, in consultation with the Union Territory Government and other stakeholders, a phased and

mutually agreed transfer of operational control and/or ownership rights of the hydroelectric power projects presently operated by NHPC within the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to the UT Government, in accordance with constitutional provisions and existing inter-governmental arrangements." The mild-worded resolution is expected to be the center of attention during proceedings tomorrow.

In the past, J&K's regional parties made the return of power projects a top priority in their election manifestos but failed to achieve substantial progress. In their Agenda of Alliance, the

PDP-BJP coalition promised that the "State Government will work with the Union Government to explore modalities for transfer of Dulhasti and Uri hydro power projects to J&K as suggested by the Rangarajan Committee Report and the Round Table reports."

The issue also featured prominently in the manifesto of the National Conference for the 2024 Assembly polls, which stated: "Impress upon the Union of India to implement the recommendations of the C. Rangarajan Committee report in letter and spirit. All other hydro power projects be transferred to Jammu and Kashmir as per agreement."

GMC Handwara Relocation on Cards as Flood-Prone Site Declared Unsafe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The long-awaited Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara project is set for relocation after the originally identified construction site at Maidan Chogal/Chogal was found unsuitable due to recurring flood threats, the Health and Medical Education Department informed the Assembly.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Khurshid

Ahmad Sheikh, the Minister for Health and Medical Education as per KNO said that the initial site earmarked for the college campus and hostels was submerged during floods, raising serious concerns over its viability for a major infrastructure project.

"Given the vulnerability of the site to flooding, the government has initiated the process for relocation of GMC Handwara. A proposal in this regard is being taken up with the General

Administration Department to seek in-principle approval from the Council of Ministers," the Minister stated.

A high-level committee constituted by the General Administration Department under Government Order No. 2090-JK(GAD) of 2024, and headed by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, carried out a detailed inspection of the original and alternative sites.

The committee assessed multiple locations, includ-

ing: Chogal Maidan: Approximately 183 kanals and 17 marlas under the Horticulture Department, currently housing a high-density orchard and related assets, Kulangam: Spread over 208 kanals and 14 marlas, partly transferred to Kri-shi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) for a Walnut Research Centre, with a portion under District Police Lines Handwara and Maidan Chogal (linear patch): Over 100 kanals of kahcharai land.

No Need to Ban Imported Frozen Food: Govt

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said there is no need to impose a ban on the import of frozen and chilled food items, asserting that enforcement of existing laws will be strengthened to ensure food safety and curb violations.

Health minister Sakina Itoo, as per KNO said the government is focused on strict implementation of food safety regulations rather than imposing a blanket ban.

She informed the House that 3,700 inspections have been conducted, with 1,346

samples collected for testing. Of these, 1,292 reports have been processed, while 601 cases have been registered under relevant provisions of the law.

The minister said authorities have seized 22,026 units of food items and imposed fines amounting to Rs 30.8 lakh.

She said the government is working to curb illegal practices and ensure that people get safe and hygienic food, adding that strict action will be taken against violators.

The Minister also said the task force wing will be strengthened to ensure better enforcement and compliance on the ground.

Rafeeq Masoodi's Latest Literary Work "AVUCH" Hits Stands

Observer News Service

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, has published (Avuch) the highly anticipated Kashmiri translation of the iconic Hindi novel 'KYP' by the late legendary writer Manohar Shyam Joshi. Translated by the esteemed multilingual writer Rafeeq Masoodi, this work marks a significant milestone in enriching Kashmiri literature and culture. Manohar Shyam Joshi, a trail-blazer in Indian television drama, is best known for his trendsetting scripts like BUNIYAD and KHAN-DAN, inspiring readers, writers, and audiences alike. His literary legacy guides generations of writers, and KY P, a modern Hindi classic, showcases his storytell-



ing mastery. Rafeeq Masoodi's masterful translation brings KYP to Kashmiri-speaking audiences, capturing Joshi's essence and nuance. Readers and literary circles welcome this addition to Kashmiri prose, recognizing its potential to resonate with a new generation. Avuch enriches Kashmir's cultural and literary landscape, celebrating the region's heritage and storytelling's power to bridge languages and communities.

807 Building Permissions Issued in Last 3 Years

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The government on Wednesday said over 800 building permissions have been granted by Tourism Development Authorities across Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years, even as illegal constructions continue to surface at several key tourist destinations.

In response to MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para's query, Tourism Minister, as per KNO said a total of 807 permissions were issued between 2023 and 2026. The number stood at 245 in 2023-24, dropped to 147 in 2024-25 and rose sharply

to 415 in 2025-26.

Residential houses accounted for the majority of approvals at 544, followed by 121 commercial buildings. Permissions were also granted for 26 hotels, 14 huts and two guest houses.

The government also flagged a significant number of illegal and unauthorised constructions across tourist hubs, with enforcement action underway.

In Gulmarg, 21 illegal structures were identified, including 20 sealed and one demolished. Pahalgam reported 28 such constructions, with thirteen sealed and action ongoing in remaining cases.

Police Counsel Bunking Students, Urge Parents to Monitor Children

SRINAGAR: Police have launched a crackdown on public parks and open spaces across the Valley during school hours, targeting students found bunking classes and loitering in civilian clothes, officials said.

The action follows growing concern over increasing instances of students skipping school and spending time in parks and along public spaces during class hours. Officials said several students were found roaming in groups, particularly in groups, engaging in gossip and leisure activities instead of attending school. During checking, police found that many students had removed their school uniforms and kept them inside their bags to avoid identification, officials said.

"During frisking, uniforms were recovered from bags, indicating that students had changed into civilian clothes after bunking classes," an official said. In some cases, police also found young students smoking in parks, raising concerns about behavioural issues among minors, officials added.

The students were counselled on the spot and advised not to waste their time, with officials stressing the importance of education and discipline. Police also urged parents to maintain strict vigil over their children and ensure accountability regarding school attendance. The crackdown comes amid reports from locals that several students frequently gather in parks and along the bund area of the river Jhelum during school hours.

Concerned citizens said groups of students can be seen resting and relaxing in these areas, prompting concerns about their safety and academic future. Locals have requested authorities to intensify monitoring and restrict entry of students into parks during school hours to discourage truancy. (Observer News Service)

PDJ Kupwara Sentences Man to 5-Year Jail in POC SO Case

KUPWARA: A court in North Kashmir's Kupwara district has sentenced a man to five years rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a minor.

The verdict was delivered by the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kupwara, in a case registered at Vilgam police station in 2020.

As per KNO, the accused, identified as Jameel Ahmad Mughal, of Nawbugh Champora in Vilgam, was convicted under Section 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on the convict. In case of non-payment, he will have to undergo an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, the offence involved a child aged around three years. The court, while pronouncing the sentence, took note of the gravity of the crime and observed that the accused had violated a position of trust as he was working at the victim's residence at the time. (Observer News Service)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL GANDEBAL
Tel. 0194-2416090 Fax: 0194-2416090 | E-mail: ceo-mc-ganderbal@jk.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Notification of Helpline Number 14420 for Sanitation and Waste Management Services

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Helpline Number 14420 has been designated for addressing sanitation-related grievances and service requests under urban sanitation initiatives.

Helpline Details:

- Helpline Number: 14420
- Availability: 24x7

Purpose of the Helpline:

Citizens can use Helpline No. 14420 for:

1. Requests for septic tank desludging services.
2. Sewerage and drainage-related issues.

Citizen can also contact on below numbers for Issues related to Sewer and Septic tank Cleaning.

S.No	Name of Employee	Contact No.
1	Bilal Ahmad Wagay	7006262349

NO: MC/Gbl/2026/1144-46
DT: 28-03-2026

DIPK-NB-14-26
DT: 01/04/2026

Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council Ganderbal

Web: www.ulb.gov.in
email: ceo-mcpulwama@jk.gov.in

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PULWAMA

ADDENDUM

In continuation to the terms and conditions already stipulated in Tender ID No. 2026_HAUDD_3006929_1 dated 30-03-2025, issued for the auction of Car Parking Fee Collection within the area demarcated with cemented blocks at Old Bus Adda Pulwama for the financial year 2026-27 (w.e.f. 15-04-2026 to 31-03-2027), the following additional terms and conditions shall also form an integral part of the tender document and shall be binding upon the successful bidder:

1. The successful bidder shall make his own arrangements for accommodation and shelter of the manpower engaged for the operation and management of the parking facility. All expenses in this regard, including boarding, lodging, and allied requirements, shall be borne entirely by the bidder, and the Municipal Council shall have no liability whatsoever on this account.
2. The toll post(s)/booth(s) already established by the Municipal Council at the designated site shall be utilized strictly for the purpose of collection of parking charges. The bidder shall not alter, modify, or use the said structures for any purpose other than the intended function without prior written permission of the competent authority.
3. The toll post(s) shall remain the property of the Municipal Council, and the successful bidder shall be responsible for their proper upkeep, cleanliness, and routine maintenance during the contract period. Upon completion or termination of the contract, the bidder shall hand over the said toll post(s) to the Municipal Council in good, intact, and serviceable condition, free from any damage, encroachment, or unauthorized modification. In case of any damage, the cost of restoration shall be recoverable from the bidder.
4. It is hereby stipulated that a designated collection point has already been established within the notified parking area as temporary collection point. The successful bidder shall strictly leave the said collection point open for the designated purpose of the waste collection, and shall not, under any circumstances, claim for its relocation, removal, or establishment of any alternate collection point. Any such request shall not be entertained by the Municipal Council.

These conditions are issued in the interest of proper management, transparency, and safeguarding of Municipal assets, and shall be complied with in letter and spirit.

No: MC/Pul/2026/1169-73
Dt: 31-03-2026

DIPK-NB-7-26
DT: 01/04/2026

Chief Executive Officer,
Municipal Council,
Pulwama.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION SRINAGAR

NOTICE FOR e-AUCTION OF IDENTIFIED STANDING/FALLEN TREES

e-Auction Notice No: 01 of 2026 Dated: 01-04-2026

Name of Work: - Sale of Timber/Firewood from Standing/Fallen Trees of various species at different locations through e-Auction on "AS IT IS WHERE IT IS" basis.

SECTION - I

It is hereby notified for information of Timber/Firewood Dealers and civil contractors duly registered with JK Government/Central Government/Forest Department/FDC and registered on e-Auction India that Social Forestry Division Srinagar intends to carry out e-Auction (forward auction) of "felling/ removal and sale of marked Poplars Standing/Fallen trees on "as it is, where it is baste" as per SF Order No: 79 of 2025 dated: 03-10-2025 issued vide endorsement No: DIR/DSF/Estt/529-30 dated: 03-10-2025 at below mentioned Plantation as per details given below:-

Name of Plantation unit/V.W. Lot with location	Period of inspection of Location trees	Species	No of trees	Volume in (cfts)	Fire wood in Quintals	Security deposit
Village Wood Lot Sindhbal, Galdarpora, Sehpora Ganderbal LOT NO-Q1	02-04-2026 to 04-04-2026	Poplar	472	21836.55	0	94000
Village Wood Lot Sindhbal, Galdarpora, Sehpora Ganderbal LOT NO-02 (Firewood)		Firewood	15	0	127.73	1000
Total			487	21836.55	127.73	95000

Detailed auction document with terms and conditions are available on or can be see / downloaded from the website eauction.aov.in. Bid documents containing qualifying criteria for bidders, schedule of advertised quantities, conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: - eauction.gov.in in as per schedule hereunder.

Time Schedule and Key details of the e-Auction (Table:1)

#	Activity	Date & Time/ particulars
1	e-Auction Publishing Date	01-04-2026
2	CDR/FDR Instrument deposit and other related documents before Approval Date.	07-04-2026 by or before 18.00 hrs
3	Approval Start Date	08-04-2026 from 11.00 hrs
4	Approval End Date	09-04-2026 from 18.00 hrs
5	Auction Start Date	11-04-2026 at 11.00 hrs
6	Auction End Date	11-04-2026 at 13.00 hrs
7	Declaration of Result	11-04-2026
8	Deposit of 25 % Down Payment/Security Deposit by HI Bidder	By or before 17-04-2026
9	Type of c-Auction	Forward Auction
10	Lot Types	Plantations as per location
11	c-Auction Place	eauction.gov.in
12	e-Auction Fee	Rs:200/-
13	Security Deposit	Rs.95000/-
14	Payment Instrument (security deposit)	CDR/FDR/Online Payment Mode (NEFT/RTGS)
15	Security Deposit Exemption Allowed to:	Policy matter

Section-II

General Terms and Conditions:

1. Forward-Auction documents consisting of qualification information and eligibility criteria for bidders, specifications and the set of terms and conditions for online participation in auction to be complied by the bidder is publicly visible in the website eauction.gov.in and the intending bidder(s) can download the documents free of cost from the website.
2. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No proposal will be accepted in physical form.
3. The trees are auctioned on "AS IT IS, WHERE IT IS BASIS". The trees which have been earmarked for auction shall be removed in full from the site. No selection or sorting of the trees/ material shall be allowed. The quantified volume/ weight of proposed trees/ stated is approximate based on local volume table/ yield table. Goods are sold on the assumption that the bidders have inspected the unit/ lot prior to the bidding and know what they are bidding for. No complaint shall be entertained after the highest bid is accepted.
4. Security deposit:
 - a. Security deposit: The intending bidder(s) is/are required to deposit a sum of Rs. 95000/- (Rupees Ninety Five Thousand) to become eligible for bidding online.
 - b. Mode of Security deposit: The security deposit may either be deposited in the shape of FDR/CDR pledged to Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srinagar or paid by the bidder(s) through online payment mode into the following Account:

Account Title	Bank, Branch and IFSC Code	Account Number
Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srinagar	J&K Bank Branch Residency Road Srinagar. IFSC Code: JAKA0CHINAR	0005010100005780

The Bank instrument, as the case may be (FDR/CDR/Bank Challan), must be deposited with the, Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srinagar by or before the document submission end date. In case the Security Deposit is transferred online, particulars of online transaction (UTR number, Date, Bank and Branch, Amount) must be emailed at df.o.sgrs@jk.gov.in (DFO concerned email) with copy to Regional Director, Kashmir on email rd.sfk@jk.gov.in Security Deposit shall be refunded back to all unsuccessful bidders except H-1 (Highest bidder), whose Security Deposit shall be refunded once he/she deposits 25% down payment/ security deposit (see clause 17(a) below) of the purchased tree lot. However, in case the bidder desires, he/she can keep the Security Deposit permanently with concerned Divisional Forest Officer concerned for participation in future auctions.

- c. If any bidder violates or breaches any of the terms and conditions of the e-Auction Notice, the Security Deposit of such bidder shall be forfeited in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Srinagar.

No: 1379-85/SF/Sgr-215-A
Dated: 31-03-2026

DIPK-2-26
DT: 01/04/2026

Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division Srinagar

Day 33 of the WAR

Who Has the Upper Hand and Why the Conflict Continues?

R Hejazi (WANA)

On the thirty-third day of the war, what stands out is not merely its continuation but its transformation. What was expected to be a short, decisive, high-impact conflict has now evolved into a prolonged, multi-layered confrontation with no clear path to a quick resolution.

Field indicators point to intensified attacks, an expansion of targets to critical infrastructure, and, at the same time, fluctuations in political decision-making in Washington—a combination that typically signals entry into a more complex phase of war.

Roots of the War: From Preemptive Strike to Regional Response

This war did not unfold gradually; it began with a sudden strike. Large-scale attacks by the United States and Israel targeted Iran, with ambitious objectives defined from the outset: weakening military and nuclear capabilities and even pushing toward regime collapse and political restructuring.

In response, Iran's actions in the very first hours made it clear that the "quick strike, short war" scenario would face serious challenges. Tehran had repeatedly stated it would not limit its response in the event of an attack—and that doctrine was put into practice: simultaneous strikes on U.S. bases across the region, expansion of the conflict beyond national borders, and the use of geopolitical tools transformed what might have been a limited confrontation into a regional crisis.

This rapid response effectively stripped the attackers of their initial initiative and prevented the opening shock from turning into a swift collapse.

From Short-Term Estimates to Strategic Deadlock

One of the clearest signs of the current situation is the gap be-



TEHRAN- IRANIAN WOMEN WALK ON A STREET, amid the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran (WANA)

tween initial expectations and present reality. A war that was expected to conclude within days—or at most a week—has now entered its second month.

In this context, the shifting positions of the U.S. president, Donald Trump, have become a key indicator of strategic uncertainty. Over the past month, he has:

- Spoken of the war ending soon
 - Then emphasized continuing operations until "full objectives" are achieved
 - At times hinted at negotiations or even agreements
 - While simultaneously threatening escalation and setting new deadlines
- These repeated shifts point to

the absence of a clear exit strategy—a situation that typically arises when initial goals remain unmet, yet the costs of continuing the war keep rising.

A Shift in the Battlefield: From Military Targets to Infrastructure

In recent days, the pattern of attacks has noticeably changed. After an initial focus on military capabilities, economic and industrial infrastructure has become the primary target—from energy networks to production centres.

This shift carries a clear message: When destroying military capacity does not yield quick results, pressure shifts to economic and social resilience.

In response, counterattacks have followed a similar logic—targeting infrastructure across a broader geography, indicating that the war has moved beyond the battlefield into a phase of regional cost escalation.

Who Has the Upper Hand?

The answer is more complex than a simple "winner and loser." Neither side has achieved decisive superiority, yet the balance is not entirely even.

From a conventional military perspective, the United States and Israel still hold a clear advantage in destructive power, particularly in airstrikes. The scale and precision of attacks—

especially against critical infrastructure—demonstrate this continued edge, enabling rapid and heavy damage. But that is only part of the picture.

On the other side, Iran's response follows a different pattern—operations distributed across multiple countries and dispersed points in the region. While this geographic spread may reduce the intensity of destruction at any single location, strategically it expands the scope of insecurity and raises costs for the opposing side.

Another key factor is geography. The United States is far removed from the primary theatre of war, meaning that much of the damage is concentrated not

IRAN HAS MANAGED TO THWART THE OPPONENT'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE: A RAPID END TO THE WAR. By maintaining its capacity to respond, expanding the scope of conflict, and shifting costs to the regional—and even global—level, it has effectively neutralised the initial advantage.

of a complete picture. Meanwhile, the intensity and continuity of Iranian strikes—especially in recent days—suggest that its capacity to inflict damage remains intact and, in some cases, has even increased.

In sum, while tactical superiority in airpower and destructive capability remains with the United States and Israel, the strategic picture is far more complex. The widening geography of conflict, rising regional costs, and uncertainty in assessing actual damage have prevented this advantage from translating into a decisive outcome—one of the main reasons the war continues into its thirty-third day.

Iran has managed to thwart the opponent's primary objective: a rapid end to the war. By maintaining its capacity to respond, expanding the scope of conflict, and shifting costs to the regional—and even global—level, it has effectively neutralised the initial advantage.

At the geopolitical level, variables such as the Strait of Hormuz further complicate the balance. Turning a regional tool into a global lever of pressure shows that the war is no longer merely a military confrontation.

Short-Term Outlook: Escalation Before Any Shift

Current indicators suggest a high likelihood of intensified attacks in the coming days, especially leading up to declared deadlines. Changes in operational tempo, increased targeting of economic assets, and military movements in sensitive areas all support this scenario.

At the same time, opposing possibilities remain on the table: from a prolonged and more difficult war to a sudden political shift that could alter the trajectory of the conflict.

Yet under current conditions, one reality is clear: A war that began with the aim of "rapid decision" has now evolved into one of the most complex decision-making challenges for all parties involved.

on its mainland, but on its bases and interests in the region. This often creates the perception—especially in public opinion and some media assessments—of a "lower cost" for Washington, even though operationally the losses remain significant.

Narrative control also plays a decisive role. High levels of media restriction and information control regarding casualties and damage on the U.S. and Israeli side have limited the availability

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25	₹97.5L	₹15.0L	10.5x
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