

LG Orders Probe Into Ganderbal Encounter



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday ordered a magisterial probe into the encounter in Ganderbal district in which one alleged terrorist was killed by security forces.

Several mainstream leaders, including Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, had raised questions about the encounter that took place on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

In a post on X, Sinha said, "I have ordered a thorough and impartial magisterial inquiry into Arhama, Ganderbal incident. The inquiry will examine all aspects related to the incident and ensure that justice is served".

The family of the slain youth -- Rashid Ahmad Mughal -- had claimed that the deceased had no links to terrorism.

Omar had said on Thursday that, "I believe the claim of the family should not be dismissed out of hand. At the very least this encounter | More on P6

Trump's Iran Threats Spark Alarm; 100+ Experts Warn Of War Crimes

Trans Asia News

London: As President Donald Trump openly brags about his military actions in Iran and signals the possibility of further escalation, alarm is growing among legal experts worldwide. More than 100 international law scholars across the United States have issued a stark warning that both the rhetoric and conduct of the Trump administration in the intensifying conflict could amount to war crimes—raising serious concerns across the global legal and diplomatic community.

In an open letter published Thursday by the Just Security policy journal, scholars from leading institutions including Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and the University of California said statements from senior



U.S. officials and the conduct of American forces "raise serious concerns about violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including potential war crimes."

The warning comes after Trump, in a televised address Wednesday, signalled

a dramatic escalation in the conflict, stating that the United States could strike Iran's energy and oil infrastructure if Tehran fails to meet Washington's demands.

"We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next two to three weeks," Trump said. "We are | More on P6

STATEMENTS FROM SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS and the conduct of American forces raise serious concerns about violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including potential war crimes."

Iran Downs US F-15, Captures Pilot

A major escalation in the US-Iran war unfolded Friday as Iran shot down an advanced US fighter jet and a rescue helicopter, while conflicting reports emerged over the fate of at least one American pilot.

The downed aircraft is believed to be a U.S. F-15E Strike Eagle, though Iranian officials initially claimed it was a stealth F-35 Lightning II. Iranian authorities continue to maintain that advanced U.S. aircraft were targeted by newly deployed air defence systems.

In a statement, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said an "advanced enemy fighter jet" was shot down in central Iran and completely destroyed. It added that due to the "complete disintegration" of the aircraft, the fate of the pilot remains | More on P6

Quake Jolts Kashmir, No Damage Reported

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: An earthquake triggered brief panic across Kashmir on Friday night, with tremors felt in Srinagar and several other parts of the Valley, prompting residents to rush outdoors as a precaution.

Officials said the tremors, which lasted a few seconds, were also felt across large parts of north India, including Delhi, Punjab and Haryana.

According to officials, the earthquake measured 5.9 on the Richter scale, with its epicentre located in Afghanistan at a depth of around 150 kilometres. The tremors were recorded at approximately 9:45 pm.

In Srinagar and other areas of the Valley, residents described the shaking as brief but noticeable. Many stepped out of their homes fearing aftershocks, though normalcy returned soon after.

The incident once again underscored the seismic vulnerability of the region, which falls under a high-risk earthquake zone.

There were no immediate reports of any damage or casualties from Jammu and Kashmir or other affected regions.

Residents in parts of Punjab and Chandigarh also reported feeling the | More on P6

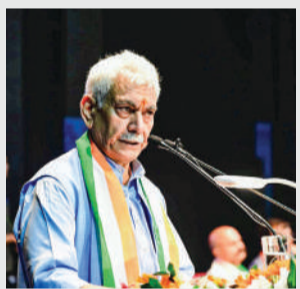
Civilisational Roots Define Nation's True Strength: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that the true strength of nations lies in their identity, cultural depth and civilisational roots, asserting that Ayodhya represents a living source of that enduring strength with relevance far beyond India.

Speaking at the 8th Ayodhya Parv in New Delhi, Sinha described Ayodhya as a civilisational force whose significance is not confined to geography but resonates globally.

"The true strength of



nations lies in their identity, their cultural depth and their civilisational roots. In that light, the significance of a civilisational source like Ayodhya is not confined to India but its | More on P6

Weather Turns Erratic In Kashmir Snowfall in Hills, Rain Across Plains; Wet Spell Likely Till April 10

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fresh snowfall was recorded in several higher reaches of Kashmir on Friday, while widespread rain lashed the plains, signalling a spell of unstable weather across the Valley.

Officials said areas along the Mughal Road in south Kashmir and Sadhna Top in north Kashmir received fresh snowfall. Meanwhile, Srinagar and other plain areas witnessed steady rainfall, which continued in many places till late evening.



The weather shift is attributed to a strong western disturbance affecting Jammu and Kashmir, bringing

widespread precipitation across the region. According to the India Meteorological Department | More on P6

Over 18 Lakh Kanals Of Land Encroached In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Over 18 lakh kanals of land are encroached across Jammu and Kashmir, with only 29,000 kanals retrieved so far from squatters, official data said.

As per official data, a total of 18,38,735.42 kanals of land have been encroached upon, including 17,22,993 kanals of state land and 1,15,742.42 kanals of forest land.

The data said encroachment entries in revenue records have been expunged.

Revenue department officials said they took action under the provisions of the Land Revenue Act to remove encroachers. However, officials

termed the issue a matter of concern and said eviction drives are underway, but clarified that no fixed timeframe has been set yet. "Eviction of encroachers and retrieval of encroached state and forest land is a continuous process," they said.

Among districts, Jammu accounts for 1,45,487 kanals and 6 marlas of encroached state land, while Rajouri tops the list with 2,73,848 kanals and 12 marlas, followed by Reasi with 2,26,857 kanals and 6 marlas, it said.

Other major districts include Ramban with 1,73,832 kanals, Kathua with 1,30,403 kanals, Udhampur with 1,19,822 kanals and | More on P6

Power Relief For BPL Households: JERC Caps Benefit At 30 Units

Agencies

Srinagar: The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) has created a separate Below Poverty Line (BPL) consumer category for the Jammu and Kashmir—allowing the socio-economic backward consumers relief on power consumption up to 30 units a month.

The government recently informed the house that the Commission has created a separate BPL consumer category to provide relief to socio-economic backward consumers for consumption of up to 30 units per month. "It should be noted that only those consumers who submit a BPL certificate from a competent authority of the State Government will be



included in the BPL category," the government said.

It also informed the house that in case consumption within this category exceeds 30 units per month, the consumption

over and above it would be charged as per the applicable rates for the domestic metered category in accordance with the relevant consumption slab. Furthermore, the government

also said that the commission has fixed the applicability of the domestic tariff for supplies pertaining to domestic premises, religious institutions, group housing societies, orphanages, old-age and infirm homes, charitable institutions providing services free of cost or on nominal charges, post offices at residences of villagers and residential premises of architects, engineers, advocates, doctors, teachers, artists, weavers, stitching and embroidery workers occupying not more than 20 percent of built-up area for respective professional purposes.

"This tariff category is applicable to electricity used for operating various appliances such as lighting, heating, cooling, cooking, | More on P6

Centre Orders Crackdown On Fuel Hoarding, Black Marketing

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Centre has directed states and Union Territories to step up action against hoarding and black marketing of petroleum products and LPG, amid emerging supply concerns linked to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Invoking provisions under the Essential Commodities Act and the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply



and Distribution) Order, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has

asked state authorities to intensify enforcement, conduct daily raids and inspections in coordination with oil marketing companies, and maintain strict vigilance against diversion and misinformation.

States have also been instructed to institutionalise daily press briefings, set up control rooms and helplines, and actively counter rumours to reassure the public about fuel availability. | More on P6

Fuel, LPG Supplies Stable Across J&K: Officials

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on Thursday assured that the supply of petroleum products and LPG remains stable across Jammu and Kashmir, with sufficient

stocks available to meet current demand. According to officials, the stock position of key fuels, including Motor Spirit (petrol) and High-Speed Diesel, is normal across the | More on P6

Foreign MBBS Under Scanner: NMC Warns Against Non-Compliant Colleges

Observer News Service

New Delhi: For thousands of Indian students unable to secure a medical seat at home, studying MBBS abroad often appears as a practical alternative. But a fresh advisory by the National Medical Commission (NMC) suggests that this route may be far riskier than it seems.

In a detailed alert issued on April 1, the Commission has warned that students enrolling in non-compliant foreign medical colleges could find themselves ineligible to practise medicine in India, despite completing their degrees.

The advisory, issued by the Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB), builds on a series of warnings released between 2023 and 2025, indicating that regulatory concerns around foreign medical admissions remain unresolved.

Where the problem lies

At the centre of the warning is a pattern: Indian students continue to take admission in foreign institutions that do not meet the standards laid down under the Foreign Medical Graduate Licentiate Regulations, 2021.



According to the NMC, these institutions often fall short on core requirements such as course duration, clinical exposure, curriculum structure and

even the medium of instruction. In some cases, students are admitted beyond the sanctioned intake capacity, raising concerns about the quality of

training. In others, inadequate clinical exposure means students graduate without the hands-on experience essential for medical practice.

The compliance checklist

The Commission has made it clear that eligibility to practise in India is directly tied to strict adherence to prescribed norms.

Among the key requirements: A minimum of 54 months of education in a single institution

A mandatory 12-month internship at the same university Clinical training that is not split

across institutions or countries English as the medium of instruction Recognition and licensing eligibility in the country where the degree is awarded

Any deviation from these conditions, the advisory states, could lead to disqualification from medical registration in India.

Admissions, agents and false assurances

Beyond institutional gaps, the NMC has flagged the role of intermediaries in shaping student choices.

Students and parents have

been cautioned against relying on agents or consultants who promise "guaranteed admissions" or bypass established eligibility criteria such as NEET qualification.

The advisory also points to complaints involving offshore campus models and private arrangements that may operate outside regulatory oversight.

"Verify before making any payment," the Commission has stressed, urging students to independently check the recognition status and compliance record of foreign institutions.

A recurring warning | More on P6



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KASHMIR OBSERVER® 2
Srinagar | Saturday | 04-04-2026



Impaired Asset and Recovery Branch
Zonal Office Srinagar
Moulana Azad Road Srinagar
Ph No 0194-2471402-2452658-2484008
Email ziarsg@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 09.01.2023 thereby calling upon the borrowers namely Mr. Irfan Ahmed Ahangar s/o Mohammad Amin Ahangar R/o sector 1 Umer Abad colony Peer Bagh Srinagar (Borrower /Mortgagor) 02. Mr Mohammad Amin Ahangar s/o Ghulam Mohammad Ahangar R/O sector 1 Umer Abad colony peer Bagh Srinagar(Mortgagor) thereby calling upon the borrower to repay an amount of Rs.88,83,289.31 (Rupees eighty eight lacs eighty three thousand two hundred eighty nine and paisa thirty one) being the balance outstanding as on 31.12.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/mortgagor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken physical possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 2nd day of April, 2026.

The said borrower/mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited, Branch Rangreth for the amount in aggregating to Rs.1,34,18,232.31 (Rupees One Crore Thirty Four Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Two and Paisa Thirty one only) as on 31.03.2026 together with future interest thereon from 01.04.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

• Mortgage of Land measuring 04 Kanals of land falling under khasra no. 2368 Min and 988/249 Min ,khwat no 293 min & khata no 1231 min situated at Mouza Lalpora, Tehsil Kunzer and District Baramulla standing in the name of Mr Mohammad amin ahangar S/O Ghulam Mohammad Ahangar R/O Sector 1st Umerabad colony peer bagh Srinagar

Authorized Officer



Impaired Asset and Recovery Branch
Zonal Office Srinagar
Moulana Azad Road Srinagar
Ph No 0194-2471402-2452658-2484008
Email ziarsg@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 26.06.2023 thereby calling upon the borrowers namely 1) Mohammad Mukhtar Ganie s/o Abdul Samad Ganie R/O Lane No 4 Shadab colony ,90Feet Road Ahmed Nagar Srinagar (Prop. M/s F A Construction company (Borrower /mortgagor) and Abdul Gaffar Dar s/o Ghulam Ahmed Dar R/o kasha Mohalla Diyarwani Batmaloo Srinagar (Guarantor in Housing loan) thereby calling upon the borrower to repay an amount of Rs.1,64,48,156.53 (Rupees One crore Sixty Four Lacs Forty Eight Thousand one Hundred Fifty six and Paisa Fifty three Only) being the balance outstanding as on 26.06.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/mortgagor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken Physical possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 02nd day of April of the year 2026.

The said borrower/mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited, Branch Amirakadal for the amount in aggregating to Rs.2,33,74,907.53 (Rupees two crore Thirty three Lacs Seventy Four Thousand Nine hundred seven and Paisa Fifty three only) as on 31.03.2026 together with future interest thereon from 01.04.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

01. Land measuring 06 Marlas under Khasra No.2143 min , Khata No.494 and Khawat No.68, situated at Mouza Nehalpora tehsil Pattan District Baramulla standing in the name of Mohammad Mukhtar Ganie s/o Abdul Samad Ganie R/O Lane No 4 Shadab colony ,90Feet Road Ahmed Nagar Srinagar.

Authorized Officer

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Death..

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar death BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to death of Mohammad Shafi Mir s/o Abdul Ahad Mir R/o Babagund Mamoosa with verified date of death 21/12/2014 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Malika Bint Mehraj D/o Mehraj Ud Din Ahanger R/o Hanjiwera Bala with verified date of birth 01/05/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ayesha Showkat D/o Showkat Ahmad Sheikh R/o Ferozpora Tehsil tangmarg with verified date of birth 08/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN
Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..

Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hafsa Mushtaq D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Najar R/o iqbal colony pattan with verified date of birth 15/10/2018 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I JAMID MUSHTAQ MIR S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR .Here by inform to general public that I have lost my 10th pass marks card at somewhere bearing Registration no NI0440680044 Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with office of JKBOSE Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
Name....JAMID AHMAD MIR
S/O..MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR
Registration No NI0440680044
Session.... ANNUAL REGULAR 2011

fko

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR
ATTENTION PLEASE

The Candidates whose photograph is Published in this notice is claiming to have lost his 10 th Class Qualificaiton / DOB/ Diploma Certificate of Secondary School Examination issued by BOSE with the following particulars

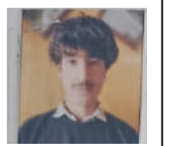


Name :- Aaqib Maqbool
Parentage:- Mohammad Maqbool Khawaja
Mothers Name:- Hameeda Begum
Residence:- Kralgund ,Distt .KUPWARA
10 th Class Roll No:- 5203272
Session:- Annual Regular 2017
Reg No:- NI6481
050011
Certificate Serial No :-17ARKAM- 2024694
DOB:- 01.03.2003 Result Qualified Class 10th.Marks 386/500
Now the candidate has applied for issuance of duplicate Qualificaiton/DOB /Diploma Certificate before the same is processed and issued in the candidate anybody having any objection in this regard may file the same before the Deputy Secretary, BOSE or undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above referred Qualificaiton / Diploma certificate bearing serial no:- 17ARKAM-2024694,are be treated as cancelled,
No:-F(Certs-I-DOC)B/KD/26

SD/= Deputy Secretary
fko Certificates. KD

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
Sub Office Budgam

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th)under Roll No: 121011086 Session: Annual Regular 2025 Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School Against my father's name as Abdul Rahid Sofi Instead of Abdul Rashid Sofi



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 Budgam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Tahir Rashid SOFI
Father's name: Abdul Rashid Sofi
Mother's Name: Jamsheeda Bano
DOB: 08-07-2010
Residence: Snoor Kalipora
Mobile no: 6005407216bmg

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 8304 5175 8793 Now I want to change my name from DARSAMEEN (Old Name) to BATOOL (New Name). In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he or she may approach the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- BATOOL
D/O:- ASHIQ HUSSAIN BHAT
R/O:- BAGI BUCHROO, Post Office WATHORA, Tehsil CHADOORA, District BUDGAM, Jammu And Kashmir-191113

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 5823 1231 5220 Now I want to change my name from ZEENA BEGUM (Old Name) to ZAINA (New Name). In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he or she may approach the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Name :- ZAINA
W/O:- ABDUL WAHAB MUGLOO inf
R/O:- ICHKOOT, BUDGAM , Jammu And Kashmir- 191111

PUBLIC NOTICE

On my Driving License, bearing DL No. * JK-0520130037563 * name is mentioned as GH HASSAN MALA, but my actual name is GHULAM HASSAN MALA, and my father's Name is mentioned as GH AHMAD MALA, but my actual name is GHULAM AHMAD MALA. I now want to correct it. If you have any objections, please get in touch with the ARTO Office, Sopotre, within 7 days. After that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: GHULAM HASSAN MALA
S/O: GHULAM AHMAD MALA AB
R/O NEHALPORA PATTAN, BARAMULLA, Baramula, Baramula, Jammu and Kashmir 193121

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0204040005427 and Installation ID No. 49407, presently registered in the name of Abdul Gani Sofi, S/o Abdul Rehman Sofi, R/o Nabdipora Hawal, Srinagar, is proposed to be transferred in favour of Shamim Parvaiz, S/o Abdul Gani Sofi, R/o Nabdipora Hawal, Srinagar.

If anyone has any objection to this transfer, they may submit the same to the concerned department within one week from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in School Record the name mothers name of my daughter AZMAT ZEHRRA is entered as DILSHADA BANO while actual name is DILSHADA AKHTER. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact PRINCIPAL HUSSAINI EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE ICHIGAM BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
FIRDUS AHMAD RATHER
F/o AZMAT ZEHRRA R/o ICHIGAM BUDGAM

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Rohi Bashir to Ruhie Bashir. Henceforth, I shall be known as Ruhie Bashir for all purposes. If anyone has any objection to this name change, they may report to the Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 working days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.

Ruhie Bashir
R/o Batpora, Hazratbal, Srinagar

AB

PRESS RELEASE

New Kashmir Construction youth club Badran Magam Kashmir performed a cultural programme titled "GAHWOUN-TE-GINDOUN" Through Directorate of North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC) Allahabad at Govt. Boys middle School Panzpora Budgam on 31, March, 2026 Tuesday. The programme was in back ground of reviving the past dead cultural Tradition of kashmir. By this programme new generation was approached about their old rich culture. All the audience appreciated this programme, thanked to Department of culture Govt of India and to performing organizations who are working since 1970,

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written on my adhaar card as Showkat Ahmad Mir S/o Ab Rahim Mir R/o Logripora while my correct name is Shoquth Ahmad Mir S/o Ab Rahim Mir R/o Logripora . 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..

Shoquth Ahmad Mir DOB 01-03-1972
S/o Ab Rahim Mir
R/o Logripora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA
Near Tehsil Office Chadoora

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-NIT No. 02/R&B/CHADOORA/ 26-35 of 2026-27 Dated: 02/04/2026

Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT invites percentage rate bids in (double cover system) in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

SN	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. cost of Bitumen and GST@18%) (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money CDR/ FDR/ BG (Rs)	Time of Completion (days)	Major Head	Class of Contractor
1	Nowbugh inner link towards shrine.	14.88	600.00	29760/-	30	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	
2	Srinagar Charar-I Sharief Road.	50.00	1100.00	100000/-	30	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	AAY

Project Authority: PW(R&B) Central Kashmir
Position of AAA : Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02/04/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02/04/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	02/04/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	09/04/2026 upto 05.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10/04/2026 at 10.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Inviting Authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority).

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
33. All other terms & conditions shall be as per PWD (Form-25) and J&K Engineering Manual, 2020 and CPWD G.C.C (whichever shall is/are applicable) and as per the Approved Action Plan/ Authorization conveyed by the Administrative Department vide No: PWD-PLNG/277/ 2025-05- PW (7659593) Dated. 12.08.2025 as per the Approved Outlay.

No: 26-35
DIPK-90/26
Dated: 03/04/2026

Executive Engineer
PW (R&B) Division Chadoora

mcb

Man Critically Injured After Fall from Vehicle at Parimpora Chowk

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 45-year-old man sustained critical injuries after falling from a vehicle at Parimpora Main Chowk in Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

The injured has been identified as Farooq Ahmed Sofi, a resident of Parimpora. According to officials,

the incident occurred when he fell from a Tata Mobile near the busy Parimpora Chowk, resulting in severe head injuries.

He was immediately shifted to JVC Hospital Bemina for treatment, where his condition is reported to be critical, officials said. According to KNT, Police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Apni Party Gears Up for Upcoming Organisational Polls

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Apni Party's Returning Officer, Abdul Majid Padder, on Friday chaired an important meeting with leaders and senior workers from the Chanapora constituency to formally initiate the process for the upcoming organisational elections.

Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari made a special appearance at the meeting and put forward important suggestions to ensure smooth and transparent conduct of the party polls.

According to a press release issued here, during the meeting Padder sought the information and views from the meeting participants about the organisational structure of the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Padder said that for the organisational elections, a delegate selection system will be adopted. Under this system, one active member will be chosen for every group of up to 21 delegates, and these selected members will collectively form the Electoral College to elect office bearers at the Block, District, Province, and State levels.

During the meeting, an

extensive discussion was held on various matters related to the party elections. Several important decisions were taken, which will be put into effect in due time to ensure that the elections are conducted smoothly, fairly, and with complete transparency.

On this occasion, it was announced that from now on every new member joining the party will be given a plant to grow and care for. This step is not just symbolic; it shows the party's strong commitment to protecting the environment. It also sends a clear message that development must go hand in hand with environmental protection, and that every member has a role in building a greener and healthier future for the coming generations.

Besides, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and Abdul Majeed Padder, the prominent party leaders who were present on the occasion, included party's Provincial President Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Former M.L.A, State Youth President & Spokesperson Yawar Dilawar Mir, Chief Spokesperson & State Secretary Muntazir Mohiudin, District President Srinagar Mohammad Shafi Mir were present.

DPS Students Bring Laurels at National Level Pencak Silat Championship

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Delhi Public School Srinagar celebrates a moment of great pride as Hurriya and Samma of Class XII return from the Senior National Women's Pencak Silat League with top honors. The championship, held at the SAI Training Centre, NEHU Campus in Shillong, Meghalaya, from March 25 to 27, 2026, brought together elite athletes from across the country to compete at the highest level.

In a stellar display of technical skill and composure, Hurriya clinched the Gold Medal while Samma secured the Silver, marking a significant milestone for the school's sporting legacy. Their performance on such a demanding national stage is a credit to their discipline and the months of rigorous preparation they put in leading up to the event.

Reflecting on the

achievement, Principal Ms. Shafaq Afshan noted, "Seeing our students bring this level of grit to a national



platform is incredibly rewarding; their success is a source of inspiration for the entire school," while Chairman Mr. Vijay Dhar added, "This victory in Shillong reinforces our commitment to supporting young talent at every level, and we are immensely proud of what these young women have accomplished."



Pedestrians walk along a rain-soaked street at Lal Chowk amid showers. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Director SEK Conducts Surprise Visits Across Several Schools

Emphasizes Discipline, Staff Attendance, Strict Adherence to Academic Calendar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director of School Education Kashmir (SEK), Naseer Ahmad Wani, on Friday conducted a series of early morning surprise inspections across several schools in Srinagar within the first half hour of their opening, with a focus on ensuring punctuality, discipline, and institutional accountability.

During the visits, the Director SEK, closely monitored the attendance of teaching staff and assessed the overall functioning of schools during the crucial opening period. He visited Government Middle School Aloochoi Bagh nearby, where he personally verified staff attendance and later joined the students in the morning prayer.

Interacting with the staff, the Director stressed that the initial moments of school opening set the tone for the entire day and therefore must reflect discipline, commitment and



All Teaching-learning activities should be carried out in an organized manner and strictly in accordance with the academic calendar prescribed by the department.

a sense of purpose. He directed that morning assemblies be conducted with full enthusiasm, incorporating moral and value-based education as an essential component.

Highlighting the importance of structured academic functioning, Wani emphasized that all teaching-learning activities should be carried out in an organized manner and strictly in accordance with the academic calendar prescribed by the department.

Reaffirming the importance of regular monitoring, the Director instructed all Zonal Education Officers across Kashmir Division to ensure 100% inspection of schools under their jurisdiction and submit weekly reports to the Directorate without fail.

The Directorate reiterates its commitment to strengthening accountability, improving academic standards and fostering a disciplined and value-driven educational environment across all schools in the region.

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 50
ZUHR	12:34
ASR	5: 05
Magrib	6:56
ISHA	8: 19

HIJRI CALENDAR
15- Shawwal
1447

This Day In History

- 1581- Francis Drake is knighted by Queen Elizabeth I aboard his galleon Golden Hind at Deptford, England
- 1655- Battle of Porto Farina: English fleet defeats Barbary corsairs in Tunis
- 1789- First US Congress begins regular sessions during George Washington's presidency at Federal Hall, NYC (ends 1791)
- 1944 - Allied Bucharest bombings targeting railroads kills 5,000
- 1945 - Hungary liberated from Nazi occupation (National Day)
- 1947 - Convention on International Civil Aviation goes into effect
- 1947 - Largest group of sunspots on record
- 1947 - UN's International Civil Aviation Organization forms
- 1949 - Israel & Jordan sign armistice agreement
- 1949 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) treaty signed in Washington DC
- 1960 - Senegal declares independence from France
- 1968 - Apollo 6 launched atop Saturn V; unmanned
- 1968 - US civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee
- Marine clay under houses liquefies in St-Jean-Vianney, Quebec, 31 die
- 1975- Microsoft is founded as a partnership by Bill Gates and Paul Allen to develop and sell BASIC interpreters for the Altair 8800

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SONAMARG

E-Bid Document (Auction ID: 32691)

Outsourcing of Janta Dhaba at New Truck Yard Sonamarg "as is where is basis" for a period of 03 Years, through GeM Portal. No: CEO/SDA/2026/ 02-10 Dated: 02/04/2026.

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-bids are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing of Janta Dhaba at New Truck Yard Sonamarg "as is where is basis" for a period of 03 Years. The details are as under:-

S.No	Particulars	Date/Time	Remarks
1	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	02/04/2026 at 02.00 PM	-NIL-
2	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	08/04/2026 at 04.00 PM	-NIL-
3	PQ (Pre-Qualification) Assessment End Date &	09/04/2026 at 4.00 PM	-NIL-
4	EMD Start Date	10/04/2026 at 10.00 AM	-NIL-
5	EMD End Date	11/04/2026 at 01.00 PM	-NIL-
6	EMD (Bid Security) Amount in shape of CDR/FDR/DD	Rs. 20000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority
7	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	11/04/2026 at 2.00 PM	-NIL-
8	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	12/04/2026 at 11.00 AM	-NIL-
9	Reserve bid amount	Rs. 1.50 Lacs (Rupees One Lac Fifty Lacs)	-NIL-

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

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

Terms and Conditions:

- The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process and the physical position of the site/asset shall stand on "as is where is" basis. As such, no claim of any deficiency, addition, alteration, rectification in the asset would be entertained during/after bidding process.
- The bidder participating in the e-bid process must apply in his name or the firm name duly registered in his name.
- Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e-bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD (after qualifying Pre-Qualification) in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) pledged in favour of Accounts Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- There will be an escalation of 15% compounding on the offered bid amount of previous years for each successive year and thereafter to be deposited before two months from the start of every year. The bid offers should be above the minimum reserve bid.
- The minimum reserve bid has been fixed at Rs. 1.50 Lacs (Rupees One Lac Fifty Thousand only). However, the bidder has to pay GST @ 18% of the offered bid and also for the successive years on compounding amounts including 15% escalation every year. All other applicable taxes shall be paid by the bidder on its own under an intimation to this office.
- Previous defaulters shall not be allowed to participate in the bidding process.
- The period of outsourcing shall be on license basis for a period of 05-years which will commence from the date of issuance of the formal allotment letter.
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 100% of the offered bid for the 1st year within a period of three days with 50% on the culmination of bidding process.
- The successful bidder has to install amusement and other recreational activities in the park (pollution free) and has to take prior permission before start of the operation. Without the explicit permission of CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, the successful bidder shall not install any other activity within the premises of the parks.
- The contract shall be awarded for one year in the first instance and renewal of the same shall be subject to depositing of rentals for the each successive year in advance including 15% escalation on compounding amount before the expiry of the 1st year contract.
- In case the successful bidder fails to fulfill the term of contract, or leaves the contract half way or the contract is cancelled due to any disqualifications/non-payment of advance rent, the CDR shall be forfeited.
- The safety, security and upkeep and watch & ward of the asset shall be sole responsibility of outsourcee during the period of contract. The successful bidder shall ensure all safety measures like firefighting equipments, first aid kit etc.

Sonamarg Development Authority shall not be responsible for any loss of life and property within the asset during the period of the contract.

- The out-sourcing committee reserves the right to reject any or all the e-bids without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder shall have to charge rates for various allotted services as per approval of the SDA from time to time.
- The electric/water consumption charges shall be payable by the outsourcee & CDR shall be released after obtaining NOC from PHE & PDD.
- The bidder should not be employee in any Govt. Deptt. or a Public Sector undertaking.
- The successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement with CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority regarding adherence to the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Department during the course of the contract period. The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for executing this agreement/license deed.
- The successful bidder shall have to handover the property to the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority after completion of contract period with the list of inventory, received by him at the time of allotment/taking over.
- The licensee shall not make any alterations or additions to the space/unit allotted, without seeking written permission from the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- The successful bidder shall arrange on his own all necessary stationery, staff or any other requirements for providing efficient services to the clients.
- The Licensee shall provide necessary uniform & name plates to the staff working in the premises & shall be responsible for any unfair act of the staff member for which, he shall be liable for criminal/civil action under rules/law if any required.
- The Watch and ward of the property, maintenance of lawns and other subsidiaries and landscape, if any, shall be the sole responsibility of the licensee.
- The licensee shall not, in any case, sub-let the premises to any other party.
- The successful bidder shall have to provide services to the best satisfaction of tourists/locals. The bidder shall have to ensure that there isn't any complaint of misbehavior with the visitors/locals or by any of the staff member employed by the bidder in this regard. In case any complaint is received, action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the bidder and penalty shall be imposed upon the defaulters.
- In case of any negligence in running the service or complaint pertaining to bad performance, the contract shall be terminated without any notice by the department.
- The allotted premises shall be inspected periodically by the departmentally authorized officers and in case the services of the licensee are not found satisfactory, the contract shall be liable for cancellation without any notice.
- Any damage caused to the Government property at the site will invite penalty amounting to double the cost of damage or replacement of the same whatever the case may be, as per assessment to be made by the CEO, Sonamarg Development Authority.
- The Department shall reserve the right for using the space for any purpose or function or event as it may deem fit and no fee shall be charged by the licensee in this regard.
- The Department shall reserve the right for installation and outsourcing of any other activity within the premises of the park.
- The successful bidder will have to abide by all the orders/communications issued by Department from time to time during the period of contract as may necessitated in light of public unrest and law & order, security and in case of any other Administrative requirements.
- The successful bidder shall ensure arrangement of furniture, electricity back up and availability of standard crockery/cutlery in the unit, on his own.
- During the contract period the maintenance of the asset/area, watch and ward as well as upkeep and daily cleaning/sweeping shall be the sole responsibility of the licensee.
- The successful bidder/Licensee shall strictly adhere to all rules and regulations regarding commercial establishment, sanitation in vogue with focus on preservation of environment etc. within the territorial area and shall clear all applicable taxes like GST/IT etc. within the stipulated time. Any default on this account will be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder.
- Any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contract, including any question regarding its existence, validity or termination, shall be referred Arbitration of Administrative Secretary incharge Tourism Department, Government of J&K, whose decision shall be final & binding upon the parties. The proceedings of the Arbitration shall be conducted under the provisions of the J&K, Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1997 & rules and its amendment if any, framed there under.
- Any natural or Anthropogenic/manmade calamity occurs. The highest bidder/ licensee shall not seek extension of lease or relaxation, nor such claims shall be entertained by Sonamarg Development Authority.
- If the bidder intends to withdraw the agreed contract, he shall have to notify the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority before three months without claim for refund of existing contract year.
- If any minor repairs of the assets such as electrification, sanitary maintenance etc are to be done and these will be carried out by the licensee at his own cost, however, after seeking permission from the competent authority as per the direction of the inspecting authority from time to time which will help in maintenance of the asset.
- No extensions shall be granted. The asset shall be outsourced afresh at the end of the license term.
- The successful bidder has to run the asset as per the norms and conditions as prescribed within Tourist Trade Act in vogue.
- The successful bidder shall follow the regulations of FSSAI and any other regulations framed in this regard.
- The Authority shall not be responsible for any monetary loss due to any climate untowardness or due to any other reason

DIPK-NB-40/26
dated: 03-04-2026

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Sonamarg Development Authority

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed / appeared in SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 139037042 Session 2025 Annual Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the Parents itself against my fathers name as Shabir Ahmed Mir instead of Shabir Ahmad Mir.

Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education Bemina, Srinagar if any person have any objection in this regard may file the same within seven days from the issuance of this notice, in the office of the Deputy / Assistant Secretary Certificates (Correction) KD, after the expiry of said period no objection shall be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public.

Name: Hamraa Shabir
Fathers Name: Shabir Ahmad Mir
Mothers Name: Rafiq
D.O.B: 16.04.2009
Residence: Batamaloo Srinagar
Mobile No. 9103559445

ab

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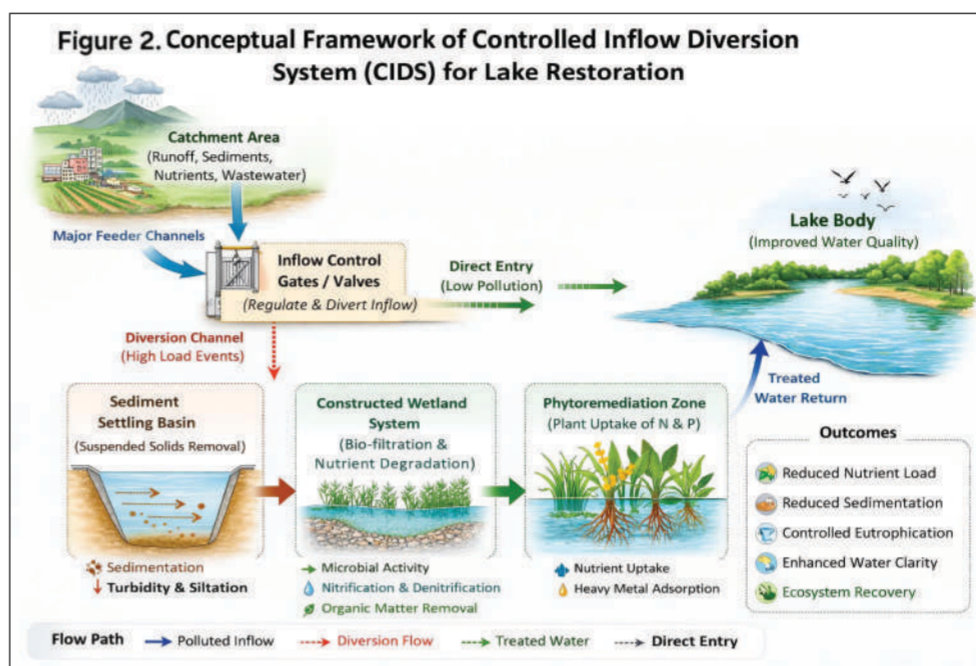
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Can CIDS Restore Kashmir Lakes?

An out-of-box sustainable solution to rejuvenate and restore lakes and wetlands of the valley.



Dr. Ashraf Zainabi



KO VIEW

Digital Downtown

Something new is stirring in the lanes of Downtown Srinagar. The old city built its name on copperware, bakeries, and shops where customers walked in and haggled over prices. Those businesses still stand. They now share space with a different type of commerce.

Young Kashmiris have turned bedrooms into offices and smartphones into storefronts. They sell vintage clothes through Instagram stories. They ship walnut cakes to Mumbai via WhatsApp orders. They manage Facebook pages for the same butcher shops their grandfathers ran. The tools changed, but the hustle stayed.

Walk through any neighborhood, and you will find a graduate packing thrifted kurtas for Bangalore buyers. You will meet a mother of two who started a baking business during distress and now employs her sister. You will see two college dropouts shooting product videos for the spice vendor downstairs.

None of them waited for permission. They started with data packs and learned the rest as they went.

Technology opened doors that turmoil once locked. A QR code taped to a kitchen wall handles payments. A delivery rider collects packages from homes instead of shops. A single reel can bring more customers than a month of foot traffic. These young sellers talk about engagement rates and unboxing experiences the way their fathers discussed wholesale rates. The vocabulary shifted, but the ambition remained familiar.

The money moves in circles now. The printer who makes labels for the home baker. The wholesaler who sells flour in five-kilo bags instead of fifty. The courier who knows every narrow lane because he picks up from them daily. Old shopkeepers watch their neighbours pack boxes for Delhi and ask for help listing their own shawls online. The learning flows both ways. Women run businesses from living rooms without stepping past their front gates. Young men who filled only government forms now fill order sheets. Parents who once insisted on stable jobs now ask about profit margins. The social fabric loosens in the right places.

Official plans for Kashmir feature highways and hotel chains. Downtown tells a smaller story. It runs on initiative, on adapting fast, on making something from what is available. The right loans, training programs, and steady internet could multiply what is already working.

These micro-entrepreneurs blend the old city craft with new methods. They prove that opportunity grows at home when people believe it can.

Anyone who has observed the condition of Kashmir lakes over the past two or three decades will notice that their decline has not been sudden. It has happened slowly, and almost silently.

Water that was once clearer is now frequently turbid. More recently, the Dal Lake water turned greenish, a coolant like in colour. Aquatic vegetation now covers large stretches that earlier remained open water. In many stretches, the lake depth has visibly reduced.

These changes are often discussed in emotional terms, but they are also the outcome of very specific ecological processes.

People living around these lakes often notice the change before any government and scientific report is published.

The scientific explanation for the degradation of many freshwater lakes is well known. Lakes naturally receive nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus from surrounding landscapes. In moderate quantities, these nutrients are part of normal ecological functioning. Problems arise when the inflow of nutrients becomes excessive.

When a certain threshold is crossed, biological productivity increases rapidly. Algae multiply, aquatic weeds expand and water quality gradually deteriorates. In lake science, this process is called eutrophication.

As vegetation grows and later decomposes, oxygen levels in the water decline. Fish and other aquatic organisms begin to experience stress. The lake slowly moves away from its earlier ecological balance.

The question, therefore arises, why do restoration efforts still concentrate mainly on in-box cosmetic interventions, such as removing weeds, instead of controlling what enters the lake, that is precisely an out of box appropriate solution? Nutrient enrichment is

closely connected with the way water enters the lake system in Kashmir. Feeder channels carry water and wastewater from surrounding settlements and agricultural lands.

During rainfall events, sewage channels in the periphery of lakes and wetlands overwhelmingly pour wastewater in to these water bodies, moreover the main feeder channels transport a mixture of domestic sewage, nutrient-rich runoff and suspended sediments in more volumes during rainy days.

Over time, the lake becomes the final receiver of everything that the catchment releases, without any out of lake interventions to de-sediment and treat inflows.

Here, we need to agree that Srinagar's sewage treatment plants, those on the periphery of the Dal Lake, handle very little sewage for treatment. Rest of the untreated sewage finds its way into the lake.

Imagine a freshwater lake receiving sewage for hundreds of years, especially over the past three decades, as Srinagar's population has grown and sewage generation has nearly doubled.

A century's worth of sediments, silt, and untreated waste entering a lake or wetland beyond its natural capacity is directly responsible for the deterioration of these water bodies.

Sediment transport is a significant part of the problem. Soil particles eroded from catchment slopes eventually settle inside the lake basin. As sediments accumulate, the effective depth of the lake decreases. Shallow waters warm more quickly and allows sunlight to reach the lakebed.

These conditions favour the rapid growth of aquatic plants. Gradually, the lake begins to behave like a marsh dominated by vegetation.

Public discussion has usually focused on the most visible symptoms, such as weed growth, water colour, or foul smell. Manual and mechanical harvesting of aquatic vegetation and lakebed dredging therefore became the most visible management response.

But one must ask a simple question: If nutrients and sediments continued to enter the lake every year, can weed removal and dredging alone restore the ecosystem?

Experience from lake restoration projects around the world suggests otherwise. Removing weeds may temporarily improve navigation or the visual appearance of the lake surface. Contrary to it, several scientific studies have shown that mechanical removal of weeds actually give rise to more weed growth, as the roots and spores fracture and return back

to water body during the weed removal process.

More so, the ecological drivers of weed growth remain unchanged as nutrient-rich inflows continue to reach the water body.

These observations must shift our attention upstream. The real challenge lies in managing what enters the lake rather than repeatedly cleaning what has already accumulated inside it.

That is when I call for an out-of-the-box solution. From a scientific perspective, the logic is straightforward. If pollutants continue to reach the lake every day, every year, cleaning the lake repeatedly will never solve the problem.

One practical strategy that deserves consideration is the development of an ecological system henceforth named as Controlled Inflow Diversion System (CIDS).

The idea is relatively simple and is based on preventive hydrological management. At locations where feeder streams and sewage drains discharge into the lake, CIDS can regulate the direction of flow.

CIDS should be activated in feeder channels during rainy days and in sewage channels year-round. It must operate as an integrated system of flow diversion channels, sedimen-

tation basins, and constructed wetlands to ensure sustainable and effective treatment of runoff and sewage.

Constructed wetlands are nature-based treatment systems that are widely used in many countries for storm water management and decentralized wastewater treatment. They require comparatively low energy input and rely primarily on ecological processes rather than complex mechanical infrastructure.

India has also witnessed innovative work in this field. Researchers at Pondicherry University developed a plant-based wastewater treatment approach known as SHEFROL system that has been patented.

In this method, wastewater flows across shallow vegetated channels where plant roots and associated microorganisms facilitate pollutant removal. The system demonstrates how natural biological processes can effectively treat wastewater with minimal technological complexity.

Detailed report about SHEFROL system was published in The Hindu newspaper under the title "Eco-friendly way of treating water," which was a part of my PhD thesis at Pondicherry University between 2010 and 2016.

CIDS network can create an important ecological buffer between polluted runoff and open lake water.

Despite the challenges, the situation is not beyond recovery. Freshwater ecosystems possess an inherent capacity for resilience when external pressures decline. Lakes in several parts of the world have shown gradual ecological improvement once nutrient inflows were brought under control.

In environmental science, this is often called a preventive approach. It may appear slow, but in the long run it is the only approach that shall work.

We need to move from reactive-management to preventive-management to save Kashmir lakes and wetlands, and CIDS is a way to go.

The author is a teacher and researcher based in Gowhar Pora Chadoora J&K. He can be reached at bhataashraf@gmail.com.



Obeida Ashraf

The Race for Digital Approval

A teacher watches her students chase digital validation, and sees a public health crisis unfolding in clear sight.

Epidemics do not always arrive with fever and cough. Some travel through behaviour, culture, and the devices in our pockets.

A new pattern has taken hold in Kashmir since the pandemic years: a swelling hunger for attention, validation, and constant digital engagement.

This urge now mirrors the logic of an epidemic, spreading rapidly through young lives and exposing social vulnerabilities the valley has never faced before.

Epidemiologists examine three elements: host, agent, and environment. Apply this lens to digital behaviour and the picture comes into sharp focus.

The host is the user, particularly young Kashmiris who spend hours each day online. The agent is the reward system of likes, shares, views, and followers that delivers instant psychological gratification. The environment is an expanding ecosystem of smartphones, cheap data, and platforms engineered to capture attention and never let go.

Global digital exposure has reached unprecedented levels. More than two-thirds of the world's population now has internet access, and billions use social media actively. Average daily use worldwide has crossed two hours per person. The figure runs higher for young users.

The digital environment is no longer a marginal activity. It has become a dominant force, increasingly replacing physical social space.

India reflects this transformation in an even more intense form.

With hundreds of millions of internet users and extremely low mobile data costs, the country ranks among the world's most active digital societies. Smartphone penetration has exploded during the last decade. Most internet access now happens through handheld devices. Young people between 16 and 30 represent the most active segment of this population.

Kashmir has experienced this transition within a remarkably short span.

A region once known for traditional, intellectual and cultural gatherings has moved swiftly into the digital age. Smartphones are now common across towns and villages. High-speed mobile networks and affordable data packages have put the internet within reach of students, workers, and school-age children.

A hunger is spreading through Kashmiri society. It is a hunger for attention and approval online. Smartphones sit in almost every hand. A new epidemic grows, and it is digital hunger.

Unlike earlier technological shifts that promised knowl-

edge and empowerment, the current phase of the digital revolution has created a culture where shares, likes, views, and followers function almost like currency. The deeper danger is that this hunger spares no one, those who understand technology and those who do not.

Everyone gets pulled into the same race. Digital platforms have become arenas where individuals compete for attention. The moment a post goes live, the mind begins measuring success: How many likes? How many shares? How many views? The numbers appear harmless, but they influence behaviour in powerful ways.

Social media platforms operate on a simple behavioural principle: immediate feedback. A photograph, short video, or comment goes online. Within seconds, reactions appear, likes, hearts, shares, comments. These reactions act as small psychological rewards.

Neurological research indicates that such rewards activate the brain's dopamine system, the same mechanism involved in other forms of habit formation. Once users experi-

ence this reward repeatedly, a cycle begins.

They post more content, check their phones constantly, and monitor responses. Gradually, online engagement becomes routine behaviour.

This pattern is visible in everyday life in Kashmir's urban centres, particularly Srinagar. Students record short videos while travelling, walking through markets, or visiting tourist sites. Small businesses promote products through social media clips. Young photographers capture landscapes and upload them instantly.

Public health researchers measure the seriousness of an epidemic through its impact on daily functioning. In the case of digital hunger, the signs include reduced concentration, constant checking of notifications, and difficulty disengaging from online platforms.

On the surface, these activities appear creative and harmless. Epidemiology teaches us that the spread of behaviour can carry hidden consequences.

When digital attention becomes the primary motivation, people begin measuring success through numbers rather than meaning. A post receiving hundreds of likes feels like an achievement, while one that receives little response creates disappointment.

Over time, this system encourages continuous comparison between users.

From the viewpoint of social epidemiology, such comparison creates psychological pressure within communities. Young people start feeling that visibility equals importance. The patient effort of study, reading, or reflection receives little online reward, while dramatic content spreads quickly.

Another important feature of epidemics is contagion through imitation.

When individuals observe others gaining attention online, they often replicate similar behaviour. A particular type of video, joke, or public stunt spreads rapidly because many

users copy the format in hope of similar recognition.

Kashmir is witnessing a breed of digitally known "Kalkharabs" who perform bizarre acts, record videos, and share them on social media platforms with titles challenging some Dar, Mir, or Wani.

Public health researchers measure the seriousness of an epidemic through its impact on daily functioning. In the case of digital hunger, the signs include reduced concentration, constant checking of notifications, and difficulty disengaging from online platforms.

None of this means technology itself is harmful. Digital tools have helped Kashmiri students access educational material, connect with universities outside the region, and promote local entrepreneurship.

The same platforms that encourage superficial attention can support meaningful knowledge sharing. The challenge lies in understanding behavioural effects, in rejecting technology.

Medical epidemiology teaches that prevention is always more effective than cure, much as the coronavirus was defeated. When societies recognize a behavioural pattern early, they can guide it in healthier directions.

Schools and colleges can promote digital literacy, helping students understand how social media platforms are designed to attract attention. Community organisations can encourage activities that strengthen real-world interaction: debates, reading circles, cultural gatherings, and sports.

Families play an important role. Simple habits such as device-free meals, limited screen time before sleep, and regular outdoor engagement can restore balance between digital and physical life. Kashmir has a long tradition of scholarship and reflection. The region produced poets, philosophers, and thinkers whose influence extended far beyond the valley. Their work reminds us that genuine recognition emerges from depth of thought and patience, from rapid visibility.

Digital platforms will continue expanding, and the search for attention will remain part of human behaviour. Societies can decide whether this search becomes a destructive epidemic or a manageable aspect of modern life.

Understanding the epidemiology of digital hunger is the first step. Once the pattern is visible, communities can respond with awareness, education, and balance, ensuring that technology strengthens society rather than silently consuming its attention.

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A Marriage Under Siege in South Kashmir

One educator's story reveals the fine line between support and suffocation in Kashmir where family bonds run deep.



Gowher Bhat

Shahzain Dar prepares his own dinner in a small rented room, chopping vegetables while students' notebooks wait on his desk.

At thirty-two, he teaches by day and manages a household alone by night, hundreds of kilometers from the apple orchards where he grew up.

His wife and child live elsewhere, with her parents, a separation that has lasted months and shows no sign of ending.

"I cook, clean, handle everything myself," he says, stirring a pot of rice. "Even when I am unwell, there is no one to bring water."

Three years ago, this life seemed unimaginable.

Shahzain married Sana Khan in a traditional ceremony surrounded by the walnut groves and misted mountains of rural Kashmir. He believed they would build something simple: mutual respect, shared decisions, a home of their own. Her family appeared close and caring. He welcomed their presence as a source of strength for his new wife. "I respected them completely," he recalls. "I assumed their involvement would always help her, help us."

The first year brought the small satisfactions of any young marriage. They talked for hours, planned their future, learned each other's habits. Disagreements arose and settled naturally, contained within the walls of their home.

Shahzain remembers those evenings with precision: the sound of rain on tin roofs, the warmth of tea shared in silence, the feeling that they were constructing something solid together.

Then the phone calls began increasing.

What started as occasional parental concern hardened into routine interrogation. Sana's mother wanted to know what they ate for dinner. Her father questioned financial decisions. Advice came daily, suggestions held a constant pressure to conform. "It grew slowly," Shahzain ex-

plains. "Step by step, until we lost the space to think for ourselves."

This pattern repeats across the villages of South Kashmir, where extended families often live within walking distance and multigenerational households remain common.

The culture values close family ties. People give guidance as love, protection, and advice formed by years of conflict and hardship. The real challenge is to notice the moment support turns into control.

Shahzain watched his private life migrate into family group chats. Minor disagreements between husband and wife became subjects of collective discussion. His wife's sisters gave opinions on household purchases. Her brothers questioned his professional choices. Even the timing of their meals drew commentary.

"If we had any issue, it reached them immediately," he says. "Then I had to justify myself to people outside my marriage."

The dynamics grew more intricate as the circle widened. Cousins, aunts, and distant relatives joined the chorus. Everyone gave guidance rooted in their own experiences, anxieties, and visions of how a proper Kashmiri household should function.

Sana found herself caught between loyalty to her birth family and commitment to her husband, a position that exhausted her and eroded the couple's ability to resolve conflicts independently.

"She tries to explain, to set boundaries," Shahzain says. "They respond by acting wounded, by making her feel she has betrayed them."

That guilt comes back into the marriage in a different form.

Sana returns home tense and guarded. Discussions that could bring comfort end up reopening old wounds. The first disagreement slowly fades, and in its place grows a deeper resentment.

It becomes about who tells the story, claims the moral high ground, and decides what it means to be a good daughter, a good wife, or a good mother.

Shahzain draws a sharp distinction between his own family's approach and the situation he married into.

"My parents never interfere," he states. "They trust my judgment and respect our space." He emphasizes that he extends the same courtesy to his in-laws, never questioning how they run their household or raise their other children. "They are free to live as they choose. I simply ask for the same freedom in return."

The request, he suggests, falls on ears trained to hear only ingratitude.



THE MARRIAGE CONTINUES FORMALLY, THOUGH SHAHZAIN DESCRIBES IT AS HOLLOWED OUT. He and Sana speak less frequently. When they do, talks traverse well-worn grooves of complaint and defense, driven by the perspectives each has absorbed from their respective camps. Privacy, that essential soil for intimacy, has eroded completely. "There is no private space left," he acknowledges. "Without that, marriage cannot deepen."

The physical separation began during an illness. Shahzain developed a chest infection that left him feverish and weak, teaching classes through the morning and collapsing onto his narrow bed by afternoon. He needed his wife and their infant child with him. Instead, her parents insisted she remain at their home, surrounded by her sisters and brothers, sheltered from the demands of caring for a sick husband in a distant city.

"They wanted her to stay there," he says, his voice dropping. "Even when I was alone and unwell, my condition didn't move them."

The episode clarified something he had sensed building: his struggles, needs, and presence in his own marriage had become secondary considerations.

The family system had reasserted itself, absorbing his wife and child back into its orbit, leaving him on the periphery of the life he had tried to build.

The birth of their child intensified

rather than resolved these tensions. Shahzain expected shared responsibility, joint decision-making about feeding schedules and medical appointments and the thousand small choices that shape an infant's earliest years. He encountered instead a competing claim of ownership.

"Sometimes it feels like they view the baby as their possession," he observes. "As entertainment rather than responsibility."

He describes specific incidents that alarm him.

A pediatrician recommended a particular vaccination schedule, but his wife's parents dismissed the advice, insisting they knew better through experience. Dietary guidelines from health workers were ignored in favour of traditional practices.

When Shahzain objected, citing medical evidence, he was labeled difficult, disrespectful, overly influenced by book learning rather than family wisdom.

"Even clear doctor's orders are questioned," he says. "They say the

physician does not understand."

The pattern extends beyond health decisions. The child's clothing, sleep arrangements, and even daily routines attract commentary and intervention. Shahzain worries about the environment his son absorbs, the lessons learned from watching adults negotiate power through guilt and social pressure rather than direct communication.

"Children learn from what they see," he says. "When interference and confusion surround them, it frames their understanding of relationships."

His attempts to establish boundaries meet predictable resistance. When Shahzain requests less outside involvement in his marriage, the family recasts him as the aggressor. They spread narratives about his character, his intentions, his fitness as a husband and father.

The very act of asserting independence becomes proof of his alleged rudeness, his supposed rejection of Kashmiri values.

"They present themselves as deeply righteous," he notes. "As if they alone possess moral clarity, as if their path leads to salvation while mine leads somewhere else."

He considers this claim with the analytical distance of an educator trained to examine arguments rather than accept them.

"True goodness reveals itself through consequences," he says finally. "Actions should generate peace rather than pressure. Results matter more than intentions."

The marriage continues formally, though Shahzain describes it as hollowed out. He and Sana speak less frequently. When they do, talks traverse well-worn grooves of complaint and defense, driven by the perspectives each has absorbed from their respective camps.

Privacy, that essential soil for intimacy, has eroded completely.

"There is no private space left," he acknowledges. "Without that, marriage cannot deepen."

He does not hate his in-laws. This distinction matters to him, and he returns to it repeatedly. He believes they act from conviction rather than malice, that they genuinely consider their involvement protective.

The tragedy, in his view, lies in their blindness to effects, their inability to see how their care smotherers the very relationship they claim to support.

"I believe things could have worked," he says. "If we had been permitted to live as a couple rather than as an extension of their household."

Amid this marital mess, Shahzain remains in his rented room, grading papers, preparing simple meals, maintaining the rituals of a solitary life. He sees his child occasionally, under supervision, in visits arranged through negotiation with his wife's family.

He gives a final observation, delivered without self-pity.

"Marriage requires room to breathe," he says. "When too many hands reach in, grasping for control, the thing itself suffocates."

He returns to his papers. Outside, the mountains have disappeared into dusk, and the valley settles into the silence that precedes summer.

Somewhere in that darkness, his wife and child are sleeping in a house where he has never truly been welcome, bound to him by documents and memory, separated by the relentless love of a family that cannot let go.

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Srinagar's Grand Relic

A landmark of elegance now stands closed, holding stories that refuse to fade.



Syed Nissar H Gilani

On some evenings in Srinagar, when the Jhelum turns golden and the shadows lengthen, you can almost imagine the tongas once again.

The sound of hooves on the road, the creak of leather, and the dust lifting behind them take you back in time.

And if you follow that imagined sound past the Chinar trees, you might find yourself before the Nedous Hotel.

Its facade is faded now, but it still carries a certain poise, like an old aristocrat dressed for a party that never began.

The Nedous was born from a journey that began far from Kashmir, in a Croatian village called Rugasa. Michael Henery Nedou was a hotelier before he was a dreamer. Lahore was

his first stage, a modest place on Mason's Road where bread baked in the mornings and the evenings were lit by oil lamps.

But it was the valley, with its pine-scented air and light that changed like silk, that drew him in.

In 1888, he built his first hotel in Gulmarg, high in the meadows where shepherds moved with their flocks and British officers escaped the summer heat.

Twelve years later, in Srinagar, he created something grander: a building with ninety-nine rooms, each with its own bath, rare for its time. The lawns were broad enough for cricket matches. The ballroom glittered with chandeliers, and the confectionery was whispered about from Delhi to Rawalpindi.

Travellers came not only for a bed but for a sense of arrival.

There was Francis Younghusband, the explorer, who stopped here in 1908 and noted there was no dak bungalow in the city, as if the Nedous itself was the measure of its hospitality.

There was Lord Mountbatten and Lady Edwina, who dined on a set of three hundred English plates brought in for their visit. In the mornings, porters waited with ponies for those heading into the mountains, and in



the evenings, the clink of billiard balls mingled with the strains of music from the dancing hall.

Nedou himself stayed. He married Mirjaan, a Gujjar woman from Gulmarg, and took the name Sheikh Ahamed Hussain. The couple's three children were woven into Kashmir's political and social tapestry.

When Hussain passed, his son Qadir Nedou took charge of the family estates. Of his two daughters, one, Be-

gum Jahan, married Sheikh Abdullah. The other was simply known as Benji, a name that lingered in the valley's memory.

Qadir married Saleema Naqashbandi, the eldest daughter of Salam Shah Naqashbandi of Khanjar, then Deputy Governor of Kashmir.

Raised by an English stepmother, Saleema was a striking personality, fluent in both English and Kashmiri, and went on to write a book titled The

Royal House.

When the second lease term for the hotel was about to end in 1978, Saleema used her close ties with her brother-in-law, Sheikh Abdullah, to secure a fresh lease for 114 kanals of land.

The new agreement included an unexpected clause: the property could be subleased to a reputed tourism company to promote the state's tourism.

Seeing an opportunity, Saleema brought in the ITC group, known for

its luxury hotels, including the Sheraton in New Delhi.

Plans were drawn for restoration. For a moment, it seemed the ballroom might glow again.

Then 1988 came, and the plans were folded away. ITC handed the place to the security forces in Srinagar. The lawns turned to parade grounds, the windows to watch posts. The dancing hall slept through decades.

In 2002, there was talk of a return. Mufti Mohammad Sayeed came to the lawns as the "healing touch" chief minister. Yet the years went on, and no key turned in the old locks.

The forces have left now. The gates are closed, but no longer guarded. ITC still pays rent, as if the hotel were a guest on indefinite stay.

Behind its shut doors, the Nedous still holds the scent of almond blossom, the laughter of garden parties, and the trace of perfume in a hallway after a woman has passed.

It holds a Kashmir that believed hospitality was not only an industry, but a language, one spoken in porcelain and polished wood, in warm bread and fresh flowers in a room.

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J&K Economic Growth Eases To 11.18% In FY25: CAG Report

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth moderated to 11.18 per cent in 2024-25, down from 12.51 per cent in the previous financial year, though it has remained in the 11-12 per cent range over the past four fiscals, according to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

The CAG report on Union Territory Finances for the year 2024-25 was tabled in the legislative Assembly by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday, also showing that Jammu and Kashmir's share in India's GDP inched up marginally to 0.79 per cent in the last fiscal, marking a slight uptick compared to the previous fiscal after a phase of stagnation.

The report said over the

five-year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the size of J&K's economy has expanded from Rs 1.67 lakh crore to Rs 2.62 lakh crore, marking an overall increase of nearly Rs 95,000 crore and underscoring the gradual strengthening of its economic base.

Per capita income in the UT has also shown consistent improvement, rising from Rs 1,01,645 in 2020-21 to Rs 1,54,826 in

2024-25, although it remained below the national average. The per capita income of J&K was Rs 1,12,898 in 2021-22, Rs 1,23,614 in 2022-23 and Rs 1,40,051 in 2023-24, the CAG said.

The GSDP growth at 2.25 per cent in 2020-21 (Covid Pandemic impact), rising sharply to 12.38 per cent in 2021-22, 11.27 per cent in 2022-23 and 12.51 per cent in 2023-24 before easing to

11.18 per cent in 2024-25, it said.

Jammu and Kashmir's share in India's GDP stood at 0.79 per cent in 2024-25 against 0.78 per cent in the previous year. The UT's share had declined from 0.85 per cent in 2020-21 to 0.80 per cent in 2021-22 and 0.78 per cent by 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The report said the revenue receipts of the UT during 2024-25 increased by 6.12 per cent,

mainly due to an increase in Grants-in-Aid from the centre.

However, growth of own tax revenue was 2.5 per cent, the CAG said, adding though UT's own revenue performance improved, the dependence on central grants-in-aid remains substantial.

Out of Total Expenditure of Rs 82,547.28 crore, the revenue expenditure (85.37 per cent) was substantial, particularly

committed costs and subsidies (68.39 per cent of Revenue Expenditure and 58.39 per cent of TE), leaving limited fiscal space for capital investment.

Capital expenditure remained below budgeted levels, reflecting constraints in infrastructure investment, the CAG said, adding the UT was not able to arrest the fiscal deficit within the target levels set in the budget documents.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Orders Probe

needs a transparent & time bound probe with the facts made public".

"Any attempt to obfuscate or delay the announcement of a probe will only damage credibility & that is not in anyone's interest," he had said on X.

The J&K Home Department has asked the Ganderbal district magistrate to get the inquiry conducted within seven days.

"Kindly refer to the encounter that took place at Arhama Ganderbal on 01.04.2026 resulting in the death of Raashid Ahmad Mughal S/o Late Gull Zaman Mughal R/o Chuntwaliwar Lar, Ganderbal," the Home Department said in a communication to the Ganderbal district magistrate.

The Home Department said the issue has been examined and accordingly, "you are requested to get a thorough and impartial magisterial inquiry conducted into the matter to ascertain the facts and circumstances leading to the death of Raashid Ahmad Mughal".

"The inquiry may be completed within a period of seven days and the report be submitted to the Home Department," the communication added.

Civilisational Roots

impact can be felt deeply across the world," he said.

He emphasised that Ayodhya can become a "centre of soft power" of India, from where a message of the country's cultural richness and ethos can go out to the wider world.

"Ayodhya is not just a holy pilgrimage site for us, it is a symbol of the idea embodied in our 'sanantan' culture that no nation can become powerful without embracing its roots.

He emphasised that understanding and preserving one's roots is essential not only for cultural continuity but also for economic progress.

"If we understand our roots, preserve them and present them in a contemporary idiom, we become not only culturally richer but economically stronger as well. Ayodhya is a living example that civilisation itself is the bedrock of future possibilities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Sinha framed Ayodhya as more than a physical space, calling it a guiding force rooted in consciousness and values. "Ayodhya is not just a city; it is our root. It is the living consciousness of the present and the compass of the future," he said.

Highlighting its philosophical and moral dimensions, he noted that Ayodhya embodies principles of duty, dignity, compassion and balance, which continue to shape both individual and collective life.

"The world must learn from the ideals of Lord Ram's rectitude, dharma, duty and sacrifice. His life is living proof that those who walk the path of truth and righteousness ultimately prevail," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed that Ayodhya represents a model where tradition and modernity coexist, urging people to move forward without disconnecting from their civilisational roots.

"Ayodhya reminds us that progress never means abandoning our roots. Life is not about speed alone, but also about the right direction," he said.

Describing Ayodhya as a dynamic inspiration, Sinha said it continues to awaken moral consciousness and offers guidance in today's global context.

"As an idea, Ayodhya teaches us that strength and sensitivity can walk together, because leadership is not only governance but service," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor attended the event organised by Shri Ayodhya Nyas in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and Pragma Sansthan at IGNC, New Delhi.

Trump's Iran

going to bring them back to the Stone Ages, where they belong."

The letter also cited an earlier mid-March remark by Trump suggesting strikes could be carried out "just for fun", as well as comments from War Secretary Pete Hegseth, who said the U.S. does not fight with "stupid rules of engagement".

Legal experts expressed particular concern over reports of civilian casualties. The letter referenced strikes that hit schools, health facilities, and homes, including a devastating February 28 attack on a girls' primary school in the Iranian city of Minab. According to the Iranian Red Crescent, 175 students were killed. The U.S. military later acknowledged it had elevated its investigation into the strike after evidence suggested American forces were likely responsible.

The United States and Israel have also carried out multiple attacks on medical facilities in the course of their war on Iran.

On Thursday the US-Israeli warplanes attacked and destroyed the Pasteur Institute of Iran - the oldest and most prestigious research and public health centre in the Middle East. The institute conducts research on infectious diseases, produces vaccines and biological products and provides advanced diagnostics.

The US military on Thursday executed a double-tap strike on a highway bridge outside of Tehran, killing a dozen people and injuring 90

others.

The two strikes reportedly struck the bridge roughly an hour apart, with the second arriving while emergency responders, who are considered protected civilians, were assisting the wounded.

In a post on Truth Social Thursday night, the U.S. president appeared to celebrate that strike and promise more destruction like it.

"Our Military, the greatest and most powerful (by far!) anywhere in the World, hasn't even started destroying what's left in Iran. Bridges next, then Electric Power Plants! New Regime leadership knows what has to be done, and has to be done, FAST!" Trump wrote.

The conflict began on February 28, when U.S. and Israeli forces launched coordinated attacks on Iran. Tehran retaliated with strikes on Israel and U.S. military bases and its business assets across the Gulf region. Since then, joint U.S.-Israeli operations in Iran and Israeli attacks in Lebanon have so far killed thousands and displaced millions.

In a separate report, former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen J. Rapp warned that Trump's rhetoric risks undermining America's standing in international law.

"It makes us a rogue state," Rapp said, responding to Trump's threat to destroy Iran's power stations and desalination plants if the Strait of Hormuz is not reopened.

Trump wrote on Truth Social that if a deal is not reached, the U.S. would "blow up and completely obliterate all of their Electric Generating Plants, Oil Wells and Kharg Island (and possibly all desalination plants!)." Rapp stressed that targeting desalination plants—critical sources of drinking water for millions—"would definitely be a war crime. Not much question about that."

Kenneth Roth, former executive director of Human Rights Watch, echoed this assessment, stating: "Even attacks on power plants are war crimes," noting that Iran's unified electrical grid serves both civilian and military needs. "The harm to civilians ... is clearly disproportionate to any military benefit," he added.

Under international humanitarian law, civilian infrastructure cannot be targeted unless it is being used for military purposes—and even then, attacks must meet strict proportionality standards.

Other experts warned that even the threats themselves may carry legal consequences. "Threatening to carry out a war crime can be considered a war crime in and of itself," Roth said, adding that such statements could demonstrate criminal intent if attacks are executed.

David J. Scheffer, the first U.S. ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, cautioned that while he would not immediately label the United States a "rogue state," the international community is closely watching.

"The entire international community will be watching the conduct of U.S. forces in the Iran war," he said, warning that global judgment could conclude the U.S. is not complying with international law.

The United States and Israel are not signatories to the International Criminal Court, which prosecutes war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity—further complicating accountability mechanisms.

Meanwhile, critics within and outside government say the rhetoric signals a troubling shift. Josh Paul, a former State Department official, warned of a growing "willingness to commit" potential war crimes, while Annette Sheline, who resigned over U.S. policy in the Middle East, described Trump's language as "alarming," especially in the context of widespread destruction in Gaza.

Hala Rharrit, a veteran U.S. diplomat who stepped down in 2024, said such normalization is dangerous.

"Once hospital after hospital, school after school got bombed... it became so normalized," she said. "Now, when Trump makes the threat of attacking civilian infrastructure, many people don't even bat an eye."

Rapp warned that beyond immediate consequences, such rhetoric risks setting a global precedent.

"It creates a permission structure for others to threaten or commit similar crimes," he said, cautioning that the long-term impact could erode decades of international legal norms established after World War II.

As tensions rise and the conflict deepens, the debate over legality, morality, and accountability continues to intensify—both within the United States and across the international stage.

Iran Downs US F-15,

unknown.

The IRGC also reported another interception south of Qeshm Island, where an aircraft, it said, crashed between Hengam and Qeshm islands into the Persian Gulf—framing the incident as a direct rebuttal to claims by Donald Trump that Iran's air defences had been obliterated.

Rescue Operation Under Fire Iranian media, including Tasnim News Agency, reported that Iranian air defences targeted a US UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. The helicopter was said to be part of a search-and-rescue mission to recover the pilot of the downed jet and came under fire near the Iran-Iraq border. Other aircraft involved in the mission—including C-130 Hercules—were

reportedly pushed back by Iranian air defences.

Unverified accounts from Iraqi sources suggested a helicopter crash near the border, though there has been no official U.S. confirmation of this.

Conflicting Accounts Over Pilot's Fate The fate of the pilot remains uncertain and heavily contested. Iranian-linked sources claim the pilot ejected into Iranian territory, with some reports suggesting possible capture. U.S. officials, however, maintain that at least one pilot has been successfully rescued, though details remained limited.

An image circulated by Iranian media—appearing to show an aircraft ejection seat—has intensified speculation.

Civilian Mobilisation and Bounty In a highly unusual move, Iranian state broadcasting in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province called on civilians to help locate US pilots.

Local reports indicate that armed tribesmen and villagers have mobilised across mountainous areas as part of what authorities described as a "widespread chase".

Israeli Operational Pause An Israeli official confirmed that Israel was assisting the US with intelligence efforts to locate the missing crew member.

The official added that Israel has cancelled planned strikes inside Iran to avoid disrupting ongoing rescue operations—highlighting the sensitivity of the mission.

Escalation After U.S. Strikes The incidents followed US strikes on Iranian infrastructure, including the Karaj bridge, after which Iran warned of retaliatory action against targets in Israel and US allied countries.

Earlier in the day, Trump also suggested the U.S. could "take their oil", adding to tensions.

A Potential Turning Point According to observers, if confirmed, the capture of a U.S. pilot would mark a major escalation, potentially transforming the conflict into a hostage crisis with far-reaching military and political consequences for the Trump administration.

Political Fallout and Mockery from Tehran Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf mocked Washington in a post on X: "After defeating Iran 37 times in a row, this brilliant no-strategy war they started has now been downgraded from 'regime change' to 'Hey! Can anyone find our pilots? Please?'"

In a separate post, he added: "Wow. What incredible progress. Absolute geniuses." His remarks appeared to directly counter earlier claims by Donald Trump, who on March 31 said there had effectively been "regime change" in Iran, describing its leadership as "much less radicalised" and more "rational". —Trans Asia News

Quake Jolts Kashmir, tremors. "I felt a strong jolt which lasted for a few seconds," said Baldev Chand, a Chandigarh resident. Another resident, Ajay Kumar from Zirakpur, said the tremors were short-lived but enough to cause alarm.

Authorities said further details were being monitored, but no adverse impact has been reported so far.

Weather Turns

(MeT), the current system is expected to remain active till the evening of April 4, with weather conditions likely to stay erratic until April 10.

The department has forecast intermittent light to moderate rain and snowfall in higher reaches at many places, accompanied by thunder, hailstorms and gusty winds till Saturday evening.

It also warned of moderate to heavy rainfall in parts of Kashmir, with the possibility of intense, short-duration heavy showers at a few locations. Snowfall is expected to continue in elevated areas.

From April 5 to 6, the weather is likely to turn partly cloudy with light rain at isolated places. However, another spell of light to moderate rain and snow in higher reaches, along with thunder and gusty winds, is expected between April 7 and 9.

A brief spell of light rain or snowfall in higher areas may also occur between April 10 and 11, the MeT Office said.

The department has also cautioned about thunder, hail and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph at isolated places over the next 24 hours and again around April 7-8.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif said snowfall is possible over higher reaches, with light to moderate snowfall expected in middle reaches over the next 24 hours.

Authorities warned that intense showers over short durations could trigger flash floods, landslides in vulnerable areas and waterlogging in low-lying regions.

In view of the prevailing conditions, the MeT Office has advised farmers to suspend agricultural operations until the weather stabilises. Authorities also warned tourists, shikara operators and others operating in and around water bodies, including Dal Lake and River Jhelum, to exercise caution and avoid venturing out without assessing safety conditions.

Helplines have been activated by the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) Srinagar

and the Police Control Room (PCR) for any emergency assistance, officials said.

The DEOC helpline numbers are 0194-2483651, 0194-2457552, and 0194-2457543, with additional WhatsApp numbers 9103998355, 9103998356, and 9103998357. The PCR Srinagar can be reached at 0194-2477567.

The administration has urged people to remain alert and cooperate with authorities to ensure public safety during the adverse weather conditions.

Over 18 Lakh Kanals

Poonch with 1,11,133 kanals, it said.

In Jammu and Kashmir, land is traditionally measured using units like 'kanal' and 'marla', which are part of an older system still widely used in property and agriculture. One kanal equals 20 marlas, and a kanal measures about 5,445 square feet, while one marla is approximately 272.25 square feet (though slight variations can exist locally).

In the Kashmir division, Bandipora has reported 1,53,271 kanals of encroached state land, followed by Baramulla with 53,449 kanals and Pulwama with 42,730 kanals, it added.

The data reveals major encroachment on forest land across the Union Territory.

In the Jammu division, Rajouri has the highest forest land encroachment at 4,899.16 hectares, followed by Reasi (2,780.38 hectares) and Ramban (2,648.63 hectares). Other affected districts include Poonch (965.92 hectares), Jammu (645.85 hectares) and Kathua (590.38 hectares), it said.

In Kashmir, forest divisions in Anantnag, Shopian-Pulwama and Budgam have also reported considerable encroachments. The total forest land under encroachment in the region stands at 5,857.41 hectares, it said.

Over 29,067.15 kanals of land have been retrieved from encroachments so far, said officials, adding that of this, 27,351 kanals is state land while the remaining 1,716.15 kanals is forest land.

The data revealed that land retrieval has been reported from several districts since October 2024. Among major recoveries, Doda recorded the retrieval of 13,674 kanals and 13 marlas of state land, followed by Kishtwar with 6,245 kanals and Ramban with 3,362 kanals. Reasi reported recovery of 1,961 kanals, it said.

Kulgam recorded the highest retrieval of forest land at 39.70 hectares, followed by Anantnag (12.33 hectares) and Ramban (10.87 hectares), it added.

Other districts, including Ganderbal, Samba and Rajouri, also reported smaller recoveries, it said.

The government said joint eviction drives are being carried out by the Forest Department in coordination with the Forest Protection Force and police authorities.

They said any latest attempts at encroachment or illegal cultivation are detected and acted upon at the initial stage. Besides, forest boundaries are being re-surveyed using Differential GPS (DGPS) technology to ensure accurate identification of encroachments, while field staff have been directed to maintain strict vigil in vulnerable areas, they said.

Awareness campaigns are also being organised in forest-adjacent villages to sensitise local communities about conservation, they said.

Officials said the Jammu and Kashmir High Court is monitoring the progress of eviction of encroachment in a public interest litigation, with regular status reports being submitted for appraisal.

Power Relief For

washing, cleaning, entertainment or leisure, water pumping, etc," the government said.

It also informed that the group housing societies can avail of single-point power supply. The energy bill of a housing society shall be divided by the number of houses in it to determine the consumption of each house.

About the tariff for non-domestic and commercial supply category, the government informed the house that this tariff category shall be applicable to the shops, showrooms, business houses, offices, educational or technical institutions, clubs, meeting halls, places of public entertainment, hotels, cinemas, hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, nursing homes, X-ray units, diagnostic centres, pathological labs, fisheries, aquaculture, sericulture, dairy, hatcheries, printing presses—other than those qualifying to be charged under the LT industrial supply category, milk chilling centres—other than those specifically mentioned under Agricultural Supply, poultry farms, cattle breeding farms, nurseries, plantations, mushroom growing.

It also said that this tariff category shall be applicable to carpenters and furniture makers, juice centres, hoardings and advertisement services, typing institutes, internet cafes, STD/ISD PCOs, photocopying shops, tailoring shops, photo studios and colour labs, laundries, cycle shops, compressors for filling air, restaurants, eating establishments, guest houses, marriage gardens, welding transformer and lathe machines for repair works and services, book binders, petrol pumps and service stations, lifts and other appliances in shopping centres and offices, tourist house-boats, and other similar establishments.

"In addition, any connection not covered under other categories shall be billed under this category. However, this would exclude connections pertaining to State or Central Government or Defence services, which have been included in a separate category," the government said. (KNO)

Centre Orders

The move comes as the government ramps up measures to ensure uninterrupted supply of petrol, diesel and LPG across the country despite the evolving geopolitical situation.

Authorities have advised citizens to avoid panic buying of fuel and unnecessary LPG bookings, urging them to rely only on official information. Consumers have also been encouraged to use digital platforms for LPG bookings and avoid visiting distributors unless necessary.

As part of demand management, people have been urged to adopt alternative energy sources such as piped natural gas (PNG), induction and electric cooktops where feasible, and to conserve fuel in daily use.

The government said that, despite the ongoing "war-like situation", priority is being given to domestic LPG and PNG supply, along with essential services including hospitals and educational institutions.

Among the measures taken are increased refinery output, extension of LPG booking intervals to 25 days in urban areas and up to 45 days in rural regions, and prioritisation of supply to critical sectors. Alternate fuels such as kerosene and coal are also being deployed to ease pressure on LPG demand, with additional coal allocations made to states.

States have further been asked to expand PNG connections and ensure targeted distribution of LPG. During a recent review meeting, the MoPNG reiterated that there is no disruption in LPG supply for migrant workers.

Enforcement action has already intensified, with more than 4,000 raids conducted across states and Union Territories. Authorities have seized over 1,300 LPG cylinders, while public sector oil marketing companies have issued more than 670 show-cause notices to distributors.

So far, 21 states and Union Territories have begun regular press briefings to keep citizens informed, the government said, emphasising that public cooperation will be key to maintaining a smooth and uninterrupted fuel supply system.

Fuel, LPG Supplies

Union Territory. Depots are maintaining adequate inventory levels, while retail outlets continue to have sufficient stock to ensure uninterrupted sales.

State Level Coordinator for the oil industry in J&K, Himanshu Sharma, said that the supply chain is functioning smoothly, with regular replenishments being carried out to maintain consistent availability.

He added that LPG stocks at bottling plants are also at comfortable levels, in line with prescribed norms, ensuring that domestic consumers do not face shortages.

Authorities said OMCs are closely monitoring the situation and have taken steps to streamline logistics and expedite deliveries wherever required.

Amid concerns that often trigger panic buying, consumers have been advised against hoarding fuel or LPG cylinders. Officials stressed that such behaviour can disrupt supply chains unnecessarily despite adequate availability.

LPG consumers have also been encouraged to use digital booking platforms and verify deliveries through the Delivery Authentication Code (DAC), a move aimed at improving transparency and efficiency in distribution.

OMCs have sought public cooperation in maintaining a smooth supply system, reiterating that there is no shortage and that supplies are being regularly replenished across Jammu and Kashmir. (PIB)

Foreign MBBS Under

Recent reports, including coverage by TOI Education, indicate that the latest advisory is not an isolated intervention but part of a continuing pattern of concern.

Despite repeated notices over the past three years, a growing number of Indian students are still opting for foreign medical education without fully verifying regulatory compliance.

The NMC has placed the responsibility squarely on applicants and their families, emphasising informed decision-making over convenience or cost considerations.

What is at stake

For many students, the consequences of a wrong choice may only become visible years later — after graduation, when they attempt to register and practise in India.

"Failure to meet prescribed requirements may result in ineligibility for medical registration," the advisory warns, underscoring the long-term risks involved.

The Commission has urged students to consult official sources, including its website and Indian missions abroad, and to report any suspicious or misleading admission practices.

Experts Flag Gaps in Autism Care, Call for Early Intervention in Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Experts on Friday said that there is urgent need to deepen understanding, promote early diagnosis, and strengthen support systems for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Kashmir.

Renowned psychiatrist Dr Abrar Guroo while talking to KNO said, "It's important to approach autism with empathy and sensitivity rather than limiting it to a clinical diagnosis."

"As a psychiatrist, one thing I have learnt from children with autism is that they experience the world differently, not less deeply. Our job is not to change

who they are, but to understand them better," he said.

Dr. Guroo elaborated that autism is far more than a label in medical records; it represents a spectrum of unique developmental patterns that vary from child to child.

"Autism is not simply a diagnosis in a file. It is a child who may struggle to speak, to connect, or to be understood—but with early support and patience, their potential can surprise us all," he added.

Another leading psychiatrist, Dr. Aijaz Abdullah, highlighted the transformative impact of early recognition and professional support. "Early signs of

autism—such as delayed speech, minimal eye contact, repetitive behaviours, and challenges in social interaction—are frequently overlooked in many Kashmiri households. These signs are often dismissed as temporary delays, leading to missed opportunities for early intervention," said Dr Abdullah, adding, "Many parents come to us worried about delayed speech or poor eye contact. Recognising these signs early and seeking help can make a huge difference in the child's development."

"We should remember that awareness is only the first step. What families really need is acceptance, support, and early in-

tervention," he added.

Both experts emphasized that autism should not be viewed as a limitation but as a different way of perceiving and interacting with the world.

"Autism is not a lack of ability; it is a different way of experiencing and communicating with the world," Dr. Abdullah said.

Dr Guroo added that Autism also challenges societal norms and perceptions, urging communities to adopt a more inclusive outlook. "One thing autism teaches us is humility—every mind works differently, and sometimes the child is not the one who needs to change; the world around

them does," he said.

"Despite increasing awareness, access to specialized therapies—including speech therapy, occupational therapy, and behavioural interventions—remains limited in Kashmir, particularly in rural and remote areas. Many families are forced to travel long distances or depend on expensive private services, placing both financial and emotional strain on caregivers," said another doctor.

He said, "Parents of children with autism often grapple with social stigma and a lack of understanding within their communities, further compounding their challenges"

Over 3.07 Lakh Drinking Water Samples Tested in 2025-26

SRINAGAR: The Government of India said that over 3.07 lakh drinking water samples were tested in laboratories across Jammu and Kashmir during the current financial year 2025-26 (till March 31).

Replying to an unstarred question in Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said that under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), water quality testing is being carried out regularly to ensure safe drinking water supply to rural households.

As per official data accessed by KNO, Jammu & Kashmir recorded testing of 2,53,364 samples in laboratories and 34,793 through Field Testing Kits (FTKs) in 2023-24. In 2024-25, 2,66,547 samples were tested in labs and 2,129 using FTKs.

In the ongoing financial year 2025-26, the number of laboratory-tested samples has increased to 3,07,793, while only 32 samples were tested using FTKs.

The government said that drinking water remains a State subject, and the responsibility for planning, implementation and maintenance of water supply schemes lies with the respective State/UT governments. The Centre provides financial and technical assistance to support these efforts.

It further stated that an online Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed under JJM to monitor sample testing, contamination levels and remedial actions. The data is available in the public domain for transparency and awareness.

The Ministry also said that dashboards at State and district levels, along with a "Citizen Corner", have been created to display village-level water quality data and build public confidence in drinking water supply systems.

A handbook on monitoring water quality of piped drinking water was also released in December 2024 to guide States and UTs in ensuring comprehensive testing and timely remedial measures wherever contamination is detected, the government added. (Observer News Service)

HC Issues Directions for Speedy Disposal Of Execution Petitions

KO Correspondent

SRINAGAR: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued fresh directives to ensure effective and expeditious disposal of execution petitions.

In this regard, The Registrar General of the court issued a Circular in compliance with the Supreme Court's order in Periyammal (Dead) through LRs & Ors. vs V. Rajamani & Anr.

The circular mandates all courts across the Union Territories to treat execution proceedings as a continuation of the original litigation, recognising them as the final stage of the judicial process.

It emphasizes that courts must strive to dispose of execution petitions within six months, in line with the Supreme Court's judgment dated March 6, 2025. It further clarified that execu-

tion should not be stalled merely due to pendency of appeals, unless a specific stay has been granted by a superior court.

To curb delays, courts have been directed to fix shorter timelines for responses to show-cause notices and ensure that adjournments do not exceed 15 days at any stage. Excessive adjournments are to be avoided, and where granted, must strictly comply with legal provisions, including imposition of costs.

The High Court has also called for prompt consideration of objections raised by judgment debtors, while empowering courts to adopt coercive measures, such as attachment of property, seeking security, or arrest and detention, in cases of deliberate evasion of decrees.

In instances where de-

cree-holders fail to assist in execution within a reasonable time, the courts have been authorised to terminate proceedings in accordance with law.

The circular further mandates day-to-day hearings in cases requiring evidence during execution proceedings, barring exceptional circumstances.

To strengthen monitoring, courts have been directed to submit monthly reports through their respective Principal District & Sessions Judges, explaining delays in execution matters pending beyond six months. District Court Management Systems Committees have also been tasked with closely tracking such cases and recommending measures for their swift disposal.

The directions are in addition to earlier instructions issued on May 9 last year.

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Completed: Govt

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link has been completed, the government informed the Lok Sabha, describing it as a key milestone in railway infrastructure expansion under the National Rail Plan.

Replying to a starred question, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the project is part of a broader push to enhance connectivity and capacity across the country.

The government noted that Indian Railways has significantly expanded its network over the past decade, focusing on new lines, track doubling and electrification to improve regional connectivity and streamline freight movement.

The completion of the rail link is expected to



strengthen connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, easing the movement of passengers and goods across the region.

Officials said such infrastructure projects play a crucial role in socio-economic development by reducing transportation costs, improving logistics efficiency and enabling faster movement of goods.

They added that improved connectivity is also likely to boost tourism, generate employment and

support industrial activity in connected areas.

According to the government, a total of 431 railway infrastructure projects spanning 35,966 km, with an estimated cost of around ₹6.75 lakh crore, are currently sanctioned across the country.

It added that timely completion of such projects depends on multiple factors, including land acquisition, forest clearances, shifting of utilities and local conditions.

Over 1,436 Km of National Highways Built in J&K since 2018: Centre

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Around 1,436 kilometres of National Highways have been constructed in Jammu and Kashmir since 2018-19, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha.

According to official data accessed by KNO, the Union Territory witnessed fluctuating highway construction over the years, with 95 km built in 2018-19, 46 km in 2019-20, 234 km in 2020-21, 263 km in 2021-22, 217 km in 2022-23, 243 km in 2023-24, 214 km in 2024-25 and 124 km during 2025-26 till February.

The Centre also informed that expenditure on development and maintenance of National Highways in Jammu and Kashmir has seen a steady rise in recent years. The spending increased from Rs 2,932 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 6,817 crore in 2021-22, Rs 7,370 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 10,528 crore in 2023-24, before slightly declining to Rs 10,204 crore in 2024-25.

The government said that it is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways, while execution is carried out through various agencies.

On road safety, the Centre said that nationwide data indicates a rise in accidents and fatalities on National Highways, with 1.28 lakh accidents and 56,007 deaths reported in 2021, increasing to 1.50 lakh accidents and 64,772 deaths in 2024.

The minister further said that 67 highway stretches across the country have reported major deficiencies in the last three years and the current year. Action against defaulting contractors includes penalties, termination of contracts, debarment and blacklisting, depending on the severity of defects.

The government further informed that 85 National Highway projects, including those under Bharatmala Pariyojana, are delayed by more than three years due to issues such as land acquisition, clearances, utility shifting and financial constraints.

Ganderbal Schools Body Renews Shah for Second Term

Unopposed mandate signals continuity as private schools prioritize training and student engagement

Syed Sammar Mehdi

GANDERBAL: A brief but decisive meeting of the Private Schools' Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) in Ganderbal returned Bashir Ahmed Shah as district president for a second consecutive term, with members backing him unanimously and without contest.

The decision came during a session of the association's executive body, where zonal presidents from across the district endorsed Shah in quick succession. The election process proceeded under the supervision of Farooq Ahmed Ashai, convener of the PSAJK election commission, with Majid Butt serving as a member.

Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, the PSAJK state president, attended the meeting, signaling the importance of district leadership within the broader structure of the association.

Shah's re-election re-

flected a preference for continuity at a time when private schools in Ganderbal face rising expectations from parents and regulators. Administrators described his first term as marked by consistent coordination among member institutions and regular engagement on operational concerns.

Discussion during the meeting shifted quickly to priorities for the upcoming academic session. Members identified two areas for immediate focus: expansion of sports activities and structured training for teaching staff.

School leaders said the emphasis on sports aims to strengthen student engagement beyond the classroom, with plans for inter-school events and greater use of available facilities. Staff upskilling, they added, remains critical as educators adapt to changing curricula and teaching methods.

Participants highlighted

practical challenges tied to these goals, including limited resources and uneven access to training opportunities. Shah acknowledged these constraints and called for coordinated efforts within the association to implement programs at the district level.

Private schools in Ganderbal operate within a competitive environment shaped by parental expectations, cost pressures, and regulatory oversight. Administrators at the meeting pointed to rising operational expenses, including salaries and infrastructure, which continue to influence decision-making.

PSAJK serves as a coordinating body for private institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, with district units playing a central role in implementing policies and addressing local concerns. Members said cohesive leadership at this level remains essential for managing both internal coordination and external pressures.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

ADDENDUM.

Subject: *Repairment/Desilting of Drain at Jamia Masjid.*
Reference: *NIT No.66 OFR&B/QAZIGUND/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/6027-41 DATED:18-03- 2026*

Since the renewal process of registration cards is in process and might take few weeks as such a grace period of 30-Days from 01-April-2026 to 30-April 2026 shall be consideration for Class of Contractors.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No.R&B/2026-27/98-100
Dated: 02-04-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Qazigund

DIPK-101-26
DT: 03/04/2026

email:spsopore@jkpolice.gov.in

office:-01954-225511
Phone: (o):- 01954-222313
(R):-01954-222333

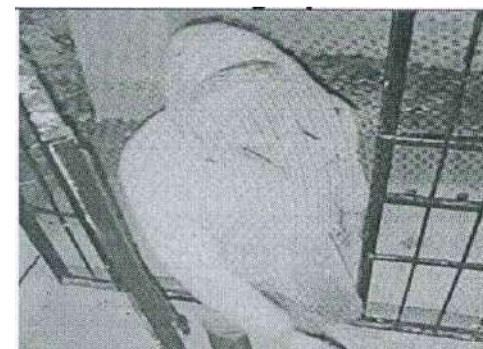
**DPHQ
Sopore.
CRB/Look-Out-99/2026
Dated:- 03/04/2026**

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Whereas, it has been intimated by In-Charge Police Post Fruit Mandi Sopore vide communication No. 148 dated 30-03-2026 that a written complaint was received regarding an incident of theft at Panchayat Ghar Reban, Sopore. Whereas, as per the contents of the complaint, an unknown accused person unlawfully trespassed into the premises of Panchayat Ghar Reban and committed theft of one gas cylinder and one LED TV screen during the intervening night/odd hours. Accordingly, a case FIR No.25/2026 US 305, 331 (4) BNS stands registered in PS Sopore.

Whereas, during the course of preliminary investigation, a photograph of the suspected accused person involved in the commission of the offence has been obtained and is annexed herewith for identification.

Photograph



Now, therefore, a Look Out Notice is hereby issued against the unidentified accused person with the request to keep a close watch and make efforts to identify and apprehend the said accused person. The photograph of the suspect be widely circulated among all Police Stations, Police Posts, regarding the identity and whereabouts of the accused person. In case any information is received or the accused person is traced, the same shall be communicated immediately to Police Station Sopore/PP Fruit Mandi Sopore for further necessary legal action.

Email:- spsopore@jkpolice.gov.in
Phone:- 01954-222313
PCR Sopore:-9596773024, 9596773025.
SHO PS Sopore:- 9596773100.

Iftkhar Talib-JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
PD. Sopore.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-Tender Notice			
Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 27.04.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against these tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in .			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
02.04.2026	13.04.2026	27.04.2026 15:00 Hrs.	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	01-2026-27-ADEN-I-ASR	Provision of cover shed & repair of road surface of LHS no. C-14, C-15, C-19, C-22 & C-25 on BAT-QDN section under ADEN-I/ASR.	
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money
		52601691.21	1052000.00
		Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		60 Days	09 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work".			
2.	02-2026-27-ADEN-I-ASR	Provision of cover shed & repair of road surface of LHS no. C-08, C-18, C-20 & C-23 on ASR-BAT section under ADEN-I/ASR.	
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money
		31005968.87	620100.00
		Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		60 Days	09 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work".			
Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender No: 01 & 02-2026-27-ADEN-I-ASR Date: 02.04.2026			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

DIPK-115-26
DT: 03/04/2026



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And Baby Care Cover


Consumable Expenses Covered
Upto Sum Insured


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