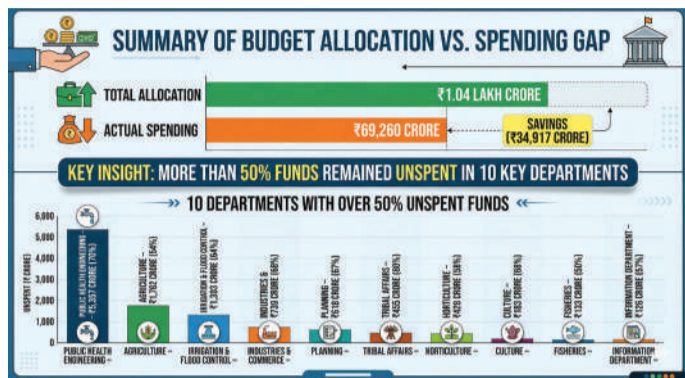


CAG Flags ₹34,000 Crore Unutilized Funds in J&K



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has flagged serious financial management lapses in Jammu and Kashmir, revealing that over ₹34,000 crore in savings were not surrendered by government departments during 2023-24, in violation of prescribed budgetary norms.

The audit report noted that against a total allocation of ₹1,04,178.32 crore under 36 grants, actual expenditure stood at ₹69,260.36 crore, leaving savings of ₹34,917.96 crore that were not returned to the Finance Department as required.

Under the Jammu and Kashmir Budget Manual, departments are mandated to surrender anticipated savings to ensure efficient reallocation of funds. The failure to do so, the CAG observed, reflects weak financial control and poor budgetary discipline.

The report further highlighted that overall expenditure during 2023-24 stood at ₹1,26,054.97 crore against a total provision of ₹1,57,212.90 crore, resulting in additional savings of ₹31,157.93 crore, again largely unsundered. Overall spending remained about 20 per cent lower than total grants and appropriations.

A department-wise analysis revealed significant under-utilisation of funds across key sectors. More than half of the allocated funds remained unspent in at least ten departments, including Public Health Engineering (70 per cent), Tribal Affairs (80 per cent), Industries and Commerce (68 per cent), Planning (67 per cent), Irrigation and Flood Control (64 per cent), and Agriculture (54 per cent), among others.

In a major concern, the audit found that ₹10,597.90 crore under 31 grants involving 160 schemes remained completely unutilised, effectively denying intended benefits to the public. The CAG also pointed to persistent patterns of under-spending. In 45 cases across 28 grants, savings exceeding ₹100 crore were recorded without surrender, while 37 cases showed consistently high savings over three consecutive years from 2021-22 to 2023-24, indicating structural issues in budgeting.

Highlighting procedural violations, the report noted that ₹5,214.45 crore was incurred under 35 schemes without any budgetary provision. Additionally, excess expenditure of ₹19,610.17 crore was incurred between October 2019 and March 2024 without proper

J&K Assembly Adjourned Sine Die After 22-Sitting Budget Session

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Saturday adjourned the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly sine die after a largely well-conducted budget session that lasted for 22 sittings spread across February, March and April.

The assembly session commenced on February 2 with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presenting the Budget on February 6, while the House passed grants for various departments after detailed discussions conducted in twin sittings each day till February 20. After a five-weeks recess, the



budget session resumed on March 27.

The speaker said the assembly held a total of 22 sittings, marking a second-highest tally among states,

next only to Gujarat, which recorded 23 budget sittings.

The house functioned for a total of 6,636 minutes (110.6 hours) during this session, he said, adding | More on P6

Private Universities Bill Passed

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Saturday passed the Private Universities Bill, clearing the way for the establishment, incorporation and regulation of private universities in the Union Territory.

The bill, introduced by Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, seeks to create a structured framework governing the | More on P6

SESSION AT A GLANCE

- 22 sittings across Feb-Apr
- Session among highest in country, second only to Gujarat (23 sittings)
- House functioned for 6,636 minutes (110.6 hours)
- 8 government bills introduced and passed
- 25 papers laid, 1 ordinance presented
- 75 private members' bills received (36 pending + 39 new)
- 72 listed, 24 taken up, 2 introduced
- 1,528 questions received (802 starred, 726 unstarred)
- 1,379 questions listed, 144 disallowed
- 151 starred questions answered, with 331 supplementaries
- 110 calling attention notices received, 47 admitted, 26 discussed
- 128 resolutions received, 4 taken up, none adopted
- 2,231 cut motions received, 2,059 admitted

Itoo-Para Exchange Turns Tense In Assembly

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday witnessed chaotic scenes as Education Minister Sakeena Itoo | More on P6

Uproar Over Ganderbal Encounter

Press Trust Of India

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed uproar on the final day of the Budget Session on Saturday, with members of the National | More on P6

WEST ASIA CRISIS Over 4.75 Lakh Indians Brought Home

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Amid escalating tensions in West Asia, the Government of India has facilitated the return of over 4.75 lakh Indian nationals from the Gulf and neighbouring regions, while confirming casualties and injuries among citizens caught in the conflict zone.

Responding to questions in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said that more than one crore Indians are currently residing across West Asia, many of whom have been affected by disruptions arising from the ongoing regional crisis, including the fallout of the Iran-Israel conflict.

The government confirmed that seven Indian nationals have died in recent hostilities — four in Oman, and one each in Saudi Arabia, | More on P6

Over 3.2 Lakh Reservation Certificates Issued In J&K In 2 Yrs

Jammu Accounts For Bulk Of Certificates; ST Category Tops Issuance

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has issued over 3.21 lakh reservation and social category certificates across the Union Territory over the past two years, while more than one lakh applications were rejected and over 9,000 cases remain pending, according to official data tabled in the Assembly.

The information was provided in response to a starred question raised by MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, seeking district-wise details of certificate issuance.

As per the official reply, certificates for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST-1 and ST-2), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Residents of Backward Areas (RBA), and Actual Line



of Control/International Border (ALC/IB) are being issued under the provisions of the J&K Reservation Act, 2004.

The data shows that Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates accounted for the highest share at 1,05,908, followed by OBC (97,179), SC (65,700), RBA (61,155), EWS (32,165), and ALC/IB (5,025).

A division-wise breakdown indicates a sharp disparity, with the Jammu division accounting for 2,86,061

certificates, compared to 35,104 in Kashmir division.

In the Jammu division, districts such as Rajouri and Poonch recorded particularly high issuance of ST certificates, while Jammu, Kathua, and Udhampur also reported substantial figures across categories.

In the Kashmir division, Baramulla, Budgam, Anantnag, and Kupwara saw relatively higher issuance, especially under ST, OBC and RBA categories.

The data also reveals that 1,01,436 applications were rejected across the Union Territory, including 79,768 in Jammu division and 21,728 in Kashmir division. Additionally, 9,346 applications remain pending, with 7,859 in Jammu and 1,487 in Kashmir.

Among districts, Poonch (28,989), Udhampur (22,377), and Kathua (13,206) recorded the | More on P6

FUEL CRACKDOWN IN J&K 108 Cylinders Seized, Rs 40,500 Fines Imposed

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Authorities in Kashmir have intensified inspections across fuel and LPG supply chains amid concerns over potential disruptions linked to the prevailing geopolitical situation affecting global petroleum availability.

The Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) said it has stepped up surveillance to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential petroleum products across the Valley and to curb hoarding and black marketing during a period of heightened demand.

Officials said a total of 2,427 inspections have been conducted across Kashmir since March 19 as part of a widespread enforcement drive.

During these inspections, authorities detected 14 cases of hoarding and six instances of black marketing. As part | More on P6

Snow, Rain Snap Kashmir Back Into Chill

Landslides Stall Highway Movement, MeT Warns Of Flash Floods



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A sudden spell of fresh snowfall in the upper reaches and widespread rain-fall across the plains brought a sharp drop in temperatures

across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, even as landslides and slush disrupted traffic on several key roads.

Officials said Gurez, Tulail, Gulmarg and Sonamarg received fresh | More on P6

Avalanch Warning Issued In Ganderbal

Press Trust Of India

Authorities in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir on | More on P6

Porcupine Threat To Saffron, Govt Plans Action

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A growing porcupine menace is damaging saffron fields in Pampore, raising concern among farmers in Kashmir's famed saffron belt, even as the government acknowledged the scale of the problem and outlined steps to address it.

The issue came up in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly after National Conference MLA Hasnain Masoodi moved a calling attention notice, flagging damage to the high-value crop in the south Kashmir town.

Responding in the House, Forest Minister Javed Ahmad Rana said field evidence has confirmed the active presence of porcupines in and around saffron-growing areas.

He said the region's terrain, including caves, crevices, hilly patches and overgrown private lands, provides favourable shelter for the animals, allowing them to thrive close to cultivated fields.

Farmers in Pampore have been reporting increasing crop losses, with porcupines burrowing into fields and feeding on saffron | More on P6

NLU Budgam Proposal Still Under Examination: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that the proposed National Law University (NLU) in Budgam remains in limbo, with key procedural steps yet to be completed despite the law enabling its establishment being in place.

Responding to a written query by PDP legislator Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, the Law Department said the Jammu and Kashmir National Law University Act, 2018, received



the Governor's assent on September 28, 2019. However, the government has not yet notified the university's headquarters, a mandatory step under Section 3 of the Act for

moving the project forward.

"The government is yet to notify the headquarter of the university... once a notification is issued, further necessary steps for establishment | More on P6

Misappropriation Of GP Funds: LG Suspends IPS Officer

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has suspended IPS officer Sanjeev Kumar Khajuria, pending an inquiry into alleged misappropriation of general provident fund and income tax deductions of police personnel.

According to an order issued on behalf of the L-G by Principal Secretary (Home) Chandraker Bharti, Khajuria will remain attached to the police headquarters till completion of the inquiry.

"Pending inquiry in the matter of misappropriation of general provident fund and income tax deductions of police personnel of the JKAP-4 Security Battalion, Khajuria, the | More on P6

CDS Calls Multi-Domain War Readiness In Kashmir Stresses Tech Integration To Counter Emerging Threats

Agencies

Srinagar: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Saturday conducted a comprehensive review of security and operational preparedness along the Line of Control in North Kashmir, stressing the need for multi-domain war readiness, seamless jointness across services, and technological integration to effectively counter emerging threats and maintain strategic superiority.

During the visit CDS reviewed the security landscape and operational posture along LoC in North Kashmir and commended the formation's exemplary operational preparedness,



doctrinal coherence and resolute professionalism. At Baramulla, he was briefed on Future Force Application & Technology Infusion.

In his address to the Officers of the Chinar Corps, he highlighted that the character of warfare is undergoing profound transformation, necessitating

a shift from Domain-Centric Approach to Multi-Domain Operations (MDO), underpinned by a robust & integrated architecture. He underscored the centrality of jointness, stressing that seamless integration across Land, Air, Maritime, Cyber, Space and Cognitive domains is indispensable for achieving decisive outcomes.

He called for accelerated Joint Training for Futuristic Warfare, Harmonisation of Doctrines and development of Interoperable Command and Control Structures to enable synchronised effects, across all domains.

The CDS emphasised the need for a deliberate roadmap to counter | More on P6

'Systematic Undermining' Of MLAs' Authority Speaker Directs Govt To Fix Protocol Within 2 Months

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday held a short-duration discussion on members' privileges and protocol, with the speaker sharply questioning the government over delays in correcting the "order of precedence" and directing it to take corrective measures within two months.

The order of precedence determines the official protocol ranking of public functionaries, including their status at government events and in administrative

interactions.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather issued the directions on the final day of the assembly session after members from both treasury and opposition benches raised concerns over the "systematic undermining" of legislators' authority, asserting that the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 has not weakened their powers.

Responding to the issues raised by the members, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary assured the house that the dignity of the members is the prime concern of | More on P6



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

Exposure To High Temperatures Linked With Decline In Male Births: Study

Press Trust Of India

Exposure to high temperatures during pregnancy could be linked to a decline in male births, according to an analysis of five million births across India and 33 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Researchers, led by those at the UK's University of Oxford, linked data from large-scale surveys with temperature records to examine how exposure to heat during pregnancy can impact sex ratio at birth. In sub-Saharan Africa, exposure to high temperatures during the first trimester of pregnancy was linked to a decline in male births. However, in India, effects due to heat exposure appear later in pregnancy, with higher temperatures during the second trimester associated with fewer male births -- especially among older mothers, high-parity births and women without sons in northern states. Published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), evidence from the study has important implications for population health and gender balance in a warming world, the researchers said.

Lead author Abdel Ghany, post-doctoral research fellow in sociology at the University of Oxford, said, "Extreme heat is not only a major public health threat. We show that temperature fundamentally shapes human reproduction by influencing who is born and who is not born." "Our findings indicate that temperature has measurable consequences for foetal survival and family planning behaviour, with implications for population composition and gender balance. Understanding these processes is essential for anticipating how the environment affects societies in a warming climate," Ghany said.

Sex ratios at birth are a key demographic indicator and reflect underlying patterns of maternal health, prenatal survival, and, in some contexts, gender discrimination.

demonstrates that ambient heat can increase prenatal mortality in early pregnancy, particularly among males, in both world regions." The researchers also "demonstrate that in regions with high son preference, elevated temperatures during windows where sex-selective abortions could take place reduce these abortions." The pattern



“We show that high temperatures in the nine months before birth are negatively associated with male births in sub-Saharan Africa and India

The team found that temperatures above 20 degrees Celsius are consistently associated with fewer male births in both the world regions -- but through different mechanisms. "We show that high temperatures in the nine months before birth are negatively associated with male births in sub-Saharan Africa and India," the authors wrote. They added, "The exposure timing

suggests that an exposure to heat may reduce access to, or use of, sex-selective abortion, temporarily narrowing gender imbalances, the team said. The findings show that heat exposure could have complex behavioral and biological implications for maternal and fetal health and ramifications on social phenomena such as gender discriminatory practices, the researchers said.

THE JAMMU A KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No.33010067 Session Ann. Reg. 2004 Year 2004 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed by the student himself against my mother's name as SHAREEFA AKHTER OF SHAREEFA BANOO.



Now I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be receded as under: -
Name: Farhad Fayaz Wani
Father's Name: Fayaz Ahmad Wani
Mother's Name:- Shareefa Banoo
Date of Birth:- 12-04-2008
Residence:- Awanpora Charsoo
Mobile No. 9149823815

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Gh Rasool Mir S/o Ab Khaliq Mir R/o Edipora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Fokiya Jaan born on DOB: 23-07-2016 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Ab Hameed Dar S/o Assadullah Dar R/o Lattishat, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Abdul Hameed Dar born on DOB: 30-03-1966 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Shaheena Begum W/o Ab Hamid Dar R/o Lattishat, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Shaheena Begum DOB: 30-03-1971 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Gh Rasool Mir S/o Ab Khaliq Mir R/o Edipora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Fokiya Jaan born on DOB: 23-07-2016 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Asma Nabi D/o Gh Nabi Lone R/o Sagipora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Asma Nabi born on DOB: 17-03-1999 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Ashiq Hussain Dar S/o Habibullah Dar R/o Harwan, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely (Mohammad Hussain Dar born on DOB: 16-01-2021) and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in School Record the name mothers name of my daughter AZMAT ZEHRA 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 HASNAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE ICHIGAM BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

FIRDOUS AHMAD RATHER F/o AZMAT ZEHRA
 R/o ICHIGAM BUDGAM
 FKO

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-042021003382 issued in favour of ABID KHAZIR BHAT Parentage KHAZIR MOHAMMAD BHAT Whereas an application has been received by one ABID KHAZIR BHAT Parentage KHAZIR MOHAMMAD BHAT wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as AABID KHAZIR BHAT Which needs to be changed as ABID KHAZIR BHAT.

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

Assistant Regional Transport Officer
 Budgam Kashmir
 MCB

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-042025002121 issued in favour of MORTAZA ALI MIR Parentage MOHD RAMZAN MIR

Whereas an application has been received by one MORTAZA ALI MIR Parentage MOHD RAMZAN MIR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MURTAZA ALI MIR Parentage MOHAMMAD RAMZAN MIR Which needs to be changed as MORTAZA ALI MIR Parentage MOHD RAMZAN MIR.

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

Assistant Regional Transport Officer
 Budgam Kashmir
 MCB

PUBLIC NOTICE

On my Driving License, bearing DL No. * JK-0520110030168 * name is mentioned as IRSHAD AH MIR, but my actual name is IRSHAD AHMAD MIR, and my father's Name is mentioned as SONAULLAH MIR, but my actual name is SONA ULLAH MIR. I now want to correct it. If you have any objections, please get in touch with the ARTO Office, Sopote, within 7 days. After that, no objection will be accepted.
 Name: IRSHAD AHMAD MIR
 S/O: SONA ULLAH MIR
 R/O LAISAR REHOMA RAFIABAD BARAMULLA, Baramulla, Baramula, Jammu and Kashmir 193301

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my ward who was born on 01-04-2021. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kunzer within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Ishfaq Ahmad Shah
 F/o Mariya
 R/o Ranbir Pora Tehsil Kunzer
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in adhaar card as Mahjabeena Begum while my correct name is Jabina Akhter. 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.
 Jabina Akhter
 W/o Mohammad Ayoob Wani
 R/O Chack Charat Ram
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Ms. Sara Begum, D/o Gh. Mohd Dar, R/o Goshbugh, Tahaal, Palpora, has applied before the office of the Naib Tehsildar, Palhallan for correction/verification of her Date of Birth. As per her records, her correct Date of Birth is 10-05-1965. If any person has any objection with regard to the above correction of Date of Birth, he/she may file the same in writing before the undersigned/concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, the case shall be processed and no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Gulam Mohmmad Dar S/o Habib Ullah Dar R/o Lethpora Pulwama has applied for upgrade of my contractor Card to Class A. If any person have any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer, CID wing JKSPDC Kashmir, Bemina, Srinagar or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B), Civil Secretariat Jammu within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

از نیابت پھلپان با جلاس نائب تحصیلدار پھلپان درخواست از جانب عنوان:- درخواست منجانب سارہ بیگم دختر غلام محمد ارساکنہ گوشہ بک تاحال پاپورہ تحصیل پنن برادر اجرائی یوم پیدائش اشتہار برآمد آد اگائی برخصاص وعام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان میں سائل نے ایک درخواست برآمد وصول اندراج کرنے یوم پیدائش بحق سارہ بیگم اشخاص جن کی یوم پیدائش مندرجہ ذیل ہیں۔ غلام حسن وانی ولد خواجہ سبحان وانی یوم پیدائش 10-05-1965 ہے
 لہذا اس بارے میں برخصاص وعام مطلع کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو مطلوبہ سرند فیکٹس اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ پورا دن کے اندر نو دفتر پھلپان پیش کریں۔
 نائب تحصیلدار پھلپان

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir (UT)
Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Officer Municipal Committee Sumbal

Subject: Helpline Number 14420 for Public Grievances & Sanitation Services

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public of sumbal that Helpline Number (Toll Free) 14420 has been designated for addressing complaints and grievances related to municipal services. Residents are encouraged to use this helpline for reporting issues such as:

- Solid waste collection
- Door-to-door garbage lifting
- Street sanitation and cleanliness
- Overflowing dustbins
- Drainage-related concerns
- Any other civic issues within Municipal Council jurisdiction

The helpline is operational to ensure prompt redressal of complaints and to strengthen public participation in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene across the town. All citizens are requested to actively cooperate and make use of this facility for a cleaner and healthier Bandipora.

Issued in Public Interest by Municipal Committee sumbal.

Sd/-
 Executive Officer
 Municipal Committee sumbal

NO: MC/SBL/SBM/2026-27/661
 DPK-NB-62/26 Dated: 04/04/2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION ZAINPORA
 e-mail:- randb-zainapora@jk.gov.in
 NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (up to Rs. 2.50 Crores) Dated: 04-04-2026
 NIT No: 02/ZNP/RnB/e-Tendering/2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head Of Account	Advertised cost (in Lacs)	Adv. Cost without GST: 51.352 Adv. Cost with GST: 60.595	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/ Doc (Rs.)	Technical sanction No. & Date
1	Construction of Science Room, Computer Room and Library Room at HS Chitragam.	Samagra Shiksha 2025-26			121190/-	AAY having MOU with Electrical Contractor	12 Months	1600/-	289/SE/PS of 2025-26 Dated: 24-03-2026

Position of funds: -Committed
 Project Authority: Project Director, Samagra Shiksha J&K
 AAA No. Date: 314-CHIRAG of 2025 Dated: 01-12-2025 (S.No: 2199, 2200, 2202).
 The Payment shall be made strictly as per the release of funds by the Competent authority.

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

S. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-04-2026
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-04-2026
2	Document downloading Start Date.	04-04-2026
3	Document Downloading End Date.	27-04-2026
4	Bid submission Start Date.	04-04-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date.	27-04-2026
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	28-04-2026

- 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 PWD in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- 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 R&B Division Zainpore. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 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 Bid Cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period beyond 60 Days.
- Continue...
- The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.
- The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance security shall be taken only after approval of next higher authority.
- Bidders are advised to quote Rates without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on website in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpore (Tender receiving authority). NOTE: The "sum in dispute" shall refer to the aggregate of all the disputed amounts, both the claim(s) amount plus the counter claim(s) amount.
- The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- Any typographical error if found in the BOQ/BOQS/NIT will be rectified as per original estimate/DPR/SSR/GCC whichever is appropriate and will be paid accordingly.

No: R&B/ZNP/DIV/NIT/58-69
 DPK-139/26 Dt: 04-04-2026

Sd/-
 (Er. H.M Jahangir)
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Division Zainpore

Traders Seek Long-Term Vision for Lal Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With tourist footfall rising and pressure on civic infrastructure mounting, the Traders Association Lal Chowk on Saturday pitched

match its growing importance as both a business district and a tourist destination.

"We are not just asking for fixes, we are seeking a long-term, coordinated vision that makes Lal Chowk organized,



Kashmir Admin Gears Up for Hajj Departures, Div Com Chairs Review Meet

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the annual Hajj pilgrimage approaching, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the smooth departure of pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners from across Jammu & Kashmir and Kargil, along with senior officials from key departments including Airport Authority, Emigration, Customs, Tourism, Public Works (R&B), Public Health Engineering, KPDC, Health, Transport, Traffic, Police, CISF, J&K Bank, and other concerned agencies.

Officials informed the meeting that Hajj flights are scheduled to

operate between April 18 and April 28, 2026. This year, a total of 4,706 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to undertake the sacred journey.

Emphasising coordinated efforts, the Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to ensure comprehensive and seamless arrangements. He instructed Deputy Commissioners to closely monitor preparations at the district level and facilitate pilgrims effectively.

Special focus was laid on ensuring essential services at the Hajj House, including uninterrupted electricity and water supply, sanitation, and healthcare facilities to cater to the needs of the pilgrims.

The Divisional Commissioner also directed J&K Bank to ensure adequate availability of foreign ex-

change in smaller denominations to prevent inconvenience to pilgrims. Additionally, arrangements for proper boarding and lodging of pilgrims arriving from Jammu and Ladakh were reviewed.

To streamline airport procedures, Customs and Emigration authorities were instructed to establish dedicated facilitation counters for quick clearance of pilgrims.

For better coordination and real-time information sharing, the Divisional Commissioner asked the Hajj Officer to create a dedicated WhatsApp group comprising all concerned officials and Hajj aspirants.

The meeting concluded with directions to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well ahead of the scheduled departures to facilitate a hassle-free pilgrimage experience.

for a comprehensive revamp of the city's commercial hub during a meeting with the Divisional Commissioner, securing an assurance of phased, time-bound action.

The delegation, led by President Mohammad Iqbal Khan and comprising members Jatinder Singh, Naresh Kumar Mehra and Nisar Ahmad Bhat, as per KNO, raised a series of issues ranging from urban planning gaps and traffic congestion to sanitation, pedestrian access and overall aesthetics.

"Lal Chowk is the face of Srinagar's economy and culture. But without planned development and efficient civic management, the pressure of increasing business and tourism is clearly showing," Khan said.

He stressed that the area requires structured urban planning, streamlined traffic and pedestrian movement and sustained beautification to

accessible and truly tourist-friendly," he added.

As per the details, the association said peak-hour congestion, inconsistent sanitation and lack of coordinated infrastructure upgrades are affecting both traders and visitors, particularly as Srinagar witnesses a steady surge in tourist arrivals. The traders said the Divisional Commissioner gave a patient hearing to their concerns and assured that the issues would be addressed systematically in a phased and time-bound manner.

"The response was positive. We have been assured that concrete steps will follow, and we expect visible improvements on the ground in due course," Khan said.

Reaffirming its commitment, the association said it will continue to work closely with the administration to ensure effective implementation of the proposed measures.

Govt Releases Rs 17 Lakh for Renovation of MMCH

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government has released Rs 17 lakh for repair and renovation of Mini Maternity-cum-Child Care Hospital (MMCH), Zakoor, to further enhance patient care in the region.

This was stated by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Saheena Ito, while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved in the House today by Legislator Salman Sagar.

She informed that during 2023-24, Director Health Services, Kashmir authorized the work namely 'up-gradation of MMCH Zakura Srinagar' in order to complete the remaining

works including the internal finishing and other allied development works and granted AAA in July 2022 to the tune of Rs. 299.98 lakh. "Subsequently, the funds to the tune of Rs. 75.00 lakh were released but could not be utilized due to non-relocation/occupation of the building by the security forces", she added.

The Minister said that the works on MMCH Zakoor were under execution through J&K Housing Board but remained incomplete due to occupation of the building by the security forces during the year 2019. She further said that during the year 2025, the security forces vacated the build-

ing and subsequently the building required repairs and renovation.

She informed that the project "HMES2526100050-BALANCE WORK AT MMC ZAKURA SRINAGAR" has been approved under the UT Capex Budget 2025-26 with Rs. 17 lakh has been released. The PWD (R&B) was asked to prepare a DPR, which initially estimated costs at Rs. 10 crore, deemed high.

She added that a revised DPR has been requested with due cost effectiveness from PWD and accordingly the repair and renovation of the building shall be taken up at the earliest to make the building operational for hospital purposes.

Judicial Academy Hosts Training on Fair & Speedy Trial Observer News Service

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy, a one-day training programme on "Role and Responsibilities of Trial Judges in Ensuring Just, Fair and Speedy Trial (as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India)" was successfully conducted today at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar, for Judicial Officers of the Kashmir Province.

Justice Shahzad Azeem, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in his inaugural address, highlighted the pivotal role of trial courts in the justice delivery system, observing that they serve as the first point of interaction between citizens and the judiciary, where facts are established, evidence is tested, and rights are ultimately adjudicated. He emphasized that while the maxim "justice delayed is justice denied" remains significant, equal caution must be exercised to ensure that "justice hurried is justice buried." He stressed that the real challenge before trial judges lies in maintaining a delicate balance between expedition and fairness.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that we, the parents of our ward, are applying for correction of our daughter's name, father's name & mother's name in the school records. Our ward is presently studying in Class 9th, Section A at Presentation Convent High School, Srinagar.

The corrections are as follows:
Ward's Name: From TABIAH to ANABIA BINTI MUKHTAR
Mother's Name: From ZARQA MUKHTAR to ZARQA
Father's Name: From SHEIKH MUKHTAR to MUKHTAR AHMAD SHEIKH

If anyone has any objection to the above correction, they may contact the office of the Principal, Presentation Convent High School, Srinagar, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Mukhtar Ahmad Sheikh & Zarqa
 Parents of Tabiah Binti Mukhtar
 R/O: Shahi Mohalla Awanta Bawan Soura Sgr
 Mob: 9906579171

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

Dated: 11.02.2026
 Present: Tabasum Qadir Parray

In the case of:
 Bank of Baroda B/u: Durganang Gupkar Road

VS
 Applicant
 Bilal Ahmad Guroo S/o: Haji Gh Mohd Guroo
 R/O: House No 11 Guroo Estate Chanapora Baghi Mehtab Near Bypass Bridge Srinagar.

In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement

Whereas, applicant / Bank has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts.

Whereas, notice was issued against non-applicant but services could not be effective due to insufficient/incomplete address.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applicants could not be effective in ordinary mode.

Therefore, the non-applicant through the medium of this notice is directed to appear in person or through his/her Ld. Counsel on 11.04.2026.

Sd/- Secretary (Sub Judge)
 District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

Form No 3
 [See Regulation -15 (1) (a)/16(3)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35
 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
 Case No. OA/1670/2025

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Exh. No: 33734

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED VS M/S Afsha Enterprises

To:
 (1) Sh. Mohammad Ramzan Bhat
 S/o: Sh. Hassan Bhat R/o: Mirgund Pattan, Tehsil Singhpora Distt. Baramulla Jammu and Kashmir

2) Smt. Khatiji
 D/o: Sh. Ghulam Hassan Bhat R/o: Mirgund Pattan, Pattan Tehsil Singhpora Distt. Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir.

SUMMONS

Whereas, OA/1670/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 03.02.2026

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 5176062.03/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 08.05.2026 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 20.03.2026

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

Form No. 3
 (See Regulation-15 (1)(a)/16(3))

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT-1)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35
 Sector -17 A, Chandigarh
 Case No. OA/1914/2025

Summons under sub section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule 2(A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules 1993

Exh.. No 33187

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED VS Gulzar Ahmad Dar

To:
 (1) Aadul Ayaz Sheikh (Alias Aadil Ayaz Sheikh)
 S/o: Ayaz Ahmad Sheikh R/o: Amargarh, Near Sanctorium School Sopore
 Baramulla Jammu and Kashmir-193201

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/1914/2025 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 10.02.2026

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery' of debts of Rs. 4069714.38/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 20.04.2026 at 10.30 AM . failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date; 11.02.2026

Signature of the Officer Authorised to Issue summons

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

AIRPORTS
 SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 48
 ZUHR 12:34
 ASR 5: 05
 Magrib 6:57
 ISHA 8: 20

HIJRI CALENDAR
 16- Shawwal
 1447

This Day In History

- 1609 - Daimyo (Lord) of the Satsuma Domain in southern Kyushu, Japan, completes his successful invasion of the Ryukyu Kingdom in Okinawa
- 1648 - Spanish troops and feudal barons strike down people's uprising in Naples
- 1739 - French emperor Karel VI sign secret treaty
- 1751 - Adolf Frederik of Holstein-Gottorp crowns himself king of Sweden
- 1792 - George Washington casts 1st presidential veto
- 1804 - High Possil Meteorite: The first recorded meteorite in Scotland falls in Possil
- 1806 - Isaac Quintard patents apple cider
- 1812 - British storm Badajoz fortress in Extremadura, Spain, held by French & Spanish
- 1814 - Netherlands Bank issues its 1st banknotes
- 1815 - Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies, has its first violent eruption after several centuries of dormancy

A River Betrayed

A ₹2.71 crore penalty, a decade of inaction, and a river turned toxic reveal how governance failures poison public resources.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

I first saw the garbage in 2016. I had driven into Poonch, a border town in Jammu and Kashmir, expecting the usual sights: checkpoints, orchards, and river cutting through the landscape. Instead, I found a municipal landfill sitting right on the riverbank, leaching filth into the water.

The Poonch Municipal Council had chosen this spot to dump everything: household waste, medical refuse, dead animals. The smell hit you first. Then you noticed the dogs. And then you saw how close the whole mess sat to the water that thousands of people downstream drink every day.

I started writing about it. I published articles, posted videos, tagged officials on social media. The council kept dumping. I wrote more, and they kept dumping.

By 2023, I had exhausted every local channel, so I took the matter to India's National Green Tribunal in New Delhi. The NGT hears environmental cases and possesses the power to impose real financial penalties. I filed the petition myself, thinking a court order might succeed where journalism had failed.

The tribunal has now heard this case six times. The judges have watched the same officials promise reforms, miss deadlines, and return to make identical promises.

Last April, the NGT ordered the municipal CEO to submit a sworn affidavit pledging to clear all legacy waste by August 31, 2025. He signed it, filed it, and then did nothing. The deadline passed, the waste remained, and fresh garbage joined the old piles.

I submitted photographs to the court showing heavy machinery pushing refuse directly into the river during rainfall, burying some under soil, washing the rest



Latitude: 33.759108
Longitude: 74.093203
Elevation: 984.31±6.99 m
Accuracy: 2.826 m
Azimuth: 103° (E)
Pitch: -15.7° (-2.8°)
Time: 01-04-2026 13:26
Powered by AngieCam

By 2023, I had exhausted every local channel, so I took the matter to India's National Green Tribunal in New Delhi. The NGT hears environmental cases and possesses the power to impose real financial penalties. I filed the petition myself, thinking a court order might succeed where journalism had failed.

downstream. The CEO faces the tribunal again on April 6. He has treated the court's order like he treats the town's waste: something to bury and forget.

The financial penalties tell their own story. The NGT imposed Rs 162.9 lakh for violations between October 2020 and September 2024. It added another Rs 108.9 lakh, bringing the total to Rs 2.71 crores. The municipal council paid Rs 25 lakh. That leaves Rs 2.46 crore outstanding. The tribunal ordered the deputy commissioner to auction the council's community hall to recover the balance. An official letter dated December 23, 2025, confirms the municipal

CEO knows about this auction committee. He knows it has done nothing.

Five months have passed since that letter, and the building sits unsold. The debt stays unpaid, while the garbage remains on the riverbank.

Last November, I travelled to Poonch with volunteers from the Jammu and Kashmir Climate Action Group. We met Deputy Commissioner Ashok Sharma, his additional deputy, the municipal CEO, and senior officers from multiple departments. We brought maps, data, and a specific proposal: move waste processing to Salotari, near the Line of Control, far from the river.

The officials nodded.

They spoke about segregation programs and scientific management under the 2016 Municipal Solid Waste Rules. They shook our hands.

But five months later, the dumping continues exactly as before. The machinery still pushes waste into the water, dead animals still rot in the open, and the river still carries contamination toward drinking water sources downstream.

The local member of the legislative assembly gave his own analysis when journalists asked about the crisis. He wanted to know why the NGT was bothering with

municipal waste when illegal stone crushers operate throughout the district.

He seemed unaware that citizens must file formal petitions to bring cases before the tribunal. He seemed equally unaware that he possesses the same right to file such a petition himself.

His deflection speaks to a deeper rot: the habit of treating environmental enforcement as harassment rather than accountability.

This failure spans fifteen years. Multiple CEOs have cycled through the municipal council. Each inherited this problem.

Everyone of them had the authority to fix it, but they chose to let the garbage pile higher. The current crisis represents their collective legacy: a Rs 2.71 crore penalty, a court order treated as optional, and a river that grows more polluted by the day.

The NGT will issue new orders on April 6. Based on the track record, those orders will join the stack of ignored directives unless something fundamental changes.

Auctioning a community hall has not worked. Imposing penalties on an institution that refuses to pay has not worked. The court must now look past the municipal council as an abstract entity and toward the individuals who made these decisions.

Every CEO who served in Poonch over the past fifteen years bears responsibility for allowing this situation to fester. They drew salaries, attended meetings, signed documents, and watched the waste accumulate.

The pending Rs 2.46 crore penalty should follow them personally. Let the debt attach to their assets, pensions, and future employment. Let them explain to their own families why a border town's drinking water carries traces of their indifference.

Environmental law in India has teeth when courts have the will to use them. The NGT has shown that will.

Now it must show something harder: the persistence to keep biting until the job finishes.

The author is an environmental activist and policy commentator. He is the founder and chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Climate Action Group and a member of the J&K State Audit Advisory Board.



Khurshed Peer

A Climate Out of Place

A low-emission region faces high-impact climate change, as shrinking snow and rising extremes reshape life in Kashmir.

Kashmir stands at the edge of something irreversible.

The snows that fed its rivers and filled its glaciers for millennia now arrive late, thin, and sometimes never.

The 40-day winter period called Chillai Kalan once buried the valley under feet of white, storing water like a bank account for the dry months ahead.

Today that account runs dry.

Snowfall has dropped more than thirty percent in twenty years. The glaciers retreat, and the groundwater sinks. What remains is a landscape straining against its own survival.

This story belongs to Kashmir, though Kashmir wrote none of it.

The valley produces less than one percent of global emissions. It drives few cars, and powers few factories. But it absorbs the cost of a warming world with a particular cruelty.

The Paris Agreement turned eleven this year, and Kashmir marks the occasion with heat records that belong to May rather than March. The temperate climate shifts toward subtropical extremes.

The famous winter scenery that drew tourists and sustained livelihoods now feels like a memory from another century.

The numbers tell part of the tale.

Between 2010 and 2022, the region weathered over 2,800 extreme events: flash floods, landslides, cloudbursts, sudden deluges. On a single August day last year, a cloudburst in Kishtwar killed sixty-seven people, nearly two hundred vanished, and three hundred more bore injuries.

This happened because moisture from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal collides with Himalayan peaks, forms massive storm systems, and releases destruction onto slopes stripped bare by deforestation and construction.

The soil, loosened by mining and illegal building, becomes a weapon against the people living below.

The floods of 2014 should have warned everyone. Engineers saw them coming.

In 2006, a Kashmiri engineer named Ghulam Nabi Mirti published a detailed analysis naming the neighbourhoods that would drown: Lasjan, Padshahibagh, Soiteng, Nowgam, Rakhi Shalina, Mehjoor Nagar. He identified the silt-choked Jhelum River, the vanished wetlands, the illegal construction filling floodplains.

Officials ignored him, but eight years later, those exact neighbourhoods sat underwater.

The same failures repeat today.



Dredging remains sporadic, wetlands keep shrinking, and the spill channels designed to carry excess water stay clogged with neglect.

What happens on the mountains affects the farms below. Rice paddies and apple orchards that defined Kashmiri identity for generations now disappear under shopping centers and housing blocks. Villages near Srinagar, Budgam, Pulwama, Baramulla, Anantnag, and Ganderbal lose thousands of hectares to concrete.

Each field paved over weakens the valley's ability to absorb heavy rain. And every orchard replaced by a road removes a buffer against disaster.

Farmers report smaller harvests. Food insecurity

grows in a region where unemployment already chokes opportunity. The economy built on agriculture and tourism faces a future where neither functions reliably.

The cruel arithmetic of climate change concentrates harm in places like this. Poor nations and vulnerable regions pay debts they never incurred. Kashmir owes nothing to the carbon economy, but it inherits the floods, the heat, the instability.

The Paris Agreement promised to hold warming below catastrophic levels. Instead, the world approaches two degrees of increase, and Kashmir feels every fraction of that rise in its skin.

Solutions exist, but they require moving faster than the crisis.

The Jhelum needs systematic dredging guided by hydrologists. Wetlands demand legal protection and active restoration. Flood forecasting systems need modernizing. Building codes must respect topography instead of bulldozing through it. Reforestation can stabilize slopes before the next cloudburst strikes.

These steps cost money and political will, both scarce resources. But they do cost far less than rebuilding after each disaster.

Kashmir's climate crisis is a warning for mountain communities, agricultural valleys, and places where snow feeds the rivers and rivers feed the people. The climate does not negotiate. It responds to physics. Delay turns adaptation into damage control, and damage control into mourning.

The valley still holds snow in winter, still grows apples and rice, still draws visitors to its lakes and peaks. These things persist, for now, in the same way a bank account per-



The Paris Agreement promised to hold warming below catastrophic levels. Instead, the world approaches two degrees of increase, and Kashmir feels every fraction of that rise in its skin.

sists after heavy withdrawals.

The balance drops, the margin thins, and eventually, something breaks.

Eleven years after Paris, the world still debates whether the sacrifice warrants the cost.

Kashmir gives its own answer every time a glacier shrinks, a farm floods, a family loses its home to a landslide.

The cost arrived long ago, the only question remaining is whether anyone will arrive with help before the account empties completely.

The author can be reached at reachme@khurshedpeer.com.

Your Kitchen Holds the Cure

Simple plates build stronger bodies than pharmacy shelves ever will.



Rakshanda Gul

We live fast now, with deadlines stacking up and notifications demanding constant attention, and somewhere between the morning rush and midnight exhaustion, we forget that our bodies run entirely on what we feed them.

We grab whatever fills the gap, whether packaged snacks, drive-through windows, or anything that saves precious minutes, and the body pays later because it always does.

Food holds power we rarely acknowledge, and every single bite builds our energy levels, mood, focus, and long-term strength.

The right plate heals while the wrong one slowly dismantles, and this truth sits at the heart of traditional healing systems, grandmothers' remedies, and cultures that treat the kitchen as the first clinic.

Consider anemia, which millions struggle with through low hemoglobin, that creeping fatigue, and the dizziness that strikes mid-afternoon.

Pharmaceutical solutions exist, but so do spinach leaves, beetroot slices, dates, apples, and lentils, and these foods rebuild iron stores naturally because the body recognizes them and absorbs what it needs.

Improvement comes gradually and sustainably without side effects, and small dietary shifts create measurable change that the evidence shows sits on ordinary dinner plates everywhere.

Modern epidemics trace back to modern eating patterns, where excess oil and sugar drive weight gain, metabolic strain, and chronic conditions that dominate hospital wards.

Meanwhile, those who center fruits, vegetables, and home cooking maintain steadier health at no extra cost, since fresh cabbage beats expensive supplements and a simple dal-rice combination outperforms elaborate processed meals,



proving that accessibility matters more than price tags.

Processing poses particular problems because supermarket shelves overflow with engineered products that are brightly packaged, chemically preserved, and designed for shelf life rather than human vitality. They tempt the eye and satisfy immediate cravings, but they rarely nourish, and this reality makes kitchen gardens revolutionary whether through a windowsill pot of mint, a balcony tomato plant, or tiny patches of coriander and spinach.

Home-grown produce holds freshness no factory replicates, and the flavour differs along with the nutrient density and the connection between grower and food.

Better eating transforms daily experience through stabilized energy, diminished headaches, and lifted mental fog, and the properly nourished brain focuses longer, responds calmer, and sleeps deeper.

These connections between gut



THE PHARMACY EXTENDS LIFE, BUT THE KITCHEN CREATES THE LIFE WORTH EXTENDING, and both have roles though we too often overvalue the former and undervalue the latter. Reversing that imbalance gives the most accessible health intervention available to everyone regardless of income or geography.

and mind and between micronutrients and neurotransmitters increasingly dominate medical research, and ancient wisdom anticipated modern science because both point toward whole foods.

Children's plates worry me most because junk food marketers understand psychology better than many parents through bright colours, cartoon characters, and addictive flavour profiles that make chips, burgers, pizza, and sodas dominate young preferences.

The consequences unfold slowly through stunted growth, weakened

immunity, early obesity, and diminished concentration, and these patterns harden into lifelong habits that become difficult to break.

Parents face genuine challenges here since complete restriction backfires and creates forbidden fruit appeal, so balance works better by anchoring homemade meals throughout the week while keeping fruits and milk available and making packaged treats occasional rather than default.

Early exposure to diverse, simple foods builds palates that serve children throughout adulthood,

and this investment compounds across decades into healthier future generations.

Awareness alone changes nothing, as millions know what they should eat but habit, convenience, and time pressure override that knowledge daily. Sustainable improvement requires small, stacked victories like a glass of water upon waking, regular meal timing, or one additional vegetable per day, and these modest steps accumulate into significant change over time.

Perfection remains unnecessary because progress matters more,

and our relationship with food defines our relationship with health through every meal offering a choice between building or borrowing from future wellbeing.

The kitchen provides tools for prevention that clinics cannot match, since pharmaceuticals manage crises while daily nourishment prevents them entirely.

Think about your last week and count how many meals came from whole ingredients versus packages, because that ratio reveals more than calorie counts by showing whether you treat food as fuel or afterthought.

Traditional cultures understood this intuitively, whether through the Mediterranean diet, Japanese washoku, or Indian Ayurvedic principles, all of which emphasize variety, freshness, and balance. They developed over centuries of observation while watching which combinations sustained vitality. Modern nutrition science confirms what traditional cooks practiced about diverse plant intake, minimal processing, and attention to individual constitution.

Start where you stand by adding one vegetable to tomorrow's lunch, replacing one packaged snack with fruit this week, or drinking water before reaching for caffeine.

These actions feel small because they are small, but their impact surprises those who maintain them.

Health rarely demands dramatic intervention, and it usually asks only for consistent attention to fundamentals like sleep, movement, connection, and food that is real, prepared with care, and eaten with awareness.

The pharmacy extends life, but the kitchen creates the life worth extending, and both have roles though we too often overvalue the former and undervalue the latter. Reversing that imbalance gives the most accessible health intervention available to everyone regardless of income or geography.

Your next meal approaches and brings opportunity to build something your body recognizes, something that contributes rather than depletes.

The ingredients await, and the choice remains entirely yours.

— The author writes about health, culture, and the spaces where tradition meets modern life. She can be reached at rakshandagul629@gmail.com.

The Bee Crisis in Kashmir

Fewer bees mean fewer apples, shrinking incomes, and a food chain under strain that reaches far beyond the valley.



Osman Javid

Spring in Kashmir arrives like clockwork, and if you walk through the apple orchards of Shopian or Pulwama right now you will find the scene that has repeated for generations: rows of trees erupting in soft pink and white, farm workers moving from blossom to blossom and setting fruit with every landing.

That sound meant a full harvest, in-

come for the winter, your daughter's school fees and your son's wedding, and now that hum is fading into silence.

Here is what most people miss. India hosts roughly 776 bee species, and ninety-two of them live in Jammu and Kashmir alone. These are the workers that pollinate nearly 80 percent of the food we eat, either directly or through the crops that feed our livestock.

Apples, almonds, cherries, mustard: Kashmir's agricultural identity rests entirely on their backs. Beekeeping itself has become a lifeline for rural families who keep hives, harvest honey, and sell beeswax and royal jelly in local markets, with each hive pulling double duty by boosting crop yields through pollination while generating cash in a region where steady employment remains scarce.

The connection between these insects and household survival runs direct and deep, but we have developed a dangerous fixation in our public discussions.

We obsess over honey bees, the managed colonies and organized hives and domesticated workforce that are visible, convenient, and responsive to human intervention. This focus blinds us to what actually sustains the ecosystem, because wild bees and solitary bees perform labour



that managed colonies simply cannot replicate.

Some nest in soil, others in hollow stems or dead wood, while certain species specialize in specific flowers and others keep working through cold snaps and wet weather that send honey bees back to their hives.

This diversity, this range of bodies and behaviours, keeps orchards

productive when conditions turn unpredictable, and if we lose it we lose resilience itself.

The decline is already underway. Farmers spray more pesticides now, chasing perfect fruit and higher tonnage, while towns expand outward and swallow the meadows and hedgerows where wild bees once nested and fed.

The climate itself has shifted, disrupting the ancient synchronization between flowering times and bee activity so that the blossoms still open but the bees no longer arrive on schedule.

Farmers walk their orchards and spot the gaps, branches that should carry fruit sitting empty, harvests that arrive thin and uneven, and the damage accumulates silently season after season until one morning you realize the background music of your livelihood has gone missing.

Government policy can help, and research funding matters, as do agricultural extension services, but the real work happens earlier and closer to the ground.

Farmers can reduce chemical inputs and adopt safer pest management, households can plant native flowers that feed pollinators through the growing season, communities can defend the green spaces that allow bees to move and nest and survive, and consumers can buy from local beekeepers to strengthen a market that supports both ecology and family budgets.

This matters beyond Kashmir's borders because the valley supplies most of India's apples, fruits that travel to



THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE INSECTS and household survival runs direct and deep, but we have developed a dangerous fixation in our public discussions.

Mumbai and Delhi and Bangalore, markets hundreds of miles from these hills.

A pollination crisis here pushes prices up and availability down across the country, so the bee problem in a Shopian orchard becomes the price shock at a Mumbai fruit stall.

— The author is a Ph.D. scholar at Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, studying bee diversity and its role in Kashmir's agriculture.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

CAG Flags ₹34,000

regularisation, including ₹3,760.84 crore during 2023-24 alone.

The audit also flagged poor planning in supplementary budgeting. Supplementary provisions worth ₹588.69 crore proved unnecessary, as spending did not reach original allocation levels, while in other cases, supplementary funds of ₹5,348.98 crore fell short, resulting in excess expenditure of ₹3,471.06 crore.

Another concern raised was the "rush of expenditure" at the end of the financial year, with more than 50 per cent of total spending recorded in March 2024 under multiple heads, a practice that undermines financial prudence.

The Finance Department, in its response, attributed the savings to lower-than-expected receipts under centrally sponsored schemes and reduced capital expenditure, and said corrective measures would be taken.

Recommending reforms, the CAG urged the government to adopt realistic budgeting, strengthen expenditure monitoring, ensure timely surrender of savings, and fix accountability of controlling officers.

The government should make realistic budgetary provisions and ensure efficient control mechanisms to curtail savings and excess expenditure," the CAG said.

CAG emphasised that "excess expenditure over the approved Grants may be regularised at the earliest" to maintain financial discipline. (PTI)

J&K Assembly

a total of eight government bills were received, all of which were introduced and passed. Additionally, 25 papers were laid and one ordinance was presented. Rather informed the house.

Regarding private members' business, the speaker said 36 bills were pending from the previous session, while 39 new bills were received during this session. Of these, 72 bills were listed, 24 were taken up and two were introduced.

On the questions, he said a total of 1,528 questions -- 802 starred and 726 unstarred -- were received. After personally scrutinising the questions, a total of 1,379 were listed, 144 disallowed, two withdrawn by members and three questions were not listed.

The speaker said 151 starred questions were taken up in the house along with 331 supplementaries.

Similarly, 110 calling attention notices were received, of which 63 were disallowed and 47 admitted. A total of 26 notices were listed and all 26 were taken up for discussion, he said.

Regarding resolutions, a total of 128 were received, 101 admitted, 27 disallowed, 14 listed and four taken up but none was adopted, Rather said.

He also referred to two notices taken up for short-duration discussions while the house received 2,231 cut motions, of which 2,059 were admitted and 172 disallowed.

Appreciating members for their cooperation, Rather said it was commendable that the house provided maximum opportunity for participation, allowing members across parties to express their views and reflect a healthy democratic spirit.

Highlighting the workload on ministers, he said they handle multiple departments and responsibilities, making their role particularly demanding while responding to house proceedings.

He also lauded the chief minister for his presence throughout the session despite pressing responsibilities, besides the government officers -- especially Chief Secretary Atal Dullo.

"The chief minister oversees several key departments and has to ensure their proper functioning. At the same time, sitting in the house and personally responding to questions is not an easy task," he said.

The speaker said Omar answering questions personally reflects his seriousness towards the house and a strong commitment to accountability. This is a positive practice and deserves appreciation.

"With this, today's proceedings come to an end, and the house stands adjourned sine die," Rather said.

Earlier, the members cutting across party lines praised the speaker for ensuring smooth functioning of the house during the budget session.

Private Universities

functioning, management and academic standards of private institutions, with a focus on ensuring quality education and safeguarding student interests.

While moving the bill, Itoo said the government had factored in key concerns of the higher education sector before finalising the legislation. She said the move would strengthen academic infrastructure and provide students with more opportunities within Jammu and Kashmir.

"This bill will pave the way for establishing private universities and boost the higher-education sector in Jammu and Kashmir. Numerous students will benefit, as many earlier had to move outside the Union Territory for higher education," she said during the proceedings.

During the discussion, several members, including Mir Saifullah, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and Tanvir Sadiq, moved amendments to the bill. However, they withdrew their proposals after receiving assurances from the government.

An amendment moved by legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia was put to vote but did not pass, as it was rejected through a voice vote.

The Speaker subsequently put the bill to a voice vote, and it was passed by the House.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed the passage of the bill a "milestone moment" for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the legislation would open new avenues for quality higher education within the Union Territory, significantly reduce student outmigration and attract reputed institutions to set up campuses in the region.

He added that the move reflects the government's commitment to strengthening the

academic ecosystem, fostering innovation and positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging hub of higher education.

The Assembly also passed the Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas Second (Amendment of Provisions) Bill. The legislation was moved by Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmed Dar on behalf of the chief minister.

Explaining the objective, Dar said the bill aims to amend certain existing laws by decriminalising and rationalising offences to improve ease of living and ease of doing business, while also repealing outdated provisions.

Amendments proposed by members, including Bhat, Mankotia, Shah and Sadiq, were withdrawn following government assurances, after which the bill was taken up for consideration and passed by the House.

Itoo-Para Exchange

and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Waheed ur Rehman Para engaged in a sharp and personal verbal exchange, disrupting proceedings in the House.

The confrontation began during a discussion linked to the education sector but soon spiralled into a wider political attack.

Escalating her attack, Itoo blamed the PDP for Jammu and Kashmir's current political situation, including the loss of statehood and special status.

"Today, if we have been reduced from a state to a Union Territory... there is a reason for that, and it is this very party," she said, triggering protests from the opposition.

She also took direct aim at Para, questioning his political positioning and alleging external influence.

"We know who is pulling your strings and where you are getting your syllabus," Itoo said, amid rising sloganeering.

The minister further sharpened her remarks by referring to alleged business interests, saying, "We know everything... who had how many cold stores. Don't teach us... talk about the public instead of enacting a drama."

"Today, if we have been reduced from a state to a Union Territory, if we no longer have special status, if the powers we once had are no longer with us, there is a reason for that, and it is this (PDP) very party," the minister said, leading to the heated arguments. Referring to Para's recent act of tearing and throwing papers in the House, she said, "We do not believe in theatrics...we believe in delivering practical work."

The comments drew an immediate backlash from PDP members, with Para leading the counterattack. Though much of his response was drowned out in the din, he was heard taking a swipe at Itoo's credentials, remarking that she was holding the education portfolio despite not completing her MBBS course.

"The main issue here is about granting upgradations. This is everyone's concern; mine as well. I also want schools to be upgraded and new ones to be sanctioned. However, I would like to remind them of one thing: before 2014, around 842 upgradations were carried out under the leadership of the then Omar Abdullah's cabinet.

"But, after 2014, when the government changed and later when the PDP-BJP government came into power, all those proposals were put on hold. It is easy to make statements, to target each other, and to create a show for the public, but the reality is different," the minister said.

She added that since 2019, there has been no recruitment in the education department and blamed the PDP for the challenges the UT has been facing.

As the exchange intensified, members from both treasury and opposition benches rose to their feet, leading to noisy scenes in the House. The confrontation briefly derailed proceedings as slogans and interruptions dominated the floor.

Amid the uproar, Itoo defended the government's approach, dismissing the opposition's conduct as "theatrics" and asserting that her government was focused on "delivering practical work."

The Speaker later intervened to restore order, allowing the House to resume its business. The episode highlighted the continuing political friction between the ruling National Conference and the PDP, with debates in the Assembly increasingly turning into direct and personal confrontations.

Uproar Over

Conference, the Congress and the PDP demanding a judicial probe into the recent Ganderbal encounter.

The army has claimed that the man killed in the encounter in Arhama forests on March 31 -- identified as Ganderbal resident Rashid Ahmad Mughal -- was a terrorist. However, his family alleged that he had no terror links and termed the encounter fake, while demanding the return of his body for proper burial.

As the House assembled, legislators from both treasury and opposition benches -- barring the BJP -- condemned the killing and demanded a statement from Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on the issue.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday ordered a magisterial probe into the encounter and sought a report within seven days.

Raising the issue, NC MLA Mubarak Gul called for a strong message from the House against the killing of an "innocent" and stressed fixing accountability.

His party colleague and former Judge Hasnain Masoodi underlined that the right to a decent burial is fundamental and constitutionally recognised, and must be respected to uphold justice and transparency.

"Any restriction on this right undermines the principles of justice and democratic values," he said, backing the family's demand to return the body.

Mughal was buried by police in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, in line with the standard procedure followed for terrorists killed in encounters.

Congress legislator Nizamuddin Bhat said an administrative inquiry would not suffice in

such a serious matter, asserting that only a judicial probe could ensure fairness and credibility.

"Inquiries at the administrative level tend to balance competing interests, which can affect accountability. What is required in such grave matters is a judicial inquiry," he said, calling for transparency and timely justice.

NC MLA Mir Saifullah termed the incident "deeply concerning" and said the demand for a judicial inquiry to identify and hold those responsible accountable must be supported.

Irfan Hafiz Lone of Congress, who also staged a protest on the issue before entering the House, held a placard demanding that the family of the deceased be heard and justice be ensured. He also demanded a result-oriented inquiry to bring out the truth.

BJP's R S Pathania questioned the discussion of a law-and-order issue in the House, saying his own questions had been rejected earlier on similar grounds.

Responding to the concerns, the Speaker informed the House that a time-bound inquiry has already been ordered by the Lieutenant Governor into the matter.

Over 4.75 Lakh Indians

the UAE and Iraq. One Indian is reported missing from a merchant vessel off the Oman coast, while several others have sustained injuries across Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Israel and Saudi Arabia. Most of the injured are males aged between 20 and 60 years.

Providing a country-wise distribution, the government said the largest Indian diaspora is in the UAE (43.26 lakh), followed by Saudi Arabia (27.48 lakh). Kuwait hosts around 10.60 lakh Indians, Qatar 8.29 lakh and Oman about 6.75 lakh. Bahrain accounts for 3.15 lakh, while the smaller populations are present in Iran (0.90 lakh), Israel (0.42 lakh), Iraq (0.37 lakh) and Jordan (0.18 lakh). Very small numbers remain in Yemen, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine.

The crisis has disrupted travel across the region, with airspace closures and flight cancellations affecting workers, students, tourists and pilgrims. The Ministry of External Affairs said Indian missions coordinated evacuation and transit efforts through regular and special commercial flights, as well as through neighbouring countries where direct routes were unavailable.

As part of precautionary measures, nearly 800 Indian students were evacuated from Iran before the situation escalated further, following advisories issued by the Indian Embassy in Tehran. Others were assisted in relocating within Iran or exiting through land borders.

To manage the situation, the Ministry set up a dedicated 24x7 control room and activated emergency helplines across embassies. The control room alone handled over 1,100 calls and 265 emails from affected individuals and their families by March 26.

Indian missions in the region have been providing assistance including emergency travel documents, medical aid, temporary shelter and visa support, while also coordinating with local authorities and hospitals to monitor injured nationals and facilitate communication with families in India.

In the maritime sector, missions are working with the Directorate General of Shipping and local authorities to ensure the safety of Indian seafarers amid attacks on commercial vessels, including facilitating the repatriation of affected crew members.

The government said it has issued multiple advisories since late February, urging Indian nationals to follow safety protocols and remain in contact with embassies, reiterating that all necessary steps are being taken to safeguard citizens in the region.

Over 3.2 Lakh

highest number of rejections in Jammu division, while Baramulla (6,327), Anantnag (4,668), and Budgam (3,743) topped the list in Kashmir division.

Officials attributed rejections primarily to incomplete documentation, ineligibility, and verification-related issues, adding that steps are being taken to streamline the process and reduce pendency.

The government said the issuance of certificates is being carried out in accordance with legal provisions to ensure transparency and equitable distribution of reservation benefits across Jammu and Kashmir.

108 Cylinders Seized,

of the काट्टवाई, 108 LPG cylinders were seized and fines amounting to ₹40,500 were imposed on violators.

The department has also directed Oil Marketing Companies to maintain adequate stock levels at all distribution points to ensure smooth and timely supply to consumers.

To address public concerns, dedicated helplines have been established, allowing residents to report irregularities or lodge complaints with concerned officials.

The Directorate reiterated its commitment to safeguarding consumer interests and ensuring fair and equitable distribution of fuel and LPG supplies across the region during the ongoing uncertainty.

Snow, Rain Snap

snowfall, while rains lashed most parts of the Valley, ending a brief spell of relatively stable weather.

According to rainfall data for the past 24 hours ending 8:30 am, Baramulla recorded 45.5 mm of rain, followed by Nowgam Handwara at 45.6 mm and Lolab at 42.2 mm. Srinagar received 25.1 mm of rainfall, while the airport recorded 29.2 mm. Budgam and Kulgam recorded 24 mm and 24.2 mm respectively, while Sopore received 22.8 mm.

In the Jammu region, Rajouri recorded the highest rainfall at 61 mm, followed by Batote at 53.8 mm and Poonch at 45.5 mm. Udhampur and Katra recorded 31.7 mm and 32.2 mm of rainfall respectively, officials said.

The Meteorological Department said the erratic weather conditions are likely to continue till April 10, with intermittent spells of rain and snowfall expected across the Union Territory. On April 5 and 6, the region is likely to

witness partly cloudy conditions with light rain at isolated places. A fresh spell of light to moderate rain and snowfall in higher reaches, accompanied by thunder and gusty winds, is expected at many places on April 7 and 8.

Between April 9 and 11, brief spells of light rain and snowfall in higher reaches are likely at scattered locations, while generally dry weather is expected from April 12 to 15.

The MeT office has issued an advisory warning of thunder, hailstorms and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph at a few places on April 4 and April 7-8. It also cautioned that intense showers over short durations may trigger flash floods, landslides and waterlogging in vulnerable areas.

Farmers have been advised to suspend agricultural operations, while travellers have been urged to plan their movement carefully.

Meanwhile, multiple roads across Jammu and Kashmir remained closed or witnessed disruptions due to landslides and snowfall, prompting the Traffic Police to advise commuters to avoid unnecessary travel.

Officials said movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained slow over the past 24 hours due to landslides along the Nashri tunnel and Banihal, along with single-lane traffic between Marog and Kishtwar Pather. The situation was further compounded by the breakdown of three heavy motor vehicles.

Authorities have discouraged night travel on the highway, particularly along the Ramban-Banihal stretch, citing the risk of shooting stones, landslides and ongoing construction works.

Traffic officials said that, subject to weather conditions, light motor vehicles and passenger vehicles would be allowed to ply from both sides on NH-44. However, heavy motor vehicles carrying goods will not be permitted from Qazigund towards Jammu between midnight and 6 am due to a religious congregation at Vijaypur.

The Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road remained closed, while the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road will remain open only for regulated traffic, subject to clearance due to avalanche risk along the Zojila axis. Vehicles will be allowed from Srinagar towards Kargil with a cut-off timing, and motorists have been advised to carry anti-skid chains.

The Mughal Road will remain open for light motor vehicles for limited hours, subject to weather conditions, while the Bandipora-Gurez road continued to remain closed due to fresh snowfall.

In Reasi district, heavy rainfall triggered landslides in Mahore and Arnas areas, blocking key roads and leaving hundreds of people stranded. Officials said restoration work is underway, though continuous rain is hampering clearance operations.

Authorities have urged commuters to follow lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent congestion on highways.

Avalanch Warning

Saturday issued a medium-danger avalanche warning for the next 24 hours and asked people to remain highly vigilant, officials said.

The avalanche of medium intensity is likely to occur above 2,400 metres in the central Kashmir district, they said.

In view of the danger, the general public is advised to remain highly vigilant, they added.

The district administration also advised people to avoid venturing into avalanche-prone areas, including slopes, hilly terrain and higher reaches, the officials said.

Residents, tourists and nomadic communities are requested to follow official advisories and cooperate with the administration in the interest of public safety, the administration said in an advisory.

On March 27, seven people were killed and five injured after multiple avalanches hit the Srinagar-Leh national highway in Ganderbal.

Porcupine Threat

corns, directly affecting yield and livelihood in the area known for producing some of the world's finest saffron.

The government said a range of interventions is being planned to contain the damage. These include clearing of bushes and undergrowth, installation of deep-set mesh barriers around vulnerable fields, and use of repellents and deterrent systems such as lights and sound devices.

Officials also said protective measures for orchards and the plantation of naturally repellent species are being considered as part of a broader strategy to reduce animal intrusion.

Rana informed the House that the agriculture department, in coordination with the Saffron Research Station in Pampore, is assessing the extent of damage to develop long-term scientific solutions.

To strengthen on-ground response, a control room for man-animal conflict has been set up at Khrew in Pulwama district, along with night patrolling and installation of cages for live trapping. Awareness campaigns are also being carried out to guide farmers on preventive measures.

The minister also addressed reports of monkey intrusion in nearby agricultural fields, saying awareness drives are underway and farmers are being provided deterrents.

He said a coordinated, time-bound plan involving multiple departments and local communities is being put in place to tackle the issue through field protection, habitat management and population control.

The developments underline the growing challenge of wildlife interference in Kashmir's agriculture sector, with Pampore's saffron cultivation emerging as the latest to be affected.

NLU Budgam

shall be taken accordingly," the reply said.

The government also disclosed that a committee headed by former Financial Commissioner Shantmanu had examined various aspects of the proposed university, including land requirements, infrastructure, faculty, admissions and financial planning. The committee has submitted its report, which is currently under

examination, but no timeline has been fixed for the university's establishment.

On the status of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) campus in Budgam, the government said the project is progressing slowly and remains contingent on approvals from the Centre.

It said the university is pursuing construction of a College of Teacher Education (CTE) building at its satellite campus with funding support under the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA). While the Central Public Works Department has submitted a preliminary estimate, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is still being prepared.

The government further said that MANUU has sought permission from the Ministry of Education to utilise the unspent balance of the sanctioned HEFA loan for the project. However, approval is still awaited.

"The response from the Ministry of Education is still awaited," the reply noted.

The disclosures indicate that both key higher education projects in Budgam continue to face administrative and financial delays, with no clear timelines for completion.

Speaker Directs

the government.

"Government always takes serious note of the complaints registered by the MLAs," he said and assured strong action against the officers who breaches the privilege of the members.

The speaker, however, said mere assurances were not enough and asked the government to specify how long it would take to resolve the issue of order of precedence.

He subsequently directed the government to complete the exercise within two months, asserting that the matter cannot be kept pending as it has caused serious disruption.

BJP MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta initiated the discussion on privileges, dignity and protocol of the august house and the members, saying the dignity of the MLAs has been compromised.

Raising concern over "systematic undermining" of legislators' authority, he said while the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 has strengthened MLAs, its spirit is being diluted by administrative non-compliance.

Citing Sections 30 and 46(2), he said the assembly enjoys powers and privileges akin to the Lok Sabha, but alleged that oversight by MLAs is being treated as "interference" and accountability avoided.

He flagged violations of multiple GAD circulars (2009-2025) mandating prompt and time-bound responses to elected representatives.

"Despite writing nearly 200 letters, I have not received a single reply. Calls go unanswered. This reflects administrative arrogance," he said, terming it a "defiance of law".

The MLA also alleged that development works are being executed without consulting legislators, "eliminating oversight" and violating established norms.

Raising the issue of revised warrant of precedence post-2021 District Development Council (DDC) elections, he objected to DDC chairpersons being placed above MLAs, calling it "ironic" and legally untenable.

"An executive order cannot override a constitutional order of the President," he said.

He warned against "dual control" over development and budgetary oversight by MLAs and DDCs, urging the government to resolve the issue, restore protocol, and ensure administrative accountability.

"Oversight is not interference -- it is the essence of democracy," he said.

Privilege Committee Chairman Nizam-ud-din Bhat said the authority and privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly remain intact post-reorganisation, terming the issue a "constitutional matter".

Citing Article 368 of the Constitution of India, he said only Parliament can amend the Constitution, adding that provisions on privilege continue under Section 46(2) with minor changes related to nomenclature.

He blamed confusion on the warrant of precedence, calling it an interim administrative order issued when the assembly was absent.

"It has lost legal sanctity," he said, asserting that administrative orders cannot override constitutional provisions.

Bhat also flagged "dual authority" between the lieutenant governor and the elected government but said it does not affect the dignity of the house.

"There is no bar on this house expressing its views," he said, adding that integration post-Article 370 abrogation was meant to strengthen institutions, not weaken them.

National Conference legislator Hasnain Masoodi said misconceptions after August 5, 2019 led members to "self-impose restrictions" on their privileges, asserting that the powers of the house remain intact.

He said privileges define the dignity, protocol and authority accorded to members in public and before institutions, and must be upheld within the house.

CDS Calls Multi-Domain

emerging challenges -- one that fosters technological adaptation, cognitive resilience and collective preparedness through integrated efforts. He reiterated that preparation for the threats envisaged must be anchored in foresight, innovation, a unified weightlifting philosophy and Whole of a Nation effort. He highlighted the importance of operational readiness and resilience in the face of evolving security challenges.

Gen Chauhan exhorted all ranks to maintain operational excellence, embrace jointness as a way of life and remain prepared to dominate the full spectrum of future conflict. He also interacted with representatives of Civil Administration, eminent personalities and functionaries in Baramulla and reviewed the efforts towards Nation Building. (KNC)

Misappropriation Of GP

then-commandant of the battalion, and commandant, 1st Border Battalion, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect," the order issued on March 25 said.

Govt Unveils Health Sector Revamp Plan; Recruitment, Infrastructure Top Priorities

Over 1,800 Vacant Posts to Be Filled; Focus on Digital Health, New Facilities

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that the J&K Government has rolled out a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the healthcare sector across the Union Territory.

While replying to a question raised by MLA Sunil Bhardwaj, the Minister said that since assuming office, the government has prioritized expansion and upgradation of healthcare infrastructure, alongside strengthening human resources and public health initiatives.

"The plan includes enhancement of hospital facilities across districts, expansion of infrastructure in newly established medical colleges, and capacity building in nursing institutions to improve training standards," she said, adding, "To address manpower shortages, the government has accelerated recruitment processes. Over 480 posts of Medical Officers have already been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, while contractual engagements under the National Health Mission (NHM) and academic arrangements are being utilized to



meet immediate requirements."

Itoo said that digital health services such as e-Sanjeevani teleconsultation are being expanded and aligned with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission to improve access, particularly in remote areas. Public health efforts are also being intensified, with targeted interventions aimed at tuberculosis elimination by 2025 and strengthened immunization coverage under Mission Indradhanush.

SHORTAGES OF MEDICAL, PARAMEDICAL STAFF STILL PERSISTS

Despite these initiatives, the Minister acknowledged that shortages of medical and paramedical staff persist in certain

institutions. She attributed this to a limited pool of specialists in critical disciplines, procedural delays in recruitment, migration of skilled professionals, and reluctance among staff to serve in remote and difficult areas.

To overcome these challenges, the government is implementing policy measures including hardship allowances, incentives for rural postings, fast-track recruitment, and rationalization of existing manpower. Capacity building is also being undertaken through the establishment of new medical colleges and paramedical institutions.

Providing details, the Minister said that 834 gazetted posts have been referred to the J&K Public Service Commission and 1,025

non-gazetted posts to the J&K Services Selection Board. Additionally, 802 non-gazetted posts in the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and 608 in Jammu are under consideration and will be referred shortly, subject to financial concurrence.

The government has also filled a majority of vacant positions in Government Medical Colleges on a temporary basis under academic arrangements as per S.O 364 of 2020 to ensure continuity in patient care and academic activities.

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL GMCs, ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS HELD

On infrastructure, Itoo said that a comprehensive review of all Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) and associated hospitals has been conducted. While several institutions meet existing academic and clinical standards, newly established colleges face deficiencies in areas such as hostel accommodation, laboratories, diagnostic facilities, and special-ized equipment.

She said that these gaps are being addressed through centrally sponsored schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSY) and the National Health Mission,

along with UT-funded projects. Construction of additional teaching blocks, expansion of hospital infrastructure, and procurement of modern medical equipment are already underway, with strict timelines set for completion.

Major infrastructure projects include the development of academic and patient care blocks at Government Medical Colleges in Srinagar, Rajouri, Baramulla, and Kathua, as well as critical care and laboratory blocks at SKIMS Bemina. Equipment upgrades are also in progress, with GMC Srinagar alone adding medical equipment worth around Rs 10 crore annually, while other institutions are acquiring advanced diagnostic tools such as CT scans and high-end ultrasonography systems.

The Minister further said that patient-centric reforms, including triage systems, online registration, improved sanitation, and expansion of telemedicine and dialysis services, are being implemented to enhance healthcare delivery.

The Directorate of AYUSH is also upgrading its facilities under the National AYUSH Mission by converting dispensaries into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and establishing integrated AYUSH hospitals, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Vikramjit Singh Assesses Impact of West Asia Crisis

JAMMU: The department of Industries and Commerce, Jammu & Kashmir convened a meeting with the office bearers and representatives of various Industrial & Trade Associations of J&K to assess the impact of the ongoing West Asia crisis on industrial operations in the Union Territory. The department sought suggestions from the Industrial Associations to mitigate the challenges.

The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh.

Dr. Arun Manhas, Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, stated that the meeting had been convened to evaluate the implications of the evolving energy situation and its impact on industrial, trade and other service sector activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Commissioner Secretary, while addressing the participants, informed that there is a temporary mismatch in supply and demand of energy due to the unfolding crisis. He said that efforts are being made by the Central Government to tap the alternate sources of energy to address this mismatch.

The Commissioner Secretary informed that Deputy Commissioners of the districts have been tasked with coordinating with the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). In case of a specific concern, the units may bring the same to the notice of the respective Deputy Commissioners or District Nodal Officer which shall be nominated by the Director, Industries and Commerce.

Vikramjit Singh further apprised that directions have been issued by the Government to release the pending payments to MSMEs on priority. He cautioned that industrial units must refrain from engaging in rumour-mongering and black marketing during the present crisis and emphasized that any such activity shall be dealt with strictly.

On a request from the participants, Vikramjit Singh assured that the matter of transportation of goods shall be taken up with the Railways to facilitate movement of fruits, horticulture produce and other finished goods from Jammu and Kashmir. (Observer News Service)

Two Drainage Projects Undertaken in Sopore Town

JAMMU: The government has taken up two exclusive drainage projects in Sopore town to improve the drainage network and mitigate water-logging, particularly during heavy rainfall.

This information was given by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, in reply to a Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Sopore, Irfan Rasool Kar, regarding water logging in Sopore town following rains.

She was replying on behalf of the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

The Minister stated that Sopore town is predominantly a low-lying area and water accumulation in such locations is natural during heavy showers.

She added that to mitigate the situation, five dewatering pumps available with the Municipal Council, Sopore, are being deployed for immediate drainage of accumulated water with additional support from the Fire and Emergency Services as and when required.

The Minister further informed that under the UT Capex (Drainage Sector), two projects have been taken up in Sopore town. The Drainage Scheme Sopore (D/S Sopore) is currently under execution at a sanctioned cost of ₹4.97 crore. Besides, construction of a deep drain at Lane number 06, Bagi Sana, Badam Bagh, Sopore, costing ₹35 lakh, has been completed, she informed.

She added that these works are aimed at strengthening the drainage infrastructure and mitigating water-logging during heavy rainfall. In addition, the matter has been taken up with the J&K Urban Environmental Engineering Department on March 25, 2026, for preparation of a comprehensive DPR for the drainage network in Sopore town, she said.

The Minister also stated that the Municipal Council, Sopore, is regularly undertaking the cleaning of drains with available manpower and machinery, wherever required.

She further informed that the PW (R&B) Division Sopore has been approached on March 19, 2026, for preparation of estimates for desilting of existing drains within the urban limits of Sopore town and action will be initiated during the current financial year upon receipt of these estimates.

The Minister added that funds amounting ₹6.40 lakh have been released by the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, for the desilting of drains. (Observer News Service)

Over 2,100 Waste Segregation Sheds Constructed in Last Three Years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that a total of 2,147 waste segregation sheds have been constructed across the Union Territory over the past three financial years, of which 1,491 are currently functional.

Replying to an unstarred question tabled by MLA Dr Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, the government, as reported by KNO, said that the sheds were constructed during 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 at a total expenditure of Rs 6,814.60 lakh.

Providing year-wise details, the government said that 1,851 sheds were constructed in 2023-24 with 1,229 functional, followed by 156 sheds in 2024-25 with 166 functional, and 140 sheds in 2025-26 with



96 functional.

The government further informed that the waste segregation process begins with collection at the Panchayat level, followed by transportation to designated sheds where waste is segregated into wet and dry categories. Wet waste is processed through compost pits to generate "waste to wealth," while dry waste is further segregated into recyclable and non-recyclable materials. Recyclable plastic is sent to Plastic Waste Management Units (PWWMs) for processing before being forwarded to

authorised recyclers.

It added that in case of littering or public inconvenience, immediate measures are taken to clear the sites.

Regarding construction of individual compost and soakage pits, the government said that the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) guidelines do not provide for construction of individual compost pits and soakage pits.

On defunct assets, the government said that non-functional waste segregation sheds are being repaired and renovated to make them operational, while Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode is also being explored to improve functionality.

"The Finance Department has earmarked 10 per cent of PRI grants for operation and maintenance of SBM(G) assets, which will help in upkeep of such infrastructure," the government said.

ACB Nabs Cop for Rs 10,000 Bribe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday trapped and arrested a head constable posted at Police Station Thanamandi in Rajouri for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 for releasing a seized vehicle.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the Anti-Corruption Bureau J&K registered a formal case against Mohd. Alyas, posted in Police Station Thanamandi Rajouri vide FIR no. 05/2026 at P/S ACB Rajouri u/s 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) on 04.04.2026 on the basis of a complaint alleging therein that on 13.03.2026 complainant along with his family was travelling to Shahdara Sharief Thanamandi in his vehicle (ECHO

and met with an accident near Thanamandi. Due to which, his family members got injured and his vehicle was also damaged.

He said, consequently, a FIR No. 26/2026 was registered in Police Station Thanamandi. During investigation of the case vehicle of the complainant was seized by the IO namely Mohd. Alyas of PS Thanamandi and when complainant met with the IO of the case Mohd. Alyas for release of his vehicle he demanded Rs. 20,000/- as bribe for release of vehicle and pressurized him to give Rs. 20,000/- otherwise he would not release his vehicle. Due to pressure and fear, complainant gave Rs. 5,000/- to the said IO. But again IO Mohd. Alyas was harassing and threatening complainant to give Rs. 15,000/- for release of his vehicle which subsequently was negotiated to

Rs.10,000/-.

The spokesperson said, the complainant upon being harassed and forced to pay illegal gratification to the above named suspect official, he approached and lodged a written complaint in Police Station ACB Rajouri for taking legal action against the above named suspect officials.

"After registration of the case, a team of officers/officials of ACB P/S Rajouri was constituted to lay a trap and ACB team caught red handed accused Mohd. Alyas, posted in Police Station Thanamandi Rajouri while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs.10,000/- from the complainant and arrested them on spot," he said.

"Subsequently, searches were also conducted in the residential house of accused persons situated at Rajouri. Further investigation in the case is going on," he said.

Around 13,800 Contractual Workers Engaged in NHPC Projects in J&K: GoI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has said that around 13,800 contractual workers are currently engaged across various projects of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and its joint ventures in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to an unstarred question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik, as reported by KNO, informed that these workers are employed through contractors for execution of project-related works in different locations of J&K.

The GoI further stated that NHPC ensures that

wages paid to contractual workers are higher than the minimum wages notified by the competent authority. The wage structure also includes statutory and welfare benefits such as Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI), bonus, and gratuity.

Besides, the contractual workforce is covered under social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), along with mediclaim benefits. Workers are also entitled to leave with wages, national holidays, and provisions for conveyance, uniforms, and other facilities.

Civil Society, WathHarbor Welcomes Govt. For Passing Progressive J&K Private Universities Act Bill

SRINAGAR: Civil Society, in collaboration with WathHarbor Foundation, has welcomed the passing of the Jammu & Kashmir Private Universities Act Bill, describing it as a historic and much-needed reform aimed at addressing a long-standing gap in the J&K's Private higher education sector. Addressing a press conference here, members stated that the landmark legislation marks a significant step toward expanding academic opportunities within Jammu &



Kashmir and is expected to play a transformative role in strengthening the region's educational infrastructure, research capacity and knowledge-based economy. Speaking to the media, Dr. Mehboob Makhdoomi

(Founder, WathHarbor Foundation) stated that the enactment of the Private Universities Act Bill marks a progressive step toward strengthening the private education sector in Jammu & Kashmir. He observed that for

many years, the absence of a structured legislative framework for private universities had compelled thousands of students to move outside Jammu & Kashmir in pursuit of quality higher education, leading to both intellectual migration and financial strain on families. He emphasised that the new law lays the foundation for reversing this trend by enabling reputed local institutions to establish campuses within the region, thereby expanding academic opportunities locally.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct the name in my J&K Bank passbook bearing account number 0231040100163180 branch Zaldager Srinagar from Parveena Bano W/o Mohammad Aslam Dar R/o Qalamdar Pora Srinagar to Parveena Aslam W/o Moahmmad Aslam Dar R/o Qalamdar Pora Nawab Bazar Srinagar as per my aadhar card. In this regard if any body have any kind of objection he / she may file the same with Branch Manager J&K Bank Branch Zaldager Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

ADIL/KO

Mass Fish Death Reported in Vurnag Spring in Shopian

SRINAGAR: Fish were found dead in large numbers in Vurnag Spring in the Zainapora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district, raising concerns among local residents.

Locals said the fish deaths were noticed over the past day, with several carcasses seen floating in the spring water. The incident has triggered anxiety among inhabitants, who fear possible contamination of the water body and its impact on the local ecosystem.

Villagers alleged that no official from the concerned department had visited the site to ascertain the cause of the deaths. "There has been no visit from any department so far. We are worried about what caused this," a local told the news agency Kashmir News Trust. The spring is a known local water source, and the sudden fish mortality has raised questions about water quality and environmental conditions.

According to KNT, locals have appealed to the government to immediately look into the matter and conduct an investigation to determine the cause of the mass fish deaths. (Observer News Service)

Phone/Fax No: 01954 - 295614
Website: www.gdcuri.ac.in
E-mail: uri-college@jk.gov.in
GSTIN: 01AMRG13567B1DK

Office of the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Kunzer

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Subject: Helpline number for sewer & septic tank emergencies.

To ensure prompt assistance and safe handling of sewer and septic tank issues, MC Kunzer has established a dedicated helpline number for residents and staff.

- Helpline Number:
 - 9797246583 (Mr Altaf Hussain Bhat, Sanitary Inspector)
 - 9906601031 (Mr Maqbool Hussain Bhat, sanitary Supervisor)
 - 7006261092 (Mr Bilal Ahmad Dhobi, Sanitary Supervisor)
- Available during working hours for immediate reporting of blockages, overflows, or related emergencies.
- Calls will be logged and attended by trained personnel.
- Citizens are advised not to attempt manual cleaning and instead contact the helpline for safe and professional intervention.

This initiative reflects MC Kunzer's commitment to worker safety, public health, and modernized municipal services.

No:MC/KZ/2026/547-50
Dated:- 04-04-2026

DIPK-NB-53-26
DT: 04/04/2026

SD/-
Executive Officer
Municipal Committee Kunzer

Estd: 2005
Phone No.: 01956-244411
Mobile No.: 9419400726
Fax No.: 01956-244111
AISHE Code: C-21413

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE
URI**

DISTRICT BARAMULLA, JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT) (PIN-193123)
(UGC Recognized; NAAC ACCREDITED Grade "B" College)

No: GDUCU/Canteen/14
Dated: 03-04-2026

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE FOR RUNNING CANTEN-CUM-TUCK SHOP AT GDC URI (2026-27)

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 10/- are invited by the undersigned from the interested persons for running the College Canteen-Cum-Tuck Shop for the financial year 2026-27. The tender document with detailed list of the items along with other terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day or on the college website <https://gdcuri.edu.in/> by or before 15-04-2026. The tenders accompanied with CDR of Rs. 500/- pledged to the Principal GDC Uri, should reach this Office by or before 15-04-2026.

DIPK-136-26
DT: 04/04/2026

SD/-
Principal

Trump Silent on Downed Jets, Steps-up Threats to Force a Deal

DUBAI: The US military on Saturday searched for a missing pilot shot down over a remote area in Iran, while President Donald Trump remained silent on the incident but reminded Tehran of his Monday deadline to open the Strait of Hormuz: "48 hours before all Hell will reign down on them."

The US warplane, identified by Iran as an F-15E Strike Eagle, was one of two attacked on Friday, with one service member rescued. Iran has promised a reward for whoever turns in the missing pilot. It's the first time the United States lost aircraft in Iranian territory during the war, now in its sixth week, which could further pressure Trump to end the fighting.

Iran's joint military command on Saturday further said Iranian forces also struck two US Black Hawk helicopters the day before. The war began with joint US-

Israel strikes on Feb 28 and has killed thousands, shaken global markets, cut off key shipping routes and spiked fuel prices. It shows no signs of slowing as Iran responds with retaliatory strikes on US-Israeli bases across the region.

Trump earlier in the week said in a national address that the US has "beaten and completely decimated Iran". The US and Israel boasted that Iran's air defences were obliterated.

But on Saturday, an Iranian drone damaged the headquarters of US technology company Oracle in Dubai. Both the US and Israel have been targeting civilian targets and infrastructure across Iran and Lebanon.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said that an airstrike hit near its Bushehr nuclear facility, damaging a support building. It's the fourth time the facility was targeted. The head of Russia's state nuclear corporation, Rosatom, said that 198



workers were being evacuated. **Iran hunts for enemy pilot'**

The search for the US pilot focused on a mountainous region in Iran's southwestern province

of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad.

Neither the White House nor the Pentagon released information, but in an email from the Pentagon, obtained by the AP, the military said that it received notification of "an aircraft being shot down" in the Middle East, without further details.

A US crew member was rescued. But the Pentagon notified the US House Armed Services Committee that the status of a second service member wasn't known.

In a telephone interview with NBC News, Trump said that what happened wouldn't affect negotiations with Iran.

Separately, Iranian state media said a US A-10 attack aircraft crashed in the Persian Gulf after being struck by Iran's defence forces. The crew's status was not immediately known.

Oracle's offices hit in Dubai
The Dubai headquarters of

Oracle was hit after Iran's Revolutionary Guard accused the firm of assisting the US military. Footage verified by the AP outside the UAE showed a large hole in the building's southwestern corner.

The sheikhdom's Dubai Media Office, which speaks for its government, noted a "minor incident caused by debris from an aerial interception that fell on the facade", saying there were no injuries.

Oracle Corp., based in Austin, Texas, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

IRGC has accused some large U.S. tech companies of being involved in "terrorist espionage" operations against the Islamic Republic and called them legitimate targets. Amazon Web Services facilities in the UAE and Bahrain were hit in earlier drone strikes.

Iran's veiled threat to disrupt second waterway

Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, issued a veiled threat late Friday to disrupt traffic through a second strategic waterway in the region, the Bab-el-Mandeb.

The strait, 32 kilometres (20 miles) wide, links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. More than a tenth of seaborne global oil and a quarter of container ships pass through it.

"What share of global oil, LNG, wheat, rice, and fertiliser shipments transits the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait?" Qalibaf wrote, referring to liquefied natural gas. "Which countries and companies account for the highest transit volumes through the strait?"

Nearly 2000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Iran since the war began.

In Lebanon, more than 1,400 people have been killed, and there have been more than 1 million displaced people. Ten Israeli soldiers have died there.

Iran War Is 'The End Of American Empire' - Tucker Carlson

Agencies

LONDON: The Iran war has ushered in the "end of American Empire", conservative host Tucker Carlson has argued, suggesting that US President Donald Trump's call for allies to secure the Strait of Hormuz proved that Washington could no longer function as the world's policeman.

Speaking on his podcast on Thursday, Carlson commented on Trump's remarks in which the president threatened to bomb Iran into the "stone age" without providing an exact timeline for a ceasefire while urging other countries to "take the lead" in unblocking the Strait of Hormuz - a strategic chokepoint which accounts for around 20% of global oil trade.

Washington's NATO allies, however, have been reluctant to step in following US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Carlson argued that "the nation that forces the peace is the



by threatening to do so, meaning that the hostilities would have to end in a diplomatic settlement with Tehran sooner or later.

"What's happening in Iran is the end of American empire as we understand it. And that's sad. Empire's dying. But it's not the end of the United States," he added.

Carlson acknowledged that the transition would bring "a lot of suffering and sadness," but noted that it also carried the promise of a US that could turn its attention to the Western hemisphere, also rich in resources and vital for America's stability, without the need to occupy "countries you've never been to."

Carlson, generally supportive of Trump, has been a vocal critic of US-Israeli strikes on Iran, prompting the US president to claim that the journalist "has lost his way" and is not really part of the MAGA movement.

nation in charge," adding that "the country that forces order on the Persian Gulf, that opens the Strait of Hormuz, is the nation that runs the world by definition."

For decades since WWII, the nation capable of maintaining order was assumed to be the US, but the Hormuz crisis has shown it's no longer the case, the journalist continued. "We

can't open the Straits of Hormuz," Carlson said. "The President of the United States said that last night - someone else do it. So we're done."

He argued that even if the US were to completely destroy Iran as a cohesive nation, the remaining warlords would have no difficulties in disrupting the maritime route by laying mines, using cheap drones, or even just

345 Indian Fishermen Stranded in Iran Return Home

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A group of 345 Indian fishermen, who were stranded in Iran amid escalating regional tensions, returned to India via Armenia on Saturday, officials said.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar thanked his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan for assistance in return of the Indian nationals.

The Indian nationals arrived in Chennai this evening, the officials cited above said.

The circumstances that led to them being stranded in Iran were not immediately known.

"Thank FM @AraratMirzoyan and the Government of Armenia for facilitating the evacuation of Indian fishermen today from Iran, through Armenia to India," Jaishankar said on social media.

Over 1,500 Indian nationals have left Iran through land border



crossings in Armenia and Azerbaijan since the start of the West Asia conflict over a month ago.

"A group of Indian fishermen, stranded in Iran, are returning home via Armenia today; their flight is expected to reach India this evening," a government statement said.

It said the Ministry of External Affairs continues to closely monitor the evolving situation in the West Asian region, with the safety, security and welfare

of the Indian community being accorded the highest priority.

It also made a mention of five Indians being injured in Abu Dhabi on Friday. According to Abu Dhabi authorities, the Indian nationals were among the 12 people injured by debris from an intercepted missile.

"In an attack in Abu Dhabi, five Indian nationals were injured; four have been discharged, one remains under treatment," the Indian government's statement said.

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