

315 Lakes Disappeared In J&K Since 1967: CAG

Audit Flags Weak Coordination, Limited Conservation Efforts



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has reported that 315 lakes in Jammu and Kashmir have disappeared since 1967, pointing to a significant decline in water bodies across the region.

According to the audit report, 697 lakes were recorded in 1967, of which 315 are no longer traceable, covering an area of over 1,500 hectares. The report, which reviewed lake management between 2017-18 and 2021-22, further noted that 203 lakes have shrunk in size, losing more than 1,300 hectares.

In total, 518 lakes have recorded a decline in water spread, affecting not just their

extent but also the ecological systems linked to them.

The audit warned that 63 lakes have lost more than half of their original area, placing them at risk of complete disappearance.

It also flagged fragmented governance as a key concern, noting that lakes fall under multiple departments, including forest, revenue and agriculture, resulting in weak coordination and oversight.

Among the missing lakes, most were under the jurisdiction of revenue and agriculture departments, while others were managed by the forest department. For shrinking lakes, responsibilities were spread across | [More on P6](#)

'Whole Civilization Will Die Tonight': Trump Threatens Iran

Agencies

Tehran: US President Donald Trump warned on Tuesday that a "whole civilization will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his latest deadline for the Islamic Republic to agree to a deal.

The warning came as airstrikes hit two bridges and a train station in Iran amid reports that people were forming human chains to protect the nation's power plants.

Trump has extended previous deadlines but suggested the one set for 8 pm in Washington was final, and the rhetoric on both sides



reached a fever pitch, leaving Iranians on edge.

Trump threatened to

destroy all of Iran's power plants and bridges if Tehran does not allow traffic to

fully resume in the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, through which a fifth of the world's oil transits in peacetime.

It was not clear if the latest airstrikes were linked to Trump's threat to attack bridges. At least two of the targets were connected to Iran's rail network, which Israel earlier signalled it will attack.

Israel has increasingly carried out strikes that it says are aimed at delivering a blow to Iran's economy.

As the deadline approaches, rhetoric ramps up. World leaders and experts warned | [More on P6](#)

'STAY WHEREVER YOU ARE' India Issues Urgent Advisory For Citizens In Iran

KO Web Desk

As the West Asia crisis reaches a critical flashpoint following Washington's ultimatum to Tehran, India

on Tuesday advised its nationals in Iran to stay wherever they are for the next 48 hours. In an urgent advisory, the Indian embassy in Iran urged Indians to remain indoors

and strictly avoid military installations, power infrastructure and the upper floors of multi-story buildings. US President Donald Trump warned that a "whole | [More on P6](#)

NGT Team Surveys Illegal Mining In Kashmir Villages

Officials from central agencies and district administrations assess sites in Pulwama and Budgam after tribunal order.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: A team appointed by the National Green Tribunal on Tuesday inspected sites in Pulwama and Budgam districts where residents have alleged large-scale illegal earth mining.

The joint team included senior officials from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Central Pollution Control Board. They were accompanied by the deputy commissioners of Pulwama and Budgam.

The officials visited Zadoora village in Pulwama and Rangeen Kultreh and nearby areas in Chadoora, Budgam. The visit follows an order issued by the tribunal in February after a petition filed by environmental activist Raja Muzaffar Bhat.

At the sites, the team met orchard owners and residents who said mining over the past two to three years



had damaged farmland and Karewa plateaus. Several villagers accused a private company, NKC Projects Pvt. Ltd., of extracting soil and minerals without proper safeguards.

Residents called for strict action against those responsible. They also asked for compensation and restoration of damaged land.

Dr. Basharat Qayoom, the

deputy commissioner of Pulwama and the coordinating officer appointed by the tribunal, told locals that damaged areas in Zadoora would be restored and affected orchardists compensated.

In Budgam, Deputy Commissioner Athar Amir Khan said similar steps would be taken. He directed officials to stop | [More on P6](#)

Drugs Destroying Lives Of Young Boys & Girls: Court

Rejects Bail In NDPS Case Involving Codeine Syrup Haul

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that substance abuse is destroying the lives of young boys and girls, a Special Court in Srinagar on Wednesday rejected the bail application of an accused allegedly involved in a drug trafficking network linked to the recovery of a commercial quantity of banned narcotic substances.

The Court of Special Judge (NDPS Cases) Srinagar Vinod Kumar rejected bail plea filed by the accused, Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat, in connection with FIR No. 45/2023 registered at Police Station Chanapora under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Bhat through his counsel had sought bail on the grounds that he had been implicated solely on the basis of a co-accused's disclosure statement and that no contraband had been recovered from his possession. Among others, his counsel argued that the trial had been

delayed and that key prosecution witnesses had not directly named him.

However, the prosecution opposed the plea, highlighting that the case involved recovery of 90 bottles of Codeine Phosphate syrup, classified as a commercial quantity, and invoked the stringent provisions of Section 37 of the NDPS Act, which impose strict conditions for the grant of bail.

Rejecting the bail plea, the court observed that there exists sufficient prima facie material linking the accused to the alleged drug supply chain. The court noted that the disclosure statement of the co-accused, recorded before an Executive Magistrate, specifically identified Bhat as a supplier, detailing transactions and payment trails.

The court further pointed to corroborative evidence, including financial transactions, supplementary charge sheet findings, and statements of five prosecution witnesses examined so far. | [More on P6](#)

J&K Weather

NH-44 Blocked After Landslide; Avalanche Risk Looms

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid a forecast of inclement weather across Jammu and Kashmir till April 10, a massive landslide on Tuesday blocked the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, disrupting vehicular movement.

According to the Meteorological Department, weather across the Union Territory is expected to remain generally cloudy with intermittent light to moderate rain, along with snowfall over higher reaches.

The department said a few places in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions may receive moderate to heavy rainfall, accompanied by light to

moderate snowfall in higher reaches during the night of April 7 and morning of April 8.

Amid these conditions, a landslide struck a stretch between Digidol and Khooni Nallah in Ramban along NH-44, leading to complete blockage of the highway.

Officials said debris and boulders rolled down onto the road, rendering it impassable and forcing authorities to suspend traffic as a precautionary measure.

Commuters have been advised to avoid travel on the highway until clearance operations are completed and the road is declared safe. Restoration work will begin depending | [More on P6](#)



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NORTHERN RAILWAY							
E-TENDER NOTICE							
The Deputy Chief Engineer/ Bridge Line/Jammu Tawi for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under for the under noted works:-							
S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of opening	Bidding start date on IREPS	Completion period of work
1	OT-11-JAT-25-26	1. Provision of Side Pathway over Br. No. 215 DN (2 x 30.5 m) on JUC-PTK Section, 1 DN (4 x 18.3 m) on CHKB-BHRL Section, 196 DN (3 x 18.3 m) & 197 DN (3 x 18.3 m) on BHRL-JAT Section in Jammu & Ferozpur Division. 2. Provision of Side Pathway over Bridge No. 128-A (DN), 1 x 61.00 m span, in JUC-PTK Section over JAT Division	1,03,12,648.58	2,06,300.00	28.04.2026	14.04.2026	08 Months
Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender			Up to 11:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 11:00 hrs on same date.				
Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded			The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in				
No. 4-DYCEBJAT-2025/26 Dated: 06.04.2026							1138/2026

**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 Shayista Maqbool D/o Mohammad Maqbool Bhat R/o Seloo, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Shayista Maqbool born on 02-03-2001 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate Bomial
 fko

**Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE URI
 PUBLIC NOTICE**

Subject: Mandatory Compliance for Construction of Septic Tanks as per IS 2470

It is hereby notified for general public information that all residents, property owners, institutions, and commercial establishments within the jurisdiction of Municipal Committee Uri shall ensure that septic tanks are constructed strictly in accordance with the provisions of IS 2470.

Key Guidelines:

- Standard Design Compliance:**
All septic tanks must be designed and constructed as per IS 2470 specifications.
- Proper Capacity & Chambers:**
Septic tanks shall be of adequate size based on the number of users and should preferably have two compartments.
- Watertight Construction:**
Tanks must be leak-proof to prevent contamination of soil and groundwater.
- Ventilation:**
Proper vent pipes must be installed for safe release of gases.
- Safe Location:**
Septic tanks must be constructed at a safe distance from drinking water sources such as wells, hand pumps, and borewells.
- No Direct Discharge:**
Discharge of untreated wastewater/sewage into drains, nallahs, open areas, or water bodies is strictly prohibited.
- Provision for Desludging:**
Septic tanks must have proper access for periodic cleaning and desludging

No: MC/U/2026-27/21
 Date: 06/04/2026

Sd/-
 Executive Officer
 Municipal Committee Uri

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Prohibition of Manual Cleaning of Sewers and Septic Tanks.

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public, contractors, desludging operators, and all concerned stakeholders that manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks is strictly prohibited.

This prohibition is in accordance with the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and other applicable rules.

Key Provisions:

- Complete Ban:**
Manual entry into sewers and septic tanks for cleaning, maintenance, or desludging without proper safety protocols and mechanized equipment is strictly prohibited.
- Use of Mechanized Equipment:**
All cleaning/desludging operations shall be carried out using mechanized devices such as suction machines, jetting machines, robotic devices, etc.
- Emergency Situations:**
In unavoidable circumstances requiring human entry:
 - Prior permission from the competent authority is mandatory.
 - Adequate safety gear (PPE kits, oxygen supply, gas detectors, etc.) must be provided.
 - Standard safety protocols must be strictly followed.
- Responsibility of Contractors/Operators:**
All contractors, agencies, and private operators engaged in sanitation work shall ensure compliance with the above provisions.

Penalty for Violation:
 Any violation of this notice shall attract strict action under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. Penalty of Rs.5000/- should be imposed for the Violations.

No: MC/U/2026-27/23
 Date: 06/04/2026

Sd/-
 Executive Officer
 Municipal Committee Uri

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Helpline Details:

- Helpline Number: 14420
- Availability: 24x7

Purpose of the Helpline:
 Citizens can use Helpline No. 14420 for:

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

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

S.No	Name of Employee	Contact No.
1	Nazir Ahmad Magary	9596022977
2	Abdul Majeed Mir	9797220064

No: MC/U/2026-27/22
 Date: 06/04/2026

Sd/-
 Executive Officer
 Municipal Committee Uri

DIPK-NB-96/26 dated: 07-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I, Durfishan Anjum Shah W/o Sartaj Ahmad Jan R/o Assar Colony, Hazratbal, Srinagar Kashmir intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "Routes2 Relax Tour and Travels" situated at Wani Complex, Mirwaiz Lane, Hazratbal, Opposite Sir Syed Gate, Kashmir University, Kashmir under Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head / Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor), and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure Tour Operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/bank/organizations etc. for objection, if any. The same should reach the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, TRC Srinagar, Kashmir (e-mail id: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.

pd

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my Son's name in his Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No :- 2386 4135 1726 has been wrongly mentioned as Mustakeem Amin instead of Mustakeem Amin Khan .Now I am applying for its Correction as per Birth Certificate's bearing Reg No:- B202501052260000423 . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Mohammad Amin Khan
 F/O. Mustakeem Amin Khan
 R/O :- Shanu .
 Tehsil :- Langate
 Distt :- Kupwara. fko
 Pin Code:- 193302 J&kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the public that Mr. Mohammad Hadi Mahmood, proprietor of M/S Valley Construction Co (Registration No. PWDJNK-CONT-2024-690651) having its office at Chanapora, is a registered contractor with the new R&B division Srinagar South. The contractor has now applied for an upgrade of the card from Class D to Class C. Any person having an objection must submit their objections to the said department within seven days.

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my daughter bearing No 636989227839 the name is entered as NOOR UL RAKEEN while her actual name is RUKAIN. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SHAKEEL AHMAD KUTAY
 F/O RUKAIN
 R/O KHAK CHOWK BALGARDEN
 SRINAGAR PIN 190010

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that i am working in police department as Sub Inspector, in my service book the name is entered as MOHD MAQBOOL DAR S/O ASSAD-ULLAH DAR while my actual name is MOHMAD MAQBOOL DAR S/O ASSADULLAH DAR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact CONCERN DEPARTMENT with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

MOHMAD MAQBOOL DAR
 S/O ASSADULLAH DAR
 CELL. 7006334318

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 268938979066 the name is entered as HAJIRA BANO while my actual name is HAJIRA BEGUM. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

HAJIRA BEGUM
 W/O ABDUL REHMAN GANIE
 R/o GOGOO HUMHAMA
 BUDGAM.

mcb

**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 Nayeema Nabi D/o Gh. Nabi Bhat R/o: Gund Brath, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Nayeema Nabi born on 01-02-1989 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate Bomial
 fko

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI**

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

This office has received a written application from Bilal Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohammad Maqbool Bhat R/o: Seloo Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely D.O.B: Bilal Ahmad Bhat born on 03-02-1991 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate Bomial
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/her adhaar card bearing adhaar no 325210101769 as Aayman Mushtaq while her correct name is Aiman Mushtaq . 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..

Mushtaq Ahmad Dar
 F/o Aiman Mushtaq
 R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/her adhaar card bearing adhaar no 7130 0704 6862 as Ruman Muzaffar while his/her correct name is Anam Jan . 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..

Muzaffar Ahmad Shah F/o Anam Jan
 R/o Chandraseer Tehsil Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name from (old name) Hameeda Bano , DOB 10-03-1956 to (new name) Hameeda Begam DOB 08-04-1956 in future I will be known as (New Name) Hameeda Begam. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the passport office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jawahara Akhter, resident of Nooripora, hereby inform the general public that the names of my two sons were incorrectly recorded in the school records of Madina Public High School, Nooripora. The correct details are as follows:
 Syed Asrar Hussain (earlier recorded as Syed Asrar Mosvi)
 Syed Basit Hussain (earlier recorded as Syed Basit Mosvi)
 Both are sons of Syed Sajad Hussain. Henceforth, the correct names as mentioned above shall be used for all official purposes. Any objection in this regard may be raised within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
 Jawahir Akhter
 R/o Nooripora

bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the Mother's name of my two wards namely Aashima Mohsin and Mohsin Hassan Shah has been wrongly recorded in their school records as Qunser Nazir, whereas the correct name is Qunser Nazeer. Now, I have applied for the correction of the same in the records of Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School, Rajbagh. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same in the office of the said school within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Qunser Nazeer
 Mother of Aashima Mohsin and Mohsin Hassan Shah

x

**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 Parveena Rasool Chagal D/o Ghulam Rasool Chagal R/o: Seloo, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Parveena Rasool Chagal born on 05-03-1987 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate Bomial
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Sartaj Amin to (New name) Sartaj Amin Bhat. In future I will be known as (New name) Sartaj Amin Bhat. If anybody is having any objection/he/she/may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.

Sartaj Amin Bhat
 S/o; Mohammad Amin Bhat
 R/o; 16, Aarbal Shalimar, Madeena Masjid,
 Aarbal, Brein, PO: Brein, DIST:
 Srinagar, Jammu And Kashmir, 191123.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Inshra to (New name) Inshra Showkat. In future I will be known as (New name) Inshra Showkat. If anybody is having any objection/he/she/may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.

Inshra Showkat
 D/O Showkat Ahmad Bader
 R/O Zirpora Bijbehara Dist Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No.0204020001286 registered in the name of Late Ghulam Ahmad Akhoun S/o Jullad Din Akhoun is proposed to be transferred in favour of Abdul Ahad Akhoun S/O late Ghulam Ahmad Akhoun R/o Malla bagh, Naseem bagh srinagar. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact the Sub division Rainawari within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Media line addt

ازنیابت بوٹی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب شاد احمد ولد محمد عبدالمنان بنی بڈاف ساکنہ عیدوی پورہ برادرانہ بی بی عواذ عسکری نکتہ پسر بڈاف نثار (Huzaf Nisar) اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالانہ دھبہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے سال کا کنڈم 6 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنڈم مہوار آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے متعلق 5,000 روپیہ تک ہے سال کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ہے سال کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground سے کم ہے رقبہ میں تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے سال کا رہائشی ٹیلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے سال کا مکان رہائشی ازبیروان میونسپل حدود میں واقع نہیں۔ سال کے کپڑے سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے سال، RBA, OBC, ST, زرعی سرٹیفکیٹ میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا عذر پیش ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا عذر پیش وادلت حد کو کوئی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد رقبہ سے عیاں ہوئی عذر یا عذر پیش قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
 FKO

ازنیابت بوٹی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب شوکت احمد ولد محمد عسکری پورہ برادرانہ بی بی عواذ عسکری نکتہ شبرزادہ اختر (Shabroza Akhter) اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالانہ ایک درخواست بغرض EWS سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالانہ دھبہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے سال کا کنڈم 6 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کنڈم مہوار آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے متعلق 55,000 روپیہ تک ہے سال کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ ہے سال کا مکان رہائشی 200 SQ Ground سے کم ہے رقبہ میں تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے سال کا رہائشی ٹیلیٹ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے سال کا مکان رہائشی ازبیروان میونسپل حدود میں واقع نہیں۔ سال کے کپڑے سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے سال، RBA, OBC, ST, زرعی سرٹیفکیٹ میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا عذر پیش ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا عذر پیش وادلت حد کو کوئی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد رقبہ سے عیاں ہوئی عذر یا عذر پیش قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
 FKO

Tonga Reappears on Srinagar Streets

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the middle of Srinagar's fast-moving traffic and modern bustle, a slow, rhythmic clip-clop has begun to turn heads again.

A traditional tonga, once a common sight across Kashmir, has returned to the streets, thanks to a 70-year-old man, Ghulam Rasool Kumar, determined to keep a piece of the past alive.

As per details available with KNO, Ghulam Rasool, a resident of Srinagar, has reintroduced the horse-drawn cart, offering locals a rare glimpse into a bygone era when tongas were an integral part of daily life in the Valley.

For decades, these carts ferried passengers through markets, neighbourhoods and riverbanks, long before motor vehicles came to dominate the roads.

With time, they gradually disappeared, replaced by cars, auto rickshaws and buses, surviving only in memory and old photographs.

Kumar's initiative is now bringing that memory back to

life. Moving through the city at a slow pace, the tonga has become an instant attraction.

People across age groups pause to watch, often recalling a time when such rides were routine. Youngsters stop to take pictures or hop on for a short ride.

"I wanted to revive something that belongs to our culture," Kumar says. "This is not just transport, it is part of who we were."

Locals say the experience offers more than just a ride. It creates a moment of pause in an otherwise hurried day something increasingly rare in the city's changing landscape.

Children wave as the cart passes, while commuters slow down to make way, some with smiles of recognition, others with curiosity.

It is pertinent to mention, that the revival comes at a time when Srinagar recently witnessed panic buying at petrol pumps and LPG outlets following rumours linked to global developments in West Asia, although authorities have maintained that supplies remain adequate.

Traffic Cops Launch Crackdown on High Beams, Pressure Horn Misuse

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Srinagar City, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat on Tuesday said that the department has intensified enforcement against the use of pressure horns, high-beam lights, hidden number plates and other violations, following a surge in public complaints across the city.

Speaking to KNO, SSP Bhat said several complaints have been received from residents, particularly along the national highway and city bypass, where heavy vehicles and truckers frequently use high-intensity pressure horns.

"We received many complaints from people regarding pressure horns, especially on highways where truckers use high-intensity horns, causing inconvenience to the public," he said.

The SSP said the issue is more serious as key hospitals and institutions are located along these routes. "There are hospitals like JVC Bemina and other institu-

tions, besides residential areas and people, including patients, are being affected," he said, adding that the problem becomes more acute during evening hours when entry of heavy vehicles into the city is allowed.

Bhat said special enforcement

the driver coming from the opposite side. This is mostly seen on interior roads, and we have taken action in such cases as well," he added.

On attempts to evade penalties, he said some motorists conceal or tamper with number

High beam directly impacts the driver coming from the opposite side. This is mostly seen on interior roads, and we have taken action in such cases as well

plates to avoid challans. "We are identifying such violators, and proceedings are underway. Vehicles found with hidden number plates will be seized," he warned.

SSP Bhat added that the traffic police have also intensified night drives against the use of fog lamps, pressure horns and rash driving, aimed at ensuring safer roads and minimising public inconvenience across Srinagar.

Highlighting another major concern, the officer said misuse of high-beam headlights poses risks to oncoming drivers. "High beam directly impacts

Srinagar Airport to 'Look like a True International Facility' After Revamp, Says Director

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar International Airport is set to undergo a major transformation following the approval of a multi-crore development project by the Government of India, with expansion plans aimed at significantly enhancing capacity and passenger facilities, Airport Director Javid Anjum said.

The project, currently in the planning phase, will focus on large-scale infrastructure expansion and modernization, with authorities emphasizing the importance of detailed execution planning before work begins.

According to Anjum, the airport's operational area will be expanded to nearly four

times its present size, marking one of the most substantial upgrades undertaken at the facility in recent years. The number of checking counters is also set to triple, alongside a broader increase in passenger handling infrastructure.

The ongoing runway upgradation forms a key component of the overall development. Officials noted that the last major runway upgrade was carried out in 2010, making the current work a significant step toward improving operational efficiency and safety standards.

Despite the ongoing works, flight operations have largely remained stable during daytime hours. "We had 24 to 30 flights a day, and the number remains the same between 5 pm to 8 pm. Only

night flights have been affected," Anjum said.

According to KNT, the expansion is expected to bring a comprehensive upgrade in facilities, including passenger amenities, operational infrastructure, and service capacity, aligning the airport more closely with international standards.

Highlighting the impact of the project, Anjum said the allocated funds would transform the airport significantly. "It will really look like an international airport," he said, referring to the scale and scope of the planned upgrades.

The modernization comes amid increasing passenger traffic and the need for enhanced infrastructure to support growing air connectivity in the region.

DC Conducts Review of Proposed Infrastructure Projects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo chaired a comprehensive meeting here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office to assess the progress of mega developmental projects and ongoing infrastructure works in the district, besides reviewing the status of estimation and Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation for upcoming works.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Engineer SSCI, Abdul Qayoom Kirmani, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Sajad Kawoosa, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDC, City Drainage, UEED & SMC Tehsildars South, Tehsildar Shalteng and other Officers.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 941993745, 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
 SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 45
 ZUHR 12:34
 ASR 5: 07
 Magrib 6:58
 ISHA 8: 22

HIJRI CALENDAR
 19- Shawwal
 1447

NOTICE

I, Ishfaq Ali Sofi, S/o Fida Hussain Sofi, R/o Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my academic certificates, including the marks sheets of Class 10th, 11th, and 12th, along with the qualification certificate of Class 10th. I have applied for the issuance of duplicate copies of these documents at JKBOSE.

Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of duplicate certificates in my name may approach JKBOSE within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
 (Ishfaq Ali Sofi)
 S/o Fida Hussain Sofi
 Registration No: N12302180032
 R/o Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak
 Contact No: 9622844579
 Date: 05/04/2026



CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
 56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
 Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in



Notification No.-CSU/36014/Advt./2026-27/S-I
 Date:- 01.04.2026

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE YEAR 2026-27 UNDER "SCHEMES FOR SANSKRIT PROMOTION"

Central Sanskrit University, Delhi is the nodal agency for implementing Central Schemes of Ministry of Education, Government of India for the Promotion of Sanskrit Language. Accordingly, applications are invited from interested NGOs/Voluntary Organizations/Universities/Institutions/Publishers/Individuals/Students, through online as applicable under the following Schemes for Sanskrit Promotion: -

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme
1	Sanskrit Teaching - Engagement of Sanskrit or Modern Subject Teachers for teaching in Traditional Sanskrit Pathshalas/Mahavidyalayas/Government Schools/Guru-Sishya Parampara Institutions and Residential Scholarships.
2	Samman Rashi - Annual grant to Eminent Sanskrit Pandits living in Indigent Circumstances.
3	Publication, Bulk Purchase and Re-print of Rare Sanskrit Books
4	Shastra Chudamani - for utilization of Services of Eminent Shastric Scholars or Retired Sanskrit Scholars.
5	Programmes & Activities for Promotion of Sanskrit.
6	Vocational Training - Conduct of Vocational Training in Registered Traditional Sanskrit Institutions.
7	Ashtaadashi - Eighteen Projects for sustaining the Growth of Sanskrit.
8	Scholarships - Award of Scholarships to the students regularly studying Sanskrit/Pali/Prakrit languages from 9 th class to Ph.D level in Traditional/Modern Stream.

Online Registration Starting date - 01.04.2026
Online Registration Closing date - 30.06.2026 and for Scholarship scheme closing date will be 31.08.2026
Note:- However, Portal will be open in the entire year for application.

- Before filling the application form, it is advised that the scheme guidelines be referred of each scheme, remuneration, required documents, how to apply in online and application forwarding process etc., please visit the Central Sanskrit University's website www.sanskrit.nic.in/schemes.
- In each scheme, automatic renewal shall not be considered. Hence, it is mandatory for all grantee institutions of previous years to apply afresh for each scheme, as per schematic norms.
- Further, consideration or rejection of the application for financial assistance will depend upon the availability of funds and approval of the GIAC etc., as per schematic norms. Therefore, it is mandatory to apply every year on scheme-to-scheme basis separately for financial assistance.

Sd/-
 Registrar I/c
cbc21212/12/0001/2627

NOTICE

I intend to apply for a D Class Contractor Card at the Office of the Chief Engineer, CID Wing, JKPCDC, Srinagar.

If anyone has any objection regarding this application, they may contact the concerned authorities within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

SAFEENA JAN
 D/o Abdul Hameed Mir
 R/o Hari Utmu, Tangmarg,
 Baramulla

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 Naseer Ahmad S/o Mohd Subhan Sofi R/o Zalora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely D.O.B: Naseer Ahmad born on 03-03-2006 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate Bomial
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Junaid Fayaz S/o Fayaz Ahmad Dar R/o Seergera, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Junaid Fayaz born on 10-06-2009 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate Bomial
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Mushlaq Ahmad Lone S/o Mohammad Afzal Lone R/o Tujan, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Mushtaq Ahmad Lone born on 07-03-1991 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate Bomial
 fko

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
 (Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
 IS-A, Sector-07, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075

CCRT/11011/01/2026/
 08/04/2026

CORRIGENDUM

Advertisement for the post of Director, CCRT Level-12, GP-7600

With reference to CCRT advertisement No. CCRT/11011/01/2026/01 dated 07th - 13th February, 2026, inviting applications for the post of Director on Composite Method: Deputation (including short-term contract) plus promotion; failing which by Direct Recruitment basis, published in the Employment News (07th - 13th February, 2026) and in other newspapers on 7th February, 2026 on a PAN-India basis, it is hereby notified that the last date for submission of applications has been extended up to **20/04/2026 (17:30 hrs.)**

2. All other Terms & Conditions shall remain the same.

Sd/-
 Dy. Director (Administration)
 CCRT, New Delhi

CBC09101/11/0001/2627

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA
 Email Id. xennrbcd@gmail.com
 E-NIT No. 03 of R&B /Chadoora/215-24 dated 07/04/2026

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K, e-NIT are invited in **Single Cover System** from the registered Local Tour & Travels Agencies/Taxi Stand Unions/transport firms for hiring of one no. of following type of vehicle along with an experienced driver on monthly rental basis for official use of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Soura for the financial year i.e. **2026-27 upto 31/07/2026.**

SN	Type of vehicle	Cost of tender document (E-challan)	For the year	Earnest Money (Rs)	Class of contractor
1	Hiring of the Vehicle of the Type Toyota Innova/ Mahindra Scorpio / Mahindra Bolero for the financial year 2026-27 for office use by the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Soura inclusive of all maintenance costs of vehicle & Road taxes including hiring of an expert licensed Driver excluding the cost of fuel.	Rs 300/-	2026-27 (upto 31/07/2026)	Rs 5000/-	Commercial Vehicle, Registration with J&K Transport

1. Critical Dates

1	Date of Issue of Quotation	07/04/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08/04/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	08/04/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	15/04/2026 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15/04/2026 at 4.05 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora.

2. The vehicle should be only registered with RTO Kashmir and shall fulfill the conditions laid in the Public Notice issued by Regional Transport Officer Kashmir vide No. RTOK/ Estt/ 2023/ 11270-73 dated- 24/03/2023.

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

- Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-tenders carefully before uploading soft copy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.
- Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under :-
- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).

4. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Valid Treasury Receipt/e-Challan under Major Head 0059 Revenue in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

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

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

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

- Any bidder withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above under Critical Dates.

No. 215-24
 DIPK-208/26
 Dated 07/04/2026

Executive Engineer
 PW (R&B) Division Chadoora

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India's Food Safety Test

From adulteration to weak enforcement, India's current system struggles to keep pace with modern supply chains.



Hidayat Bukhari



India's food economy is expanding fast, creating opportunities at home and abroad. At the same time, enforcement data points to the need to upgrade safety systems and sharpen alignment so the framework keeps pace with modern supply chains and builds confidence in Indian food.

Recent enforcement drives across states, especially during peak seasons, have found a notable share of samples in categories such as milk products, sweets, edible oils and spices showing quality issues.

These findings go beyond simple label issues to reveal hygiene problems, contamination, and adulteration.

Officials seize substantial amounts of spoiled meat along with large quantities of sweets, khoya, paneer, and adulterated oils.

Such actions demonstrate that the problems affect mass markets.

The sector operates with more than a million registered food business operators plus a sizable informal part. Inspection levels, lab resources, and processing times differ greatly among states.

Many districts experience backlogs in testing and limited field checks. Detection often happens after products reach distribution channels. The approach stays mostly reactive.

Scientists understand the risks well. Meat and dairy items held without proper temperature or hygiene allow common pathogens such as Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria, and Staphylococcus to grow quickly and create toxins. These lead to sudden sickness and serious issues for vulnerable groups.

High-moisture foods like dairy sweets see faster microbial growth when refrigeration drops. Proteins in decomposing foods produce biogenic amines that set off toxic responses. Some spoilage toxins resist heat and remain even after reheating.

Chemical changes bring another set of concerns. Studies in various states document cases where producers add non-food substances to milk and dairy substitutes to mimic fat or protein content. Oils receive blending or oxidation that raises risks to heart health. Extended contact with contaminants including aflatoxins from mold, conditions that form nitrosamines, pesticide traces, and heavy metals adds to longer-term health challenges.

The pattern points to cumulative effects in a system where safety levels vary. Public health data places this situation squarely in the policy arena. India deals with substantial levels of food-related illnesses and non-communicable diseases. Small amounts of avoidable contact, when multiplied by 1.4 billion people, add up to major expenses in medical care, missed work, and lower life quality.

Importing nations apply careful standards. Perceived problems in supply chains, whether from poultry disease outbreaks or issues in processed foods, lead to quicker restrictions on market entry.

These steps serve as standard tools for health protection in international commerce. An economy that aims to grow agricultural exports finds that solid domestic food safety practices support competitiveness as much as they protect buyers at home.

The Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 delivered a strong consolidation effort. It established one regulator and brought standards together.

Two decades later, the market looks different with longer supply chains, e-commerce and quick commerce that shorten distribution periods, cold chains that remain uneven, and an informal segment that works with limited checks.

State governments lead enforcement, which produces differences in inspection strength, lab resources, and timelines for legal action. Penalties lean toward fines, and court processes move slowly.

The result creates a balance where benefits from shortcuts exceed likely costs of detection.

A second-generation food safety law and enforcement setup needs to operate on prevention as the main approach. Producers and large distributors gain from requirements to perform hazard analysis and keep clear control plans throughout the chain.

This change moves efforts from final product tests toward risk management right at the beginning.

High-risk categories benefit from full digital traceability systems that work from end to end. Batch information stays connected between states and e-commerce sites so officials can pinpoint and pull back affected batches fast instead of depending on wide searches after the fact. Inspection and laboratory resources require expansion and standardization through a central support program.

District labs, mobile testing teams, and quick screening tools cut processing times and broaden coverage. Officials publish figures on inspection levels and test turnaround times to build accountability.

Enforcement gains strength when officials set firm timelines and apply measures that fit the violation. Fast-track processes handle food safety cases with defined service standards. Criminal responsibility applies where violations pose clear dangers to life, and penalties increase according to the level and extent of harm.

and penalties increase according to the level and extent of harm.

The informal sector enters the system through easier licensing processes, stepped hygiene requirements, and focused training programs. Safer methods become the simpler choice for everyone involved.

A clear public reporting system covers businesses with repeated or serious violations while respecting proper procedures. Consumers and buyers downstream receive the information they need to choose wisely. A national platform lets citizens report concerns with safeguards for those who speak up and turns public observations into useful data for officials.

Recall procedures and international alert systems line up more closely with established global practices. Domestic responses match the pace and precision of partners like the European Union rapid alert systems and the United States preventive controls approach.

These steps appear in successful models elsewhere. They lift the chance of catching problems, cut the time to action, and increase the price of violations.

Behaviour shifts when the cost of breaking rules surpasses the advantage gained.

The goal centers on a fair environment where businesses that follow rules avoid competition from those who cut corners. Consumers gain confidence in their purchases. Trust functions as a valuable economic resource in the food sector.

India builds its growth narrative around both volume and excellence. Alignment of the food system with those goals supports public health, export strength, and fair opportunity for all.

Predictable preventive rules deliver better results than the unseen expenses of a system that waits for problems to appear.

A second-generation food safety law built on prevention, traceability, expanded resources, and prompt enforcement secures the strength of India's food economy through the coming decades.

The author is the CEO and Founder of GenTechPro IT Solutions. He can be reached at hidfan@gmail.com.

KO VIEW

Borrowed Glory

Kashmir's business lanes tell one story on the surface and another underneath.

Shop fronts gleam with fresh facade, new vehicles line the streets, and wedding halls burst with celebration. The visible markers of success surround you. But many of these same ventures teeter on fragile foundations, weighed down by financial choices mostly driven by the hunger for social approval.

A young entrepreneur starts with discipline. He builds a shop through sheer slog, earns trust customer by customer, and watches sales climb consistently. Neighbours notice, relatives speak of him with pride, and the recognition feels earned, deserved even. It also plants a seed of expectation.

That expectation begins to steer decisions in directions that feel natural, almost inevitable. A larger home rises as proof of arrival, a new SUV announces status before words can, and a grand wedding becomes a stage for demonstrating place in the community hierarchy.

Money that once purchased inventory and equipment now flows into marble floors, imported fixtures, and celebrations that stretch across multiple evenings.

Banks and moneylenders make entry easy, credit lines promise flexibility, and gold-backed loans unlock immediate cash. Monthly installments appear manageable against current income. The financial architecture of the household shifts silently. Fixed obligations settle in alongside daily expenses, creating a new normal where debt service rivals business costs for priority.

Markets move in cycles, never straight lines. Demand softens, competition sharpens, and external shocks ripple through. A sales dip stings more acutely when loan payments hold steady regardless. Interest compounds its own relentless pull. Capital that once funded expansion, fresh stock, or market exploration now disappears into repayment schedules. Flexibility narrows, and response time slows.

The household feels this through small adjustments that compound. Supplier payments stretch from thirty days to sixty, new hiring freezes, and plans for a second location gather dust while immediate commitments demand attention. Outside, the display continues, and inside, pressure mounts invisibly.

Community norms reinforce the pattern relentlessly. The grand wedding draws genuine praise, the larger home sparks talks across tea stalls, and visible spending cements reputation in ways that patient saving and silent reinvestment never match. Society rewards the show more than the substance.

Strong enterprises grow when profits stay inside the business long enough to build genuine reserves, strengthen operations, and seed new income streams. Borrowing works when it directly expands earning capacity, purchases productive assets, or captures market opportunity.

It fails when it funds single moments of display that generate no return.

Kashmir possesses deep entrepreneurial energy. That strength can drive lasting progress when choices favour endurance over impression.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Skills Over Scrolls

Kashmir's job market asks a hard question: what good is a degree when 3.6 lakh educated youth remain unemployed?

Irshad Mushtaq

Faizan holds an advanced degree. His classroom taught theory, but his employer wants practical skills. This gap between campus and career hurts thousands of young Kashmiris.

Artificial intelligence accelerates the shift. Routine office jobs shrink, and BPO roles vanish. But opportunity grows elsewhere. Junaid learned coding and data skills. He speaks English well, and works remotely with global clients. His degree sits on a shelf and his laptop pays his bills.

The National Education Policy 2020 recognizes this reality. It wants half of all students learning practical skills, including coding, crafts, entrepreneurship and problem solving, by 2025. Kashmiri families must welcome this change. Academic achievement still matters, but tangible skills matter more.

Technology opens doors without airport queues. Digital marketing, web development, content creation, and e-commerce as skills travel through fiber cables. A young woman in Sopore can serve a client in Singapore. A graduate in Ganderbal can build apps for startups in Silicon Valley. Geography no longer limits ambition.

Financial habits complete the picture. Small savings today compound into security tomorrow. Mutual funds reward patience, and micro-investments grow. This discipline demands thinking beyond next month's salary. It means planting trees whose shade you may never sit under.

The old path promised stability through certificates in Kashmir, but the new path demands versatility, technical fluency, and entrepreneurial nerve. Young people here possess sharp minds and strong work ethics. They need channels that connect these gifts to global demand.

Educational institutions must adapt faster. Families must value skill certificates alongside degree scrolls. Policymakers must expand internet infrastructure and training centers.

The economy rewards those who solve real problems. Kashmiri youth can become problem solvers. They need the right tools, the right training, and the right mindset. The future belongs to those who build skills that machines cannot replicate and degrees cannot confer.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

Letter to Editor

When Leadership Undercuts Kashmir Classrooms

Something troubling happened recently when Jammu and Kashmir's Education Minister Sakina Itoo stood up and dismissed most private school teachers as mere matriculates or high school passouts.

The comment landed like a slap across the face of thousands of educators who have spent their lives shaping young minds in this troubled region.

Here is the thing about teaching in Kashmir. For decades, our schools sat empty or struggled with no teachers at all. Our villages and mountain communities watched their children grow up without classrooms to attend. Then came Rehbar-e-Taleem in the early 2000s. The government looked around and made a practical choice. Rather than leaving schools shuttered, they invited local youth with higher secondary education to step up and teach their own neighbours. These young people became our

guides of learning. They walked into empty classrooms and filled them with hope. Enrollment rose, dropouts fell, and learning took root in places that had known only silence.

Many of those same teachers still stand in front of blackboards today. They have regularized their positions, and built careers marked by excellence. But now the very standards that once opened doors are being waved around as proof of inadequacy.

Beyond being unfair, this reveals a dangerous forgetfulness about who kept our education system breathing when everything else around us was falling apart.

The Private Schools Association responded quickly. They pointed out what the minister's words ignored. Most private school teachers hold postgraduate degrees. They bring years of experience. Their students clear board exams and competitive tests year after year. These

teachers work for modest pay, and make sacrifices their families feel deeply. Reducing them to a certificate is an insult to that dedication.

Political parties across the spectrum called the remarks insensitive. They were right. Leaders set the tone for how we treat one another. When they speak with contempt about educators, they invite everyone else to do the same.

But this debate misses the larger picture. Our government schools face severe teacher shortages. One educator often handles multiple classes alone. Parents turn to private schools because they offer smaller classes and accountability. Families stretch their budgets thin to pay fees because they trust these teachers with their children's futures. That trust is earned rather than bought.

A certificate matters, and so do training, empathy, knowing your students by name and understanding the culture and

language that shape how young minds learn. Teaching is a human connection rather than a mechanical job.

Our education minister has real power. She could use it to build better training programs, fairer staffing policies, stronger community partnerships. Instead she chose to tear down the very people doing the work. That is a failure of leadership.

Teaching in Kashmir has always been a mission carried out against impossible odds. We need leaders who understand that.

And we definitely need voices that celebrate our teachers rather than diminish them. The future of our children depends on it.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Arfat Wani
uania6817@gmail.com

Love, Lies, and the Business of Betrayal

Men posing as partners exploit trust, isolate women, and extract money, while society looks away and calls it a failed match.



Haziqah Showkat

I sat with my friend last month and heard a story that refuses to leave my mind.

A young woman described an engagement that ended as something closer to a calculated extraction scheme than a failed romance.

The man arrived with elaborate promises of shared futures, solemn commitments, and honourable intentions stretching years ahead.

He pursued her actively through proper channels, proposed formal engagement with family blessings, created visible stability through gatherings.

But behind this careful performance moved intentions entirely divorced from love or partnership.

He isolated her systematically through manufactured conflicts involving his own relatives, cutting her off from external perspective. He extracted substantial money through detailed tales of business hardship.

Then he vanished behind claims she was a poor fit according to family standards, leaving her with empty hands, heavy debts, and diminished social standing.

This method follows a disturbing pattern appearing throughout Kashmir with increasing frequency in recent years.

Men position themselves as victims of hostile family members, cutting partners off from siblings, parents, and friends who might offer perspective. They paint themselves as lone warriors requiring emotional rescue and substantial financial support against overwhelming odds.



Simultaneously, they tell their families completely different stories, casting the woman as the source of tension, as difficult or demanding.

This double game builds complete emotional control while creating plausible excuses for eventual abandonment.

It creates perfect conditions for systematic extraction of money, labour, housing, and emotional energy over months or years. The target spends months defending her partner against a supposedly hostile world while he silently prepares his exit strategy and his next target.

The damage extends far beyond the immediate pain of broken engagements.

Women lose entire savings accounts accumulated through years of difficult work. They lose emotional stability, developing profound anxiety about future relationships. They also lose social standing as communities whisper about failed matches.

Families exhaust limited resources investigating alliances that were



COMMUNITIES MUST DEVELOP NEW RESPONSES THAT PLACE MORAL INTEGRITY ABOVE SOCIAL APPEARANCES.

They must create spaces where victims speak without shame or blame. They should demand accountability from those who exploit sacred institutions.

always hollow performances designed to extract maximum value. Communities absorb the fallout through damaged trust while perpetrators move freely toward new victims in different neighbourhoods.

This constitutes exploitation using marriage institutions as protective cover. It weaponizes trust itself, turning intimate knowledge into a tool for calculated extraction.

Calling these episodes simple relationship collapses misses the

deliberate architecture of harm, the premeditated steps, the cold strategy involved.

Society possesses precise vocabulary for women who seek financial security through marriage arrangements. Pop culture provides endless depictions of female gold-diggers.

Men who reverse this dynamic, who engineer emotional dependence to secure money, escape naming in public discourse, operating in blind spots.

This blindness serves existing

power structures effectively.

Harsh labels attach to female behaviour immediately and stick permanently. Male manipulation receives softer treatment as "complex situations" or "family interference."

The friend's fiancé extracted thousands under false pretenses of business investment and family medical emergencies. He left her bearing psychological scars and financial obligations while he sought his next opportunity in a different district.

Character determines exploitation, gender merely provides the method and the cultural cover.

Kashmir maintains deep respect for male leadership within family and community structures. Societies built themselves around this anchor through countless generations.

Strong leadership deserves genuine honour and willing deference. Manipulation hijacks this respect cynically. It uses cultural cover to enable theft and abandonment.

The issue demands clear distinction between genuine guardianship and predatory behaviour wearing traditional masks.

One builds collective strength through protection, provision, and moral example. The other destroys individual lives while hiding behind social conventions that limit questioning of male authority.

Communities benefit greatly from honourable male leadership. They suffer equally when bad actors exploit that same mantle for private gain.

Legal frameworks exist to address fraud and deception in marriage arrangements. Social mechanisms remain dramatically stunted, leaving gaps that predators exploit.

Victims face immediate questions about their personal judgment instead of receiving support or validation. Families worry about community reputation over individual justice.

This preference for silence allows cycles to repeat with mathematical precision across generations.

Every untold story enables the next perpetrator by keeping warning signals hidden.

Communities must develop new

responses that place moral integrity above social appearances. They must create spaces where victims speak without shame or blame. They should demand accountability from those who exploit sacred institutions.

Education serves as partial armour against such schemes, though protection remains partial against skilled deceivers. Awareness of specific manipulation tactics helps potential targets recognize isolation attempts early in courtship. Understanding firm financial boundaries provides additional protection.

Beyond individual defense lies collective responsibility requiring active participation. Elders must examine potential matches with sharper eyes and harder questions. Religious leaders should address exploitation directly during premarital counseling sessions, naming the behaviour as sin.

Community heads ought to expose known predators openly rather than transferring problems to other localities through meek warnings. Neighbours should support victims visibly rather than joining whispers about broken engagements.

Marriage as an institution demands vigilant protection from those who seek to weaponize it for personal gain. Integrity calls for naming exploitation plainly and refusing euphemisms that hide harm.

Kashmir's future rests on leadership that earns respect through honourable daily conduct rather than entitlement.

The friend's empty ring box sits on her dresser as evidence of theft performed under sacred guise.

Communities must ensure such stories meet accountability instead of silence.

Through clear-eyed confrontation with manipulation, Kashmir can preserve the genuine human values underlying its cherished traditions.

— With a background in Law and EdTech, the author engages with the deeper structures that shape society.

The Illusion of Perfect Matches

Social approval and spectacle increasingly replace genuine compatibility in Kashmir's marriage decisions.



Seerat U Nisa

Kashmir today presents a troubling paradox. It continues to host exorbitant, "big fat" weddings despite being a region with an alarming rate of unemployment, a limited presence of the private sector, and an increasing inclination toward government jobs, jobs that, realistically, may not resolve the employment crisis for decades to come.

At the same time, the region faces a growing economic burden, reflected in its rising debt-to-GDP ratio.

Despite this economic fragility, families often spend beyond their means on wedding ceremonies. Lavish tents and multi-day celebrations have become normalized.

These practices are relatively new to the culture and are increasingly competitive and status-driven, turning marriage into a spectacle rather than a meaningful union.

The unfortunate reality, however, is that despite extravagant spending on wedding functions, marriages do not seem to last longer.

Courts are witnessing a rise in disputes where marriages dissolve over issues that, in many cases, begin as trivial disagreements but escalate into irreconcilable conflicts.

This raises an important concern:

has the foundation of marriage itself weakened?

Among the many possible reasons, the foremost appears to be the deviation from the core values of nikah that our religion teaches us.

In Islam, marriage is not merely a social event for display on social media, nor is it a superficial façade of union. It is not even just a "union" in the modern, contractual sense.

The Qur'an describes marriage in profound terms as "mithaqan ghaliza", translating to "a solemn covenant," "a firm covenant," or "a weighty pledge."

This expression highlights that Islamic marriage is not merely a civil contract, but a sacred bond carrying deep spiritual, moral, and emotional obligations.

It reflects a relationship between spouses that is rooted in responsibility, mutual respect, and spiritual purpose.

Islam emphasizes simplicity over extravagance, compatibility in faith and character over social status, and a balance of rights and responsibilities over displays and rituals.

However, what we observe today is a clear paradigm shift.

The core values of marriage seem to have become secondary in discussions and decisions, while materialistic aspects dominate. The focus has shifted from principles and genuine compatibility to the mere appearance of compatibility.

Social approval begins to outweigh personal understanding. How two people truly feel about each other becomes less important than how they appear to others.

Marriage, in many cases, is turning into a performance rather than a sincere companionship, thereby eroding the essence of the bond.

Although the increasing fragility of



marriages cannot be attributed to a single cause, several interconnected factors contribute to it: a weak understanding of marital roles and responsibilities, lack of emotional preparedness, a significant divergence in the value systems of partners, and the absence of healthy conflict-resolution mechanisms, where ego is often prioritized over maintaining a peaceful home.

The perceived decline can also be attributed to numerous cultural practices. However, the solution does not lie in rejecting culture altogether, but

in aligning it with the core values of marriage.

Marriage must be understood in its spiritual depth and not perceived merely as a social contract, a definition that strips it of its moral obligation.

The understanding of marriage as a shared journey of joys and sorrows needs to be inculcated in young minds. It should be seen as a shared responsibility and a bond built on mercy, compassion, and mutual respect, rather than a transactional arrangement or a means of social validation.

Marriage is meant to create a sta-

ble and harmonious home, a space where two individuals grow together, support one another, and build a life grounded in sincerity rather than societal approval.

Ultimately, the strength of marriage does not lie in how grandly it is celebrated, but in how sincerely it is lived.

If the essence of marriage is restored, only then perhaps this institution can regain its stability and meaning in Kashmir.

— The author is a student and can be reached at seeratone7@gmail.com.



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J&K Bank's Business Crosses Rs 2.90 Lakh Crore: MD

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Bank's business has crossed Rs 2.90 lakh crore, its Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee said on Tuesday, as Lt Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the lender's regional business centre here.

Marking a significant milestone in the bank's infrastructure and business expansion strategy, the centre will serve as a vital operational and administrative hub.

The facility is designed to further improve service delivery and operational efficiency through its robust infrastructure and enhanced customer interface areas, an official spokesman said.

The Lt Governor congratulated and extended his felicitations to the entire team of J&K Bank on the occasion.

The integrated and technology-enabled business centre will be pivotal in driving efficiency, deepening market penetration and supporting J&K Bank's vision of sustainable and inclusive expansion across geographies, the spokesman said.

Chatterjee apprised the Lt Governor of the bank's strong financial performance, highlighting that its business has crossed Rs 2.90 lakh crore.

"The commissioning of the regional business centre is not



merely an expansion of physical infrastructure, but a decisive step towards strengthening our business architecture in a key growth region," he said.

He said the new regional business centre will enhance the bank's presence in the Jammu region while reinforcing its commitment to modernising infrastructure in line with evolving customer expectations and business needs.

The new premise houses a currency chest, a state-of-the-art branch, multiple departmental offices, and dedicated operational and administrative units, significantly enhancing administrative and back-end support.

This facility will enable faster decision-making, improved coordination and superior customer service, the spokesman said.

Erratic Weather Making Farming Increasingly Unpredictable: CM

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Highlighting the growing impact of erratic weather patterns on agriculture, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Tuesday that farming has become increasingly unpredictable, with farmers facing losses due to untimely rainfall and extreme weather events.

"When we need rain, sometimes we do not get it. Then when the rain comes, we get a month's rain in just 24 hours. We often sell our crops and get rain. Look at Shopian and other areas. How much damage has been caused by the hailstorm," Abdullah said.

The chief minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Centre of Excellence in Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture Farming at Talab Tillo in Jammu, developed under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) at a project cost of Rs 5.929 crore.

The foundation stone for the facility was laid by Abdullah on August 4, 2025.

The chief minister took a detailed tour of the facility and lauded the Agriculture Production Department for establishing hi-tech infrastructure in a record time.

Calling it the government's

responsibility to support farmers, Abdullah said, "In these circumstances, when farming is impacted by extreme weather events, it is the government's responsibility to help the farmers as much as possible.

"We cannot change the weather. The weather is for everyone. But at least we should reduce the effects of the weather, the dangers of the weather," he said.

The chief minister stressed measures, such as crop insurance, assured irrigation and improved infrastructure, to mitigate risks.

"Whether in crop insurance, agriculture or horticulture, priority must be given to providing comprehensive support, particularly ensuring assured water supply through irrigation," he said.

He also stressed the need to strengthen irrigation at the grassroots level, noting that while major canals are often maintained, smaller channels -- especially at the tail-end -- are frequently neglected.

Abdullah said directions have been issued to ensure the cleaning of these last-mile canals so that water reaches farmers effectively.

Referring to the centres of excellence in agriculture and allied sectors, he said these are aimed at providing high-quality plant material and

seeds to farmers, enabling them to significantly enhance their earnings.

Emphasising the critical role of quality inputs, the chief minister said "as long as we provide plant material to the farmers, as long as we do not provide the proper quality of the seed, it is injustice to them".

"Because the poor farmer puts the seed in the ground, then works hard and if the seed is not of the right quality, then all the hard work of the farmer is wasted," he said, adding that this newly-established centre of excellence would address this gap.

Abdullah called for replicating such facilities across districts.

"This should be done in the other districts so that right-quality plant material can be delivered to us at the right time," he said.

Reiterating his government's commitment, Abdullah said all available resources, including finance and planning, will be used to support the Agriculture Production Department.

He promised continued support to farmers and local representatives, stating that efforts will be made to strengthen those involved in agriculture and enhance their incomes, while serving their areas to the best extent possible.

Police Crack LeT Module; 16-Yr Fugitive Among 5 Held

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Police in Jammu and Kashmir has busted a "deep-rooted" interstate Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) module and arrested five people, including a Pakistani terrorist who had been on the run for 16 years and successfully established bases outside the Union Territory, officials said on Tuesday.

Pakistani terrorist Abdullah, alias Abu Hureira, was captured on Monday along with another Pakistani national, Usman alias Khubaib, in a major operation that comes six months after the dismantling of a "white-collar" terror cell centred at Faridabad's Al Falah University.

The operation, which began on March 31 and was monitored by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat who camped in Srinagar, has unveiled the funding and financial pattern of the LeT, officials said.

The terrorists used forged documents and identities to create a network not just in Jammu and Kashmir, but in several other states, they added.

Over the last few days, Srinagar police along with police forces of other states and central agencies carried out searches at 19 locations across Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Haryana. The raids led to the recovery of a large cache of weapons, including four AK assault rifles, pistols, hand grenades, and electronic gadgets.

According to officials, three Srinagar residents identified as Mohammad Nazeem Bhat, Adil Rashid Bhat, and Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Mama, were among the five arrested. They are accused of providing shelter, food and logistical support to the terrorists.

The two Pakistani terrorists are categorised as 'A+' grade militants and the officials said they infiltrated India approximately 16 years ago and remained active across various districts of the Kashmir Valley, commanding around 40 foreign terrorists over the years, most of whom have since been neutralised, the officials said.

Forged documents with addresses from other states were recovered from Abdullah and Usman, indicating the use of false identities to facilitate movement outside the valley. Probe findings also suggest that

one foreign terrorist managed to travel outside the country on a valid passport made from the forged documents.

More arrests could be in the offing with investigation in progress to identify additional associates, financiers, facilitators, safe houses and inter-state linkages, they said.

Incriminating material has been seized from several hideouts in various parts of Srinagar and other cities. These include three AK-47 rifles, one AK-Krinkov rifle, pistols, hand grenades, electronic equipment and gadgets, the officials said.

Besides, forged documents with addresses located in other states have also been recovered from Abdullah and Usman, indicating the use of false identities and possible facilitation channels outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The elaborate network began to unravel on March 31 when the first of the three Srinagar residents, Nazeem Bhat, was arrested from Pandach area along with a pistol and other incriminating material.

During his questioning, he said that he was part of the LeT and procured the arms and ammunition from another associate, Adil Rashid of Zakoor. He also provided support to foreign terrorists, the officials said.

From Bhat, police were led to Mir and Rashid Bhat, both active associates in Srinagar. The officials said the probe indicates that a foreign terrorist managed to travel outside the country on the basis of forged documents and identity with the help of the Lashkar-e-Taiba network in other states.

During the investigation, following disclosures from those arrested, various hideouts were also busted in forested areas in and around Srinagar.

In the earlier 'Al Falah operation' in November 2025, Srinagar police unravelled a network comprising highly educated professionals, mostly doctors, who had been radicalised to carry out terrorist activities.

One of the accused was the Al Falah university's Dr Umer-un Nabi, who was driving the explosives-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10 killing more than a dozen people. He had earlier made unsuccessful attempts to join terror groups in 2016 and 2018, the officials said.

EC to Extend Voter Roll Revision to 22 States, UTs After Polls

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Election Commission may roll out the third and final phase of special intensive revision of voters' list in the remaining 22 states and Union territories, including Delhi, after the polls to five assemblies this month, officials said.

Assembly elections are taking place in Kerala, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal this month and counting will take place on May 4.

The officials said special intensive revision (SIR) could be

rolled out after the polls conclude on April 29. Another possibility is to begin the massive exercise after the declaration of results.

So far, SIR has been carried out in 10 states and three Union territories. A 'special revision' of electoral rolls was carried out in Assam.

Except for Uttar Pradesh, final voters' lists have been published where SIR was carried out.

As many as 60 crore of the nearly 99 crore voters have been covered in these voters' list clean up exercises.

The remaining nearly 39

crore electors will be covered in the proposed exercise in 17 states and five Union territories.

On February 19, the poll authority had asked 22 states and Union territories including Delhi to complete preparatory work related to SIR at the earliest as the exercise is "expected to start from April".

Once the exercise is completed, all states and Union territories will be covered.

In a letter to the chief electoral officers of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and

Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana and Uttarakhand, the poll authority said pan-India SIR of voters' list was ordered in June last year.

Due to a variety of reasons, SIR has seen frequent tweaking in schedules.

Like Bihar, political parties had approached the Supreme Court challenging SIR in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Recently, TMC president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee personally pleaded before a bench of the

chief justice of India against the poll roll cleanup exercise in her state.

As the EC was preparing for SIR in Bihar, its officials had claimed that several nationals from Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar were found by its grassroots level functionaries.

But eventually, the poll authority did not share any numbers or proof of such people who were not eligible to be on the voters' list.

Opposition parties had dubbed the EC's claims as a ploy to carry out SIR to target electors not aligned to BJP and its allies.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

315 Lakes

agencies such as the forest department, district administrations and the lake conservation authority.

The report highlighted that conservation efforts remain limited to six major water bodies—Dal Lake, Wular Lake, Hokersar Wetland, Manasbal Lake, Surinsar Lake and Mansar Lake.

No comprehensive plans were prepared for the remaining lakes, and potential sites for central assistance were not identified, the audit said.

Between 2017 and 2022, only about one per cent of the capital expenditure budget was allocated to these six lakes, it added.

The report also pointed to gaps in implementation, including inadequate monitoring of water capacity, poor pollution control, and limited efforts in weed removal and desilting.

At Dal Lake, issues related to land use, sewage management and monitoring were found to be affecting restoration efforts. At Wular Lake, the absence of a functional oversight mechanism impacted decision-making and funding.

In Hokersar, planning gaps were evident in addressing water flow, pollution and encroachment, with over 2,500 kanal of land affected.

The audit concluded that changes in land use, lack of coordination among departments, and the absence of a unified management framework have collectively contributed to the steady decline of lake ecosystems in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

'Whole Civilization'

that strikes as destructive as Trump threatened could constitute a war crime.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again", if a deal isn't reached, Trump said in a post Tuesday morning, while keeping open the possibility of an off-ramp, saying that "maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen."

Reacting to the Trump threat an Iranian diplomat responded on X: "Alexander burned it. The Mongols ravaged it. History tested it. Iran is still here. A psychopath's threats won't end what time couldn't."

Iran's president, meanwhile, said 14 million people, including himself, have volunteered to fight should the US invade Iran.

President Masoud Pezeshkian posted on X that 14 million Iranians had answered state media and text message campaigns urging people to volunteer to fight -- and said he would join them.

Trump's threat prompts warnings of war crimes

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot joined a growing chorus of international voices calling for restraint, saying attacks targeting civilian and energy infrastructure "are barred by

the rules of war and international law."

"They would without doubt trigger a new phase of escalation, of reprisals, that would drag the region and the world economy into a vicious circle," the minister said on France Info television.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also warned the US that attacks on civilian infrastructure are banned under international law, according to his spokesperson.

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Such cases are notoriously difficult to prosecute, and Trump told reporters he's "not at all" concerned about committing war crimes.

Iranian Diplomat Responds

Responding to Trump saying "a civilization will die tonight," an Iranian diplomat described the country's civilization as a tree that nourished the West.

"Therefore, no fool would cut off the branch of a tree he is sitting on because he himself would fall first, and it is the sturdy tree that always stands, not the branches and appendages that have grown from it," said Mojtaba Ferdousi Pour, head of the Iranian mission in Cairo.

A wave of airstrikes hits Iran

A series of intense airstrikes pounded Tehran, including in residential neighbourhoods.

Israel's military said it attacked an Iranian petrochemical site in Shiraz, the second day in a row it has hit such a facility.

Israel also issued a Farsi-language warning telling Iranians to avoid trains throughout the day, likely telegraphing intended strikes on the rail network.

Iranian officials later said that a railway bridge, a train station and a highway bridge had been hit in airstrikes.

An Israeli-U.S. missile strike also targeted central Tehran, resulting in the destruction of a Jewish synagogue and a residential building near the capital's Taleghani Street.

Another strike hit the Khorramabad International Airport in western Iran, and an attack on an unidentified target in Alborz province, northwest of Tehran, killed 18 people, according to state media. A total of 15 people were killed in other strikes, Iranian media reported.

Early Tuesday, Iranian forces launched seven ballistic missiles at US bases in Saudi Arabia, which authorities said rained debris near energy facilities as they were intercepted.

The attacks prompted Saudi Arabia to temporarily close the King Fahd Causeway, the only road connection between Bahrain, home to the US Navy's 5th Fleet, and the Arabian Peninsula.

Iran also fired on Israel, with reports of incoming missiles in Tel Aviv and Eilat.

In Lebanon, where Israel is fighting Iran-allied Hezbollah, more than 1,400 people have been killed and more than 1 million people have been displaced. Eleven Israeli soldiers have died there.

In Gulf Arab states and the occupied West Bank, more than two dozen people have died, while 23 have been reported dead in Israel, and 13 US service members have been killed. -- AP

India Issues Urgent

civilisation will die tonight" if Iran does not meet his 8 pm Eastern Time deadline (5:30 am Indian time, Wednesday) to end its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

"In continuation of previous advisories, Indian nationals who are still in Iran must stay where they are for the next 48 hours, avoiding all electric, military installations and upper floors of multi-storey buildings, remaining indoors and coordinating any highway movement strictly with the embassy," the mission said.

"Those in embassy-hired hotels should stay put indoors while maintaining regular contact with on-site embassy teams. All are requested to monitor official updates closely," it said.

The embassy said its emergency numbers remain operational.

According to official data, around 9,000 Indians, including students, were in Iran when the conflict began following strikes on Iranian targets by Israel and the US on February 28. Nearly 1,800 Indians have returned to India so far.

Fake LPG Links

unsuspecting users and access their financial data.

Authorities have advised the public not to click on unknown or suspicious links and to avoid sharing personal or banking information through unsolicited messages. Users have been urged to verify any such communication only through official websites or authorised customer care channels.

"Fraudsters often rely on panic and urgency. People should remain cautious and not respond to such messages without proper verification," officials said.

They warned that sharing sensitive information through such links can lead to immediate

financial loss, with recovery often proving difficult.

Reiterating the need for vigilance, authorities said awareness and caution remain the most effective safeguards against cyber fraud.

NGT Team

issuing fresh permissions for earth mining in the district.

The tribunal's order came after it took note of claims that nearly 1,000 kanals of Karewa and orchard land had been affected by unregulated mining in parts of Pulwama and Budgam.

During a hearing on February 6, a bench led by Justice Prakash Srivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said the allegations pointed to serious environmental violations and required immediate verification on the ground.

The petition submitted to the tribunal included geotagged photographs, lists of affected farmers, and documents obtained under the Right to Information Act. It alleged that heavy machinery, including excavators and JCBs, had been used to extract clay, sand and gravel without environmental clearance or valid mining leases.

The plea also cited violations of the Jammu and Kashmir Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 2016, and the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines.

The tribunal has asked the joint committee to assess the scale of mining, identify those responsible, and recommend corrective and punitive measures. It also asked the panel to review whether required environmental clearances were in place.

In its order, the tribunal referred to the Supreme Court judgment in Deepak Kumar vs. State of Haryana, which requires environmental clearance even for small mining leases. The ruling warned that unchecked mining can weaken soil, harm biodiversity and cause long-term ecological damage.

The case is scheduled for further hearing on May 18.

Drugs Destroying

Emphasizing the rigour of Section 37, the court reiterated that bail in cases involving commercial quantity can only be granted if two conditions are met:

The court must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe the accused is not guilty; and the accused is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.

The court held that neither of these conditions was satisfied in the present case.

Addressing the argument of delay, the court observed that five out of thirteen prosecution witnesses have already been examined and the trial is progressing. It further noted that recent judicial precedents make it clear that delay

alone cannot dilute the statutory restrictions under the NDPS law.

The court also took judicial notice of the growing drug menace in the Kashmir Valley and in particular in Srinagar, observing that releasing an accused in such cases could send a "wrong signal" and undermine efforts to curb drug trafficking.

"It is a matter of public knowledge that substance abuse is destroying the lives of young boys and girls. As per reports, narcotic substance abuse is on the rise in Kashmir, with approximately 90% of patients at Drug De-addiction Centres being found addicted to drugs," the court said, adding, "The courts are duty-bound to take cognizance of this grave societal crisis while exercising their discretion in bail matters. The release of an accused involved in commercial quantity trafficking would send a wrong signal to the drug peddlers and would be antithetical to the legislative purpose behind the NDPS Act."

In view of the gravity of the offence, severity of punishment, and the statutory embargo under the NDPS Act, the court dismissed the bail application.

NH-44 Blocked

on weather conditions, officials said.

The MeT department has also warned of thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph at isolated places.

It cautioned that intense showers over short periods could trigger flash floods, landslides in vulnerable areas, and waterlogging in low-lying locations.

On April 9 and 10, brief spells of light rain or thundershowers are expected at scattered places, mainly during afternoon hours.

Weather is likely to remain generally dry from April 11 to 16, although isolated light rain cannot be ruled out.

Advising caution, the department urged farmers to suspend farm operations, while travellers were asked to plan movement in accordance with weather and traffic advisories.

Authorities on Tuesday issued a 'medium danger' avalanche warning for higher reaches of Ganderbal and Kupwara districts following the fresh wet spell.

"Avalanche with medium danger level is likely to occur above 2,600 metres over Ganderbal and Kupwara in the next 24 hours," an official of the Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority said.

People living in these areas have been advised to avoid venturing into vulnerable zones while the advisory remains in force.

The warning comes amid ongoing rainfall in plains and fresh snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir.

World Health Day 2026

Doctors Stress Preventive Care, Infrastructure Boost Across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Health Day 2026, medical experts and health administrators across Jammu & Kashmir have emphasized the urgent need to shift focus from curative to preventive healthcare, alongside strengthening infrastructure at all levels.

Highlighting the importance of early intervention, Dr Mo-

hammad Salim Khan, Head of the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College Srinagar, while speaking to KNO said that establishing dedicated Preventive Medicine Clinics at medical colleges, district hospitals, and Community Health Centres (CHCs) is the need of the hour.

"Prevention is better than cure. It is high time that we institutionalize preventive health-

care through specialized clinics offering lifestyle modification support, counseling, and comprehensive preventive services," he said.

An official said that the government is also planning to introduce advanced healthcare facilities across the Union Territory. These include robotic surgery units at Government Medical College Srinagar and Government Medical College

Jammu, phased establishment of dental units in all Government Medical Colleges, and new cath labs at Government Medical College Baramulla and Government Medical College Doda to strengthen cardiac care services.

Doctors have, however, stressed that while tertiary care expansion is important, equal attention must be given to rural healthcare infrastructure.

They underlined the need for MRI facilities at district hospitals, adequate staffing, and improved diagnostic services to reduce patient overload at major hospitals.

This year, World Health Organization has given the theme "Together for health: Stand with science," calling for trust in scientific evidence and collaborative efforts to rebuild resilient health systems.

LG Inaugurates J&K Bank Regional Business Centre In Jammu



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated the Regional Business Centre of Jammu and Kashmir Bank at Rail Head Complex, Jammu, marking a key step in the bank's expansion and infrastructure strategy.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the bank's leadership and staff, describing the new facility as an important addition to its operational network.

The newly established centre will function as a major operational and administrative hub, aimed at improving service delivery and enhancing efficiency through upgraded infrastructure and customer interface systems.

Officials said the integrated, technology-enabled facility is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening the bank's outreach, improving coordination, and supporting its broader vision of sustainable and inclusive growth.

During the event, Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee informed the Lieutenant Governor that the bank's overall business has crossed ₹2.90 lakh crore, underlining its strong financial performance.

He said commissioning the Regional Business Centre represents not just an expansion of physical infrastructure but a strategic move to strengthen the bank's business architecture in a key growth region.

The facility includes a currency chest, a modern branch, departmental offices, and dedicated operational units, which are expected to streamline administrative processes, enable faster decision-making, and enhance customer service.

The centre is also set to boost the bank's presence in the Jammu region while aligning its infrastructure with evolving customer expectations and business needs.

Senior officials, including Atal Dulloo, Mandeep K. Bhandari, and top bank executives, were present on the occasion.

Cross-Border Drug Smuggling A Major Challenge for Border States: CM Omar

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said drug smuggling from across the border remains a major challenge, not limited to Jammu and Kashmir, but faced by all border states across the country.

Abdullah said his government is working to engage youth by promoting a strong sports culture in the Union Territory and steering them away from the menace of drugs.

"The drug smuggling from across the border is a challenge, and it is not ours alone. All states located near the border face similar concerns. You will hear this complaint from many of them, especially from Punjab," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He said Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has repeatedly pointed out that drug trafficking from across the border has affected a large number of people in the state.

Similar concerns are also heard from time to time in Rajasthan and Gujarat, Abdullah added.

"On our part, we are doing whatever exercises and efforts we can, particularly in drug rehabilitation, to make the vision of a drug-free India a reality. In line with this, the youth wing of



the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference has organised the second edition of this cricket tournament. Our aim is to engage young people in constructive activities and keep them away from drugs," he said.

He said the first Jammu half-marathon on March 29, along with the 10 km and 5 km races, saw enthusiastic participation despite the weather not being very favourable.

"In fact, I noticed many runners who had not even registered joined in purely out of passion for running. This reflects a larger trend across every corner of Jammu and Kashmir — our youth, our sons and

daughters, are eager for opportunities in sports. They want proper infrastructure and support, and we are trying to focus on that," the chief minister said.

He said it is neither possible nor necessary that only cricket grounds be built everywhere. Along with cricket, there are many other sports like football, hockey, badminton, volleyball, kho-kho, kabaddi, and wrestling, in which the local boys and girls are delivering impressive performances.

"Together with our Sports Minister Satish Sharma, we are making efforts to promote sports across Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

ACB Nabs Two PWD Officials for Taking Rs 13,000 Bribe

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday said they have caught two officials of the PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla, red-handed while accepting a Rs 13,000 bribe allegedly demanded to release a pending payment. In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said an information was received telephonically at Anti-Corruption Bureau, J&K on 06.04.2026 through ACB Helpline No. 9419678060 from a complainant, who disclosed that he is working as Manager for a private firm duly registered on the GeM Portal.

He said, it was further stated that the said firm had participated in a tender floated by PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla for supply of a customised vehicle for live fish transportation, wherein the firm was declared LI and the vehicle was subsequently delivered to the Department of Fisheries, Bandipora.

"It was further revealed that the firm had raised the bill on the GeM Portal and also submitted hard copies before the concerned department, whereupon the bill was processed and forwarded to the Accounts Section for release of payment. However, despite completion of all formalities, the payment was deliberately withheld for several days for want of a bribe," said the spokesperson.

He said the complainant approached ACB and requested legal action against Mushtaq Ahmad (Sr. Assistant) and Farooq Ahmad (Jr. Assistant) of PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla for demanding a bribe of ₹13,000/- from him for release of payment.

"Upon receipt of the complaint and after conducting discreet verification, the allegations were found prima facie substantiated. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 01/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) read with Section 61 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla and investigation was set into motion." (Observer News Service)

4 Drug Peddlers Arrested; Contraband Substances Recovered

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained drive against the drug menace, Police have arrested four drug peddlers in Pulwama, Baramulla & Sopore and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, in Pulwama, Police achieved a major success during naka checking at Chewekalan. A police party of Police Post Newa, arrested a suspicious individual identified as Gh Hassan Wani son of Ab Razaq Wani resident of Chewekalan. During the search, 2.300 Kgs of poppy straw concealed in a nylon bag, was recovered from his possession.

In Baramulla, Police arrested two persons during an Area Domination Patrol in the Jal Sahib area of Old Town. The duo, moving from Jal Sahib towards Bag-e-Salam, tried to flee on noticing the police party but were tactfully apprehended. They have been identified as Farooq Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Qadir Bhat and Nisar Ahmad War son of Abdul Rehman War, both residents of Khwaja Sahib, Old Town Baramulla. During the search, 17 grams of brown sugar was recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile in Sopore, during naka checking at Chijhama Crossing, a suspicious individual was intercepted. He has been identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Parry son of Mohammad Maqbool Parry resident of Chijhama Rafiabad. During the search, a charas-like substance was recovered from his possession.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated. (Observer News Service)

Govt Working on Crop Insurance to Support Farmers: Sakeena



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Cabinet Minister Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday said the government is actively working towards the implementation of a comprehensive crop insurance scheme to safeguard farmers and orchardists against losses caused by natural calamities.

The minister visited several hailstorm-affected villages of Kulgam district, where she took stock of the extensive damage caused to horticulture orchards, crops, residential structures, and public infrastructure.

The areas Itoo visited, included D.H. Pora, Nihama, Manzgam, Bathipora, Ladgo Rambhama, Pombay and adjoining localities, many of which witnessed severe damage at a crucial stage of orchard flowering, raising concerns among fruit growers about significant production losses this season.

Conducting an on-the-spot assessment, the minister, as reported by KNO, interacted with affected families, farmers, and local representatives, assuring them of the government's full support during the crisis.

"Our government stands firmly with the farming community in this difficult time. We are committed to ensuring that all losses are assessed fairly and compensated as per norms," she said while speaking to reporters in Nehama in Kulgam.

is working on implementing a crop insurance mechanism to protect growers from recurring weather-related shocks. "We are taking concrete steps towards introducing a crop insurance scheme so that farmers are financially secured against such unforeseen calamities," she added.

She directed the district administration to undertake a comprehensive and transparent damage assessment process. She said that field teams must be deployed immediately to conduct rapid surveys and compile loss reports within a fixed timeframe.

"District Administration has been asked to ensure accurate assessment of damages, facilitate timely relief under existing norms, and extend all possible assistance to affected orchardists and farmers without delay," Itoo said.

The minister instructed officers from the agriculture, horticulture, and revenue departments to remain present on the ground, maintain close coordination with local representatives, and ensure that relief measures reach all affected villages promptly.

"The government will not only focus on immediate relief but also work towards strengthening resilience in the rural economy through policy interventions and support mechanisms," she said.

PSAJK Strengthens Democratic Framework with First Ballot-Based Polls

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In continuation of its commitment to establishing a strong and transparent democratic framework, the Private Schools' Association of Jammu & Kashmir (PSAJK) conducted elections for the post of District President, Srinagar. The electoral process marked a significant milestone in strengthening institutional representation and participatory governance within the association.

The Election Commission constituted for the purpose comprised distin-

guished members: Abdul Qayoom Wani (Chairman, Pensioners Association & Civil Society) as Chairperson, Nadeem Qadri (Environmental Lawyer & Legal Advisor, PSAJK), Mehmoed Rashid (Director, Think-site), Nazir Ahmad (Member, Election Commission), Marzia Javaid (Member, Election Commission), and the foremost Convener/Election Advisor PSAJK, Farooq Ahmad Ashai.



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The elections witnessed unprecedented enthusiasm and participation from member schools across all zones of Srinagar district. A large number of institutions affiliated with both BOSE and CBSE actively took part in the democratic exercise, reflecting a shared resolve to strengthen the association.

Notably, for the first time in the capital district, the election was conducted

through a formal ballot system, paving the way for a more robust, transparent, and democratic process. This landmark step was widely appreciated by all stakeholders.

The President PSAJK, Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, expressed gratitude to the visionary former President, Dr. G.N. Var, for laying a strong and enduring foundation for the association. He emphasized that the current democratic initiatives are a continuation of that legacy.

Following the completion of the electoral process,

the Election Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul Qayoom Wani formally declared Mr. Tahir Wagay as the newly elected District President of PSAJK Srinagar.

The association also extended its sincere appreciation to Head Office Incharge, Mr. Majid Bhat, for his effective coordination and for successfully hosting the election proceedings.

On the occasion, both Mr. Abdul Qayoom Wani and Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam stressed the need to recognize and treat the private education sector as a "knowledge industry" in the years ahead, highlighting its vital role in shaping the future of education and society.

The successful conduct of elections in Srinagar stands as a landmark achievement and sets a strong precedent for upcoming district elections across Jammu & Kashmir.

OFFICE ADDRESS: LANGATE, NEAR BOYS
HIGHER SECONDARY, 193302

GOVERNMENT OF (UT) JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD (R&B) DIVISION LANGATE

Mr. Sheikh Majid,
S/o Sheikh Mohammad Assadullah, R/o Khawaja Bagh Baramulla, Mobile: 9906463555.

FINAL NOTICE

Subject: - Construction of ZPEO Office Langate.
Reference: - This office e-Nit no: - 72/3670-79/2025-26/RnB/Langate Dated 11/11/2025.

While you were found the first lowest bidder of the above referred e-Nit and you were asked to produce performance security and the additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 3 days, you have submitted the performance security but failed to produce additional performance security till date.

Now, through the medium of this final notice, you are hereby given the final chance to submit the additional performance security within three days positively failing which action as per SBD/e-NIT terms and conditions shall be initiated against you which shall include forfeiture of 5% performance security and debarring you from taking part in the future tendering process of this Division up to one year. Besides, the work shall put to fresh tenders at your own risk and cost without any further notice.

No: - EE/RnB/L/67-69
Dated: - 07/04/2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Langate

Mr. Faisal Rashid Malik,
S/o Abdul Rashid Malik, R/o Guloora Langate, Mobile: 9622389893.

FINAL NOTICE

Subject: - Restoration of Hajin to Gundkamal Road.
Reference: - This office e-Nit no: - 94/5201-10/2025-26/RnB/Langate Dated 17/02/2026.

While you were found the first lowest bidder of the above referred e-Nit and you were asked to produce performance security and the additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 3 days, but you have failed to produce performance security and additional performance security till date.

Now, through the medium of this final notice, you are hereby given the final chance to submit the produce performance security and additional performance security within three days positively failing which action as per SBD/e-NIT terms and conditions shall be initiated against you which shall include forfeiture of 5% performance security and debarring you from taking part in the future tendering process of this Division up to one year. Besides, the work shall put to fresh tenders at your own risk and cost without any further notice.

No: - EE/RnB/L/74-76
Dated: - 07.04.2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Langate

Mr. Gh Nabi Mir,
S/o Abdul Khaliq Mir, R/o Maratgam Handwara, Mobile: 8825038543.

FINAL NOTICE

Subject: - Restoration of Behak Inner Links.
Reference: - This office e-Nit no: - 94/5201-10/2025-26/RnB/Langate Dated 17/02/2026.

While you were found the first lowest bidder of the above referred e-Nit and you were asked to produce performance security and the additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 3 days, you have submitted the performance security but failed to produce additional performance security till date.

Now, through the medium of this final notice, you are hereby given the final chance to submit the additional performance security within three days positively failing which action as per SBD/e-NIT terms and conditions shall be initiated against you which shall include forfeiture of 5% performance security and debarring you from taking part in the future tendering process of this Division up to one year. Besides, the work shall put to fresh tenders at your own risk and cost without any further notice.

No: - EE/RnB/L/71-73
Dated: - 07.04.2026

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Langate

Russia, China Veto UN Resolution on Reopening Strait of Hormuz

Press Trust of India

UNITED NATIONS: Russia and China on Tuesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime chokepoint through which a fifth of the global oil passes, blockaded by Iran.

The 15-nation UN Security Council voted on the resolution proposed by Bahrain, which got 11 votes in favour, two against and two abstentions.

The resolution could not be adopted because veto-wielding permanent members Russia and China voted against the resolution.

Before the vote, the UAE Mission to the UN said in a post on X, "Skyrocketing food prices and fuel costs. Blocked raw materials and essential supplies. Billions of people around the world are paying more for basic commodities due to Iran's illegal actions. Now is the time for international action to protect freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz."

The UAE urges the UNSC to adopt the "Open the Strait" resolution and end Iran's attacks and threats to the global economy, it said. Bahrain, supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Jordan, proposed the Security Council resolution on the Strait of Hormuz.

Bahrain is currently president of the Council for the month of April.

It is learnt that an initial version of the draft resolution had language that would have allowed countries "to use all necessary means" in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to ensure passage in the crucial chokepoint.

However, veto-wielding permanent members Russia, China and France are understood to have opposed approval of the use of force.

The final draft now has language that states are authorised to take "exclusively defensive



measures" to secure transit passages.

The Council was originally scheduled to vote on the resolution on Friday, but the UN headquarters was closed on the occasion of Good Friday.

The vote was then scheduled

for 11 am (local time) Saturday but got postponed again.

Last month, India had co-sponsored a resolution in the UN Security Council that condemned in the strongest terms the "egregious" attacks by Iran against GCC countries and Jordan

and demanded immediate cessation of all attacks by Tehran while denouncing its threats of closure of the maritime chokehold, the Strait of Hormuz.

The Security Council, under the presidency of the US in March, had adopted the resolution with 13 votes in favour, none against and abstentions by veto-wielding permanent members China and Russia.

India cosponsored the Bahrain-led resolution along with over 130 nations including Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen and Zambia.

The resolution, which had a total of 135 co-sponsors, reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan.

It condemned in the "strongest terms" the "egregious attacks" by Iran against the territories of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan and determined that such acts constitute a breach of international law and a serious threat to international peace and security.

The resolution demanded immediate cessation of all attacks by Iran against the GCC countries and Jordan and that Tehran "immediately and unconditionally" cease from any provocation or threats to neighbouring states, including the use of proxies.

It reaffirmed the exercise of navigational rights and freedoms by merchant and commercial vessels, in accordance with international law, must be respected, particularly around critical maritime routes, and takes note of the right of Member States, in accordance with international law, to "defend their vessels from attacks and provocations, including those that undermine navigational rights and freedoms".

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Terror Alert: Israel Now Cautions Iranians Over Train Travel

Agencies

DUBAI- The Israeli military warned Iranians in Farsi on Tuesday to avoid taking trains until at least 9 pm local time, likely signalling a new target for its airstrikes.

The warning came in a post on X.

"Your presence puts your life at risk," the warning read.

US President Donald Trump earlier demanded that Iran open the Strait of Hormuz or see power plants and bridges wiped out. The threat to hit civilian infrastructure has sparked widespread warnings about possible war crimes.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Tuesday urged Trump not to follow through, saying the "focus needs to be on

not seeing this conflict expand any further."

"Any of those actions, including bombing bridges and reservoirs and civilian infrastructure, would be unacceptable," Luxon told Radio New Zealand.

Reports from Iran say people are forming human chains around power plants ahead of the threatened strikes.

"Power plants that are our national assets and capital, regardless of any taste or political viewpoint, belong to the future of Iran and to the Iranian youth," said Alireza Rahimi, secretary of the Supreme Council of Youth, in a video call in a newscast.

Iran has formed human chains in the past around its nuclear sites at times of heightened tensions with the West.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned the US that attacks on civilian infrastructure are banned under international law, according to his spokesperson.

Trump, speaking with reporters, said he's "not at all" concerned about committing war crimes with such attacks.

The death toll continues to rise

More than 2000 people, including a large number of women and children, have been killed in relentless US-Israeli strikes in Iran since the war began.

Iran's minister of education said 310 students and teachers have been killed and over 750 schools have sustained damage so far in the US-Israeli air raids since late February. The dead in-

cluded 170 children at an elementary school in Minab on the first day of war.

Alireza Kazemi provided the grim figures during a televised interview on Monday night, adding that more than 210 students and teachers were also wounded during this period.

The United States and Israel launched their latest war on Iran on February 28, assassinating Iran's leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and senior military officials and targeting nuclear facilities, schools and hospitals.

More than 1,400 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Israeli air raids across Lebanon. More than 1 million people have been displaced. Eleven Israeli soldiers have died there in combat with Hezbollah fighters.

'Pure Evil': US Lawmakers Slam Trump For Threatening 'Iran Civilization Will Die'

Agencies

Democratic members of Congress and other US politicians have sharply condemned the inflammatory threats by US President Donald Trump against Iran and its civil infrastructure.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will," Trump said on Truth Social platform on Tuesday morning.

American politicians described Trump's comments as reckless, illegal, and a dangerous escalation against a proud ancient civilization that will send the region into catastrophe.

"This is an extremely sick person. Each Republican who refuses to join us in voting against this wanton war of choice owns every



consequence of whatever the hell this is," Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer said.

Democratic House leader Hakeem Jeffries demanded an immediate halt to the war of aggression against Iran, which could turn into World War III.

"Congress must immediately end this reckless war of choice in Iran before Donald Trump plunges us into World War III. It's time for every single Republican

to put patriotic duty over party and stop the madness. Enough," Jeffries said.

Congressman Jason Crow said that Trump reckless remarks about "elimination of a civilization is a war crime."

"As I've repeatedly said, our military must only follow lawful orders. Every American of good conscience must repudiate this."

Congressman Jim McGovern said, "This is pure evil. The President of the United States' genocidal threat to commit war crimes is illegal under federal & international law."

Independent Senator Bernie Sanders said that "Trump's deranged threats to wipe out Iran's infrastructure and civilization are the ravings of a war-monger."

"Millions of innocent Iranians—families, children, and elders in one of the world's oldest cultures—should not pay the price for his ego and endless provocation. We must de-escalate, pursue diplomacy, and reject this illegal march toward disaster."

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez branded Trump's threats against Iranian civilian infrastructure as "barbarism."

"Threatening to destroy power plants, bridges, and an entire civilization isn't strength—it's barbarism. Iran has every right to defend its sovereignty and its people against aggression. The US should be working toward peace and justice in the region, not bombing civilians to appease Trump's bloodlust. This madness ends now."

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Duration (Years)	Corpus	Invested	Money grows to
5	₹4.1L	₹3.1L	1.4x
10	₹11.6L	₹6.0L	2.9x
15	₹25.9L	₹9.0L	4.3x
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25	₹97.5L	₹15.0L	10.5x

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