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Drug Influx Part Of Larger Conspiracy: LG

Calls For Mass Participation In 100-day Nasha Mukta Campaign

Don't Spare The Culprit, Don't Touch The Innocent Is Our Policy

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the influx of drugs into Jammu and Kashmir is part of a larger conspiracy aimed at undermining the future of the youth, as he chaired a high-level meeting to review preparedness for the upcoming 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.



The Lieutenant Governor called for mass public participation to make the campaign effective, urging students, youth, NCC, NSS, Scouts and Guides, volunteers, civil society organisations, political parties and the general public to join the movement.

"The influx of drugs to the UT is part of a larger international conspiracy to jeopardise the future of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Every section of society must join this fight against the drug menace," he said.

The campaign will feature a series of high-impact awareness programmes across the Union Territory. The Lieutenant Governor is scheduled to flag off a mega padyatra from MA Stadium, Jammu, on April 11, followed by a similar large-scale launch in Srinagar in the first week of May.

Stressing the need for strong enforcement, Sinha directed authorities to **| More on P6**

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"The influx of drugs to the UT is part of a larger international conspiracy to jeopardise the future of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Every section of society must join this fight against



Shikaras move across Dal lake in Srinagar under heavy cloud cover after days of continuous rainfall across the Valley. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Nation-Building Begins With Mindset, Not Structures: LG

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that nation-building is rooted in a shared mindset and cannot be viewed solely as the responsibility of the government, urging citizens, especially the youth, to reconnect **| More on P6**

Modern Warfare No Longer Bound By Geography: Army Chief Says Op Sindoor Is A Defining Case Study In Joint Warfare

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday said modern warfare is no longer confined to geographical boundaries or dominated by a single service, stressing that future conflicts will be defined by seamless integration across multiple domains.



Addressing the "Ran Samvad" forum on Land Forces Visualisation **| More on P6**

J&K Police Dismiss Woman Employee In NDPS Case

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday dismissed a woman employee from service over her alleged involvement in a drug-related case.

The employee, identified as Shameema Bano, was working as a police follower and had been placed under suspension in June 2021 after being arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu, in connection with a case under the NDPS Act involving seizure of contraband.

Police said a departmental inquiry was initiated following her arrest.

"After completion of the enquiry and due departmental procedures, SSP Baramulla has issued an order dated April 8, 2026, removing the official from service under relevant provisions of the J&K Police Rules," a police statement said.

District Police Baramulla reiterated its commitment to maintaining professionalism and integrity, adding that any involvement of police personnel in unlawful activities will be dealt with strictly as per law.

No Compensation Can Substitute Loss Of Loved One: CM

Hands Over 90 Jobs Under SRO-43, RAS In Kashmir



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that no compensation can ever substitute the loss of a loved one, as he distributed appointment orders to 90 beneficiaries under SRO-43 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) at the Sheri-Kashmir International Convention Centre.

The appointments, granted on compassionate grounds, are aimed at

providing immediate livelihood support to families who have lost their primary earning members across the Kashmir division.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that while government jobs are usually associated with achievement and celebration, the circumstances surrounding these appointments are deeply painful.

"Some people get jobs through examinations and interviews. But you have made a **| More on P6**

Ganderbal Encounter Report Expected Within A Week: CM

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday lauded Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for promptly ordering an inquiry into allegations that the Ganderbal encounter was fake, and said the report is expected within a week. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, Omar said there was no attempt to conceal the incident and appreciated the swift response from the Lt Governor in ordering a time-bound and transparent probe. "The good thing is that there was no attempt to hide anything. The honourable L-G promptly **| More on P6**

Pakistan Prepares For US-Iran Talks with Anxiety

Sajjad Hussain

Islamabad, Apr 9: Pakistan on Thursday beefed up security in the national capital as it prepares for high-stakes talks between the US and Iran this weekend with anxiety, amid a warning from top Iranian leadership that Israeli strikes on Lebanon would render negotiations meaningless.

The US and Iran agreed to a two-week conditional ceasefire on Wednesday, followed by a face-to-face meeting in Islamabad to settle the differences and convert the ongoing truce into a lasting peace.

Hours before the proposed talks, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the Israeli attack on Lebanon blatantly violated the initial ceasefire and would render negotiations meaningless.

"Such actions signal deception and non-compliance, rendering negotiations meaningless. Our hands **| More on P6**

Dry Spell Likely From April 13: MeT

Day Temps Set To Rise By 4-6°C

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department has forecast light rain and thundershowers at scattered places in Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days, with a gradual rise in day temperatures expected in the coming week.

An official at the MeT Centre Srinagar said brief spells of light rain or thundershowers are likely at scattered locations on April 9 and 10, with the possibility of hailstorms at isolated places during afternoon hours.

The weather is expected to remain partly cloudy on April 11 and 12, with brief spells of light rain at a few places towards evening. Conditions are likely to turn generally dry from April 13 to 14. Thereafter, cloudy skies with light rain at isolated places are expected on April 15 and 16, followed by another dry spell from April 17 to 20.

Farmers have been advised to resume agricultural operations in view of the improving weather conditions. The department has also forecast a gradual rise of 4 to 6 degrees Celsius in maximum temperatures over the next six days.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum **| More on P6**

Child Trafficking Gangs Operating Nationwide: SC

Pulls Up States For Lax Implementation Of Anti-trafficking Directions

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court of India has expressed serious concern over the rising cases of child trafficking across the country, warning that the situation could spiral out of control if states and Union Territories fail to act urgently.



The court came down heavily on what it described as a "lackadaisical" approach by several states and Union Territories in implementing its 2025 judgment aimed at dismantling organised trafficking networks.

Hearing a plea on Wednesday, a bench comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan observed that organised gangs are actively operating and require a coordinated crackdown by state machinery.

"As a court we can monitor, but ultimately the action has to be on the part of the state government, the police, and other agencies. Therefore, this is our humble request," the bench said.

Justice Viswanathan noted that successful retrieval of trafficked children in certain cases shows that the issue can be addressed, but stressed that the required political and

administrative will is currently lacking.

The April 15, 2025 judgment had mandated a series of institutional reforms, including completion of trials in trafficking cases within six months on a day-to-day basis, strengthening of Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), and improvement in investigation standards.

It had also directed authorities to set up state-level committees to monitor trafficking-prone areas and to treat cases of missing children as instances of trafficking unless proven otherwise.

The bench had earlier termed compliance reports submitted by some states as "nothing but an eye wash." On Wednesday, it noted that Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, **| More on P6**

Women's Reservation Reflects Aspirations Of Crores: PM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the proposed amendments to the Women Reservation Act are not just a legislative exercise but a reflection of the aspirations of crores of women across India, urging all MPs to come together to support this significant move.

In a signed article posted on his website narendramodi.in, the prime minister also said that the initiative is an affirmation of a principle that has long guided India's civilisational ethos that society progresses when women progress.

He said it is imperative that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and assembly polls to various states in the coming times are conducted with women's reservation in place.

The prime minister said the nation stands at the threshold of a historic occasion, and it is



an opportunity to deepen the foundations of the country's democracy and to reaffirm the collective commitment to equality and inclusion.

He said that on April 16, Parliament will be convened to discuss and pass an important bill that advances women's reservation.

In a video message posted later, he urged women to read his article and encourage others to also go through it.

He said **| More on P6**

26 Yrs After FIR, Court Acquits 3 In Milk Federation Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Nearly 26 years after the FIR was registered, a court in Srinagar has acquitted three accused in the Kashmir Milk Producers Federation corruption case, holding that the prosecution failed to prove the charges.

Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, Mehreen Mushtaq, observed that the prosecution has "failed to establish its case against the accused."

The court acquitted Abdul Majeed Bhat, then In-charge Managing Director of the Kashmir Valley Milk Producers Federation, Cheshma Shahi, Srinagar; Gayas Ud Din, then Accounts Officer; and Ab Rashid Rather, then Accounts Assistant.

The case, registered as FIR No. 24/1999 by the Vigilance Organization (now Anti-Corruption Bureau), had alleged large-scale financial irregularities, including embezzlement,

fraudulent payments, tampering of records, and abuse of official position.

According to the prosecution, the accused were involved in irregular milk procurement, excess payments to contractors, manipulation of accounts, illegal drawal of arrears, and mismanagement, allegedly causing a loss exceeding Rs 3.13 crore to the state exchequer.

The trio had been charged under Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 2006, along with relevant provisions of the Ranbir Penal Code, including Sections 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating), 471 (using forged documents as genuine), and 120-B (criminal conspiracy).

After examining witnesses and documentary evidence, the court observed that the prosecution has failed to establish any illegal or corrupt means used by the accused to **| More on P6**



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OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN, PROJECT SRINAGAR.

Tentative Merit List of Sanginis (Anganwari Workers) of 5th Phase of Poshan Project Srinagar advertised Vide Notice No 03-CDPO (SGR) of 2025 dated. 29.12.2025. The Tentative Merit list is subject to objections regarding Marks Obtained/Electoral Ward/Date of Birth or any other information. The Objections with Substantial documents proof can be submitted to the office of the Child Development Project Officer, Srinagar, Auqaf Building Sheikh Hamzah Complex, Karamnagar, Srinagar within 15 days of Publication of Tentative Merit list during office hours.

S.No	Name of the Electoral Ward	No of Posts	Name of Applicant	Parentage	Husband Name	Address	DOB	Marital Status	Total Marks in 12th	Marks Obtained in 12th	Percentage %	Addition al Points (Wether from retiring family of AWW/A WH)	Docume nt Deficiency (if any)	Provisio nally Selected /Waiting
1	Ikhrapora-08	01	Rumaisa Nissar	Nissar Ahmad Bhat	Aamir Khan	Ikhrapora	08.04.1992	Married	750	550	73.33	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Rukhsana Mohd	Gh Mohd Lone	Khalid Ahmed Khan	Saral Payeen	Ikhrapora	01.03.1997	Married	500	242	48.40	Nil	Nil
2	Natipora-10	01	Noureen	Gulzar Ahmad Najar		Natipora, Srinagar	20.11.2004	Un-Married	500	404	80.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Arifat Maabool	Mohd Maabool	Arshad Ahmad Dar	Natipora	09.03.1992	Married	500	332	66.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Saima Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Khan	Mehraj Ur Rehman	Rambagh Payeen	30.03.1990	Married	750	480	64.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Mehreen Imtiyaz	Imtiyaz Ahmad Rather		Rambagh Payeen	21.08.2002	Un-Married	500	310	62.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
3	Bemina-26	02	Rugsana Nabi	Ghulam Nabi Bhat	Mohammad Asiam Dar	Natipora	16.06.1992	Married	750	307	40.93	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Shubeena Bashir	Bashir Ahmad		Boatman Colony	28.03.2001	Un-Married	500	306	61.20	Nil	The applicant is having Domicile of District Budgam Affidavit Notarized	Nil
4	Mujgund-26	01	Tanzeela	Farooq Ahmad Bhat		Sheri Kashmir Colony, Qamerwari	06.06.1996	Un-Married	500	262	52.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Razia Kahkashan	Mohd Surlband Khan	Reyaz Ahmad Akhooon	Boatman Colony	18.02.1992	Married	500	259	51.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Mustrat Fayaz Shizan	Fayaz Ahmad Dar	Abdul Raouf Mir	Haji Abad Bemina Maloora	26.11.1994	Married	500	229	45.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Arbeen Jan	Riyaz Ahmad Pandith	Riyaz Ahmad Pandith	Usmanabad Shalteng, Srinagar	19.07.2006	Married	500	405	81.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Aqsa Ali	Ali Mohammad Bhat		Maloora	03.08.2002	Un-Married	500	400	80.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Iqra Hassan	Lt Ghulam Hassan Bhat		Mujgund	02.01.2007	Un-Married	500	371	74.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Razia Sultan	Mohammad Sultan Bhat	Rizwan Ahmad Guroo	Gori Mohalla Tengpora	05.03.1995	Married	500	365	73.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Shuguftha Qadir	Ghulam Qadir Bhat		Maloora	15.10.2002	Un-Married	500	360	72.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Moheena Rashid	Abdul Rashid Lone		Mujgund	07.11.1998	Un-Married	500	347	69.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Nuzhath Nazeer	Nazeer Ahmad Bhat		Azad Mohammad Mujgund	10.09.1997	Un-Married	500	344	68.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Irfana Bano	Hafiz Ullah Khanday		Maloora	15.08.2005	Un-Married	500	343	68.60	Nil	Nil	Nil
			Ruqaya Ali	Haji Ali Mohd Bhat	Ghulam Mohd Bhat	Maloora	15.11.1994	Married	500	330	66.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Shazia Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Dar	Nisar Ahmad Bhat	Mujgund Ghat	02.04.1998	Married	500	319	63.80	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Nazima Ramzan	Mohammad Ramzan Dar		Takanwaripora	30.10.2004	Un-Married	500	319	63.80	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Arifa	Ali Mohd Sofi	Mohammad Asif Bhat	Tengpora, Bakshipora, Noorbagh	25.04.1992	Married	750	470	62.67	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Iqra Basheer	Basheer Ahmad Rather		Bakshipora, Mujgund	08.02.2002	Un-Married	500	309	61.80	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Shafiya Rashid	Ab Rashid Lone	Mehraj-Din	Maloora	10.03.1995	Married	500	308	61.60	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Muskaan Majeed	Abdul Majeed Parray		Maloora	14.02.2003	Un-Married	500	308	61.60	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Aamina Ali	Ali Mohammad Bhat		Maloora	03.08.2002	Un-Married	500	306	61.20	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Sayima Akhtar	Gh Nabi Lone		Maloora	08.08.1992	Married	750	456	60.80	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Aamina Majeed	Ab Majeed Bhat		Maloora	06.02.1999	Un-Married	500	302	60.40	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Kulsuma Rahim	Abdul Rahim Bhat		Maloora	15.12.2000	Un-Married	500	301	60.20	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Abida Akhtar	Abdul Rehman Dar		Khawaja Bagh Maloora	18.08.2000	Un-Married	500	292	58.40	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Nishata Akhtar	Ghulam Hassan Guroo	Ghulam Hassan Guroo	Khawaja Bagh Maloora	09.08.2003	Married	500	291	58.20	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Humairah Qadir	Gh Qadir Khanday		Maloora	18.08.2001	Un-Married	500	287	57.40	Nil	Nil	Nil			
Mujgund-26			Sumera Ramzan	Mohammad Ramzan Bhat		Manzpora	10.01.1996	Un-Married	500	282	56.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Mehmooda Rahman	Ab Rahman Dar	Mohd Ishaq Bhat	Maloora	07.06.1990	Married	750	411	54.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Ishrat	Ali Mohammad Guru		Khawaja Bagh Maloora	15.09.2005	Un-Married	500	271	54.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Tahira Hafiz	Hafiz Ullah Khanday	Jan Mohd Rather	Bakshipora, Noorbagh	29.12.1994	Married	500	262	52.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Razia Jabbar	Ab Jabbar Najar	Ishaq Ahmad Najar	Bakshipora, Mujgund	01.07.1996	Married	500	262	52.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Sibghatullah Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Dar		Tengpora	03.12.1998	Un-Married	500	253	50.60	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Hanifa Akhter	Gh Nabi Wagay	Abdul Rashid Bhat	Bhat Mohalla Maloora	01.09.1990	Married	750	364	48.53	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Sumeena Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	Sameer-ul-hassan	Maloora	25.10.1997	Married	500	240	48.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Shayista Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Wani	Shariq Shabir Khan	Check-I-Mujgund	15.07.2001	Married	500	236	47.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Saima Bano	Tariq Ahmed Goru		Khawaja Bagh Maloora	09.01.2005	Un-Married	500	234	46.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Humaira Bano	Hafiz Ullah Khanday		Maloora	03.02.2000	Un-Married	500	229	45.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Shuguftha Bashir Rather	Bashir Ahmad Rather		Bakshipora, Mujgund	03.03.1997	Un-Married	500	224	44.80	il	Nil	Nil
Mujgund-26			Asifa Rashid	Abdul Rashid Rather	Hamid Ahmad Bhat	Bakshipora	05.08.1989	Married	600	250	41.67	Nil	In12th Addl Subject Failed	Nil
5	Islamyarba	02	Aidah Shafi Bhat	Mohammad Shafi Bhat		Aishan Sahib Zaina Kadal	26.11.2002	Un-Married	500	388	77.60	Nil	Un-Married Pending	Nil
			Tawseena Imtiyaz Lubna	Imtiyaz Ahmad Khan	Gulzar Ahmad Thakoo	Dalal Mohalla Syed Hamidpora	05.12.1997	Un-Married	500	370	74.00	Nil	Un-Married Pending	Nil
			Aalima Riyaz	Riyaz Ahmad		Aishan Sahib Zaina Kadal	18.04.2005	Un-Married	500	324	64.80	Nil	Un-Married Pending	Nil
			Arooj Majid	Abdul Majid Shah		Urdu Bazar Fatehkadal	09.12.1998	Un-Married	500	323	64.60	Nil	Un-Married Pending	Nil
			Sadaf Shafi Bhat	Mohd Shafi Bhat		Aishan Sahib Zaina Kadal	06.03.1995	n-Married	500	297	59.40	Nil	Un-Married Pending	Nil
			Ruhi Jan	Ghulam Rasool Shah	Muzaffar Ahmad Rather	Qalamdanpora	28.03.1993	Married	500	205	41.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bisma Sidiq	Mohammad Sidiq Pattoo		Dalal Mohalla	01.01.1991	Un-Married	750	382	50.93	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Zainakote-30			Asmat Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Dar		Shalteng	10.09.2004	Un-Married	500	476	95.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Ronaq Rafiq	Mohammad Rafiq Dohbi		Zainakote	04.04.2003	Un-Married	500	467	93.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Sumaira Majeed	Abdul Majeed Dar		Zainakote	23.03.2002	Un-Married	500	459	91.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Inshah Yousuf	Mohd Yousuf Mir		Zainakote	05.03.2004	Un-Married	500	457	91.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Romaya Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Wani		Shah Wilayat Colony Umer Abad Zainakote	06.02.2002	Un-Married	500	455	91.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Bilqueesa Hyder	Hyder Ali Hajam		Khushipora	14.07.1998	Un-Married	500	416	83.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Sabiya Manzoor	Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh	Adil Ahmad Dar	Chinar Colony Zainakote	06.04.2003	Married	500	414	82.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Zabaira Rasool	Ghulam Rasool Mir		Abanshah	30.03.2003	Un-Married	500	410	82.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Gowhar Gul	Ghulam Mohammad Wagay		Zainakote	08.11.1999	Un-Married	500	402	80.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Suriya Bashir	Bashir Ahmad	Muzamil Mohd Wagay	Chinar Colony Zainakote	13.07.1996	Married	500	400	80.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Bisma Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Khan		Zainakote	30.12.2000	Un-Married	500	394	78.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Ifra Aijaz	Aijaz Ahmad Bhat		Shalteng	05.05.2005	Un-Married	500	381	76.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Nusrat Mohi Ud Din	Gh Mohi Ud Din Dar		Abanshah	03.01.1997	Un-Married	500	363	72.60	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Shubeena Mushtaq	Mushtaq Ahmad Teeli		Zainakote HMT	10.11.1995	Married	500	361	72.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Jawahira Idrees	Mohammad Idrees Wagay		Zainakote	01.03.1996	Married	500	357	71.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Raziya Showkat	Showkat Ahmad Ahanger		Khushipora, HMT	15.09.1993	Married	500	344	68.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Tanzija Nisvat	Ishad Ahmad Fazilee		Mustafa Abad Zainakote	22.09.1993	Married	750	512	68.27	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Rohee Jan	Late Mushtaq Ahmad Kumar		Khushipora	25.09.2003	Un-Married	500	337	67.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Aqsa Fayaz	Fayaz Ahmad Dar	Zubair Ahmad Dar	Chinar Colony Zainakote	10.01.2001	Married	500	335	67.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Azra Jan	Zahoor Ahmad Bhat			09.08.1999	Un-Married	500	330	66.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Hena Jan	Abdul Salam Rather		Shalteng	06.06.1997	Un-Married	500	325	65.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Teheera Rehman	Abdul Rehman Dar		Shalteng	10.05.2004	Un-Married	500	324	64.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Mehak	Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Sheikh		Shalteng	16.01.2001	Un-Married	500	323	64.60	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Nighat Hamid	Abdul Hamid Reshi		Abanshah HMT	01.01.2005	Un-Married	500	314	62.80	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Shahida Hamid	Ab Hamid Dar	Bashir Ahmad Mir	Abanshah	11.07.1995	Married	500	311	62.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Insha Qadir	Gh Qadir Dar	Mohammad Shahid Dar	HMT Zainakote	01.08.1995	Married	500	310	62.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Bisma Rasool	Ghulam Rasool Dar	Waseem Ahmad Dar	Zainakote Zain Abdeen Colony, Sgr	12.12.1995	Married	500	307	61.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Zubida Yousuf	Mohd Yousuf Bhat		Chinar Colony Zainakote	08.05.1999	Un-Married	500	307	61.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Shuguftha	Mohammad Yousuf Lone		Chinar Colony Zainakote	01.05.1997	Un-Married	500	302	60.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Sabreena Qayoom	Abdul Qayoom Dar		Chinar Mohalla Zainakote	05.09.1997	Un-Married	500	301	60.20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Shuguftha Ramzan	Mohd Ramzan Ganaie	Abdul Hamid Sofi	Zainakote	16.12.1999	Married	750	451	60.13	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Iqra Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Khan		Zainakote	15.12.2002	Un-Married	500	297	59.40	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zainakote-30			Shabroza Shameem	Shameem Ahmad Najar		Shalteng	06.07.2003	Un-Married	500	285	57.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zain														



CM Omar Dedicates ₹3.17 Cr Community Hall at Umerhair, Buchpora to Public

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that the government is planning to develop modern, well-planned housing colonies to decongest Srinagar city, emphasizing that providing dignified housing to the underprivileged is both a responsibility and a duty of the government.

Addressing a large public gathering after inaugurating the Imam-ul-Asr Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri (RA) Community Hall at Umerhair, Buchpora in Hazratbal constituency, the Chief Minister highlighted key developmental priorities of his government, including housing, healthcare, transport, and social welfare.

The multi-purpose community facility centre has been constructed at a cost of 3.17 crore, providing a dignified, accessible, and affordable venue for wed-

dings, social functions, and community gatherings.

"As far as Srinagar city is concerned, it continues to face several challenges, particularly congestion in old city areas. In many homes, multiple families live together, placing immense pressure on limited space. Unless we develop new residential colonies, this situation will persist," he said.

"We are planning to develop modern, well-planned housing colonies, including provisions for affordable housing. This initiative is specifically aimed at those who lack the means to purchase land or construct homes. Providing dignified housing to such sections is not merely a responsibility—it is our duty," he added.

The Chief Minister also underlined the need to strengthen healthcare infrastructure by improving primary health centres, community health centres, and sub-district hospitals to reduce



the burden on major hospitals.

Highlighting reforms in the transport sector, he said the introduction of free bus travel for women has seen overwhelming success. "Today, a majority of passengers in public buses are women, which reflects the success of this initiative. Ensuring safe and accessible mobility for our moth-

ers and sisters is our responsibility," he remarked.

Referring to welfare measures in the current budget, the Chief Minister said that promises made to the people are being fulfilled. "When we promised free LPG cylinders during the elections, it was mocked by many. Today, we have translated that promise into

action, with six free gas cylinders to be provided to eligible families this year," he said, assuring that all manifesto commitments would be implemented with sincerity and accountability.

Congratulating MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar, the Chief Minister said the completion of the community hall reflects his dedication and perseverance. "This is not merely a building; it is a symbol of service, community spirit, and respect for our rich intellectual and spiritual heritage," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that the facility would serve as an affordable and dignified venue for social functions, especially for families who cannot afford private banquet halls. He said the centrally located hall is equipped with modern amenities, including a spacious hall, multiple rooms, dedicated spaces for bride and groom, essential facilities, and parking provisions.

- 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
PAMPOR: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 41
ZUHR 12:32
ASR 5: 08
Magrib 7:01
ISHA 8: 25

HIJRI CALENDAR
21 - Shawwal
1447

DC Reviews Development of Telecom Infrastructure

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To review and discuss the development of telecom infrastructure under Jammu & Kashmir Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Project (JKCCIP), a meeting of District Telecom Committee (DTC) was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Dy Superintendent of Police, Syed Sleeth Shah, Chief Planning officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, DIO NIC Srinagar, Shahnaz Nayeem, besides Officers from Forest, SDA, PCC and representatives of various telecom companies operating in district.

Houseboats on Jhelum Decline from Over 200 to 60-70

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The number of houseboats operating in the Jhelum River and its connected channels has dropped drastically over the years from over 200 earlier to just around 60-70 at present, raising concerns over the survival of the traditional sector.

Chairman of the Houseboat Owners Association (HBOA), Manzoor Ahmad Pakhtoon, told KNO that the decline translates into a loss of more than 130 houseboats over time. This data, he said, excludes Dal Lake and includes Jhelum, Tschooni Koul and areas near Dal Gate.

Providing further details, Pakhtoon said the Tschooni Koul stretch alone once had around 100-150 houseboats, but

the number has now come down to barely 40. "Even among these, many are deregistered or non-functional," he added.

The concerns come after a houseboat partially sank in the Jhelum in Srinagar's Rajbagh area amid continuous rainfall. According to officials, the incident occurred between Zero Bridge and Abdullah Bridge after the structure tilted and partially submerged due to conditions in the river. Timely intervention helped stabilise the houseboat using ropes, preventing further damage. No casualties were reported.

Houseboat owners say such incidents reflect the deteriorating condition of many houseboats. Pakhtoon said multiple factors have contributed to the decline, including structural damage, fire incidents

and deregistration under various government policies. "Many houseboats were damaged over time, some were lost in fire incidents, while others were deregistered after owners surrendered them under different policies," he said.

He said several owners had surrendered their houseboats with assurances of rehabilitation, including allotment of land or plots. "However, nothing has been provided so far," he claimed. Pakhtoon said that over 100 houseboat owners had agreed to relocate ahead of proposed water transport initiatives, and their cases were processed by multiple departments, including the Divisional Commissioner's office, Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) and Flood & Irrigation Department around the year 2022.

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 01/2026

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Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) an autonomous body under Ministry of Education intends to fill the 01 (One) post of Executive Engineer in Pay Level -II and 01 (One) post of Assistant Director (Official Language) in Pay Level -10, through transfer on Deputation. For more details i.e. the eligibility criteria, qualification and terms & conditions visit website www.kvsangathan.nic.in of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan & Edition dated 4th of April, 2026 of Employment News.

sd/-
Additional Commissioner (Admn.)

CBC 21106/12/0001/2627

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Registrar

Cbc 21377/12/0002/2627

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aliza D/o Hilal Ahmad Bhat R/o Hanjiwera Bala Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 01/11/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Haris Shabir s/o Shabir Ahmad Bhat R/o Bamurad Tehsil khag with verified date of birth 30/09/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Kaneez Fatima D/o Mohammad Yousuf Bhat R/o Diver Yakhmanpora Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 05/11/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Umi Farwa D/o Barkat Hussain Malla R/o Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 05/05/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Zohan Wani s/o Bashir Ahmad Wani R/o Hanjiwera Bala Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 10/03/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

This Day In History

- 837 - Comet IP/837 F1 (Halley) approaches within 0.0334 AUs of Earth
- 1589 - Spanish troops conquer Geertruidenberg
- 1815 - Mount Tambora in Indonesia experiences a cataclysmic eruption, one of the most powerful in history, killing around 71,000 people and causing a global volcanic winter
- 1877 - 1st human cannonball act performed in London

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate as my DOB has not been registered in the concerned Registrar of Birth & Deaths so far. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hassina Bano DOB 20-01-1977
D/o Ab Gani Mir
R/o Lalad Sopore
A/P Delina Baramulla jvdr

Public Notice

I want to Apply for a FERTILIZER and seed licence under the name karry FERTILIZER and pesticides at chukar kunzer if anybody has any objection in this regard they may submit it to the chief agriculture office baramulla with in 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained

M/S Nadeem Ahmad karry
s/o Ghulam Mohammad karry R/O chukar kunzer fko

Public Notice

I want to Apply for a pesticides licence under the name karry FERTILIZER and pesticides at chukar kunzer if anybody has any objection in this regard they may submit it to the plant protection Office lalmandi sgr with in 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained

M/S Nadeem Ahmad karry
s/o Ghulam Mohammad karry R/O chukar kunzer fko

Public Notice

I want to Apply for a Renewal of FERTILIZER licence under the name NAZIR Ahmad khan moomasa pattan if anybody has any objection in this regard they may submit it to the chief agriculture office baramulla with in 7 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained

M/S NAZIR Ahmad khan
R/O moomasa pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aalima Anayatullah D/o Anayatullah Bhat R/o Aglar Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 10/11/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

Public Notice

I, Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o Kanipora, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my ward's correct name is Sufyan Nazir Bhat, which has been wrongly recorded as Safyan Nazir in Aadhaar records. Further, the correct date of birth of my ward is 05-03-2010, whereas it has been incorrectly mentioned as 23-05-2008 in Aadhaar. The said corrections are being made for the purpose of issuance of a Birth Certificate and for all official records. If any person has any objection to the above corrections, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Nazir Ahmad Bhat R/o Kanipora, Shopian 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 Faroz Ahmad Khaja S/o Abdul Rahim Khaja R/o Seeloo , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward (Arfat Faroz) born on 04-04-2010 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 Posha Sadeeq D/o Mohammad Sadeeq Reshi R/o Yemberzalwari , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward (Posha Sadeeq) born on 15-05-2006 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 Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh S/o: Mohd Ramzan Sheikh R/o: Seeloo , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh born on 22-06-1990 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 Aaliya Sadeeq D/o Mohammad Sadeeq Reshi R/o Yemberzalwari , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward (Aaliya Sadeeq) born on 24-03-2007 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 Arsheed Hussain Mir S/o: Ghulam Mohd Mir R/o: Natipora , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Farkhanda Arsheed D.O.B: 05-02-2013 Aahil Arsheed Mir D.O.B: 15-12-2015 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 Mohammad Ishaq Mir S/o Mohd Magbool Mir R/o Zalooraa , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward (Ehsan Ishaq) born on 20-06-2018 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

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

CAG Alarm

The latest audit of Jammu and Kashmir's finances paints a worrying picture.

According to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the Union Territory is still spending more money than it earns, year after year.

The gap between what the government takes in and what it pays out has not shrunk. Instead it is a reminder that the region's financial health remains weak and dependent on help from New Delhi.

A revenue deficit is a simple idea. It means the money coming in from taxes, fees, and other regular sources is not enough to run the government's everyday work.

Salaries, supplies, services, and support for communities all cost money. When a government can't meet those costs with its own revenue, it must lean on outside support or borrow more.

That is precisely what the audit shows is happening in Jammu and Kashmir.

For the financial year 2024-25, the economy of Jammu and Kashmir did grow at a modest pace. Its gross state domestic product expanded by about 11.18 percent from the year before, a sign that businesses and households are producing more goods and services.

But the government's own tax revenue barely budged, rising by only about 2.5 percent.

The reason for that modest rise in total revenue is clear and concerning. Nearly 72 percent of the Union Territory's receipts came from grants from the central government in New Delhi. In 2024-25, out of total revenue receipts of 74,401 crore, grants-in-aid made up 53,279 crore.

This means that only a small fraction of the money flowing into the government truly came from local sources.

What does this mean in real terms?
It means that everyday spending is largely underwritten by money from outside the territory. And it has consequences.

The CAG notes that revenue expenditure, including the money spent on recurring costs such as salaries, pensions, interest payments, and subsidies, consumed more than 85 percent of the total expenditure. Much of that was committed spending, leaving little room for investment in new infrastructure or growth-oriented projects.

Even as the overall economy grows, the share of revenue that the government collects from its own tax efforts is shrinking relative to that bigger economic pie. That suggests weak revenue mobilisation and limited capacity to harness local economic strength for public benefit.

Without change, the reliance on central transfers is likely to continue.

The CAG's warning goes beyond numbers. Continued dependence on external support limits fiscal autonomy. It also makes long-term planning harder.

If a region can only meet its ongoing expenses with money from elsewhere, it leaves little flexibility for boosting local industry, improving infrastructure, or expanding services that could strengthen job markets and quality of life.

Leaders in Jammu and Kashmir will need to take this audit seriously. Strengthening revenue systems, broadening the tax base, and controlling routine spending must be priorities.

More efficient use of funds and careful planning can help reduce reliance on central grants.

Without that, the Union Territory's growth may be real in economic terms but shallow in how it translates into financial strength and independence.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Financial Freedom

Before spending, ask what that rupee will do for you tomorrow.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir runs on stories written in rupees, from the apple seller in Shopian to the shawl vendor in Lal Chowk, from the father in Jammu waiting for his salary to the son in Dubai wiring money home.

But by month's end, many wallets sit empty because families buy liabilities and mistake them for assets.

An asset puts money in your pocket, like a room you rent out, a taxi that earns its keep, or savings that grow steadily over time. A liability does the opposite, draining wealth through car loans for show, credit cards funding lavish weddings, or rent that consumes half your income.

Social pressure in Kashmir pushes families past their limits into debt they cannot escape. Studies across India show that where financial knowledge is low, high-cost credit runs high. One bad loan can trap a family for years.

Behind every status purchase hides a silent cost, whether a coaching class canceled, a doctor visit delayed, or a father borrowing again to pay old bills.

Financial literacy means understanding how money moves through earning, spending, saving, borrowing, and investing with purpose rather than emotion. Families who grasp these basics budget better, avoid needless debt, and survive emergencies.

This knowledge matters deeply in Kashmir, where tourism, farming, and small trade bring uneven income. Liabilities like EMIs demand payment even when earnings drop, while assets support you through hard times.

Start today by listing every monthly payment that takes money out without bringing money in. Then reduce what you can while building a simple list of assets you want. Talk about money at home so children learn to see purchases clearly. Peace in kitchens and living rooms arrives when money decisions serve your future rather than your ego.

Before spending the next rupee, stop and ask: will this put money in your pocket tomorrow or pull it out every month? Nurture assets, question liabilities, and watch Kashmir gain households that stand stable and free.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

Forty Days Later

The Rehbar is gone, but his lessons in faith and action remain.



Adv Azhar ud din Sofi

Forty days have passed since the strike landed at dawn, and the Muslim world still feels the aftershock.

On February 28, at 5:30 a.m., confirmation came that Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei had achieved the martyrdom he spent decades preparing his followers to understand.

The Zionist regime's missiles accomplished what decades of threats could only promise. Millions woke to a reality they had imagined only in nightmares.

This loss cuts deeper than politics. It severs a living connection between generations. Those of us who came of age during the 1990s grew up watching this man deliver speeches that felt like conversations across a crowded room.

Khamenei spoke about justice without ambiguity, and discussed oppression using names and dates. His lessons landed with the force of lived experience rather than theological theory.

He taught young men how to treat their mothers, and reminded husbands that leadership begins with service. He connected personal virtue to public defiance so completely that separating the two became impossible.

The first three days of his demise brought a particular kind of grief. How does one eat breakfast while the Rehbar lies beneath rubble? How does one answer emails or pay bills when the compass point has vanished?

These questions plagued millions who had never met the man personally. That is the measure of authentic leadership. It creates intimacy across distance, and generates responsibility without demanding reciprocity.

Ayatollah Khamenei built his authority on a simple premise: faith without action remains incomplete. He rejected the separation between spiritual life and political commitment.

Prayer mattered, so did Palestine. Fasting counted, so did standing against the war on Yemen. He demanded that believers carry their convictions into streets, courts, and voting booths. This holistic approach offended those who preferred religion as private consolation. It attracted those who sought meaning as public practice.

His teachings on martyrdom prepared his followers for this exact moment. He spoke of death as promotion rather than defeat.

These were theological concepts, but they were also strategic assessments. He understood that assassinating a leader often amplifies his message beyond anything speeches could achieve.

The bomb that ended his breathing began his immortality.

During these forty days of mourning, something shifted across the Muslim world. The initial paralysis gave way to movement. Sectarian divisions that had seemed permanent began showing cracks.

Sunni scholars issued state-



The Muslim Ummah faces a test in this moment. Grief can paralyze or mobilize. Memory can fossilize into nostalgia or crystallize into program. Khamenei's own writings suggest he would reject wallowing. He would demand that mourning convert into commitment, that tears transform into tactics.



ments of solidarity that would have been unthinkable months earlier. Shia communities opened their mourning tents to neighbours who had previously crossed the street to avoid them.

The oppression that Khamenei spent his life opposing suddenly found itself facing a more unified opposition.

This unity holds practical punch. Iranian foreign policy under Khamenei maintained consistent support for people's movements regardless of their religious composition.

This pragmatic solidarity created networks of mutual aid that survive his death.

These forty days have clarified what Khamenei actually built. He constructed more than a state apparatus or military capacity. He cultivated a particular sensibility among millions of Muslims worldwide.

This sensibility treats defiance as moral obligation rather than political option. It views solidarity with the oppressed as religious duty rather than charitable impulse. It rejects the comfortable separation between private faith and public action that dominates Western religious experience.

The Muslim Ummah faces a test in this moment. Grief can paralyze or mobilize. Memory can fossilize into nostalgia or crystallize into program.

Khamenei's own writings suggest he would reject wallowing. He would demand that mourning convert into commitment, that tears transform into tactics.

The Zionist regime calculated that killing him would demoralize his followers. The opposite occurred. His martyrdom provided the ultimate validation of his worldview: that meaningful lives end meaningfully, that those who live for justice rarely die in bed.

Forty days marks the traditional conclusion of mourning in many Muslim cultures. The black banners come down, the special prayers conclude, and normal life resumes its patterns.

This return to routine holds its own danger. The intensity of loss fades, the immediacy of commitment softens, and the daily pressures of survival crowd out the grand ambitions of transformation.

Ayatollah Khamenei's final gift to his followers was his death. He demonstrated that his teachings were serious enough to die for. He proved that his opposition to Zionism and imperialism was existential rather than rhetorical. He showed that leadership in the Muslim world still requires skin in the game: actual risk, sacrifice, and consequences.

The Muslim Ummah must now lead itself. The guidance Khamenei provided for decades must become internalized principle rather than external instruction. His followers must become their own Rehbar, applying his methods to new circumstances he never anticipated.

This is how genuine legacy operates. It survives through adaptation rather than preservation.

The dawn strike that ended his life confirmed his analysis of the world. Power respects only pushback, justice requires cost, and faith without action remains incomplete.

Forty days later, these truths feel more pressing than ever. The leader has fallen, but the lesson endures.

The author is Director of Exceptional IAS Academy.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir Schools Must Prioritize Minds Over Marks

Schools across Kashmir are waking up to mental health, but most efforts remain stubbornly superficial.

Occasional workshops and awareness campaigns treat emotional wellbeing as a seasonal event rather than a daily necessity. This approach misses the point entirely.

Mental health in schools functions as a living ecosystem, woven through every policy, interaction, and hallway.

A genuine school mental health ecosystem extends far beyond the counselor's door. It lives in classroom dynamics, playground culture, staff room interactions, and the unspoken rules that define how students see themselves. Every corner of the school either builds psychological safety or erodes it.

Teachers occupy the heart of this system. Educators become first responders by default in Kashmir, where young people face layers of political uncertainty, economic pressure, and family stress. They spot the shy child who stops participating, the teenager whose grades suddenly

plummet, and the student who carries fear in their shoulders.

This responsibility demands support that schools rarely provide. Teacher burnout and compassion fatigue spread silently through staff rooms, undermining the very care students need. Any serious mental health framework must begin with protecting the protectors.

School culture determines whether students thrive or merely survive. Psychological safety grows from daily habits rather than wall posters. It shows in how teachers respond to mistakes, peers treat difference, and discipline balances accountability with understanding.

Schools that celebrate only top marks breed anxiety. Campuses that shame failure cultivate fear. Institutes that value growth, effort, and character build young people who can weather storms.

The JKBOSE examination system continues reducing students to numbers on a page. Academic rigour holds value, but relentless focus on marks ignores the emotional narratives behind those scores. Students internal-

ize this pressure through sleepless nights, persistent worry, and deepening sadness. A healthy ecosystem challenges this narrow definition of success by honouring creativity, emotional intelligence, and social skills alongside traditional achievement.

Early identification of distress requires teachers equipped with basic psychological literacy. They need skills to recognize withdrawal, aggression, or sudden changes in participation as signals of deeper struggle. Recognition without response helps nobody. Schools require clear referral pathways to mental health professionals and strong partnerships with families to maintain continuity of care.

Parents remain essential partners often left outside the discussions. In our cultural context, emotional struggles still carry stigma as weakness or poor discipline. Schools must engage families through genuine dialogue rather than blame, helping them understand that mental health holds equal weight to physical health.

Prevention works better than crisis response. Life skills educa-

tion, mindfulness practices, peer support networks, and safe spaces for expression create protective environments. Students who understand their own emotions, manage stress effectively, and seek help without shame develop defiance for challenges inside and outside school walls.

Kashmiri children grow within unique social realities that expose them to collective stress and uncertainty. Schools bear moral responsibility to serve as stabilizing anchors of safety, empathy, and hope amid turbulence.

Policy changes must embed mental health into core educational frameworks through dedicated time for social-emotional learning, trained counselors in every school, continuous professional development for teachers, and monitoring systems that ensure real implementation.

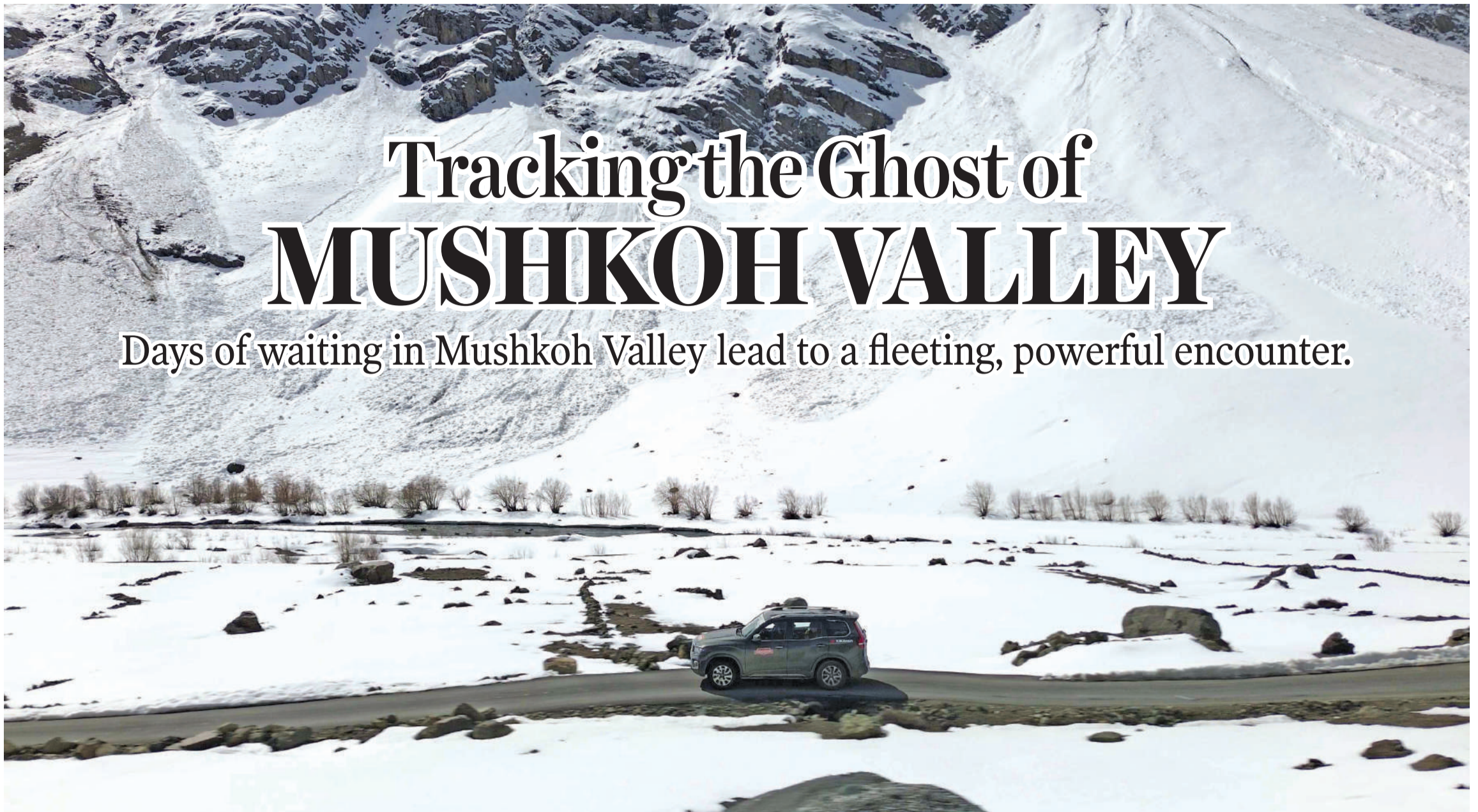
National visions like NEP 2020 provide frameworks, but genuine transformation demands grassroots commitment and local adaptation.

Sincerely,

Arshid Qalmi
aqalmi303@gmail.com

Tracking the Ghost of MUSHKOH VALLEY

Days of waiting in Mushkoh Valley lead to a fleeting, powerful encounter.



Farah Zaidi

I travelled to Mushkoh Valley this spring with a single hope: to glimpse the Himalayan brown bear waking from hibernation. But I found something far more demanding than a checklist sighting. Early spring turns the highway to Drass into a question mark. Snow grips the valleys, rivers rush with melted ice, and the mountains watch with absolute indifference.

Avalanches had struck the pass that morning, blocking the route and claiming lives. Our convoy halted cold, engines died, and voices dropped. We sat for hours in that suspended state where the Himalaya reminds you who sets the rules here. Cold seeped through the doors, and clouds covered the peaks. We shared food with strangers in nearby vehicles, trading stories while the road crews worked with shovels and prayers. The wait ended illusions of control. Travel writing often polishes these moments into postcards. The truth bites harder. These peaks decline to bend for your schedule. They demand preparation, humility, and the acceptance that you control nothing. You adapt to the mountain, or you turn back. There is no middle ground, only the reality of ice and gravity.

Mushkoh Valley opened like a hand that had preserved its secrets for centuries. Snow draped the cold slopes, the air held a heaviness that felt almost holy, and everything moved slowly there. Time itself seemed to have settled into the earth, remaining slow despite visitors. The valley floor stayed frozen in patches, mud sucking at our boots, while new grass pushed through on southern exposures. Sound behaved differently there, absorbed by the snow, returning only the creak of our steps and the distant call of magpies. We spent days scanning ridgelines through binoculars until our eyes burned. We spoke with shepherds and children who pointed toward distant slopes where paw prints had appeared that morning. Here, knowledge passes through generations, living in stories rather than screens.

A boy showed me scratch marks on a pine trunk, while his grandfather explained how the animals follow the melting snow upward, seeking tender shoots and roots. This information lives in muscle memory, in the daily observation of people who share the land with giants. Then came the moment. I finally saw movement on a far ridge. The bear emerged from the rocks, massive and unhurried. It crossed the snowfield ignoring our presence, indifferent to our watching. This was a gift borrowed from time. The animal foraged for food, its fur catching the afternoon light, transforming the distant figure into a golden presence against the white. We watched until it moved out of sight behind a boulder, our breath held, the valley returned to stillness. Such encounters elude consumption. They arrive as gifts given only

to those who wait, expecting everything to remain secret. The bear owes humanity little. Its presence represents centuries of survival in terrain that rewards only the prepared. Each sighting of this critically endangered species holds impact beyond the thrill of spotting. It signals that something wild persists regardless of pressure from every side, that the world still contains mysteries that reveal themselves only to patience. Between searches, we lived alongside families who welcome strangers into homes warmed by wood fires. Children played outside until dark, their laughter echoing through the thin air. Meals arrived simply, plain and honest, tasting of the valley itself. These communities have built lives upon tenacity, adapting to winters that test their self-reliance. They understand something we forget in cities: survival depends on

reading the land, on knowing when to move and when to stay. Driving back through the pass, the mountains revealed themselves anew. I saw them as partners rather than obstacles to overcome. They stood as they always had: sovereign, complete, indifferent to our schedules. The snow had settled, and the road had cleared, but everything had changed. We seek the wild hoping to fill cameras, but we return having filled something deeper. Certainty belongs to other places. Mushkoh gives something better: the chance to remember your proper size within the world. — The author is co-founder of Kashmir Off Road. She can be reached at farahzaidiali@gmail.com.



20 Officers Appointed As District Mentors For Nasha Mukht Abhiyan In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has nominated 20 officers as District Mentors to oversee the implementation of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan across various districts of the Union Territory.

According to a government order issued by the General Administration Department, the nominated officers—drawn from IAS, IPS, IFS, and JKAS cadres—will oversee and strengthen the implementation of the anti-drug campaign alongside their existing responsibilities until further orders.

Each officer has been assigned a specific district to ensure focused monitoring and execution of the programme.

Key appointments include Shaleen Kabra for Poonch, Ashwani Kumar for Samba, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma for Budgam, Shailendra Kumar for Srinagar, and Anil Kumar Singh for Kathua.

Other notable assignments include Brij Mohan Sharma for Ganderbal, Saurabh Bhagat for Anantnag, Vikramjit Singh for Pulwama, Sheetal Nanda for Reasi, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary for Rajouri, Sarmad Hafeez for Baramulla, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan for Udhampur, Ram Niwas Sharma for Kupwara, Piyush Singla for Shopian, Vikas Kundal for Kulgam, Rahul Yadav for Kishtwar, Doifode Sagar Dattatray for Doda, Harvinder Singh for Poonch, Zubair Ahmad for Bandipora, and Babila



Rakwal for Ramban.

As per the order, the District Mentors will monitor all critical components of the campaign, including awareness and

Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities in schools, colleges, and public spaces. They will also ensure co-ordination among stakeholders

for sustained outreach and supervise de-addiction services provided by the Health Department.

The mentors have been tasked

with overseeing enforcement measures carried out by the Police and Excise Departments, identifying substance users through surveys and field outreach, and facilitating their counselling, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society.

The officers will also supervise training programmes for teachers, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, volunteers, and peer educators to develop a strong grassroots network of "Nasha Mukht Volunteers" at the village and ward levels.

The initiative also emphasises community participation, with mentors expected to engage Panchayati Raj Institutions, youth clubs, NSS and NCC units, as well as religious and community leaders to promote

collective action against drug abuse.

The District Mentors will ensure systematic data reporting on awareness drives, treatment, rehabilitation outcomes, and community participation. They will also oversee anti-drug pledge campaigns and organise intensive awareness drives in high-risk areas.

To ensure accountability and effectiveness, the mentors will conduct monthly impact assessments based on measurable outcomes and submit reports recommending corrective measures.

Meanwhile, the district administrations will execute the programme in close coordination with the appointed mentors to achieve the goal of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Drug Influx

intensify efforts to dismantle drug trafficking networks. He emphasised a balanced approach that targets offenders while protecting victims of substance abuse.

"Don't spare the culprit, don't touch the innocent is our policy. We must identify the real victims of drug abuse and make committed efforts for their rehabilitation," he said.

The meeting also reviewed a comprehensive activity calendar prepared by various departments under the campaign. UT and divisional-level committees have already been constituted to ensure effective implementation of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy and the overall action plan.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed officials to transform the campaign into a Jan Andolan through active public engagement. He called for incorporating public feedback and strengthening mechanisms to encourage citizens to report cases of drug abuse.

Among those present at the meeting were Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Special DG (Coordination) S J M Gillani, Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Dr Mandep K Bhandari, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Sarmad Hafeez, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Kashmir V K Birdi, along with senior officers including DIGs, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs.

Nation-Building

with their cultural heritage and values.

Speaking at a musical opera 'Mata Sukrala Ki Kahani' at Abhinav Theatre here, the Lieutenant Governor said a strong nation is built on the integrity of its citizens, shared values and mutual trust, not merely on physical infrastructure.

"Nation-building is rooted in our shared mindset. A strong nation stands on citizens' integrity, common values, and trust among people, not just buildings. My message to the youth is that true nationhood comes alive when self-interest gives way to community good," he said.

Emphasising that nation-building is a collective responsibility, Sinha said the biggest challenge today is the perception that it is only the government's duty. "Aware citizens guide a nation's path because indifference undermines even the mightiest systems. We must awaken our sense of duty, and culture will anchor our identity," he added.

Highlighting the role of cultural heritage, the Lieutenant Governor described it as a powerful societal resource that shapes thinking, behaviour, values and beliefs. He urged young people to reconnect deeply with their roots, warning that disconnect from culture weakens society.

"Humanity cut off from cultural roots loses its power. Youth anchored in heritage will prove unstoppable in nation-building," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said India's rich and diverse traditions, bound together by mutual respect, form the essence of unity and inspire individuals to move beyond personal gain towards contributing to society.

He also underlined that reviving cultural traditions through artistic mediums is an investment in the future. "When we revitalise these traditions, we are not merely recalling the past, but preparing future generations to lead with a strong moral and cultural compass," he said.

Referring to the legend of Mata Sukrala Devi depicted in the opera, Sinha said truth, faith and love for the motherland bind people together and strengthen nation-building efforts. He noted that Duggar culture, with its vibrant stories, arts and folk practices, carries timeless wisdom from elders to the youth.

"Our ancient culture embodies bravery, togetherness, devotion and responsibility. Reviving it through diverse art forms honours our history while fueling the future," he said.

The event was organised by Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and was attended by senior officials, public representatives and prominent citizens.

Modern Warfare

of Multi Domain Operations (MDO), the Army Chief described Operation Sindoor as a "defining case study" that demonstrated India's progression towards domain jointness.

Referring to India's military response in May last year following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 tourists dead, he said the operation highlighted how coordinated action across domains can shape outcomes on the battlefield.

"Operation Sindoor was India's most powerful tool of progression towards domain jointness. But we need to achieve domain integration and fusion," he said.

Dwivedi explained that his vision of Multi Domain Operations is not one where different domains function in parallel, but where they

remain in constant dynamic interaction, with the lead shifting depending on the operational requirement.

He said warfare today is "dispersed, undeclared, multi-theatre and multi-domain," adding that the real challenge lies in orchestrating seamless interaction across the battlespace.

"The question is not whether domains interact, it is how the interface is orchestrated," he said.

Drawing a distinction between the land domain and land forces, the Army Chief said the former refers to the operational space, while the latter comprises actors across all six domains—land, air, maritime, cyber, space and cognitive—working in a shared environment.

He underlined that these domains are no longer isolated but function through dynamic synergy.

Elaborating on the evolving nature of conflict, Dwivedi said modern battlefields have transformed into layered, three-dimensional constructs.

"In MDO, the battlefield is no longer a line on a map. It is three-dimensional, where cyber effects shape the cognitive space, space assets cue targets, and electronic warfare contests every frequency simultaneously," he said.

He emphasised that commanders must develop cross-domain situational awareness, spanning tactical to strategic levels.

Highlighting the operational lessons from Operation Sindoor, the Army Chief said it involved a combination of ground intelligence, cyber capabilities and electronic warfare inputs that enabled joint targeting by the Army and Air Force, while the Navy's positioning influenced the broader strategic calculus.

"No single domain decided the operation," he said, describing such mutually reinforcing actions as the essence of Multi Domain Operations.

Dwivedi said the future of warfare lies in integration and fusion of capabilities, rather than isolated or service-specific approaches, calling for continued efforts to strengthen jointness across the armed forces.

No Compensation

sacrifice far greater than any test. You have lost someone precious," he said, adding that no job can replace that void.

He said the government is committed to standing "shoulder to shoulder" with such families, but acknowledged that procedural delays have often added to their distress.

Referring to the transition from SR0-43 to the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, Omar said the move was intended to address structural shortcomings and improve efficiency in processing cases. He, however, admitted that gaps still remain.

"Even today, there are bottlenecks. We understand that delays in clearances add to your hardship. We will make every effort to simplify and expedite the process," he said.

Describing the loss suffered by beneficiaries as "colossal," the Chief Minister said making affected families run from office to office after such tragedies amounts to injustice.

"After such a loss, if people are made to move from office to office, it is a grave injustice. We are committed to ending this," he added.

Congratulating the appointees, he termed the occasion as the beginning of a new phase in their lives and urged them to uphold honesty and integrity in public service.

"From today till your retirement, you will serve the people. Always choose the difficult but correct path over the easy one," he advised, cautioning them against undue influence in their professional roles.

Reiterating the government's support, he urged beneficiaries to approach concerned authorities in case of any difficulty, assuring timely redressal.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the efforts of the divisional administration, particularly the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and his team, for facilitating the process and expressed hope that pending cases would be cleared at the earliest.

The event was attended by senior officials and ministers, including Javaid Ahmad Dar, Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary GAD M. Raju, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC Fazul Haseeb, MD KPDCI Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director SKICC Haris Ahmed Handoo, Director Tourism Kashmir Qamar Sajad, among others, along with beneficiaries and their families.

Report Expected

accepted our request for a time-bound and transparent probe into the incident," he said.

The Army had claimed that a man killed in an encounter in the Arhama forests of Ganderbal on March 31 was a militant. However, the family of the deceased, identified as Rashid Ahmad

Mughal, has contested the claim, alleging that he had no terror links and that the encounter was staged. They have also demanded the return of his body for proper burial.

The Chief Minister said a magisterial inquiry has been instituted and is currently underway. "The inquiry is going on. Once they complete it, the report will be made public. Our primary focus should be to avoid such incidents. But if it happens, the truth should not be hidden. People should be told the truth," he said.

Responding to a question on whether such incidents raise concerns over the continuation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), Omar said Jammu and Kashmir, being a Union Territory, does not have jurisdiction over such matters.

"Forget AFSPA, even the law and order does not fall in our jurisdiction at the moment," he said.

He added that such incidents inevitably raise questions over claims of normalcy in the region. Referring to a recent encounter in which two Pakistani militants were killed, Abdullah said concerns would arise about how militants managed to infiltrate.

"Such things should not happen in a normal situation," he said.

Pakistan Prepares

remain on the trigger. Iran will never forsake its Lebanese brothers and sisters," he said, a day after massive Israeli strikes in Lebanon killed more than 200 people and injured over 1,000.

Meanwhile, Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and they reviewed the progress of Pakistan's mediation efforts to achieve sustainable peace in the region, said a statement issued by the PMO.

It said the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the de-escalation achieved so far and stressed the need to maintain peace and a ceasefire by all parties. They vowed to provide all support to the US and Iran to reach a peaceful settlement of their conflict.

They "appreciated the restraint demonstrated by all sides and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to facilitate and provide all-out support to both sides to arrive at a peacefully negotiated settlement."

PM Shehbaz renewed his invitation to the arriving delegations and assured them of the highest consideration and support by Pakistan. The delegations from the rival sides are expected to arrive in Islamabad by Thursday night to participate in the talks.

"Despite skepticism of Iranian public opinion due to repeated ceasefire violations by the Israeli regime to sabotage the diplomatic initiative, invited by Hon. PM Shehbaz Sharif, Iranian delegation arrives tonight in Islamabad for serious talks based on 10 points proposed by Iran," Reza Amir Moghadam, Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan, said in a post on X.

A day earlier, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that President Trump was dispatching his negotiating team, led by Vice President JD Vance, to Pakistan for peace talks. However, no time has been announced for the delegation's arrival. Reportedly, Vance will be joined by Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

On Thursday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi assured US Chargé d'affaires Natalie Baker of foolproof security for all foreign dignitaries when she met him to discuss the preparation for the upcoming talks.

Naqvi assured Baker of the security arrangements taken ahead of the talks and stated that the US delegation members were "our special guests," according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior.

"A comprehensive plan has been prepared to provide foolproof security to all foreign guests in every respect," he was quoted as saying by Dawn.

Citing sources, Dawn reported that a 30-member advance US team had already arrived in Islamabad to review security arrangements.

Sources familiar with the development said that the talks are expected to focus on a broad framework for a long-term peace arrangement, including sanctions relief, regional security, and the future of Iran's nuclear and missile program.

Tehran has indicated that discussions will be based on its proposed 10-point plan, which includes demands such as lifting of sanctions, guarantees against future attacks, and arrangements concerning the Strait of Hormuz.

Despite a desire for peace, deep mistrust persists between the two sides, aggravated by the concerns of violation of the ceasefire in Lebanon. Iran is cautious because it was already in talks when the US and Israel launched the attack on April 28.

Pakistan, which emerged as an unlikely facilitator in the uneven conflict, is making all-out efforts to convert the ceasefire into permanent peace.

The upcoming negotiations are being closely watched globally, as their success or failure could have far-reaching implications for Middle East security, global energy markets, and international diplomacy.

Authorities have already announced a two-day local holiday on Thursday and Friday in the capital to ensure the smooth arrival of the delegates and their stay in Islamabad, which is among the quietest and cleanest capitals of the world.

In an advisory posted on X, the Islamabad Police said that special arrangements have been taken to augment the security of the city ahead of the arrival of delegates.

It said diversions will be placed on the Express Highway due to the "movement of foreign delegations", advising commuters to plan their travel accordingly.

"The Red Zone and surrounding areas are closed to all types of traffic except official vehicles. Citizens are requested to avoid unnecessary travel to the Red Zone and surrounding areas to prevent any travel difficulties," it said, adding that Islamabad Traffic Police are present on the roads for the convenience and awareness of the public.

The Red Zone houses several key buildings, hotels, foreign missions and official residences of key figures.

All state-run rescue departments and hospitals have been put on high alert. They have been asked to remain on standby and ensure the availability of staff and essential supplies, the sources added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz held a telephone conversation with Lebanese counterpart Nawaf Salam to discuss the escalating violence in the region.

Shehbaz strongly condemned Israel's attacks on Lebanon. He highlighted Pakistan's active engagement in regional peace initiatives, noting that it was in this spirit that the Iran-US peace talks were being convened.

Nawaf thanked Pakistan for its efforts and sought Islamabad's support to secure an immediate end to the attacks targeting Lebanese civilians.

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has also been actively contacting his counterparts to enlist support for peace. Late Wednesday night, he spoke with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan on the latest regional developments regarding the Middle East, according to the Foreign Office.

He also talked with Canadian Foreign Minister Anirudh Anand and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Jarrah Jabber Al-Sabah.

Dry Spell Likely

temperature of 17.1°C, which is 1.7 degrees below normal, and a minimum of 7.0°C, slightly above normal. Qazigund recorded a maximum of 16.2°C and a minimum of 5.6°C, while Pahalgam registered 11.8°C and 3.0°C respectively.

Kupwara recorded a high of 16.4°C and a low of 4.0°C, while Kokernag settled at 14.6°C maximum and 4.8°C minimum. Gulmarg, the coldest place in the Valley, recorded a maximum of 5.5°C and a minimum of minus 2.5°C.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 25.5°C, 4.9 degrees below normal, and a minimum of 12.2°C. Banihal registered 16.6°C and 6.6°C, Batote 16.0°C and 5.4°C, while Katra recorded 23.0°C maximum and 10.7°C minimum.

Bhaderwah recorded a maximum temperature of 15.5°C and a minimum of 3.4°C, the MeT office said.

Child Trafficking

Odisha and Punjab have still failed to file reports in the prescribed format.

When Madhya Pradesh's Home Secretary apologised for the lapse, the court granted a final opportunity but warned that continued failure would result in states being officially classified as "defaulting".

The bench further observed that at least 15 states are yet to constitute review committees mandated to identify and monitor trafficking hotspots.

The matter has been listed for further hearing on April 29.

Women's Reservation

people should encourage and inspire political parties to pass the measure when Parliament meets on April 16, 17 and 18 for the "special" work.

"To describe this merely as a legislative exercise would be an understatement. It is a reflection of the aspirations of crores of women across India," he said.

The Budget session of Parliament has been extended and a special three-day sitting of the House has been convened from April 16 to 18 when the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', more commonly known as the Women Reservation Act, would be amended for its implementation

from the 2029 general elections.

The provision to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was brought by amending the Constitution in 2023, but it will come into effect after the completion of the delimitation exercise on the basis of the 2027 Census. It is expected to come into force only in 2034 if the present law remains as it is, and therefore, there is a need to amend it to make it enforceable from the 2029 general elections.

The redrawing of the constituencies will be done on the basis of the 2011 Census rather than the proposed 2027 Census. A similar exercise will be carried out for state assemblies where seats will be reserved on a pro-rata basis.

According to the broad contours available, the number of Lok Sabha seats would be increased from the present 543 to 816, with 273 seats reserved for women. The reservation will also be done on a "vertical basis" with seats allocated for SCs and STs.

In the article, Modi said women constitute nearly half of India's population, their contributions to the nation are vast and invaluable and today, India is witnessing remarkable achievements by women across every field.

"From science and technology to entrepreneurship, from sports to the armed forces and from music to the arts, women are at the forefront of India's progress," he said.

The prime minister said that over the years, sustained efforts have been made to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment.

He said greater access to education, improved healthcare, enhanced financial inclusion and better access to basic amenities have strengthened the foundations of women's participation in economic and social life.

"Yet, their representation in the world of politics and legislative bodies has not always been commensurate with their role in society," he said.

Modi said this is particularly unfortunate because when women participate in administration and decision-making, they bring with them experiences and insights that enrich public discourse and improve the quality of governance.

He said that over the decades, there have been repeated efforts to provide women with their rightful place in democratic institutions by the previous governments. Committees were made, Bill drafts were introduced but they never saw the light of day.

"But the broad consensus has remained that women's representation in legislative bodies has to increase," he said.

The prime minister said that in September 2023, Parliament passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' with the same spirit of consensus.

"I consider it to be among the most special occasions of my life. This opportunity to ensure women's reservation also resonates deeply with the spirit of our Constitution. The makers of our Constitution envisioned a society where equality is both enshrined and realised in practice," he said.

Modi said strengthening women's participation in legislative institutions is an important step towards fulfilling that vision.

"It reflects our commitment to building a society where every citizen has an equal stake in shaping the nation's destiny.

"This is a moment that cannot be deferred any longer. Every delay in advancing women's representation is, in effect, a delay in strengthening the quality and inclusiveness of our democracy," he said.

Modi said India has always shown that when it comes to matters of national importance, it can rise above differences and act with unity.

"This is one such moment. Let us move forward together and strengthen Constitutional values and empower our 'Nari Shakti' for national progress," he said.

He said that to postpone action now would mean extending an imbalance that we already recognise and have the capacity to correct.

"At a time when India is moving forward with confidence and purpose, it is essential that our institutions reflect the aspirations of all citizens, especially those who form half our population," he said.

He said it is what "we owe to our 'Nari Shakti' (women's power) and that is why the passage of a bill for women's reservation should reflect the broadest possible consensus and be guided by the larger national interest".

26 Yrs After FIR,

cause pecuniary advantage to themselves or any other person.

The prosecution as per the court could not also substantiate the essential ingredients of forgery, cheating, or criminal conspiracy, resulting in their acquittal.

Jhelum Cruise To Lead Water Transport Project, Pilot by 2027

- Rs 1,000 Crore Plan Targets Eco-Friendly Mobility
- 8 Terminals Planned Across Three Districts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government has fast-tracked its ambitious water transport project in Kashmir, with the Jhelum river cruise set to lead the first phase, likely to be launched on a pilot basis by 2027.

Two MoUs worth Rs 1,000 crore have been signed, with authorities prioritising the Jhelum river cruise project featuring eight terminals across Anantnag, Srinagar and Bandipora.

RTO Kashmir Qazi Irfan Rasool Zargar said the MoUs include Rs 100 crore for a river cruise on Jhelum and Rs 900 crore for a comprehensive urban water transport system covering both Jhelum and Dal Lake, aimed at establishing an eco-friendly alternate transport network in Kashmir.

According to KNO, he said the government is currently focusing on the first MoU concerning the Jhelum river cruise project, which will span across three districts - Anantnag, Srinagar and Bandipora - and include a total of eight terminals.

"The first phase will start from Pantha Chowk and pass through key locations in Sri-



Kashmir Observer

nagar, including Pantha Chowk and Zero Bridge, followed by multiple terminals before culminating in Bandipora district," Zargar said, adding that land for the terminals has already been identified and allotted.

The RTO said a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has been constituted for the execution of the project, under which the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will operate the services. "Work on the construction of platforms has already commenced at several locations," he added.

Highlighting technical aspects, Zargar said that under the Request for Proposal (RFP) floated, the department has planned to introduce electric cruise boats with a seating capacity of around 20 passengers each. "We have focused on e-cruise boats to align with the concept of sustainable mobility, which is being adopted globally," he said, adding that initial procurement is for two such boats.

On concerns regarding the dredging of the riverbed and its potential impact on houseboats

and existing ecosystems, he said the projects have been taken up only after detailed feasibility studies. "This is a major investment, and all technical aspects have been examined. Experts, including teams from Kochi Metro, have conducted surveys on the ground," he said.

The officer added that dredging requirements and water depth will be scientifically managed to ensure smooth operation of vessels without affecting existing structures or livelihoods. "It will be ensured that

houseboats and other traditional systems are not impacted by this intervention," he said.

The RTO further said that the second MoU focuses on developing a full-fledged urban water transport system integrating Dal Lake and the river Jhelum, which will significantly enhance connectivity within Srinagar and adjoining areas.

The idea, he said, is to create an alternate transport system on water that will not only ease pressure on roads but also revive waterways for modern use.

On the timeline, Zargar said that while work has just begun, the department is optimistic about early progress. "We are expecting that by 2027, at least the first phase of the Jhelum project will be operational on a pilot basis," he said.

The proposed water transport initiative comes amid increasing focus on exploring alternative and sustainable mobility solutions in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in Srinagar, where traffic congestion has grown significantly over the years. The river Jhelum, historically a key transport route, had fallen out of regular use with the expansion of road networks.

ACB Traps Panchayat Secretary for Taking Rs 5,000 Bribe

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested a Panchayat Secretary in Kulgam after catching him red-handed while accepting a Rs 5,000 bribe for clearing MGNREGA labour bills, officials said.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the J&K Anti Corruption Bureau received a written complaint to the effect that Panchayat Secretary (VLW) of Block Devsar Kulgam namely Shiekh Zada Irfan S/O Shiekh AB Rashid R/O Muniwara District Anantnag is demanding a bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant for clearing of Bills on account of labour charges of MGNREGA works carried out by him, which was negotiated and finally settled at Rs 5000. He said the complainant chose not to pay bribe and instead approached P/S Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the said Panchayat Secretary (VLW) as envisaged under law.

"On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted which confirmed the demand by the said Govt. employee and accordingly Case FIR No. 04/2026 u/s 7 of P/C Act 1988 read with amendment Act-2018 was registered in PS ACB Anantnag and investigation was taken up," said the spokesperson. He said, during the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the said Govt. employee red handed while demanding and accepting bribe. He was arrested on spot and bribe amount was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. (Observer News Service)

3 Drug Peddlers Arrested in Sopore

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained drive against the drug menace, J&K Police apprehended three drug peddlers in two separate incidents under the jurisdiction of Police Post Watergam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, during naka checking at Hadipora, Rafiabad, a suspicious individual was intercepted and apprehended. Upon personal search, poppy straw-like substance was recovered and seized as per due procedure. The accused has been identified as Qamar Ali, son of Mohammad Ali Bhat, resident of Chanderkote Ramban. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 25/2026 under Section 8/15 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Dangiwa.

Moreover, during naka checking at Tragpora-Rohama Road, two suspicious persons were intercepted and apprehended. Upon their search, charas-like substance was recovered and seized as per due procedure. The accused have been identified as Mursaleen Shafi, son of Mohammad Shafi Yattoo and Ali Mohammad Yattoo, son of Ghulam Mohammad Yattoo, both residents of Chijhama Rafiabad. In this regard, FIR No. 26/2026 under Sections 8/20 and 29 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Dangiwa. Further investigation in both cases is underway to ascertain the source and wider linkages involved. (Observer News Service)

J&K's High-Security Prison is Ready

SRINAGAR: The much-talked-about high-security prison in Jammu & Kashmir is now ready, with the Home Department officially notifying it as a prison.

As per KNO, the Union Territory's Home Department has issued a notification declaring it both a prison and a designated high-security jail.

"In pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Prisons Act, 1894, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir hereby declares the structures erected on the land measuring 148 kanals, bearing Khasra No. 427 min & 486 min at village Dambra, Tehsil Mahanpur, District Kathua, as a prison, and also designates the said prison as 'High Security Prison, Mahanpur,'" reads the notification issued by Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti.

The notification has been issued on the orders of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

On July 07, 2024, the Administrative Council headed by the LG created 342 posts for the prison.

The sanctioned staff includes one post each of Senior Superintendent Jail, Superintendent Jail, Deputy Superintendent Jail, and three Assistant Superintendents of Jail.

With this addition, the number of prisons under the Jammu & Kashmir Government has risen to 15, which includes two central jails, 10 district jails, one special jail, and one sub-jail.

It is worth mentioning that Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the site of the prison in 2022. After reviewing the blueprint, the Home Minister suggested certain changes. (Observer News Service)

CS Reviews Position of Fuel, LPG Stocks across Districts

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting with the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners and District Administrations to review the availability and distribution of essential commodities across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in light of the evolving geopolitical situation in West Asia, with the aim of ensuring adequate buffering against any potential supply chain disruptions.

Comprehensive data presented during the meeting indicated that the UT currently maintains stable stocks of Motor Spirit (Petrol), High-Speed Diesel (HSD) and LPG, supplemented by significant stock in transit to further strengthen reserves.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed public grievances registered through helplines and their disposal by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and district administrations, while emphasizing the need for intensified IEC campaigns and strict inspections across districts to prevent hoarding, overpricing and black marketing of essential commodities, including fertilizers and food grains. He underscored the importance of ensuring 70 percent supply to commercial and industrial sectors in both divisions and called for expediting e-KYC of all active consumers. (Observer News Service)

NOTICE

I MUSHTAQ AHMAD WANI S/O late GH NABI WANI Here by inform to general public that my name has been wrongly written as MOHD MUSHTAQ WANI S/O late GH NABI WANI R/O ...KREERI in my school record while my correct name is MUSHTAQ AHMAD WANI S/O late GH NABI WANI R/O KREERI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may contact with concerned JKBOSE OFFICE within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: MUSHTAQ AHMAD WANI
S/O: Late GH NABI WANI
R/O: KREERI

FPO

Inclusive Education Policy to Integrate CwSN with Mainstream Govt Schools

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an unprecedented move, the government is rolling out an Inclusive Education policy to integrate Children with Special Needs (CwSN) with the mainstream government schools.

According to the official notes available with KNO, the government has said that it is instigating an Inclusive Education policy by integrating CwSN into mainstream government schools. "The government is implementing the policy of Inclusive Education, which envisages integration of children with special needs into mainstream government schools," reads the official note.

The official said that under this framework, such children are provided necessary support identification, services including assessment, assistive devices, resource support, and trained teaching assistance in nearby schools.

It also said that the Government is continuously taking measures to strengthen inclusive and barrier-free educational facilities across all districts to ensure equitable access to quality education.

"Further, the government in collaboration with various NGOs and other organizations is running the special schools and inclusive schools for the specially abled children across the UT," it reads.

Furthermore, the official notes reveal that the government has proposed to establish two special schools at Hadipora in Sopore and another at Daigham in Anantnag. "These schools shall be set up after completion of requisite formalities."

"The approach of the government is to ensure accessible and inclusive education through strengthening mainstream schooling systems, supplemented by establishment of specialized institutions at the regional level," reads the official notes.

PSAJK Holds First-Ever Elections in Bandipora



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a landmark development and a defining moment in the history of the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK), the first-ever district elections were successfully conducted at the Municipal Committee Bandipora, marking a new and progressive chapter in the association's democratic journey.

The elections were held under the supervision of the Dy Chief Education Officer Bandipora, G M Pajoo ensuring transparency and credibility in the entire process.

The occasion witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries and key office bearers, including Mr. Farooq Ashai, Convenor Election Commission PSAJK; Advocate Nadeem Qadiri, Legal Advisor PSAJK; Mr. Nazir Ahmad Malik, Member Election Commission; and Mr. Majid Bhat, Incharge Head Office Srinagar and Member Election Commission.

Adding further significance to the event, several district presidents and senior leaders attended, including Mr. Bashir Ahmad Shah (DP Ganderbal), Dr. Abrar Ahmad (DPBaramulla), Mr. Tahir Wagay (DPSrinagar), State Advisor Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Baba, and State Coordinator Mr. Tariq Balli.

The participation of member schools was overwhelming, with a large number of institutions actively taking part in the electoral process. Demonstrating rare unity and consensus, the majority of member schools submitted a written declaration—duly sealed and signed—in unanimous support of Mr. Fayaz Ahmad, Chairman IDPS Bandipora, for the post of President, PSAJK Bandipora chapter.

Speakers on the occasion expressed strong confidence in the leadership abilities of Mr. Fayaz Ahmad, highlighting his vision, commitment, and capacity to lead the district towards growth and reform. They termed the election as a "new beginning" that would bring positive transformation in the private education sector of Bandipora.

The event was also attended by former PSAJK President Mr. Saleem Akhtar and Central Executive Member Mr. Saidullah Bhat, whose presence added experience and encouragement to the proceedings.

The successful conduct of these elections reflects PSAJK's commitment to democratic values, transparency, and collective decision-making, setting a strong precedent for other districts to follow.

No MRI or Cath Lab in Entire North Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, one of the tertiary healthcare institutions in north Kashmir, is grappling with a severe manpower shortage, with more than 50 per cent of sanctioned posts lying vacant—raising serious concerns about patient care and service delivery.

According to official figures accessed by KNO, out of 482 sanctioned posts across various cadres, only 224 are currently filled, leaving 258 vacancies.

The shortage is particularly alarming among Assistant Professors, doctors, and paramedical staff.

As per details, among 65 sanctioned Assistant Professor posts, 29 are in position, and 36 are vacant. Among doctors, 59 posts are sanctioned, 25 are in position, and 34 are lying vacant. Among paramedical staff, 358 are sanctioned, 170 are in position, and 188 are vacant.

Locals said that despite being established around the same time as GMC Anantnag, the Baramulla college has lagged significantly in infrastructure and staffing.

"GMC Anantnag and GMC Baramulla were set up together, but if you compare today, An-



antnag has better staffing and even advanced facilities like MRI and Cath Lab. Here, even basic specialist availability is a challenge," said Abdul Rashid, a resident of Sopore.

Locals said the absence of critical diagnostic and cardiac care infrastructure, such as MRI and Cath Lab, has made the situation even more difficult for patients across North Kashmir.

"There is no MRI facility in the entire north Kashmir, nor do we have a Cath Lab. Patients suffering from neurological or cardiac emergencies are forced to rush to Srinagar, which often leads to delays in treatment," said Shabir Ahmad, a resident of Baramulla town.

Another local, Haleema Begum from Kupwara, said that the burden on patients is immense, both financially and physically. "We have to travel long distances to Srinagar for MRI scans or heart-related procedures. Not everyone can af-

ford repeated travel and private tests," she said.

Officials said the shortage of faculty and medical staff is directly impacting the functioning of the hospital, including delays in surgeries, outpatient services, and emergency care.

A senior resident of the area, Ghulam Nabi, said the government must act swiftly. "More than half of the posts are vacant. How can a medical college function like this? Authorities need to fill these vacancies on a priority basis and ensure that modern facilities like MRI and Cath Lab are made available here," he added.

Residents have urged the Health and Medical Education Department to take immediate steps to address the crisis by fast-tracking recruitment and upgrading infrastructure at GMC Baramulla.

They said that continued neglect could further widen the healthcare gap between North Kashmir and Srinagar, leaving thousands of patients without timely and adequate medical care.

An official from the health department said that the cath lab, along with MRI, is expected to come in this financial year while efforts are on to fill up the staff vacancies as well.

Northern Railway Runs Special Katra-Banihal Train, Boosts Connectivity

JAMMU: The Jammu Division of Northern Railway achieved another milestone today by successfully operating a special train—Train No. 04689/04690 (Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Banihal)—between Katra and Banihal.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, through this special train service, more than 1,000 passengers completed their journeys, thereby significantly strengthening rail connectivity in the region.

This special service was introduced with the specific objective of providing improved connectivity for passengers traveling from Kashmir to Katra, particularly in light of road traffic disruptions caused by heavy rainfall.

Departing from Katra, the train carried a large number of tourists alongside local residents, all of whom traveled with great enthusiasm. Furthermore, passengers thoroughly enjoyed their journey while profusely appreciating this initiative undertaken by the Jammu Division.

According to the Railway Administration, the primary objective behind this successful operation is to ensure safe and rapid transportation across challenging terrains. Stringent

arrangements regarding security and passenger amenities were implemented at the station to ensure that travelers did not face any inconvenience. In the near future, the frequency of this train's operations may be further increased, subject to demand and prevailing circumstances.

The highlight of this initiative was the successful operation of the train itself, which facilitated the travel of over 1,000 passengers, thereby providing them with superior and direct rail connectivity.

This special unreserved train service between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Banihal is scheduled to operate once again on April 10.

Continuing this series of special trains, Train No. 04679/04680—a special service connecting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar—is scheduled to operate from April 11 to April 15. Passengers holding either reserved or unreserved tickets may avail themselves of this train service for their journeys.

The train schedule is as follows: Train No. 04679 will depart from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 10:10 AM and arrive in Srinagar at 1:35 PM.

On its return journey, Train No. 04680 will depart from

Srinagar at 3:15 PM and reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 7:00 PM. En route, this train will make scheduled stops at Reasi, Sangaldan, and Banihal railway stations in both directions.

Commenting on the successful operation of the train, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mr. Uchit Singhal stated, "Due to ongoing heavy rainfall and landslides in the region, road traffic on the National Highway (NH-44) has been completely disrupted.

Considering the difficulties faced by passengers—particularly devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and local residents—the Railways has decided to operate a special train service between Katra and Banihal.

Our primary objective is to provide a safe and convenient travel option for stranded passengers. On its inaugural day today, the train carried over 1,000 passengers. The passengers have highly appreciated this special train service.

Keeping this commendable initiative in mind, and with the aim of providing even better facilities to locals and tourists, a special train service has once again been launched between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar. (Observer News Service)

Massive Public Turnout on the 40th Day of Iran Leader

West Asia News Agency

TEHRAN – In a massive display of national mourning, vast crowds of Iranians took to the streets of the capital and across the nation on Thursday to mark the 40th day following the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, senior military officials, and schoolchildren from Minab, reports said.

The massive mourning processions commenced on Thursday morning, with participants marching from Jomhuri Square to the site where the former Leader was assassinated by the US & Israel in a joint operation.

Ayatollah Khamenei (86) was assassinated 40 days ago in a targeted attack on his residence in Tehran—an incident that shook the region, triggering a devastating war and worldwide protests. Several members of the leader were also killed in the attack.

The ceremony symbolically began at 9:40 a.m.—coinciding with the exact time of the assassination—and continued until 8:00 p.m.

In Tehran, mourning processions started early in the morning from various routes, especially from Revolution Square, moving toward the site of the assassination. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian also attended the commemorative ceremony in Tehran's Jamhuri (Republic) Square on Thursday.

Meanwhile, since Wednesday night, groups of people had already begun moving toward main squares and designated mourning locations after the evening prayers from mosques and religious halls. Reports said large crowds had gathered at designated locations even before the official start of the ceremony. The central streets of



the capital—especially those leading to the site of the assassination—were filled with mourners chanting slogans and performing religious hymns to honour the memory of the former leader of the Islamic Republic.

In many cities, processions were taken to the streets and religious centres to perform Arbaeen rituals, with some areas witnessing massive public gatherings.

As part of the programmes, a recorded message of the late leader was to be broadcast nationwide at 9:00 p.m. Additionally, according to official announcements, further memorial ceremonies are scheduled for Friday (April 10) starting at 10:00 a.m. in large prayer grounds across the country.

Regional Reactions and Consequences

The strike on Bayt-e-Rahbari, as the leader's residence is known in downtown Tehran, also claimed the lives of several high-ranking military commanders and advisers, including Major General Abdolrahim

Mousavi, Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani, and Major General Mohammad Pakpour. One of the most devastating incidents occurred on the first day of the hostilities, when a primary school in Minab was struck by US tomahawk missiles, leading to the deaths of more than 170 children and some of their teachers.

The assassination of Iran's leader, as an unprecedented event, has generated widespread reactions across the region and the world and has been described by many analysts as a turning point in the geopolitical history of the Middle East.

Holding fortieth-day ceremonies for the slain leader of the Islamic Republic, within the framework of the Arbaeen religious tradition, is seen as an effort to redefine this event as a "historical-ideological" moment.

Within this context, the large public turnout in today's ceremonies has been presented by organisers as a sign of continued popular support and a renewed pledge of allegiance to the political and ideological path of the governing sys-

tem established following the triumph of the popular revolution that toppled the US backed Iranian monarchy in 1979.

IRGC Pledge

In a statement released on Thursday, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said that the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei was as effective as his lifetime presence in the promotion of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic.

It also enumerated the resistance and unity of the Iranian nation and the Islamic establishment, as well as 100 fatal strikes by the Iranian armed forces and the enemies' humiliating retreats, as parts of the blessings of the Leader's pure blood during the imposed war.

Ayatollah Khamenei's thought, discourse, conduct and command in the fields of resistance, independence, progress, justice, unity, fight against oppression, and spirituality form a comprehensive system for governing the country, it added.

EdRAAAK

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