

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Sunday 12 April 2026 | Srinagar | Vol: 29 | Issue: 92 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmiroobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmiroobserver • facebook.com/kashmiroobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

CBC 22201/13/0008/2627



Committed to
Nari Shakti Vandan

#NariShaktiVandan



Nearly 12 crore women received safe maternity care



Mothers and children are getting vaccinated on time



Crores of children are getting better nutrition



gaudium[®] IVF

Delivering Motherhood Dreams

Proudly Announces

INDIA'S AI-POWERED IVF REVOLUTION



SID



AI Driven Sperm Assessment

Helps improve IVF success rate

ERICA



AI Driven Embryo Assessment

Helps reduce treatment cycles and cost



GAUDIUM IVF AND WOMEN HEALTH LIMITED

AI and IVF: Shaping the Future of Human Life

Revolutionising fertility care through intelligent innovation



Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari

Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways
Government of India

Inaugurates

**AI - driven IVF Technologies
(SID & Erica) at Gaudium IVF**

ABBAS ADS: 7006444730



For Consultation, Call +91 8527858585



www.gaudiumivfcentre.com

To locate the nearest Gaudium IVF Centre, Scan QR Code



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for general information that Afreen Gul, Daughter of Ghulam Ahmad Sofi, Resident of Meerak Shah Colony, Hazratbal, Srinagar, was a student of Govt. Boys High School Batapora, Hazratbal, Admission No. 493, Class 9th, Date of Birth 15-04-2000, during the year 2013. The applicant now requires School Discharge / School Leaving Certificate from the said institution for further academic / official purposes. If anybody has any objection in issuing the Discharge Certificate, he/she may contact within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
Name: Afreen Gul INF
Address: Meerak Shah Colony, Hazratbal, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shagufta Hassan, D/o Ghulam Hassan Shah, R/o Takiya Bata-pora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby inform the general public that due to inadvertent error, my name and date of birth have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card Bearing No 714589709937 as Shagufta Bano and 20/03/2005 instead of my correct name Shagufta Hassan and correct Date of Birth 26/10/2004. I have applied for correction of the same. If anyone has any objection in this regard, they may file it within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Shagufta Hassan Deponent 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 Haider D/o Bilal Ahmad Wani R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 30/03/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd 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 Tabish Rafiq D/o Mohammad Rafiq Malik R/o Ashpora Handwara with verified date of birth 26/02/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I, Khalid Shafi Mir, S/o Mohd Shafi Mir, R/o Baharestan Kawarhama, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla, intend to correct my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing Adhar no 8841 8804 5319. The correction is as follows:
Wrong Name: Khalid Shafi
Correct Name: Khalid Shafi Mir
Similarly, my father's name has been wrongly entered as Mohammad Shafi Mir instead of Mohd Shafi Mir. If any person has any objection to the above correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Deponent Khalid Shafi Mir 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 Hadeed Hilal Bhat s/o Hilal Ahmad Bhat R/o Chukar Tehsil kunzer with verified date of birth 20/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly entered in the Aadhaar Card bearing adhaar no 4800 6384 3298. Incorrect Name: TAHA BIN MAJID Correct Name: TOHA BIN MAJID (as per Birth Certificate) I, Abdul Majid Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat, R/o Pandithpora Bata, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, declare that both names refer to one and the same person. If anybody has any objection, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Deponent Abdul Majid Bhat 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 Imaad Shah s/o Mohd Shafi Shah R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 24/05/2022 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 BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Seerat Lateef D/o Lateef Ahmad Mir R/o Mamoosa with verified date of birth 16/05/2009 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-2220120005544 issued in favour of SYED SAMRIYA Husband MOBID HASSAN SHAH
Whereas an application has been received by one SYED SAMRIYA Husband MOBID HASSAN SHAH wherein she claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as SYED SAMRIYA NAZOL. Penatage SYED KIFAYAT ULLAH Which needs to be changed as SYED SAMRIYA Husband MOBID HASSAN SHAH. And also address is Rajpora Pulwama which needs to be changed as H NO 2 GOLDEN HEIGHTS NEAR JKAP COMPLEX UPPER HUMHAMA BUDGAM.
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.
Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir MCB

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

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice is claimed to have lost his qualification certificate of with the following particulars..
1. Roll No:- 242424
2. Class:- 10th
3. Year & Session :- Annual-Private 2008
4. Registration No:- 04NKM200034
5. Name : AIJAZ AHMAD DAR
6. Fathers Name: GHULAM MOHD DAR
7. Mothers Name: RUKHSANA BANOO
8. Date of Birth, 01-11-1989.
9. Residence:- HANJIK BUDGAM
Now the candidate has applied for the DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE, before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, any person having any objection in this regard may please file the same before the secretary BOSE or undersigned with in 7 days from the date of issue of this notice.
Besides, the above losted QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE bearing S. No. 08AP-KAM-4603936 be traeted as CANCELLED.
Sd/= Assitant Secretary Certificates - KD mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 834694026372 the name is entered as ZAHOR FATIMA while my actual name is ZAHWAR FATMA . Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
ZAHWAR FATMA W/O ZAHIR SHAH MCB R/o GANDI SHATH, GUNDI SAYEDAN KUPWARA..

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of the ward of the undersigned, recorded as Mohammad Hadeed in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7734 5827 8858, is incorrect. The correct name is Mohammad Hadeed Soharwardi Peer as per official records. If any person has any objection to this correction, they may file the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Zameer Ahmad Soharwardi Peer R/o Ogmuna, Tehsil Kawarhama District Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I, Muntazir Majeed Mir, S/o Abdul Majeed Mir, R/o Wussan Bangil, Tehsil Kawarhama, District Baramulla, intend to correct the name of my ward in Aadhaar records bearing adhaar no 246991161237. The correction is as follows:
From: Waseem Muntazir To: Mohammad Hanzala
This correction is as per the Birth Certificate record. If anyone has any objection to the above, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Mohammad Hanzala fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Sakeena Shafiq, D/o Mohammad Shafiq Dar, R/o Yal, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, is applying for correction of her name in her Aadhaar records bearing adhaar no 554878008189. Her name has been wrongly recorded as Sakeena Bano instead of Sakeena Shafiq. If anyone has any objection to this correction, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Sd/- Sakeena Shafiq 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 Mariya Jan D/o Showkat Ahmad Bhat R/o Wailoo kralpora Tehsil kunzer with verified date of birth 28/07/2022 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 Abu Dujhan Shalla s/o Mumtaz Ahmad Shalla R/o Shalimar colony Sopore with verified date of birth 19/06/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ishfaq Ali Sofi, S/o Fida Hussain Sofi, R/o Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my academic certificates, including the marks sheets of Class 10th, 11th, and 12th, along with the qualification certificate of Class 10th. I have applied for the issuance of duplicate copies of these documents at JKBOSE.
Any person having any objection regarding the issuance of duplicate certificates in my name may approach JKBOSE within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Sd/- (Ishfaq Ali Sofi) S/o Fida Hussain Sofi Registration No:- NI2302180032 R/o Syed Merak Shah Colony, Habak Contact No:- 9622844579 Date: 05/04/2026 INF

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th) under Roll No. 112015003 Session: A/R Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my father's & mother's name as Mohammad Hashim Bhat & Afshana Begum instead of Muhammad Hashim Bhat Afshana Bagam
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Farhat Jan Father's name: Muhammad Hashim Bhat Mother's Name: Afshana Bagam DOB: 20-09-2009 Residence: Kharpora Bandipora Mobile no: 6005436625 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) JAMEELA AKHTAR to (New name) MAHJABEENA AKHTER . In future i will be known as (New Name) MAHJABEENA AKHTER. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
MAHJABEENA AKHTER W/O: PEER ZADA MANZOOR AHMAD MASOODI R/o: BAGANDER NAMLABAL PAMPORO. MCB

Subject. Grant of registration of the proposed paying Guest/homes stay unit under the name & Style of M/S. SERAVON STAY " situated at lane 3 Friends Enclave Airport Road Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Aamir Khan S/o Mustufa Khan R/o Madina Bagh ChanaPura srinagar Intnds to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Director of tourism for registration of my proposed paying Guest house/Home stay under the name and style " M/s. SERAVON STAY " situated at lane 3, Friends Enclave Airport Road Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit landownership certificate from concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy commissioner concerned rent/lease deed/partnership deed/issued by concerned sub-registrar, judicial magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as home stay), Character certificate of the applicant from the concerned police station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration public notice inviting objections, if any in the print media, list of family members Name, age, and photograph self attested by owner, photographs of the unit as mentioned in the applicant (such of exterior and individual be rooms and bathrooms), inspection report by the committee (The recommendation of the inspection committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the prescribed authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in adhaar card as Gulshan Akhter While my correct name is Gulshana Banoo . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..
Gulshana Banoo W/O Sartaj Ahmad Thoker R/o Checki Cholend Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/his adhaar card as Soman Shabir while his correct name is Mohammad Daniyal . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..
Shabir Ahmad Dalal F/o Mohammad Daniyal R/o Hergam Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/his adhaar card as Anas Bin Islam while his correct name is Afnan Yaseen . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..
Mohd Yaseen Sofi F/o Afnan Yaseen R/o Kharwara district Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certifice in favour of my daughter namely SHEERAZA BINT SAJAD who was born on 01-05-2013 at home. 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.
Sajad Hussain Dar F/o SHEERAZA BINT SAJAD R/o Uchlipora Tehsil Kunzer fko

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

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 301597 Class 10th Year & Session 2002 May June Registration: B78390523138 Name : Ajaz Ahmad Akhooon Father's Name: Gh Rasool Akhooon Mother's Name : Nani Begum Date of Birth:- 19-08-1983 Residenc:- Bandipora According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 19APB1- 4005660 be treated as "CANCELLED") No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/B/KD/ Dated fko Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

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

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 2424405 Class 10th Year & Session Annual (Pvt) Bi-Annual (2018-19) Registration: N14442900060 Name : Firdous Ahmad Gujjar Dar Father's Name: Ghulam Mohiud Din Gujjar Dar Mother's Name : Zoono Begum Date of Birth:- 08-12-2000 Residenc:- Koker Bagh According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 19APB1- 4005660 be treated as "CANCELLED") No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/B/KD/ Dated BMG Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my ward has been wrongly written in his/his adhaar card as Aiya Anjum While The Correct Name Is Aiya Anjum . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned Adhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar within Seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..
Bilal Ahmad Khan F/O Aayira Anjum R/O Poterwal Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Fazil Younus S/O Mohd Younus Wani R/O Chotigam Shopian Currently Studying At JNV Aglar Shopian hereby state that there is spelling mistak ein my name and my father's name in the school records . The correct name should be fazil younus S/O Mohd Younus Wani instead of Fazil Younis S/O Mohammad Younis Wani .If anybody has any objection in thsi regard he/ she may file them in the above mentioned school within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
FK

PUBLIC NOTICE

i have applied for the issuance of DOB certficate in favour of my my daughter Saniya Zehra D/O Mohammad Yousuf Dar who was born on 05-12-2015 as per certificate issued by Madina Public School Hanjiweera Payeen Pattan . 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.
Mohammad Yousuf Dar F/O Saniya Zehra R/O Kripalpora Payeen BMG_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearding consumer id no: 0206030001043 from my father's name Ghulam Ahmad Wani to my name Abdul Hameed Wani . 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.
Abdul Hameed S/o Ghulam Ahmad Wani R/O Roshanabad Magam bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certifice in favour of my daughter namely Insha Zehra who was born on 01-01-2015 at home. 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.
Sajad Hussain Dar F/o Insha Zehra R/o Uchlipora Tehsil Kunzer fko

100-Day Anti-Drug Campaign Begins

From Passports To Property, Nothing Will Be Spared: LG

'Absconders To Face Look-Out Notices Under NDPS Act'

Says Next 3 Months Will Sow Seeds Of Lasting Change

Observer News Service

Jammu: Delivering a stern warning to drug traffickers, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said that assets of drug smugglers will be seized, ringleaders prosecuted, and punishment delivered swiftly, as the administration launches an intensified crackdown across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Those who destroy society will face the full and uncompromising weight of the law. The full force of the law is now directed at smugglers. Their networks will be dismantled without delay," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He announced that the administration will confiscate all property of those involved in drug trafficking, revoke licenses, passports and Aadhaar, and freeze bank accounts, warning that the crackdown "will echo through generations."

Detailing the enforcement framework, the Lieutenant Governor said a new Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) has been put in place against drug traffickers. Under the SoP, passports, driving licenses, Aadhaar numbers and arms licenses of those involved in drug smuggling will be revoked. In cases where accused individuals are absconding, Look-Out Circulars will be issued immediately.

He added that both movable and immovable | [More on P6](#)



- "No youth, family or dream will be allowed to fall into addiction."
- "April 11 is not a ceremonial start but a transformative march."
- "This crackdown will echo through generations."
- "Not sympathy, but collective action is the need of the hour."
- "Drug abuse is among J&K's gravest challenges."
- "The full force of the law is now directed at smugglers."
- "Their networks will be dismantled without delay."
- "We have given voice to a resolve that will reach every home."
- "From awareness to enforcement, we will act at every level."
- "Turning information into responsibility through public participation."



Fragile Truce Tested As US, Iran Hold Face-to-face Talks In Pakistan

Agencies

Islamabad: The United States and Iran began unprecedented face-to-face negotiations Saturday in Pakistan, days after a fragile, two-week ceasefire was announced, as the war that has killed thousands of people and shaken global markets entered its seventh week.

The White House confirmed the direct nature of the talks, a rare instance of high-level engagement.

Iran's state-run news agency said three-party talks including Pakistan began after Iranian preconditions, including a reduction in Israeli strikes on southern Lebanon, were met, and after U.S. and Iranian officials met separately with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The U.S. delegation led



by Vice President JD Vance and the Iranian one led by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf were discussing how to advance the ceasefire already threatened by deep disagreements and Israel's continued attacks against Lebanon.

Vance is joined by Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law and personal advisor Jared Kushner, who took part in three rounds of indirect talks with Iranian negotiators before Trump and Israel launched the war against Iran | [More on P6](#)

Iran Sets 'Red Lines'

Iran doubled down on parts of its earlier proposal, with its delegation telling Iranian state television it had presented some of the plan's ideas as "red lines" in meetings with Sharif. Those included compensation for damage caused by U.S.-Israeli strikes that launched the war on Feb. 28 and releasing Iran's frozen assets. Shortly before departure, Qalibaf reiterated Tehran's firm conditions: a halt to Israeli attacks in Lebanon and the release of Iran's blocked assets must precede negotiations. The | [More on P6](#)

1st Indian Vessel Crosses Strait Of Hormuz

An India-flagged liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker, Jag Vikram, has crossed the Strait of Hormuz, marking the first such transit by an Indian vessel since a temporary two-week ceasefire between the United

States and Iran was announced. Ship tracking data showed the tanker moved through the strategic waterway between Friday night and Saturday morning and was located in the Gulf of Oman, east | [More on P6](#)

Panchayat Polls In J&K Unlikely for Now

Agencies

Srinagar: Even though the State Election Commission has initiated the process of revising Panchayat electoral rolls, the chances of holding local body elections in the near future appear bleak. Sources said that the elected government is not keen on conducting Panchayat polls anytime soon.

"There are no chances of the polls in the near future. The earliest window for any such exercise would be between September and December this year," sources disclosed.

A minister in the NC-led government, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the polls would be held at an appropriate time. "The matter has not been discussed yet," he added.

Sources further said the government is also averse to hold direct elections for the third-tier of the Panchayati Raj system, i.e., district development councils (DDCs). "No decision has been taken yet to disband direct elections for the third tier of the Panchayati Raj system, but there is a view among MLAs of both the ruling party and the opposition that DDCs encroach upon the mandate of MLAs. It is considered | [More on P6](#)

Wular Lake Revival Gains Ground

5 Sq Km Restored; 78 Lakh Cubic Metres Silt Cleared

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Conservation efforts at north Kashmir's Wular Lake, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and a crucial Ramsar site, have restored around five sq km of critically silted area and involved the phased removal of 1.31 lakh willow trees as part of a scientific plan to revive the wetland's ecological balance, officials said.

Nearly 78.43 lakh cubic metres of silt have been dredged to reclaim the lake area and enhance water-holding capacity. Protection bunds have been strengthened along about 15 km of vulnerable

stretches to prevent encroachments and provide flood buffering, the Wular Conservation and Management Authority officials said.

The eco-restoration drive is supported by infrastructure development, including a 2.5-km non-motorable walkway at Banyari-SK Payeen featuring cycling tracks and viewing points, along with the development of parks at multiple locations to promote eco-tourism.

Highlighting major achievements, the officials said the boundary demarcation of the lake has been completed by installing | [More on P6](#)



A shepherd tends to his flock in an orchard in Pampore. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

HC Stresses 'Utmost Expedition' In NDPS Trials

KO Correspondent

Jammu: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has underscored that trials under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act must be conducted with "utmost expedition," given the stringent bail provisions and severe punishments under the law.

"In cases under the NDPS Act, it is incumbent upon both the prosecution and the trial court to ensure that proceedings are concluded with the utmost expedition," said

a Bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, adding, "This mandate is particularly critical given the stringent punishments prescribed under the Act and the statutory embargo on bail for offences involving a commercial quantity."

The court made the observation while dismissing a bail application filed by one Afroz Ahmed Sheikh, a 60-year-old resident of Anantnag, who has been in custody for nearly five years in an NDPS case.

Sheikh had | [More on P6](#)

CM Hails SKUAST-K Achievement In Guochi Cultivation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday congratulated Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir for achieving a significant breakthrough in morel mushroom research, describing it as a major step towards strengthening scientific innovation and rural livelihoods.

In a message, the Chief Minister commended the researchers for their work, stating that such efforts

would not only enhance the region's agri-economy but also improve its standing in the global scientific and agricultural community.

The development relates to the successful standardization of cultivation techniques for morel mushrooms, locally known as Guochi mushroom, which have traditionally grown in the wild and are among the most expensive edible mushrooms in the world. Scientists at SKUAST-K have developed methods to grow the mushroom | [More on P6](#)

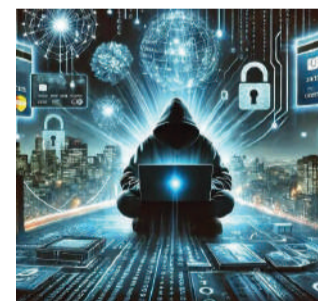
OTP, KYC, AI Scams On Rise As Cyber Crime Deepens In Kashmir

₹22 Lakh Recovered In 3 Months; Police | Children, Job Seekers, Elderly Among Flag Low Awareness As Key Risk | Most Vulnerable, Say Officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid a sharp rise in cyber crime cases across Kashmir, the Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE), Crime Branch Srinagar, has recovered over ₹22 lakh in the past three months, even as officials warn that lack of awareness remains the biggest factor behind people falling prey to online frauds.

Addressing a media workshop on Saturday, Deputy Superintendent of Police Ashiq



Hussain Malik said the spread of technology has made cyber crime more pervasive, leaving virtually every mobile phone

user exposed to potential fraud. "Today, almost everyone has access to a phone. The moment a person uses an internet-enabled device, they become vulnerable. Awareness is the only effective safeguard," Malik said.

He said the purpose of engaging the media was to amplify awareness campaigns beyond institutions and offices. "Through media, the message can reach lakhs of people instantly," he added.

Children, youth increasingly targeted | [More on P6](#)

Govt Directs SSSA Rollout By May-2026

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The government has directed the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) to ensure implementation of State School Standards Authority (SSSA) by May 2026.

Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir in a review meeting was informed that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has introduced several benchmarks to ensure quality in education across India.

One such key initiative is the establishment of the State School Standards Authority (SSSA) as an independent body.

The objective of the SSSA is to enable States and Union Territories to evaluate and ensure adherence | [More on P6](#)

Ladakh Finally Gets Separate Aadhaar Identity

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Nearly seven years after Ladakh was carved out as a separate Union Territory from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, Aadhaar records of its residents have finally been updated to reflect a distinct identity, with the 'Jammu and Kashmir' label replaced by 'Ladakh'.

The long-pending correction was implemented following the intervention of Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, officials said.

Despite the reorganisation of the erstwhile state in 2019, Aadhaar records of Ladakh residents continued to display 'Jammu and Kashmir' in the 'State' field, causing



inconvenience and drawing repeated public grievances. Taking note of the prolonged delay, the Lieutenant Governor directed the Union Territory administration to resolve the issue at the earliest. The matter was subsequently taken up with the Unique Identification Authority of India, which | [More on P6](#)

Brief Rain Spells, Mostly Dry Weather Ahead In J&K

MeT Advises Farmers To Resume Work

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Saturday forecast partly to generally cloudy weather with brief spells of light rain at scattered places across Jammu and Kashmir over the next few days.

Director Meteorological Department, Mukhtar Ahmad, said that on April 11, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy, with a possibility of brief light rain at scattered places, mainly towards the afternoon or evening hours.

He said that April 12 is



likely to remain generally dry, although a brief spell of light rain cannot be ruled out

at isolated places during the afternoon. From April 13 | [More on P6](#)

Unusual Tornado-Like Phenomenon Hits Akhnoor

Observer News Service

Jammu: A rare tornado-like weather event was reported in the Akhnoor area of Jammu on Saturday, lasting for around 10 minutes, with no damage recorded, according to Kashmir Weather.

The phenomenon, described as a localized tornado, was observed earlier in the day and drew attention due to its unusual occurrence in Jammu and Kashmir, where such events are rarely reported.

In a post-event analysis conducted nearly three hours after the incident, Kashmir Weather said Doppler weather radar data did not indicate any further potential for tornado activity in the region. | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir's Reform Problem

The Private Universities Bill opens a door, but only honest reform can keep young people home.



Dr. Harjeet Singh

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed the Private Universities Bill on April 4, 2026, with the usual fanfare about progress and opportunity.

The legislation promises regulatory oversight, UGC compliance, student protections, and a ban on capitation fees. It sounds thorough, promising, and like exactly the kind of measured step a responsible government should take.

It also sounds eerily familiar.

Every few years, Kashmir policymakers discover that young people are leaving. They note that families drain life savings to send children to universities in Delhi, Chandigarh, or Bangalore. They observe that government colleges host more pigeons than students.

They draft bills, hold press conferences, and declare that change has arrived. Then the headlines fade, the classrooms stay empty, and another batch of eighteen-year-olds buys one-way tickets out of Srinagar.

This bill risks becoming another well-intentioned paper promise unless leaders confront the harder truth: private universities will flourish only if public education stops failing so completely.

The numbers tell a story of collapse dressed up as stability.

Official reports boast that 26.17 lakh students enrolled across J&K schools in 2024-25. Girls' enrollment ratios look impressive on paper. Dropout rates appear manageable.

These statistics travel well in Delhi briefing rooms. But on the ground, the picture looks different.

Over 3,000 government schools run with ten or fewer students. Some have zero. Teachers still draw salaries at these ghost institutions, costing taxpayers over 13,800 crore rupees.

Since 2019, authorities have closed or merged 1,732 schools, mostly in the Jammu division.

In higher education, two government degree colleges have no students at all. Five host fewer than twenty, eight have fewer than thirty, and twenty-four struggle to reach one hundred enrollees.

Parents know what the data reveals.

They watch their neighbours sell jewelry to afford private school fees. They see government teachers enrolling their own children in the very private institutions they publicly criticize. They understand that "free" education often means no electricity, no functional toilets, absent instructors, and textbooks that mention industries that closed decades ago.

When a mother in Budgam sells her gold to move her daughter to a private school, she makes a rational



“The Private Universities Bill deserves both support and skepticism. Laws do not educate children, functional institutions, committed teachers, relevant curricula, and honest accountability do. Until Kashmir builds those, the new universities will stand as monuments to aspiration rather than achievement: expensive buildings waiting for students who have already learned to look elsewhere.”

calculation. When a labourer earning 8,000 rupees monthly sacrifices everything for private tuition, he votes with his wallet.

These families are choosing against the state system because the state system has given them no reason to stay.

The Private Universities Bill addresses the supply side of this crisis.

It invites credible private investment under clear rules, creates mechanisms for monitoring and accountability, and provides scholarships for needy students and mandates local reservations. These provisions matter.

Quality private institutions could reduce the annual exodus of Kashmiri students. They could create teaching jobs for the thousands of postgraduates currently unemployed. They might offer curricula aligned with actual market needs, including data science, healthcare management, tourism technology, and renewable energy engineering, rather than the theoretical programs that dominate public colleges.

Other states have shown this works.

Haryana attracted Ashoka University and O.P. Jindal Global University by emphasizing interdisciplinary learning and research. Rajasthan expanded private university access into smaller towns while maintaining standards. Karnataka built early partnerships between technical institutes and industry, creating pipelines

that kept talent local.

J&K could replicate these models. The bill provides the regulatory foundation. What remains unclear is whether officials will treat private universities as partners in a broader ecosystem or as competitors to be constrained by bureaucracy.

The deeper problem lies upstream. Private universities cannot succeed while primary and secondary education hemorrhages students. They cannot fill their classrooms with qualified applicants when government schools produce graduates who struggle with basic literacy. They cannot build research cultures when the pipeline feeding them carries students who have learned to memorize rather than question.

The bill supporters argue that private higher education will pressure public institutions to improve. Competition, they say, forces everyone to raise their game. This theory works in markets where consumers have genuine choice and institutions face real consequences for failure.

Neither condition applies in Kashmir's education sector.

Government schools continue operating regardless of enrollment. Teachers retain posts whether students learn or leave. Colleges stay open with twenty students because closure would admit policy failure. The system absorbs dysfunction without correction.

Private universities entering this environment face a paradox.

They must attract students who have already rejected local public education, while competing against established institutions in other states that have built reputations over generations. They must convince parents that staying in Kashmir makes sense when every signal suggests leaving offers better odds.

The legislation also raises questions about implementation that its text cannot answer.

Who will serve on the regulatory authority? How will inspections avoid becoming opportunities for rent-seeking? What happens when an institution faces genuine financial distress? Will the state allow closure, or prop up failing schools to protect jobs? How will scholarship funds flow to actual needy students rather than politically connected applicants?

These details determine whether the bill becomes a genuine opening or another layer of formal process atop informal failure.

Kashmiri youth deserve more than legislative gestures. They need an education system that prepares them to build lives in the valley and stay.

The Private Universities Bill could become part of that system. It opens a door, but doors matter only if rooms worth entering lie behind them.

Right now, too many of Kashmir's educational rooms stand empty, their windows broken, their blackboards blank, and their potential wasted.

Passing this law was the easy part. The harder work requires looking honestly at why parents have lost faith, why teachers have stopped believing, and why young people keep leaving. It requires fixing government schools with the same energy devoted to attracting private investors.

It means making public education functional rather than merely present.

Half-measures have defined Kashmir's educational policy for too long. This bill represents another half-measure: necessary, welcome, and insufficient on its own.

Real change demands courage officials have rarely shown: the courage to close failing schools, retrain ineffective teachers, redesign outdated curricula, and admit that enrollment statistics mean nothing if learning does not happen.

Kashmiri young people have waited long enough. They have watched their elders promise reform while delivering paperwork. They have seen classrooms empty and talent depart. They have learned to distrust official announcements because official announcements rarely match official outcomes.

The Private Universities Bill deserves both support and skepticism. Laws do not educate children, functional institutions, committed teachers, relevant curricula, and honest accountability do.

Until Kashmir builds those, the new universities will stand as monuments to aspiration rather than achievement: expensive buildings waiting for students who have already learned to look elsewhere.

The author is from Tral and serves as an Assistant Professor of History at Akal University, Punjab. His work engages with the Sikh Empire, historiography, and a range of social, philosophical, and cultural issues. He can be reached at aishxing@gmail.com.

No Day Off for Mothers

On National Safe Motherhood Day, one Kashmiri daughter asks why we celebrate mothers once a year while ignoring their daily exhaustion.



Rakshanda Gul

My mother wakes before dawn. She prays, then she cooks. She began this routine in her parents' home, continued it in her in-laws' house, and maintains it today, decades later.

I once asked her, directly, whether she ever felt exhausted by this endless repetition. She looked at me, called me "Meri Jaan," and said simply: "It is my duty."

That word, duty, contains multitudes. It speaks to a love so absolute it erases itself, and points to a sacrifice so complete it becomes invisible.

My mother completed her "duty" through fevers, pain, and days when her body begged for rest. She smiled through it, and taught me that a woman's strength lies in her silence, sympathy, and spirit to disappear into the needs of others.

I am writing this on National Safe Motherhood Day, an occasion meant to honour women like my mother. The irony strikes me hard.

We dedicate one day to maternal health, one day to recognising the physical toll of pregnancy, the sleep deprivation of new motherhood, and the emotional labour of raising children. We spread awareness about nutrition and medical care.

Then we return to our structures, expectations, and assumption that mothers will simply continue, silently, completely, without complaint.

My mother wombed me for nine months. Her body transformed, hormones surged, and bones shifted to accommodate my growth. She endured labour, the tearing pain of delivery, and the immediate demand to nurse and nurture while her own body bled and healed.

Then she simply returned to her "duty".

She cooked while I slept, cleaned while I cried, and held the entire household together through sheer force of will. She called this love.

She calls it love because our language gives her few alternatives.

We lack words for the labour of care, the invisible architecture of meals prepared, clothes washed, fevers monitored, and emotions soothed.

We call these tasks "natural," as though nature itself demands that women alone perform them. We call them "instinct," as though instinct replaces sleep, nutrition, medical attention, and rest.

When I asked my mother about emergencies, she answered with the same gentle deflection. "You will learn these things," she told me. "Life teaches."

She meant to prepare me, but her words held an impact I am only now beginning to understand.

My mother was passing down a legacy of strength, teaching me that a woman's value lies in her capacity to absorb pressure without cracking.

This inheritance worries me. I watch my mother today, still waking early, still cooking for everyone, and still placing herself last in every calculation of need.



She deserves better.

In fact, she deserved better thirty years ago, when she first entered this kitchen. She deserves a society that recognises her labour as labour, that counts her exhaustion as real, and that gives support without requiring crisis as the price of admission.

National Safe Motherhood Day asks us to consider proper nutrition and medical care for pregnant women. These matter enormously. But the day also reveals our narrow imagination.

We focus on the biological event of motherhood, like pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period, while ignoring the lifetime of service that follows.

We worry about maternal mortality rates while remaining blind to maternal depletion, the slow erosion of health and identity that comes from decades of unpaid, unrecognised care work.

My mother taught me patience, responsibility, and that love expresses itself through service, self-denial, and the willingness to disappear.

These lessons defined as well as limited me. I am only now learning that love can include boundaries, that care can include reciprocity, and that strength can include asking for help.

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, instructed his followers to treat women with kindness and respect. These teachings reach across centuries, providing guidance we still need.

Kindness means seeing the labour we prefer to ignore, while respect means recognising the person beneath the role. It means asking my mother what she needs, rather than assuming she needs nothing.

Kashmiri society, like many others, rests upon the invisible work of women. Our mothers and sisters maintain the homes, raise the children, preserve the traditions, and absorb the shocks. They do this without complaint because complaint brings no relief. They do this with love because love gives meaning, even when the structure itself remains unjust.

This day could mark a genuine shift. Families could begin by asking different questions. Instead of "What is for dinner?" we might ask "Who will prepare dinner, and do they have time?"

Instead of assuming mothers manage everything, we might assume they deserve rest. We might recognise that healthy mothers need more than medical check-ups. They require redistribution of labour, and recognition of their humanity beyond their utility.

My mother still smiles through her exhaustion. She still calls her endless service "duty." I am learning to hear that word differently now.

Duty can mean love, but it can also mean a trap, a cage built from expectation and absence of alternatives.

True love, I am coming to believe, would give her escape from this particular cage. True respect would insist upon it.

The author can be reached at rakshandagul629@gmail.com.

Grains That Moved Empires

A small berry from the Western Ghats set vast networks in motion, binding ecologies, markets, and empires across the Indian Ocean and beyond.



Muskan Shafi Malik

When read through the lens of material culture, history often discloses that seemingly inconsiderable objects possess elephantine structural power.

Among such objects stands black pepper (*Piper nigrum*), indigenous to the Malabar Coast.

It emerges as an active historical agent, a commodity with force and consequence, and pierced economic systems, reoriented trade circuits, and reconfigured the geopolitical imagination of both the Indian subcontinent and the wider world. Its acerbity extended beyond taste into the making of history.

To understand pepper is to grasp the longue durée of Indian Ocean commerce and the piecemeal advent of early modern globalization.

The ecological specificity of pepper anchors its history. Cultivated primarily along the humid, biodiverse slopes of the Western Ghats, pepper germinates within a narrow geographical niche. This ecological boundedness renders it both rare and valuable.

Biological endowments, as environmental historian Alfred Crosby's framework suggests, often buttress imperial and commercial expansions. In the Indian case, pepper stood as one such endowment, rooted in the soil of Kerala and carried outward into global circulation.

Yavanapriya, literally "dear to the Yavanas," names black pepper in ancient Sanskrit. The term captures the intensity of historical demand for the spice among foreigners, particularly the Greeks and Romans, and situates pepper within an early world of desire, exchange, and en-

counter.

Within the domain of Ayurveda, references to pepper appear among the earliest in the Indian subcontinent. The Charaka Samhita, the great classical text of India, conceptualizes it as a medicinal substance integral to bodily balance.

By the early centuries BCE, pepper moved beyond this therapeutic sphere and entered wider circuits of exchange. It found a place within long-distance trade networks linking India to the Mediterranean world, as evidenced in both texts and archaeological remains.

The port of Muziris emerged as a principal entrepôt for pepper exports, revealing the extent to which this spice had become embedded in transoceanic commerce.

The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, a first-century CE Greco-Roman text, records this prominence in detail, situating pepper at the heart of an expanding maritime world.

Roman demand for pepper was intense and structurally consequential. Luxury consumption, with pepper foremost among its objects, drained the empire's wealth, as Pliny the Elder lamented in his account of the outflow of Roman gold to India.

Historians have often cited this observation as evidence of a proto-global economic imbalance. But a fuller reading presents it as a manifestation of India's centrality in early global trade networks. As R. S. Sharma argued, "India's role in ancient trade was not peripheral but pivotal, driven by the export of high-value commodities like spices."

K. N. Chaudhuri conceptualized the Indian Ocean as an integrated economic zone, characterized by seasonal monsoon winds and intricate mercantile networks. Within this system, pepper occupied a central node.

The Indian Ocean functioned as a dynamic arena of interaction, an active field of exchange and connection. It linked the agrarian hinterlands of Kerala with port cities such as Muziris and Calicut, which in turn connected to the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.

The circulation of pepper thus



exemplified what Fernand Braudel termed the *économie-monde*, a world-economy structured around the flows of goods, capital, and information.

What distinguishes the Indian pepper trade from later European mercantilism lies in its embeddedness within an ethical framework and a broader cultural order. Trade in pre-modern India formed no autonomous sphere. It remained integrated into the normative order of dharma. Economic activity was regulated and sustained through ethical conduct, as merchants operated within guilds known as *shrenis*.

This institutional context fostered trust and stability, enabling long-distance trade to flourish through shared norms and mutual obligation. As Romila Thapar notes,

"Economic exchanges in early India were often mediated by social institutions that combined commercial and cultural functions."

However, the very success of these networks rendered them susceptible to external intervention.

By the medieval period, Arab traders had come to dominate the western Indian Ocean trade, acting as intermediaries between Indian producers and European consumers. Pepper continued to flow, but its routes moved through Islamic commercial networks that stretched from Cairo to Calicut.

This phase underscores the adaptability of Indian trade systems, which accommodated new actors while preserving their internal logic and continuity.

The voyage of Vasco da Gama in 1498 marked a decisive shift.



BY THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD, ARAB TRADERS HAD COME TO DOMINATE THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN TRADE, acting as intermediaries between Indian producers and European consumers. Pepper continued to flow, but its routes moved through Islamic commercial networks that stretched from Cairo to Calicut.

A rupture took place with the arrival of European maritime powers at the close of the fifteenth century. The Portuguese sought to control existing trade networks through force, unlike their predecessors. Pepper, in this context, became both the motive and the means of imperial expansion.

The establishment of fortified trading posts and the imposition of cartaz (naval passes) signaled the militarization of commerce.

Historians interpret this transformation as a critical moment in the transition from pre-modern to early modern economic systems.

The spice trade, particularly pepper, stood at the center of the emergence of a connected global economy. European intervention reconfigured these networks, introducing new forms of competition, coercion, and capital accumulation, as argued by Sanjay Subrahmanyam.

The history of pepper invites a reconsideration of agency in historical processes from a theoretical perspective. It expands the field of inquiry beyond human actors and brings material objects into focus as forces that shape historical trajectories.

Pepper acted as well as endured. Its rarity created demand, its demand generated trade, and its trade drew empires into motion.

In this sense, pepper appears as an "actant," a non-human entity that participates in the construction of social reality, in the sense articulated by Bruno Latour.

The story of pepper unsettles Eurocentric narratives of global-

ization and restores the Indian Ocean as an early arena of vibrant exchange, with India at its core. Pepper came to symbolize this pre-colonial globality, where ecological swings, cultural norms, and commercial ambition moved in concert.

The European quest for this spice redirected these currents and redefined their course. In time, control over spice routes drew colonial powers into deeper entanglements with Indian polities. Pepper, once a sign of economic vitality, entered the structures of imperial domination and marked a wider shift from centrality to marginalization, from autonomy to subordination.

Today, the study of such commodities illuminates global history with renewed clarity. Pepper reveals how cultures guide commerce, ecologies sustain economies, and material objects carry historical force.

In essence, pepper stands at the heart of the making of the modern world.

From the small, dark grains of Malabar arose movements that stirred oceans, linked civilizations, and altered the balance of power.

In this infinitesimal form resided an immense energy, echoing the idea of *anu*, where the smallest unit holds the vastness of history within it.

—The author is pursuing MA History at Aligarh Muslim University. She can be reached at muskanshafimalik@gmail.com.

Beyond the Job Title

One young Kashmiri educator reflects on how leaving work revived her sense of self, purpose, and peace.



Noorshreen Mushtaq

Leaving my last job meant stepping away from a workplace and stepping closer to myself.

At the time, it felt like a difficult decision, one filled with doubt and second thoughts. Now, when I look back, I realise it was one of those choices that change you from within.

For the longest time, I believed that my job defined me. My days revolved around it, my mood depended on it, and somewhere along the way, I started losing the line between who I was and what I did.

A good day at work felt like I was doing well in life, and a bad day made everything else feel heavy.

I remained unaware of the moment when work slowly stopped being just a responsibility and started becoming my identity.

The most important lesson I learnt is something simple and deeply powerful: a job is only a part of your life. Your life extends far beyond it. It took me time to truly understand this. Work is something you do, but your identity extends beyond your role.

Your life is far bigger, richer, and more meaningful than any role you hold.

A job is just a part of your day. It fills certain hours, asks for your focus, and expects your effort, but it



does not take over your entire being. I learnt this the hard way, by carrying stress home, overthinking small things, and giving more of myself than I should have.

And in doing so, I realised how important it is to draw a line.

Setting boundaries was another lesson that changed everything for me. I used to think saying yes to everything meant I was sincere and hardworking. In reality, it left me drained. I began to understand that being present at work means maintaining focus during working hours rather than constant availability.

It is okay to decline requests, protect your time, and choose yourself without feeling guilty.

Boundaries act as gentle frameworks for self-respect. They remind you that your energy is limited and valuable. When you start respecting your own limits, you stop expecting others to define them for you.

I also learnt that your worth extends beyond how much you overwork yourself. You can express dedication without constant exhaustion. There is strength in balance, in knowing when to step back, and in understanding that rest carries strength.

Beyond all of this, I discovered something even more meaningful:

life exists outside of work.

There are dreams that are waiting for your attention, passions that deserve your time, and relationships that need your presence. There are calm evenings, unfinished thoughts, and little moments that make life beautiful, all of which deserve space alongside professional life.

Leaving my last job taught me professional lessons alongside personal insights. It taught me how to value my time, peace, and myself. It also reminded me that I am more than my work, responsibilities, and any single role I play.

Today, I carry this understanding with me. I still believe in working hard, in being sincere, and in giving my best. I also believe in stopping when it is enough, in choosing peace over pressure, and in remembering that my life will always be bigger than my job.

And maybe that is the most important lesson I learnt, learning how to work better alongside learning how to live better.

—The author is a teacher and writer who finds meaning in everyday experiences. She can be reached at noorshreen9051@gmail.com.

The Pilgrimage of Friendship

A Kashmiri memoir of hospitality, Haj, and human connection that transcended geography and religion.



Syed Nissar Hussain Gilani

To many, the sprawling metropolis of Bombay, now Mumbai, can feel like a labyrinth of strangers, but for me, it was never a strange place.

My relationship with the city began in 1969, during a 15-day educational tour as a post-graduate Zoology student at Kashmir University. We were guided by the world-renowned zoologist, the late Prof. Dr. M. K. Das, whose mentorship made that trip unforgettable.

Dr. Das went beyond the curriculum, even arranging a visit to a film studio where the shooting of the iconic movie *Aradhana* was taking place. It was there that we, as wide-eyed students, had the rare privilege of meeting and shaking hands with the "First Superstar," Rajesh Khanna, and the graceful Sharmila Tagore.

The city called me back in 1971 when I was selected by one of India's top pharmaceutical companies to undergo a rigorous nine-month training program, eventually earning a diploma in Basic Health Services.

By the time 1978 arrived, Bombay was a landscape of familiar faces and deep-rooted friendships.

In September that year, I re-

turned to the city to see off my mother for her Haj pilgrimage, a voyage that then began with a ship's departure from the city's docks toward the Hijaz. During those years, my stay was made comfortable by a dear friend, the late Qazi Mohammad Amin.

An IAS officer from Kashmir then deputed to the Foreign Service, Qazi Sahib served as the Executive Officer of the Haj Committee from 1978 to 1985. His kindness was boundless. He frequently opened his official residence to us, providing a sanctuary for my parents and later for

pleasantries. Truly, great people never die. They live on in the hearts of their friends.

It was during that 1978 stay that serendipity struck in the chaotic, treasure-filled lanes of Chor Bazaar.

I overheard a gentleman and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Sharma, debating the purchase of warm jackets for an upcoming trip to Kashmir. Stepping forward, I offered advice on the local climate and impulsively scribbled my address at Yarkand House, Mallaratta, and my landline number, 4144, into their hands.



The author and his wife seen standing with Mr and Mrs Sharma at the gates of Santa Cruz airport Bombay. Circa, September 1981.

my wife and me.

It was also at the Bombay docks that I met Mr. Pednekar, then a Sub-Inspector in the police. Our professional encounter quickly blossomed into a bond as deep as the one I shared with the Sharmas. We maintained a close friendship until he passed away a few years ago.

Today, that legacy continues through his son, Mr. Tushar, with whom I frequently exchange

By October 1978, the Sharma family arrived in Srinagar. As a vegetarian family, they were treated to the culinary mastery of my wife and grandmother. The dining table at Yarkand House became a bridge of cultures.

I recall their delight over the coriander mushroom soup and the cottage cheese dishes. However, the true highlight was the Saffron Kehwa, served with almond slivers in the traditional

manner.

During their short stay, we ensured their Himalayan holiday was draped in the finest Kashmiri hospitality.

The true depth of this bond revealed itself in 1981, when my wife and I were blessed to perform the Haj at the young age of our early thirties. Though we had the standing invitation of the late Qazi Amin's residence, the Sharmas insisted we begin our journey from their flat at Bandra.

In a beautiful display of communal harmony, I stood in the white robes of Ihram inside the Sharmas' home. While many Muslim families in the same tower gathered to see us off, it was Mr. Sharma who, in his traditional way, struck a hard coconut on the ground just minutes before we boarded the car for the airport, a sacred invocation for a journey without obstacles.

Our families remained in touch for nearly fifty years. We watched through letters as his sons, Rajeev and Sanjeev, grew up. Eventually, the Sharmas moved from their iconic seaside addresses at Carter Road and Marine Drive to Nashik.

Sadly, the correspondence eventually grew silent. Mr. and Mrs. Sharma have passed on, as has Sanjeev in 2013.

Looking at a 1979 letter from Mr. Sharma today, I am reminded that friendship is a duty of the heart.

May they rest in eternal peace, knowing the bridge they built remains unshakable in memory.

—The author is a former civil servant from the administrative service and can be reached at nisargilani57743@gmail.com.

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

From Passports To

properties of offenders will be attached under the NDPS Act, while bank accounts will be frozen and financial investigations launched to dismantle the entire network of drug trafficking.

Highlighting the role of cross-border smuggling, the Lieutenant Governor said such activities were aimed at poisoning communities and undermining the nation's future. "Every officer carries one obligation: this must stop," he asserted.

The strong enforcement push comes alongside the launch of a mass movement for a "Drug-Free Jammu and Kashmir," which the Lieutenant Governor formally flagged off from MA Stadium in Jammu.

Thousands of citizens from different walks of life participated in the padyatra from MA Stadium to Parade Ground, marking the beginning of a 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor described drug abuse as one of the gravest challenges facing the Union Territory and called for a unified societal response.

"We have given voice to a resolve that will reach every village, town, city, home, and heartbeat in the Union Territory, fulfilling the pledge of a drug-free region," he said.

Outlining the campaign's roadmap, he said the next three months are pivotal and the programme will advance in six phases: awareness-intensive drives, youth-focused events, community engagement, strict enforcement, rehabilitation, and evaluation.

"We pledge resolutely that the administration will not let any youth, family, or dream fall into the dark abyss of addiction. Drug addiction statistics may show percentages and case files, but behind each lies a vivid story—a family's struggle and agony," he said.

Emphasising the need for collective responsibility, he added, "Drug-free J&K campaign demands not just sympathy but collective action. It is not an individual plight but a collective crisis, not one family's tragedy but a challenge to us all."

The Lieutenant Governor said that the three-month-long people's movement aims to transform awareness into responsibility through active public participation.

"Bound by shared purpose, we will rise against drug abuse and claim the victory that awaits us," he said.

He also announced that new rules have been notified for substance use disorder treatment, counselling and rehabilitation centres in Jammu and Kashmir. These rules are aimed at ensuring that every centre is genuine, adequately staffed, equipped with necessary resources, and operates under continuous monitoring. Action will be taken against centres functioning in violation of these norms.

To strengthen grassroots enforcement, the Lieutenant Governor directed senior officers to ensure swift action on complaints and enhance intelligence gathering with the help of panchayats, mohalla committees, chowkidars, lambardars and ward surveillance committees to identify offenders.

"Our strength lies in collective action. When departments unite with shared purpose, we prevail," he said, adding that since early 2021 the administration has moved beyond planning to decisive implementation, expanding outreach to previously untouched communities, engaging youth in schools, and strengthening rehabilitation services.

"No individual faces this battle alone; the administration stands firmly committed," he added.

Calling for widespread participation, the Lieutenant Governor urged youth, social workers, community leaders, teachers, women and athletes to take the lead in the campaign.

"The next three months will sow seeds of lasting change. Let anti-drug sports tournaments brim with fervour, debates strengthen youth resolve, and awareness programmes embed responsibility. From panchayats to cities, every march and marathon must declare that J&K will never bow to drugs," he said.

He further emphasised that from village chaupals to district headquarters, every event should reflect the spirit of a mass movement, backed by continuous review and feedback to refine strategies.

"April 11 is not a ceremonial start but the first step of a transformative march. Let us build a movement so broad, so resolute, and so deeply people-driven that it lays the foundation of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the anti-drug pledge to citizens and unveiled the official campaign mascot. Cultural performances, awareness videos and public participation along the padyatra route reinforced the message, with civil society groups and business organisations extending support to the initiative.

Fragile Truce Tested

President Trump has tasked the member of his inner circle who has seemed to be the most reluctant defender of the war on Iran to now find a resolution and stave off the US president's astonishing threat to wipe out its "whole civilisation".

Vance, who has long been skeptical of foreign military interventions and outspoken about the prospect of sending troops into open-ended conflicts, to lead talks with Iran. "If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand," Vance told reporters before boarding Air Force Two to make his way to the talks in Pakistan.

Now talks are underway between Vance, a reluctant defender of the war who has little diplomatic experience and warned Iran not to "try and play us," and Qalibaf, a former commander with Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard who has issued some of Iran's most fiery statements since fighting began.

Iran Sets 'Red

demands are rooted in a 10-point proposal that forms the basis of the current ceasefire

framework.

"Two measures ... must be fulfilled before negotiations begin," he said, warning that diplomacy would otherwise lack credibility.

Upon arrival, Qalibaf struck a sceptical tone, citing what he described as repeated American "betrayal" during past negotiations. "We have goodwill, but we do not have trust," he said, adding that Iran would only engage meaningfully if Washington demonstrated genuine commitment to recognising Iranian rights.

He warned that any attempt to use talks as a "deception operation" would be met with resistance, stressing Iran's readiness to defend its interests independently.

The war has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, 1,953 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states, and caused lasting damage to infrastructure in half a dozen Middle Eastern countries. Iran's chokehold on the vital Strait of Hormuz has largely cut off the Persian Gulf and its oil and gas exports from the global economy, sending energy prices soaring.

Reflecting the high stakes, officials from the region said Chinese, Egyptian, Saudi and Qatari officials were in Islamabad to indirectly facilitate the talks. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter.

A fragile ceasefire under strain

The negotiations follow a tenuous truce announced earlier this week by Pakistan's prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, who in a televised address to his nation on Friday, described the talks as a "make-or-break moment" for the two sides.

Yet divisions over the scope of the ceasefire threaten to undermine progress. Iran insists that Israeli military operations in Lebanon fall within the truce, while Israel and Washington have rejected that interpretation, continuing strikes against Hezbollah targets.

The dispute has already pushed the ceasefire to the brink. Iran's effective shuttering of the waterway has had a major impact on the US and global economies. In the United States, consumer prices rose 3.3 per cent in March from a year earlier, the Labour Department reported Friday. The largest monthly jump in gas prices in six decades spurred the sharp spike in inflation. Still, Trump expressed confidence in an exchange with reporters on Friday evening about the US position going into the talks. He predicted that the strait will soon be reopened "with or without" Tehran's cooperation.

It's the highest-stakes moment thus far for Vance, who spent much of last year as more of a background player in the Trump White House, especially as others like Elon Musk and Secretary of State Marco Rubio took turns as ever-present advisers for the president. "I wished him luck. He's got a big thing," Trump said of his parting message to Vance before he began his journey to Islamabad.

Vance's portfolio is fattening fast, first with a mission to root out fraud in government programmes at home and now to help solve a US war in the Middle East, where 'complicated' doesn't even begin to describe things. Vance, who served in the Iraq War while in the Marines and spent two years as a US senator for Ohio and a little more than one as vice president, has little diplomatic experience.

Rare diplomatic opening

Despite the tensions, the Islamabad meeting represents one of the most significant direct engagements between the two countries since the Iranian Revolution. The last comparable contact came in 2013, when Barack Obama spoke by phone with then Iranian president Hassan Rouhani.

With both sides publicly entrenched yet diplomatically engaged, the coming days in Islamabad will test whether mutual suspicion can give way to a workable agreement — or whether the fragile ceasefire collapses under the weight of competing demands. (inputs from AP and Trans Asia News)

1st Indian Vessel

of the Strait on Saturday afternoon, proceeding eastwards.

The vessel movement was also confirmed by a government statement giving an update on developments in West Asia.

"The India-flagged LPG vessel Jag Vikram has safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz today (Saturday)," it said. "The vessel is carrying approximately 20,400 tonnes of LPG cargo with 24 seafarers onboard. It is expected to arrive at Mumbai on April 15, 2026."

Jag Vikram is the ninth Indian vessel to exit the Persian Gulf since early March, while about 15 India-flagged ships remain in the region, awaiting passage.

Owned by Mumbai-based Great Eastern Shipping Company, Jag Vikram is a mid-sized gas carrier with a deadweight capacity of over 26,000 tonnes.

At least 28 India-flagged vessels were in the Strait of Hormuz region when the West Asia conflict erupted, including 24 on the western side and four on the eastern side of the waterway.

Prior to Jag Vikram's transit, eight vessels from the western side and two from the eastern side had managed to sail to safety. Several foreign-flagged ships carrying India-bound cargo also remain stranded in the Persian Gulf.

According to MarineTraffic data, hundreds of vessels remain in the region, including 426 tankers, 34 LPG carriers and 19 LNG vessels, many of which had been effectively stranded amid the disruption.

The government statement said that port operations across India remain normal, with no congestion reported.

"The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways continues to coordinate with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Missions, and maritime stakeholders to ensure seafarer welfare and uninterrupted maritime operations," it added.

India, the world's third-largest energy consumer and fourth-largest gas user, imports about 88 per cent of its crude oil, around half of its natural gas needs and nearly 60 per cent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) requirement, underscoring its dependence on overseas supplies.

More than half of crude imports, about 40 per cent of gas and up to 85-90 per cent of LPG

shipments come from Gulf countries and pass through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy corridor that was shut during the West Asia conflict.

India curtailed LPG supplies to commercial users such as hotels and restaurants after disruptions to Gulf energy flows, before restoring about 70 per cent of pre-crisis volumes as alternative supplies were secured.

Natural gas supplies were initially cut to industries, including fertiliser plants, to prioritise CNG for transport and piped cooking gas for households. Supplies to fertiliser units have since been partially restored, with operating urea plants receiving about 80 per cent of recent average consumption, while overall allocation to the sector has been raised to around 95 per cent this week.

Gas availability to other industrial and commercial users has also been increased gradually, though it remains below normal levels.

City gas distributors have been directed to prioritise piped natural gas connections for commercial establishments, including hotels, restaurants and canteens, as part of efforts to shift demand away from LPG. PTI

Panchayat Polls

better to revert to indirect elections for the third tier," sources disclosed.

A senior government official pointed out that the cabinet is yet to take a final call on the report submitted by a panel headed by former High Court Judge Justice Janak Raj Kotwal, which determined reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

"The cabinet has to decide whether to adopt or reject the report," he said.

The revision of Panchayat electoral rolls is currently underway in Jammu & Kashmir and is scheduled to be completed by May 15, 2026, with the publication of the final rolls.

The electoral rolls for urban local bodies in J&K will only be available after Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise is carried out in the Union Territory. The State Election Commission lacks updated electoral rolls for urban local bodies of J&K because the Election Commission of India conducted the last revision in 2024.(KNO)

5 Sq Km Restored

1,159 geo-referenced RCC pillars using GPS and remote sensing technology.

They said the revenue area of Wular Lake is 130 sq km, which aids protection and prevents further encroachments.

Desiltation has restored about five sq km of critically silted lake area by dredging 78.43 lakh cubic metres of silt, enhancing the lake's water-holding capacity.

Bund consolidation has been undertaken by strengthening earthen embankments along 15 km of vulnerable stretches to prevent encroachments and provide flood buffering to the local communities residing around Wular Lake, the officials said.

Construction of the non-motorable walkway Phase-II is in the process and expected to start shortly.

Meanwhile, they said the upgradation of Delta Park, Baniyari, at a cost of Rs 2.50 cr, Gurura Park at Rs 4.70 crore, and the construction of Eco-Park at Ningli, Sopore at a cost of Rs 4.90 cr, are under execution.

Two watch towers equipped with CCTV cameras have been constructed, while four additional CCTVs are being installed this year, they said.

Accordingly, the removal of willow plantations within the jurisdiction of Wular Lake is being undertaken as a habitat management and lake restoration measure, in line with the approved Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP) objectives, they said, adding this activity involves ecological restoration intervention and cannot be construed as deforestation.

It does not involve diversion or degradation of forest land but rather the removal of invasive or ecologically adverse vegetation to restore the natural wetland character of Wular Lake.

They said the number of willow trees in and around Wular Lake is 19-21 lakh. However, the CMAP does not envisage blanket removal of all willow plantations. Instead, it prescribes selective, phased, and need-based removal, aligned with specific lake restoration and habitat management objectives. In the first phase, 1.91 lakh willow trees were identified for removal, of which around 1.35 lakh have already been cleared. Revenue generated from these interventions stands at approximately 31.95 crore, officials said.

However, afforestation is conducted in the catchment of the lake in close coordination with the Forest Territorial Wing through approved funding mechanisms, including CAPEX and CAMPA schemes under which 19 lakh plants have been planted since the Authority was established in 2012, the officials said.

In the Bandipora catchment of Wular Lake, an area exceeding 2,900 hectares has been treated through afforestation, plantation, and soil conservation measures, they said, adding more than 19 lakh plants have been planted under these initiatives, contributing significantly to slope stabilisation, erosion control, and reduction of sediment load entering the lake.

CM Hails SKUAST-K

under controlled conditions, including greenhouse and open-field environments, potentially transforming it from a forest-dependent product into a scalable agricultural enterprise.

Officials and experts have said the breakthrough could reduce dependence on wild collection, ensure consistent supply, and open new income avenues for farmers, particularly in hilly regions.

The Chief Minister said such innovation reflects the growing role of scientific institutions in driving economic and agricultural transformation in Jammu and Kashmir.

OTP, KYC, AI Scams

targeted through social media platforms, where accounts are hacked and personal photographs misused or altered using artificial intelligence.

"These images are morphed into objectionable content and used to blackmail victims by threatening to share them with family or friends," he said.

For youth, particularly students and job seekers, fraudsters exploit aspirations by offering fake scholarships, admissions in reputed institutions, or lucrative job opportunities in India and abroad.

"They demand money for registration, travel or processing. Once the payment is made, the link disappears," he said.

Business, investment scams on rise

The officer said members of the business community are also falling victim to fraudulent investment schemes promising high returns.

"If a product worth 1,000 is being offered for 200, it should immediately raise suspicion. Such offers must always be verified before any transaction," he cautioned.

OTP, KYC and impersonation frauds

Malik said a large number of cyber frauds revolve around OTP sharing, fake KYC verification, and impersonation calls posing as bank or service officials.

"In earlier times, valuables were kept in lockers. Today, everything—banking, identity, money—is stored in your phone. Sharing credentials is equivalent to handing over your entire security," he said.

He also cited cases where fraudsters exploit emergency situations, such as shortages of essential commodities, to trick victims into sharing OTPs or personal details.

"Digital arrest" a myth

Highlighting a new trend, Malik warned against the so-called "digital arrest" scam, where fraudsters threaten victims with legal action.

"There is no such legal concept as digital arrest. No one can be arrested digitally. These are fear tactics, often targeting elderly individuals living alone," he said.

He noted that older citizens are particularly vulnerable as they tend to panic under pressure.

AI-driven fraud on the rise

The use of artificial intelligence has made cyber fraud more sophisticated, with cases of voice cloning and identity impersonation increasing.

"A fraudster can clone someone's voice and call their relatives asking for money. Always verify by calling back the person directly," Malik advised.

He also warned about WhatsApp account hacking, where fraudsters send urgent financial requests from compromised contacts.

"Even if the message comes from a known number, verify before sending money," he said.

Recovery efforts and challenges

Sharing enforcement data, Malik said over 22 lakh has been recovered in the last three months, while a significant amount remains on hold and is in the process of being returned to victims.

"There is still a large amount that has been lost, and efforts are ongoing to recover it," he said.

He referred to new measures introduced by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under which victims of fraud involving amounts up to 50,000 may not need to approach courts for recovery.

"If the cyber police station verifies the claim, it can recommend the bank to release the amount directly," he said.

However, Malik pointed out implementation challenges, noting that many bank officials are still not fully aware of the procedure, leading to delays.

"In some cases, managers hesitate to take responsibility, but victims can escalate the matter through higher grievance mechanisms," he said.

Immediate reporting crucial

Stressing the importance of timely action, Malik urged victims to report fraud immediately through the 1930 helpline.

"The transaction can be frozen instantly, but time is critical. It does not take even a minute for money to move," he said.

He described the helpline and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal as "lifelines" for victims, though he acknowledged occasional congestion due to high call volumes.

Gaming, fake ads and regulatory gaps

Malik said online gaming platforms involving financial transactions have been restricted, and several websites blocked, but fraudsters continue to adapt.

He also raised concerns over misleading advertisements on social media, noting that action is largely complaint-driven due to the absence of automated detection systems.

Call for vigilance

In addition to cyber crime, Malik flagged rising drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir as a serious concern, particularly among youth, and urged parents to remain vigilant.

He reiterated the role of media as a key partner in spreading awareness.

"If awareness increases, cyber fraud will decline. People must verify every digital interaction, avoid sharing sensitive information, and report suspicious activity immediately," he said. (KNO)

HC Stresses 'Utmost

sought bail on the ground of prolonged incarceration, arguing that the delay in trial amounted to pre-trial punishment and violated his right to a speedy trial. It was submitted that only six prosecution witnesses were examined over five years and that the trial had reached the stage of final arguments before being indefinitely deferred due to a supplementary complaint against a co-accused.

Opposing the plea, the Narcotics Control Bureau argued that the Sheikh was found in possession of a commercial quantity of contraband—over 5 kg of charas—and therefore the stringent conditions under Section 37 of the NDPS Act barred the grant of bail.

After examining the record, the court found that while the trial had substantially progressed and prosecution evidence stood

concluded, the trial court had "mechanically" deferred proceedings in the main case solely due to the supplementary complaint against a co-accused.

The High Court observed that even in such situations, trial courts must apply their mind and decide whether cases should proceed jointly or separately, rather than halting proceedings altogether. It emphasized that unnecessary delays defeat the mandate of speedy justice, especially in NDPS cases.

The court however declined to grant bail at this stage. Instead, it directed the trial court to re-examine within 15 days whether deferring the proceedings was legally justified and to proceed accordingly.

The court further instructed the trial court to decide the issue of charge in the supplementary complaint against the co-accused within 30 days.

While dismissing the bail plea, the court granted liberty to Sheikh to file a fresh application depending on the outcome of the trial court's reconsideration.

Govt Directs

to basic quality standards across all schools, irrespective of whether they are public or private.

"Prior to NEP 2020, school recognition and regulation were often handled in an uneven manner, resulting in variations in compliance and quality. The Chair directed that the SSSA shall be implemented in letter and spirit by May 2026," reads the minutes of the meeting.

Furthermore, the CS was apprised of the status of implementation of the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST).

NPST is a public statement outlining what constitutes teaching quality and what is required to improve educational outcomes for students in India.

These standards comprise a set of guiding principles that define expectations regarding the role of a teacher at various stages of their career and levels of expertise.

They also outline effective teaching practices and the competencies required to function in 21st-century classrooms.

The CS directed that clear targets be fixed for the implementation of NPST and that the same be achieved within a time-bound framework.

Ladakh Finally

has now implemented the correction.

Officials said the anomaly had been creating difficulties for residents in using Aadhaar as a valid identity and address proof while accessing various services, as the 'State' field did not align with Ladakh's post-reorganisation status.

"The successful resolution of this long-pending issue reflects the administration's commitment to responsive governance and ensuring that Ladakh's unique identity is properly represented across official platforms," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He added that ensuring accurate representation in official records was not only an administrative necessity but also a matter of identity and convenience for the people.

To address the issue efficiently, the administration, in coordination with UIDAI, devised a centralised mechanism to update records without requiring individuals to visit Aadhaar centres.

Under this system, the 'State' field was corrected based on PIN codes specific to Ladakh. These PIN codes were verified with the Department of Posts and shared with UIDAI, enabling bulk updation of records.

Officials said the move has brought significant relief to residents, who can now download their updated e-Aadhaar from the official UIDAI portal. Those seeking physical copies can also order PVC Aadhaar cards online for a nominal fee.

The correction is expected to ease procedural hurdles and ensure seamless access to services, while also enabling accurate representation of Ladakh in Aadhaar-linked data and official records.

Brief Rain Spells

to 15, the weather is expected to stay generally dry across the Union Territory.

However, conditions are likely to change slightly from April 16 to 17, when the weather is expected to turn generally cloudy with spells of light rain or thundershower at scattered places, particularly during late afternoon or evening hours.

Thereafter, from April 18 to 22, the weather is again expected to remain largely dry.

Meanwhile, the MeT department has advised farmers to resume agricultural operations, taking advantage of the largely dry weather conditions expected over the coming days.

Unusual Tornado-

According to the analysis, the Plan Position Indicator (radial velocity scan) did not show any tight inbound-outbound velocity couplet, typically associated with rotation or mesocyclonic activity required for tornado formation.

"The velocity patterns appeared broad and disorganized, lacking strong gradients, suggesting the absence of any active rotational structure in the atmosphere," the assessment noted.

Further analysis of the vertical wind profile revealed weak and inconsistent winds at different altitudes, with no organized wind shear pattern necessary to sustain or redevelop a tornado.

Kashmir Weather also said that surface cooling following the event reduced atmospheric instability, limiting the rise of warm, moist air required for the development of deep convective systems.

The report added that reduced energy levels in the atmosphere, including lower instability, have made the likelihood of another similar event in the area unlikely.

"No indications of any tornado structures were observed within a 100-kilometer radius," the assessment said.

The incident is being seen as an unusual weather occurrence in the region, though experts have ruled out any immediate threat of recurrence.

Baad Set for Grand World Premiere in Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A defining moment in the history of Kashmiri cinema is about to unfold as Baand, the much-anticipated Kashmiri-language feature film, prepares for its grand world premiere at INOX Cinema Srinagar on April 14, 2026. The event is already generating significant excitement across artistic and cultural circles, promising an unforgettable cinematic experience.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Ali Emran and produced by Yaqut Mush-taq, Baand is being hailed as a groundbreaking work—one that not only tells a powerful story but also preserves an entire cultural legacy on screen.

At its core, Baand marks a historic cinematic first: it is the first feature film to explore Baand-e-Pather, Kashmir's centuries-old folk theatre tradition. Through a bold and immersive narrative, the film brings to life the world of traditional performers, offering audiences a rare glimpse into an art form that has long remained on the fringes of mainstream storytelling.

The story follows the

emotional journey of a revered folk artist, Gani Bhagat, and his son Akhtar, unfolding a deeply human tale of generational conflict, identity, and transformation. As tradition confronts modernity, Baand becomes more than a film—it becomes a living archive of Kashmir's fading cultural heritage.

Shot in authentic locations and featuring original Baand performers, the film captures the raw energy, rhythm, and soul of folk theatre with striking realism. Its music-driven narrative further deepens the emotional resonance, creating a rich and immersive cinematic experience.

Beyond its regional roots, Baand speaks to a global audience. In an age increasingly shaped by digital media and artificial intelligence, the film raises a profound and timely question: What happens to human expression when tradition is overshadowed by technology?

Producer Yaqut Mush-taq's visionary approach continues to push Kashmiri cinema onto a broader cultural stage, reinforcing her commitment to meaningful storytelling and international recognition.

PSAJK Elects New Pulwama Leadership

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant development for the Private School Association Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK), members of the Pulwama district assembled in large numbers to elect their new district leadership. Mr. Wasim Hanif, Chairman of Solace International School, was elected as the new District President for Pulwama.

The election process was conducted in the presence of the Convenor of the Election Committee, Mr. Farooq Ahmad ashai along with Mr. Majid Bhatt, member of the Election Committee. Observers from three different districts namely Mr. Tahir wagay, district President Srinagar, Mr. Tariq Balli state coordinator psajk Mr. Shabir Ahmad Malik district coordinator, were also present to

ensure transparency and fairness in the proceedings.

Despite prevailing challenges faced by the private education sector, the members participated enthusiastically, reflecting their commitment to strengthening institutional representation. During the proceedings, election representatives highlighted the pressing issues confronting private schools and emphasized the need for collective efforts to address them.

The Ex District President Mr. Khalid Reshi expressed confidence in the newly elected leadership and reiterated his continued support, particularly for low-budget and budget schools. He further emphasized the importance of initiating new training programs and fostering collaborative learning across institutions in the district.

1,222 Posts Lying Vacant at SKIMS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's premier tertiary care hospital, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, is grappling with an acute manpower crisis, with more than half of its sanctioned posts lying vacant, raising serious concerns over patient care and healthcare delivery in the Valley.

According to details accessed by KNO, out of a total sanctioned strength of 2,262 posts at SKIMS Soura, only 1,040 employees are currently in position, while a staggering 1,222 posts remain vacant, reflecting a shortage exceeding 50 per cent.

A further breakdown of the figures reveals that out of 250 sanctioned faculty

positions, only 152 are filled, leaving 98 posts vacant. Similarly, in the paramedical category, only 518 staff members are in position against 1,303 sanctioned posts, with 785 vacancies reported.

The nursing segment is also severely affected, with just 370 staff in place out of 709 sanctioned posts, leaving 339 posts unfilled.

The alarming shortage has sparked concern among the general public, who view SKIMS Soura as the Valley's most critical referral and tertiary care hospital.

"SKIMS is considered the last hope for patients after Allah. If such a vital institution is facing this level of staff shortage, one can only imagine the condition of hospitals in peripheral areas," said several attendants and patients.

They added that despite the severe manpower deficit, doctors and paramedical staff continue to work tirelessly to provide treatment.

However, they noted that with such a high vacancy rate, the burden on existing staff is immense, especially as the hospital caters to thousands of patients daily. "There is tremendous pressure on the available workforce. While they are doing their best, the shortage inevitably affects efficiency and patient care. The government must take immediate steps to fill these vacancies," they said.

Meanwhile, a similar situation persists at SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina, where a significant number of posts are also lying vacant.

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: <https://www.jkbopee.gov.in>

Email: jak.bopee@jk.gov.in

Subject: **Conduct of the Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to B.Sc. Nursing/B.Sc. Paramedical/B.Sc. Technology Courses-2026 in Government/Private Colleges of the UT of J&K/Ladakh on 26-04-2026 (Sunday).**

Reference: i) Notification No. 045-BOPEE of 2026 Dated 25-03-2026
ii) Notice No. 018-BOPEE of 2026 Dated 07-04-2026

NOTICE No. 019-BOPEE of 2026 Dated 10-04-2026

Pursuant to Notification No. 045-BOPEE of 2026 Dated 25-03-2026 read with Notice No. 018-BOPEE of 2026 Dated 07-04-2026, the Board has decided to conduct the Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to B.Sc. Nursing/B.Sc. Paramedical/B.Sc. Technology Courses-2026 in Government/Private colleges of the UT of J&K on 26-04-2026 (Sunday). However, the Notification for downloading the Admit card(s) shall be notified separately. The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as mentioned in the above-referred Notification. The candidates are advised to regularly remain in touch with the J&K BOPEE website for further updates.



Sd/-
(Prof. Gurvinder Raj Verma)
Controller of Examinations,
J&K, BOPEE

DIPK-NB-139/26
dated: 11-04-2026

No. BOPEE-Exam/16/2025(7664851) Dated 10-04-2026

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/278-82 Dated: 11/04/2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: - 1. Restoration of Dysfunctional Toilet at Girls Primary School Lethpore (S.No. 1382).

Reference: - 1. This office e-NIT No. Fresh-208/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/11981-91 Dated 28-03-2026.

The critical dates for the above noted Work is hereby extended as under:

S.No	Bid Submission End Date	16-04-2026 up to 4.00 P.M
1	Bid Submission End Date	16-04-2026 up to 4.00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	17-04-2026 up to 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-
Technical officer
DIPK-344-26
DT: 11/04/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

از عدالت اسٹنٹ کلکٹر ریونیو تحصیل راجپورہ

عنوان۔ تشکیل احمد خان ولد غلام محمد خان ساکن پنڈوہ شویلیاں

نثار احمد میر ولد محمد اسماعیل میر ساکن آره گام پلوامہ

معاملہ۔ اشتہاری نیلامی قرق شدہ واقع موضع آریگام چراوٹ تحصیل راجپورہ ضلع پلوامہ تعین حکم عدالت جناب چیف جج ڈی ایچ جیٹ شویلیاں

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ بذیل جائیداد بحکم عدالت چیف جج ڈی ایچ جیٹ شویلیاں قرق کر کے نیلامی کرنا مطلوب ہے خواہش افراد دفتر نائب تحصیلدار راجپورہ میں اپنی درخواست بغرض شمولیت نیلامی دفتری اوقات میں اندر سات یوم جمع کر سکتے ہیں۔ جائیداد مذکورہ کا معاینہ خواہش مند افراد زیر نگرانی گراور علاقہ/پٹواری حلقہ/نمبر دار دھہ دفتری اوقات میں کر سکتے ہیں۔ نیلامی سرکاری مقرر شدہ اسٹامپ ڈیوٹی سال 2025-26 شروع ہو سکتی ہے۔ درخواست دہندہ نیلامی تشکیل شدہ کمیٹی کے ذریعہ عمل میں لائی جائے گی۔

فہرست جائیداد نیلامی بذیل ہے۔

نام موضع/آره گام چراوٹ

354/6 مرلہ، 353/7 مرلہ، 561/8 مرلہ 4 مربع فٹ، 663/5 مرلہ 204 مربع فٹ، 675/1 مرلہ 68 مربع فٹ

۲۔ دکان رہائشی دو منزلہ کا آٹھواں حصہ (1/8)

اسٹنٹ کلکٹر ریونیو تحصیل راجپورہ

No: TR/OQ-26-501
DIPK-331/26
Dated: 11-04-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SRINAGAR (AMAR NIWAS COMPLEX TANKIPORA SRINAGAR)

Email: adrcsgr-jk@nic.in Ph./Fax: 0194-2477033/2452182

NOTICE (For Information of the Applicants)

Whereas, the District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, through an Advertisement Notification vide No. DDCS/2025-26/Adv/12033-41 dated 05-03-2026, invited applications for 6 key contractual roles under the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHD) initiative, implemented under Mission YUVA,, and

S.NO	Name	Gender	Father's Name	District	Role Preference I	Role Preference II	Domicile	10th			12th			Graduation			Post Graduation			Tier of Institution	Work Experience	Professional Degree Certificate	Total Points Secured	Remarks		
								Max Marks	Marks Obtained	Percentage	Points Secured	Max Marks	Marks Obtained	Percentage	Points Secured	Max Marks	Marks Obtained	Percentage	Points Secured						Max Marks	Marks Obtained
1	Shoab Shabeel	Male	Shahid Ahmad Bhat	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	302	60.4	2	500	317	63.4	10	203	70.3	20	10	6.48	64.8	6	0	0	49	
2	BAZELAH IRSHAD SHAH	Female	IRSHAD AHMED SHAH	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	377	75.4	4	500	346	69.2	3	6.53	65.3	18	272	72.2	8	0	0	0	43	
3	SUHAIL JAVED SHAHRI	Male	JAVED AHMAD SHAHRI	Baramulla	SBDU Marketing Expert	BHD Coordinator	0	500	272	54.4	0	500	356	71.2	4	10	6.36	63.6	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
4	Ravees u Rehman	Male	Ab Rehman Bhat	Ganderbal	BHD Coordinator	BHD Coordinator	0	10	7	70	4	500	363	72.6	4	10	6.76	67.6	18	8.5	85	10	0	0	0	36
5	Rabbah Hassan	Female	Gh Hassan Malik	Budgam	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	395	79	4	500	69	13.8	4	1800	1231	68.389	18	10	4.05	40.5	0	0	0	26
6	Nuzhat amin	Female	Mr Mohammad Amin kawa	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	BHD Coordinator	10	500	241	48.2	0	750	537	71.6	4	1800	1112	61.778	15	1200	755	62.917	6	0	0	35
7	Bilal Rashid wani	Male	Ab Rashid Wani	Pulwama	SBDU Marketing Expert	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	272	54.4	0	500	289	57.8	0	10	6.39	63.9	15	0	0	0	0	0	15	
8	Rabbah Hassan	Female	Gulam nabi gurt	Budgam	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	228	45.6	0	500	254	50.8	0	10	7.16	71.6	20	10	5.6	56	0	0	0	20
9	Rabbah Hassan	Female	Gh Hassan Malik	Budgam	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	272	54.4	0	500	272	54.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Mudsiir ahmad zargar	Male	Lt bashir ahmad zargar	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	BHD Coordinator	10	500	259	51.8	0	500	265	53	0	1800	778	43.222	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
11	Faizan Mehraj	Male	Mehraj ud din sofi	Srinagar	SBDU Marketing Expert	BHD Coordinator	10	500	326	65.2	3	500	314	62.8	2	10	71	71	20	10	2.02	70.2	7	0	0	42
12	Afroz Akhter	Female	GM Mohd Sofi	Budgam	BHD Coordinator	BHD Coordinator	0	500	207	41.4	0	750	464	61.867	2	1800	909	50.5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
13	Zubair Nahi	Male	Ghulam Nahi wani	Bandipora	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	331	66.2	3	750	499	66.533	3	1800	925	51.389	10	10	6.11	61.1	6	0	0	22
14	Fiza manhas	Female	Abid Hussain manhas	Baramulla	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	425	85	5	500	408	81.6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
15	Munisha Gillani	Female	Fazal mohd Gillani	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	324	64.8	2	500	361	72.2	4	10	6.75	67.5	18	10	7.07	70.7	7	0	0	41
16	Naveeda	Female	Mushtaq Ahmad Ahangar	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	382	76.4	4	500	396	79.2	4	3200	2195	68.594	18	2050	1601	78.098	8	0	0	44
17	Aiman Mushtaq	Female	Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	383	76.6	4	500	442	88.4	5	10	7.99	79.9	20	10	8.53	85.3	10	0	0	49
18	Abdul Hameed wani	Male	Abdul azz wani	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	316	63.2	2	750	522	69.6	3	1800	1035	57.5	12	2200	1368	62.182	6	0	0	33
19	Inam ul Haq	Male	Late Haji Gh Nabi peer	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	358	71.6	4	750	460	61.333	2	600	381	63.5	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
20	Shabnoza Nahi	Female	Ghulam Nahi	Srinagar	SBDU Marketing Expert	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	314	62.8	2	500	406	81.2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
21	Ravees u Rehman	Male	Zahed Ahmad Bhat	Ganderbal	BHD Coordinator	BHD Coordinator	0	500	376	75.2	4	750	594	79.2	6	1800	1057	58.722	12	1200	684	57	0	0	40	
22	Yaver hassain bhat	Male	Gh Mohammad Bhat	Kulgam	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	257	51.4	0	500	368	73.6	4	1800	926	51.444	10	800	525	65.625	6	0	0	20
23	Sheikh umais Rashid	Male	Abdul Rashid sheikh	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	BHD Coordinator	10	500	383	76.6	4	750	653	87.067	5	1800	1047	58.167	12	2200	1367	62.136	6	0	0	37
24	Mohammad Ahsaan Khan	Male	Showkat Ahmad Khan	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	390	78	4	500	439	87.8	5	10	7.52	75.2	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
25	Asima chashoo	Female	Abdul Salam Chashoo	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	277	55.4	0	600	270	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
26	ISHFAQ AHMAD	Male	NAZIR AHMAD	Budgam	SBDU Marketing Expert	BHD Coordinator	0	500	319	63.8	2	750	556	74.133	4	1800	934	51.889	10	10	6.9	69	6	0	0	22
27	Mehwish Showkat	Female	Showkat Ahmad Khan	Srinagar	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	10	500	397	79.4	4	500	452	90.4	5	10	8	80	20	10	7.6	76	8	0	0	47
28	Shakir ahmad thoker	Male	Mohammad sikandar thoker	Anantnag	BHD Coordinator	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	326	65.2	3	500	364	72.8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
29	Sahil Sharma	Male	Ashok kumar Sharma	Jammu	SBDU Marketing Expert	BHD Coordinator	0	500	329	65.8	3	500	375	75	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
30	Iqbal Ahmad mir	Male	Sonalah mir	Kupwara	SBDU Marketing Expert	SBDU Marketing Expert	0	500	204	40.8	0	750	385	51.333	0	1800	902	50.111	10	1700	1008	5				

Samson's Hundred, Overton's Miserly Spell Give CSK First Win Of IPL 2026

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: After three silent outings, Sanju Samson rediscovered his batting range with a fabulous hundred and bowlers' fangs regrew as Chennai Super Kings defeated Delhi Capitals by 23 runs to register their first win of IPL 2026 here on Saturday.

Samson (115 not out, 56 balls) and Ayush Mhatre (59, 36 balls) milked 113 runs for the second wicket to power CSK to a competitive 212 for two and the Delhi Capitals stumbled against Jamie Overton's superb spell (4/18) to get bundled out for 189.

Tristan Stubbs (60) delayed the inevitable for DC with a gutsy half-century.

While it was the super Kings' first win of the season, the Capitals slumped to their second defeat in a row.

Chasing 213, Delhi made a bold start, making 61 in just five overs through a fine stand

between openers KL Rahul and Pathum Nissanka (41).

But the dismissal of Nissanka took some steam away from DC. Nissanka, whose catch was grassed by Khaleel Ahmed off Anshul Kamboj, could not use the let off as he spooned the next ball off the pacer to Dewald Brevis at the edge of the circle.

At 61 for two in 5.2 overs, DC were still in a good position but the Chennai bowlers redrafted their strategy at this stage.

Their pacers -- Overton, Khaleel and Kamboj -- began to bash the ball into the red-soil surface and extracted good bounce, cramping the DC batters for space to execute their shots effectively.

Sameer Rizvi and Axar Patel fell to such deliveries, and Sarfaraz Khan played a big role in the latter's dismissal with a tremendous full-length diving catch at point.

They still had David Miller and



Tristan Stubbs at their roster to challenge CSK, but Overton's lovely hard-length ball clipped Miller's leg-stump bails to compound

the worries for the Delhi side.

But Samson was the chief architect of CSK's wonderful Chepauk night.

After being asked to bat first, Samson brought up his first substantial knock in a Yellow jersey, and was involved in an

excellent stand with Mhatre, who underlined his massive potential in bold letters, for the second wicket -- 113 runs in a little over 11 overs.

It was Samson's fourth IPL hundred, the first for CSK and the first one in this IPL season.

A big score from Samson was essential for himself and CSK to restore the belief of 'Anbu-den' faithfuls in their team, and he did that on the night with a brilliant innings in front of home fans.

It was the typical Samson innings. The Kerala batter had looked unsure of his feet and field placings in earlier matches this season, but on this instance a familiar Samson returned.

The feet, eyes and hands rediscovered their coordination and consequently the shots flowed in all directions off the field. However, skipper Rituraj Gaikwad failed to accelerate even in Power Play, and his 62-

run opening wicket alliance was entirely built on Samson's aggression.

Samson gave an early indication of his touch with two back-to-back fours off pacer Mukesh Kumar but the stand out shot during his stint was a six over extra cover off left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

Fortune too lent its assistance to Samson as he was dropped on 55 by Pathum Nissanka near long-off off Axar Patel.

The 31-year-old fully exploited his reprieve and made DC pay for their lapse. Samson fetched his fifty in 26 balls, one less than Mhatre, and hundred in 52 balls as CSK moved on nicely.

Mhatre, on the other hand, was a real treat to watch until he was retired out after a well-compiled knock, to give the big-hitting Shivam Dube a chance.

But till that moment, Mhatre entertained the Chepauk crowd with some handsome shots.

It's Alcaraz vs. Sinner Again In The Monte Carlo Masters Final

AP

MONACO: Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner will renew their "Sincaraz" rivalry when they meet in the Monte Carlo Masters final on Sunday with the No. 1 ranking at stake.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Sinner will reclaim the top spot if he beats seven-time major winner Alcaraz, the Monte Carlo defending champion.

Sinner reached his first Monte Carlo final by beating Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-4 an eighth straight time on Saturday. In his semifinal, Alcaraz eliminated home hope Valentin Vachert 6-4, 6-4, concluding with a sublime drop shot.

Alcaraz leads their head-



to-head 10-6 going into their eighth final. Both players are bidding for a 27th career title.

Sinner swept Indian Wells and Miami and became only the fourth man to reach the final at the first three Masters tournaments of the sea-

son, matching Roger Federer (2006), Rafael Nadal (2011) and Novak Djokovic (2015).

Alcaraz's two titles this year include the Australian Open, where he downed Djokovic and became the youngest man ever to win all four tennis majors.

India Lose 0-2 To Kenya In FIFA Series 2026 Semifinal

Press Trust of India

NAIROBI: The Indian women's team dished out a mediocre performance to lose 0-2 to lower-ranked Kenya in the semifinal of the FIFA Series 2026 here on Saturday.

Martha Emedot (2nd) and Tereza Obunyu (55th) scored for the hosts.

The match also saw Indian captain Pyari Xaxa sustain a head injury in the 14th minute. She was taken to the hospital.

According to the All India Football Federation (AIFF), she is conscious and receiving medical attention.

Earlier in the day, Australia defeated Malawi 5-0 in the first semifinal.

India will now face Malawi in the third-place play-off on April 15 while Kenya will meet Australia in the final the same day.

Kenya dominated the contest, both physically and tactically. The Harambee Starlets seized control from the outset, using the width of the pitch effectively and imposing



themselves physically across the park.

Fielding a much different team from the Asian Cup campaign, India found it difficult to cope with the pace and intensity of their opponents and failed to create clear attacking moves.

Kenya struck early in the second minute. Fasila Omondi surged down the left flank and delivered a dangerous cross into the box.

India goalkeeper Shreya Hooda made contact with the initial deliv-

ery, but couldn't clear the danger. Martha Emedot reacted quickest to the rebound and slotted home with her right to give the hosts an early advantage.

Kenya nearly doubled their lead five minutes later. Once again, Omondi caused problems on the left, sending in another well-directed cross. Shalyne Opisa met it from point-blank range, but Shreya stood tall to deny her with a crucial save.

Kenya continued to pile on the pressure, and Opisa had another op-

portunity soon after when Leah Andima delivered a cross. The Kenyan forward's header, however, drifted inches wide of the target.

India's troubles were compounded in the 14th minute when captain Pyari Xaxa sustained a head injury after colliding with Ruth Ingosi during an aerial tussle. Pyari was taken to the hospital. She remained conscious and is currently receiving medical attention.

Kenya remained the more composed side in the second half and continued to press forward. Their persistence paid off again in the 55th minute when Airin Madalina released Tereza Obunyu with a precise through ball.

Obunyu made a sharp run between India defenders before calmly finishing past Shreya to double the lead.

India head coach Crispin Chettri attempted to reorganise the Blue Tigresses in the latter stages, but Kenya maintained their defensive discipline and physical superiority.

MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

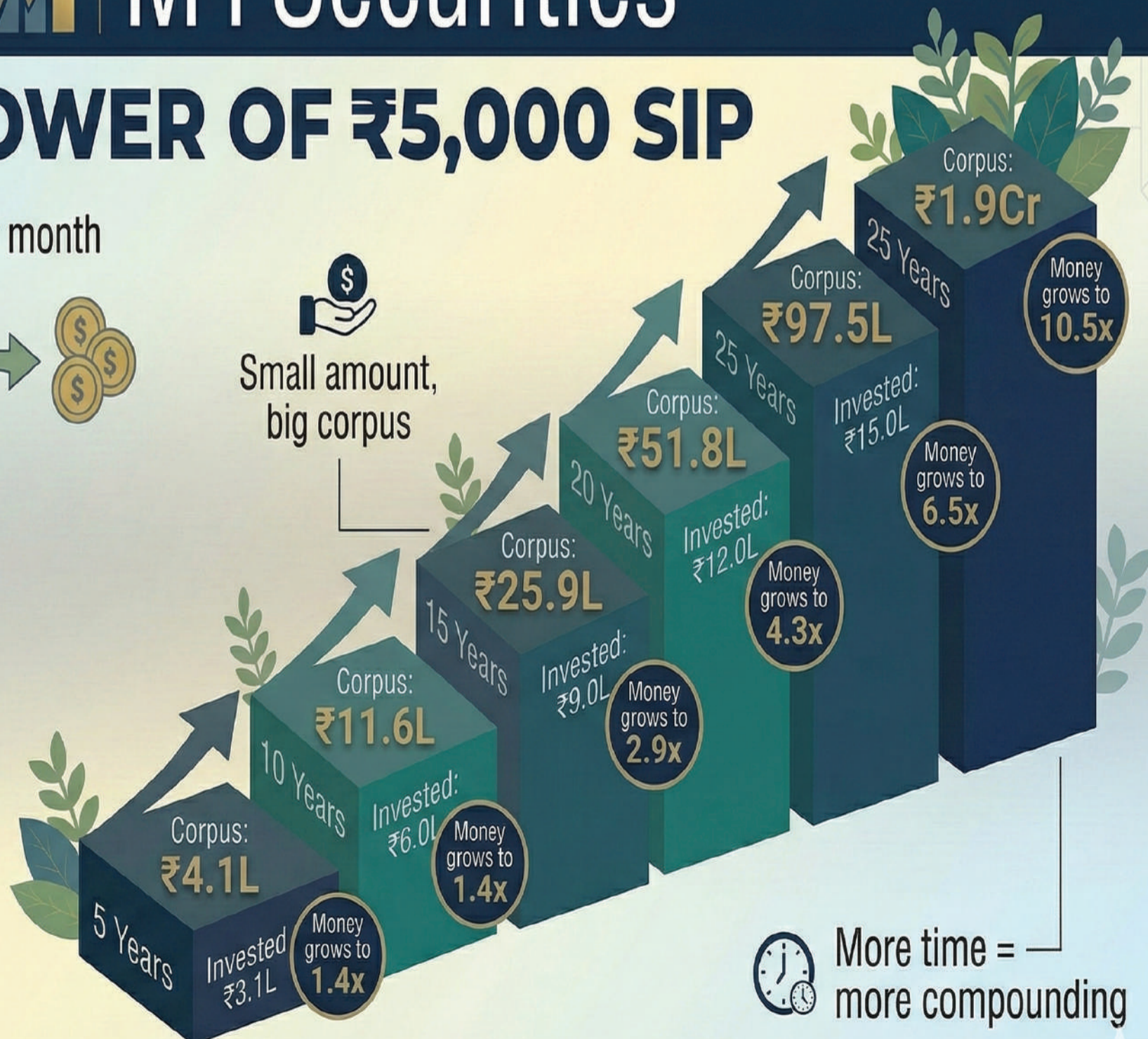
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



Small amount, big corpus

Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

Duration (Years)	Total Invested Amount
5	3.0L
10	6.0L
15	9.0L
20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L



More time = more compounding

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks. Read all scheme related documents carefully before investing.