

Prepare Drug Peddlers Lists, Act In 30 Days: LG To Police

'Next 3 Months Will Sow Seeds For Lasting Change'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday launched a people's movement against narcotics under the "Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan," calling for a decisive crackdown on drug networks while advocating a compassionate approach towards victims of addiction.

Addressing a massive public rally at Kathua, the Lieutenant Governor directed police officials to prepare 'Top Drug Peddlers' lists at all police stations and dismantle drug networks within 30 days.

He stressed that a focused and time-bound strategy is essential to eliminate the drug menace from the Union Territory.

"A drug-free Jammu Kashmir will emerge not from one person, but from collective action. Society must realise that drugs don't just kill individuals—they erode entire villages, wards and cities' honour and destiny," Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor flagged off a padyatra from Sports Stadium Kathua to Government Degree College, joined by thousands of citizens, officials, civil society members, students and volunteers, all rallying for a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling it a "people's revolution," Sinha urged every household in Kathua to actively participate in the movement.

"I ignite a people's revolution to eradicate drugs from every panchayat, every alley, every family. This is no dream, it is my unbreakable pledge," he said.

Outlining a structured roadmap, the Lieutenant Governor said the next three months will

Calls For Crackdown On Traffickers, Empathy For Victims



GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY MUST UNITE FOR SURVEILLANCE, strengthen anti-drug support systems, and build drug-free villages and towns. Our police and enforcement agencies have been empowered with full authority to dismantle drug syndicates."

be crucial in shaping long-term change.

"We have crafted a 100-day roadmap in six phases. The first month will focus on awareness and mobilisation, the second on deeper community and family outreach, and the third on ensuring sustainability," he said.

"Next three months won't just run a campaign, they will sow seeds for lasting change in Jammu and | More on P6

Iran Warns No Port Safe Amid US Naval Blockade Move

Agencies

Cairo- The US military was poised to begin a blockade of all Iranian ports and coastal areas on Monday, as President Donald Trump sought to ratchet up pressure on Iran in a move that risks driving oil prices even higher and reigniting the war. Iran responded by threatening all ports in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

"Security in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is either for everyone or for NO ONE," the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting reported Monday. "NO PORT in the region will be safe," according



to a statement from the Iranian military and the Revolutionary Guards. US Central Command announced that from 10 am EDT, or 6:30 pm in Iran, the

blockade would be enforced "against vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas." It said that would include all of Iran's ports on the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. CENTCOM said it would still allow ships traveling between non-Iranian ports to transit the Strait of Hormuz, a step down from Trump's earlier threat to blockade the vital waterway, where 20% of global oil transited before fighting began.

The announcement halted the limited ship traffic that resumed in the strait since the ceasefire, according to a report from | More on P6

Iran's 'Service Fee' Plan for Hormuz to Reshape Maritime Order

Iran is advancing a new strategic proposal to reshape control and governance of the Strait of Hormuz, seeking to introduce a system of "service fees" for vessels transiting the vital waterway in place of traditional tolls — a move that could significantly alter maritime norms

and escalate tensions with Western powers. The plan, described by Iranian officials as part of a broader shift in maritime diplomacy, would see Tehran negotiate bilateral agreements with countries reliant on the strait, offering guaranteed safe passage in exchange | More on P6

Dry Conditions In J&K Till April 16: MeT Rain, Gusty Winds Likely Thereafter

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Weather across Jammu and Kashmir is expected to remain generally dry over the next few days, with no significant activity forecast till April 15, the Meteorological Department said on Monday.

An official from the MeT department said that conditions will largely stay dry on April 16 as well, although a brief spell of light rain or thundershowers may occur at a few places towards evening or night.

"From April 17 to 18, generally cloudy weather is expected, with light rain or thundershowers likely at many places. Gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph and hailstorm activity are also expected at a few locations during this period," the official said.

He added that the weather is likely to improve thereafter, with generally dry conditions expected to return from April 19 to 23 across | More on P6

Women's Reservation

Most Significant Decision Of 21st Century's: PM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India stands on the brink of making one of the most significant decisions of the 21st century as Parliament prepares to amend the Women's Reservation law to enable its implementation by 2029.

Addressing the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan' ahead of the three-day special sitting of Parliament beginning April 16, Modi said the proposed amendments to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam would end "decades of waiting" and open a new chapter in women's political empowerment.

"Our country's Parliament is close to creating a new



history — one that will realise the visions of the past and fulfil the resolutions of the future," the Prime Minister said, describing the move as a step towards an egalitarian India where social justice becomes an integral part of governance. The Women's Reservation Act, passed unanimously in

2023, provides for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies. However, its implementation was originally linked to the delimitation exercise following the 2027 Census, pushing its roll-out beyond 2034.

Modi said amendments to the law are now being taken up to ensure its implementation from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

"In 2023, we took the first step in the new Parliament. Now, we are moving forward to ensure that this vision is realised within a defined timeline," he said.

The Prime Minister underlined that the upcoming parliamentary session on April 16, 17 and 18 | More on P6

4,704 Pilgrims From J&K To Perform Hajj This Year

Flights To Depart From April 18; Final Batch Likely By May 28

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A total of 4,704 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir will undertake the annual Hajj this year, with the majority scheduled to depart from Srinagar Embarkation, officials said on Monday.

Executive Officer of the Hajj Committee of India, Dr. Shujat Ahmed, said that 3,990 pilgrims, including 323 from Ladakh, will leave from Srinagar, while around 1,000 pilgrims will depart via Delhi Embarkation and about 50 through Mumbai.

He said the first batch of Hajj flights from Srinagar is scheduled to begin on April 18

Pilgrims to Get SIM-Enabled Smartwatches For Real-Time Tracking

and will continue for 10 to 15 days. The final departure is expected around May 28, subject to minor adjustments.

Ahmed said Saudi authorities have introduced new regulations this year, including stricter health screening norms. Some applicants with serious medical conditions have been declared unfit under the revised criteria. He also noted that self-cooking facilities for pilgrims in areas such as Azizia have been discontinued.

In a shift from previous arrangements, pilgrims will now be provided with smartwatches equipped with SIM-based data for | More on P6

Lecturer Suspended, Case Filed Over Harassment Allegations

Classes Halted in 3 Sopore Institutions Till April 18

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A senior lecturer posted in Sopore was booked by police and placed under suspension on Monday after a girl student accused him of harassment, officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore, Iftikhar Talib, said a case has been registered against the lecturer and investigation has been initiated following the complaint.

"The teacher has been booked and further investigation is underway," he said.

Meanwhile, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir suspended the lecturer with

immediate effect and ordered a departmental inquiry into his conduct.

Officials said the Joint Director (North) has been appointed as the inquiry officer and has been directed to submit a report within 15 days.

The allegations triggered protests in Sopore town, with students demanding strict action against the accused.

In view of the situation, authorities ordered suspension of classwork in three educational institutions as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, S A Raina, said that academic activities at Government Higher Secondary School, Boys Higher Secondary School and Government | More on P6

LG, CM Greet People On Ambedkar Divas, Baisakhi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday extended his greetings to the people on the eve of Baisakhi and the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar.

In his message on Baisakhi, the Lieutenant Governor conveyed his best wishes and described the festival as a reminder of the contributions of farmers whose "labour, sacrifice, and dedication sustain the very foundation of our nation." He also | More on P6

Govt Puts Mulberry Tree Felling On Hold After Public Outcry

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir government on Monday put on hold its earlier permission to fell mulberry trees along the Bund (Canal Avenue) Road stretch from Mochu Bridge to Rawalpora, following growing public concern and protests over the loss of green cover.

An official order issued by the Directorate of Sericulture Development Department, under the intervention of Director Sericulture Ajaz Ahmad



Bhat, stated that the No Objection Certificate (NOC) granted for the removal of 62 mulberry trees has been withheld with immediate effect, pending further review.

The decision comes amid mounting opposition from local residents and stakeholders associated with the sericulture sector, who had raised alarm over the felling of decades-old | More on P6

Parliamentary Panel On Energy Meets CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A study group of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy on Monday met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir to review key issues concerning the power sector.

During the interaction, the Committee apprised the Chief Minister of the objectives of its visit and held detailed deliberations on energy infrastructure, power supply systems and the region's renewable energy potential. The Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment | More on P6

Kashmir's Apple Shift: Climate Fix Or High-Stakes Gamble?

Nazakat Aslam

Srinagar: On a mild spring morning, Subaib Mansoor walks through neat rows of young apple trees, their slender stems tied carefully to a trellis system that did not exist in his father's time. The orchard looks different now, tighter, more controlled, almost engineered. A fine network of drip lines runs along the soil, and above, anti-hail nets wait to be drawn at the first sign of a storm.

Just a year ago, this land held traditional apple trees, spaced wide, slower to bear fruit but familiar in every sense. Cutting them down was not an easy decision.

"You don't just replace trees here," Mansoor says, pausing to inspect a leaf. "You replace years of patience."

Across South Kashmir's apple belt, from Shopian to Pulwama, that difficult choice is becoming increasingly common. Faced with erratic weather, shrinking margins, and shifting market demands, growers are turning to high-density plantation systems, betting on precision, speed, and higher yields to secure their future.

But as the new orchards take root, so do new uncertainties.

For Mansoor, the shift to high-density plantation (HDP) was less about chasing higher profits and more about coping with a climate that no longer behaves the way it used to.

"In the last few years, snowfall has been unpredictable, and hailstorms come at the worst time," he says. "Flowering gets affected, and then the whole season is uncertain."



According to a 2025 SKUAST-K study on climate-adaptive horticulture, HDP is emerging as a more controlled and potentially resilient alternative.

In traditional orchards, such disruptions often mean reduced

yield or even complete loss. The newer HDP systems, built around dwarf rootstocks and closely spaced trees, offer a degree of control. Water is delivered directly through drip irrigation, branches are pruned to



THE BIGGEST DISEASE WE FACE IS LEAF MINER. It requires stronger pesticides, which are highly toxic. People spraying them often face health issues."

manage growth, and protective nets can shield crops from sudden weather shocks.

Walking through his orchard, Mansoor points to the uniformity of the plants, each tree almost identical in height and spread. "You can manage everything better here," he says. "But it also means you have to be careful

every single day."

Officials in the horticulture department echo this assessment, pointing to structural and technological interventions as key factors behind the system's relative stability.

"Even in difficult weather conditions, production remains stable due to better canopy management, drip irrigation, and protective infrastructure," said Mohammad Abass Mir, Horticulture Development Officer.

However, this resilience is conditional. HDP requires timely irrigation, consistent fertilizer use, and careful disease management. Farmers say the new varieties are highly input-intensive, and even minor lapses can quickly lead to losses.

Productivity Gains and New Vulnerabilities

The productivity gap between

traditional and high-density systems is significant.

Traditional orchards typically yield 10-12 metric tonnes per hectare after several years and are often affected by alternate bearing and weather disruptions. In contrast, HDP systems can produce 50-70 tonnes per hectare, with a substantially higher share of Grade-A fruit.

On a per-hectare basis, farmers manage around 150-166 trees under HDP, compared to just 14-28 in traditional setups. This higher density translates into greater output and more uniform, visually appealing apples that fetch premium prices.

"In 2025, apples from the 2024 harvest season sold at 80-85 per kilogram for HDP produce, while traditional apples were priced at around 60 per kilogram. | More on P6



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

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM
 Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420090001318 issued in favour of UMMER SULTAN BHAT Parentage MOHAMMAD SULTAN BHAT
 Whereas an application has been received by one UMMER SULTAN BHAT Parentage MOHAMMAD SULTAN BHAT wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as UMER SULTAN Parnetage MOHD SULTAN BHAT Which needs to be changed as UMMER SULTAN BHAT Parentage MOHAMMAD SULTAN BHAT.
 Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.
 Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir
 mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM
 Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420130021386 issued in favour of IRSHAAD AHMAD TALEE Parentage BASHIR AHMAD TALEE
 Whereas an application has been received by one IRSHAAD AHMAD TALEE Parentage BASHIR AHMAD TALEE wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as IRSHAD AHMAD TEELI Parnetage BASHIR AHMAD TELI Which needs to be changed as IRSHAD TALEE Parentage BASHIR AHMAD TALEE.
 Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.
 Assistant Regional Transport officer
 Budgam Kashmir

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice
 This office has received a written application Gulzar Ahmad Muchi S/o Mohd Subhan Mochi R/O Zaloor, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of Gulzar Ahmad Born on 02-03-1982 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar
 fko
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomial

PUBLIC NOTICE
 My name has been wrongly written in my school records as Aanis Jawhar D/O Jawhar Ahmad Mantoo R/O Ahagam Shopian while my correct name is Aanis Jan D/O Jawhar Ahmad Matoo Mother's name Ruhi Jan R/O Ahagam Shopian. 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 office of the SADBHAVANA High School Ahagam Shopian within seven days After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Aanis Jan
 D/O Jawhar Ahmad Matoo
 Mother's name Ruhi Jan
 R/O Ahagam Shopian
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
 My name has been wrongly written in my school records as Arshiman Tawhir Mantoo S/O Jawhar ahmad Mantoo , Mother's Name Rohie JanRohie Jan R/O Ahagam Shopian while correct name is Mohammad Arshiman Matoo S/o Jawhar Ahmad Matoo Mother's Name Ruhi Jan R/O Ahagam Shopian. 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 office of the SADBHAVANA High School Ahagam Shopian within seven days After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Mohammad Arshiman Matoo
 S/o Jawhar Ahmad Matoo Mother's Name Ruhi Jan
 R/O Ahagam Shopian
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice
 This office has received a written application Mohsin Mehraj S/O Mehraj U Din Dar R/O Sagipora , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of Mohsin Mehraj Born on 04-05-2010 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar
 fko
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomial

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice
 This office has received a written application Haseena Bano D/O Ghulam Rasool Najar R/O Wadoora , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of Haseena Bano Born on 16-03-1995 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar
 fko
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomial

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 Sub.. Application of Nadeem Ahmad Bhat s/o Khurshheed Ahmad Bhat R/O pattan for issuance of EWS certificate..
Public Notice..
 IT is inform to general public that applicants EWS certificate is under process in this office.
 In this regard, a report was sought from the concerned Patwari, which reveals that the applicant is residing in village Pattan along with his father. The annual income of the applicant's family is reported to be Rs. 60,000/-.
 The residential plot, along with the house and bathroom, measures 1174 sq. ft. It has further been reported that the applicant's uncle is also residing in the said house. Accordingly, the share of the applicant's family in the residential property comes to 587 sq. ft. The applicant's family does not possess any other land.
 In this connection, if anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of the said certificate, they may submit their objection in this office within 04 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
 Sd
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE..
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aayat Bashir D/o Bashir Ahmad Parra R/O Hamary Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 02/03/2021 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 Zain Ishtaq Mir s/o Ishtaq Ahmad Mir R/O Khamiyar Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 20/06/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 Sd
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 Sub... Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mubashir Ali s/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/O Diver Yakhmanpora Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 05/02/2021 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

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 Mubashir Ali s/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/O Diver Yakhmanpora Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 05/02/2021 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

W: www.jaksfc.jk.gov.in T: 0191-2470740 (J)
 E: ps-jklfc@jk.gov.in T: 0194-2500502 (S)

JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH FINANCE CORPORATION (JKLFC)
 Finance Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government
 Sehkar Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu – 180012, J&K

No: JKLFC/HO/2026/26 Date: 13/04/2026

Settlement Scheme-2026
 (for defaulters of JKLFC (erstwhile JKSCF))

JKLFC (erstwhile JKSCF) announces a Settlement Scheme for NPA accounts classified as Doubtful-III & Loss Assets as on 31.03.2025.
 Eligible borrowers (including cases pending before Courts/DRT and cases under Section 29 where auction is not completed) may settle their accounts by depositing minimum 20% of principal (non-refundable) and paying the balance within 90 days (without interest) or 180 days @ 12.50% p.a. Fraud cases, completed auction cases, restructured accounts, decreed cases in favour of the Corporation, NMDFC & employee accounts are not eligible.
 Scheme valid up to 30-09-2026.

Interested borrowers may contact respective Field Offices/Head Office for details.

DIPK-NB-153/26 Sd/-
 dated: 13-04-2026 Chief Manager (P&A),
 JKLFC.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice
 This office has received a written application Aadil Mohammad Mir S/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/O Goripora , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Aadil Mohammad Mir Born on 16-05-2007 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar
 fko
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomial

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 Insha Mohi -U- Din D/o Gh Mohi -U- Din Bhat R/O Diver Yakhmanpora Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 04/12/2024 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

FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE QURAT UL AIN.
 In the case of-
 1. Kamil Gani.
 2. Muzamil Ahmad wani. Both sons of Abdul Gani wani.
 Both Residents of Gopalpora.
 3. Amir Javid dar S/o- Javid Ahmad Dar R/o- Habba kadal Sgr A/P- Gopalpora.
 4. Rouf Jeelan. S/o- Syed Hussan ud din. R/o- Murtaza Colony Lal Nagar Chana-pora.
 5. Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh. S/o- Gh Qadir Sheikh R/o- Gopalpora Alamdar Colony Banat lane.
 6. Dr. Asif Ali Dar S/o- Mohd Shafaq Dar. R/o- Bulbul bagh Barzulla Sgr.
 7. Saleema Shafaq. W/o- Late Shafaq Hussain Dar. R/o- Barzulla Sgr.
 Vs
 Public At LARGE.
 In the matter of: caveat petition in terms in section 148 a of CPC the caveat has reason to believe apprehension that non caveators may file a suit or any proceedings before this honourable court and on the grounds of false facts and concocted story and maybe succeeded in obtaining ex-party order against the caveator in case so the caveator may be given an opportunity of being heard before passing any order in the ex-party interests of justice.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICES & SPORTS OFFICER SHOPIAN Kashmir

AUCTION NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that this office intends to dispose of unserviceable and condemned sports items/equipment through public auction.
 Interested individuals, firms, or parties are invited to participate in the auction, the details of which are as follows:

Date of Auction: [20-04-2026]
 Time: [11:30 am]
 Venue: [Office of District Youth Services & Sports, Shopian]
 [Mini Secretariat Arahma Shopian Kashmir]

The list of unserviceable sports items/equipment proposed for auction can be inspected in the office during working hours on any working day prior to the date of auction.

Terms & Conditions:

- The auction shall be conducted on "as is where is basis."
- The highest bidder shall be declared successful, subject to approval by the competent authority.
- The successful bidder must deposit the full bid amount on the spot, failing which the bid shall be cancelled.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof.
- All participants must carry valid identification proof at the time of auction.
- Any other terms and conditions shall be announced at the time of auction.

For further details, interested parties may contact this office during working hours or contact on Cell Nos: 9797661655, 7006253629.

No: DYSSO/SPN/ Dated: 13/04/2026 District
 DIPK-364/26 Youth Services & Sports Officer
 Shopian

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 Insha Mohi -U- Din D/o Gh Mohi -U- Din Bhat R/O Diver Yakhmanpora Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 04/12/2024 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

اطلاع عام
 منظر کو اپنے SOZNI کام کارخانہ بنانا
 YEMBERZAL SHAWL HOUSE کی رجسٹریشن
 محکمہ بینڈی کر فٹس ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک خطے کے اندر نامدار اسٹیف ڈائریکٹر محکمہ بینڈی کر فٹس ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از معائنہ کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 لمپٹھر۔ پراپرائٹری فٹس ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ایجنٹ اور ایجنٹ کے نام
 سائن سوئیٹنگ ڈیپارٹمنٹ۔
 MBC 6005369200

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Palhallan Executive Magistrate 1st Class.
PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) Pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of Date of Birth certificate Certificate in favour of Shabnum Mushtaq S/o / D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Wani R/O Palhallan with Date of Birth
 Objections, if any, regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 If no objections are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Birth certificate as per rules in vogue.
 Naib-Tehsildar Pathallan
 fko

اطلاع عام
 میری بیٹی MEHAK JAVID کی سکول ریکارڈ میں غلطی سے ولدیت
 JAVID AHMAD GANAIE درج ہوئی ہے جب کہ اس کی صحیح اور درست ولدیت
 JAVID AHMAD GANIE ہے۔ اس کی اس کی درج کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں
 اگر کسی شخص یا فرد کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر
 KITE HIGH LANDS SCHOOL GOGOO RAWAL PORA میں پیش کریں۔ معیار کرنے کے
 بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 منجانب
 JAVID AHMAD GANIE

IISER TIRUPATI
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TIRUPATI
 (An Autonomous Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

RECRUITMENT FOR FACULTY POSITIONS AT IISER TIRUPATI

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals, including eligible Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) and Non-Resident Indian (NRIs) having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for faculty positions on regular basis in various disciplines.
 For detailed advertisement, please visit www.iiser Tirupati.ac.in >>Careers>>Faculty.

Date of commencement of online applications: **April 13, 2026**
 The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on May 28, 2026.**

Sd/-
 Advt. No.22/2026/IISER-T/Rect./13.04.2026 CBC 21377/12/0004/2627 Director

Public Notice
 I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides Licence under name and style Kissan Ghar Pesticides & Fertilizer. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Plant Protection officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Waseem Hassan Rather
 S/o Ghulam Hassan Rather
 fko

از عدالت پرنسپل ڈسٹرکٹ جج بارہمولہ کشمیر
 با اجلاس جواد احمد
 غلام حسن ملک بنام محمد یوسف وغیرہ (سیول)
 ولد محمد مصطفیٰ ملک
 ساکن سلطان پورہ چٹن (سائل)
 استہوار عام
 مقدمہ مندرجہ نمٹوان الصد رسائل غلام حسن ملک بتدرکہ بالانے ایک درخواست پیش کی جس سے
 میں سائل نے اظہار کیا ہے کہ اس کی ایک ہفتہ سے سماجی سٹیبلہ بانو دختر غلام مصطفیٰ ملک ساکن سلطان
 پورہ چٹن معزز رہے اور اپنی جان دہانی کی دیکھ بھال کرنے کے قابل نہ ہے اور اس کا عہدہ ہے کہ
 سائل کو مذکورہ معزز ہفتہ کے جان دہالی کی دیکھ بھال کی نسبت قرار دیا جائے۔ سائل کا اظہار
 ہے کہ ان کے والدین قبل ازین فوت ہو چکے ہیں لہذا اگر وہ اناس میں سے کسی شخص کو سائل کی
 دائر کرد درخواست کی نسبت مندرجہ اعتراض ہو تو تاریخ 14-04-2026 تک عدالت بڑا
 میں پیش کرے معیار کرنے بعد کوئی بھی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 پرنسپل ڈسٹرکٹ جج بارہمولہ

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth
Public Notice
 The registrar Births and deaths (Xen MC Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of HaroonMinza Mushtaq D/O Mushtaq Ahmad Gujri R/O Pattan Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 25-11-2020 occurred at Home
 In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 fko_r

CEO SSCL Convenes Meeting to Realign Public Transport Routes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major initiative to decongest key traffic corridors and enhance urban mobility, Faz Lul Haseeb, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), chaired a meeting with representatives of transport operators and the Private Operators Association to deliberate on the realignment and optimization of transport routes across Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Ajaz Ahmad, Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic City Srinagar, along with senior officers of Srinagar Smart City Limited.

The deliberations focused on rationalizing existing routes to reduce congestion along major arteries and ensure smoother vehicular movement across the city.

Comprehensive discussions were held on restructuring transport routes, improving operational efficiency, and en-

hancing commuter convenience through better coordination between public and private transport stakeholders. The need for data-driven planning and synchronized implementation was also emphasized.

The CEO underscored the importance of a collaborative approach, stating that effective coordination between government agencies and transport operators is essential for achieving a streamlined, efficient, and commuter-friendly urban transport system. He reiterated that the proposed measures are aligned with the broader vision of sustainable and smart urban mobility for Srinagar.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation that the route realignment and optimization exercise is being carried out under the supervision of a multidisciplinary committee on traffic, aimed at ensuring effective implementation and long-term traffic decongestion in the city.



Nasha Mukta J&K: DC, SSP Launch 100 Day 'Nasha Mukta Srinagar' Program

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of the ongoing 100-Day 'Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir' campaign launched by Lieutenant Governor J&K with an aim to eliminate the menace of drug abuse from society, the District Administration Srinagar on Monday organized a mega District-level inaugural event at Amar Singh College, which saw overwhelming participation from all senior Civil & Police officers, college students, youth volunteers and representatives from various civil organisations.

The Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar, Akshay Labroo presided over the inaugural event while Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Dr Sandeep Chakraborty attended the event as the Guest of Honour.

The event was attended by Joint Director Information, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Principal Amar Singh College, Prof Aijaz, Nodal Principal Colleges, Seema Naaz, Joint Commis-

sioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Additional CEO SCCL, Suhail ul Islam, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Cultural Officer DIPR, Burhan Hussain, all senior Civil and Police Officers, faculty members and students of Amar Singh College.

During the mega anti-drug district-level programme, the DC administered the anti-drug pledge to all participants, urging them to commit themselves to the fight against substance abuse. The DC along with SSP Srinagar also flagged off an anti-drug awareness rally, which saw enthusiastic participation from students and youth volunteers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of the 100-Day 'Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir' campaign, describing it as a focused initiative aimed at producing tangible results in safeguarding youth from the menace of drugs. He urged students to act as ambassadors of change and spread awareness within their communities.

The DC emphasized the need for collective and coordinated efforts from all sections of society,

including students, civil administration and police, to effectively address the challenge of drug abuse. He underlined stringent action against those involved in the narcotic trade.

He further stated that drug addiction destroys lives and ruins families, urging students to carry forward the message of a drug-free society. Reiterating the importance of unified action, the DC called for sustained community participation to achieve the goal of a 'Nasha Mukta Srinagar'.

The DC also stressed the importance of treating addiction in a scientific and humane manner and highlighted the availability of medical support and treatment facilities through government healthcare systems, including TeleMANAS and IMHANS.

He added that the thrust of the campaign is on community-led initiatives and public participation, calling upon officers to ensure active involvement of youth, Religious leaders, social activists, market associations, students, and civil society organizations so that the message of the campaign reaches every corner of the District.

Big-Ticket MICE Events Fuel Srinagar Tourism Comeback

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar is witnessing a strong revival in tourism activity as Carnival Holidays Pvt. Ltd. intensifies its focus on large-scale MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) initiatives in the region.

The New Delhi-based professional conference organizer has announced ambitious plans to bring over 5,000 tourists to Kashmir in 2026, signaling renewed

travel confidence following the recent Pahalgam incident.

Led by Director Ashwani Bhan, a Srinagar-born entrepreneur, the company is actively positioning Kashmir as a safe, premium destination for both corporate and leisure travel. In just the past week, nearly 1,000 tourists from leading corporates—including Tata Play, Mankind Pharma, and Shriram Finance—visited the Valley through curated group tours.

DC Visits Hajj House, Assesses Readiness and Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ahead of the commencement of Hajj-26, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo visited Hajj House Bemina to conduct an on-site inspection of preparations and arrangements for seamless departure of Hajj-2026 pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Additional CEO SCCL, Suhail ul Islam, SP West, Intiyaz Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, LDM(Banks), Nilofer Jan, Tehsildar Shalteng, Rayees Ahmad and other Officers from Health, PHE, KPDC, Hajj Committee and SMC.

During the visit, the DC carried out a comprehensive review of facilities and basic amenities available at the Hajj House, including accommoda-

tion, sanitation, medical facilities, parking space and transportation arrangements. He also inspected the cleanliness of lodging rooms and reviewed the availability of essential services such as water supply and uninterrupted electricity.

Emphasizing coordinated efforts, the DC directed all concerned departments to ensure the best possible arrangements focusing on their comfort, safety and convenience throughout the journey. He stressed upon maintaining proper hygiene, ensuring the availability of essential services and providing all necessary assistance so that pilgrims do not face any inconvenience.

The DC further instructed departments to work in close coordination and ensure all arrangements are finalized well in advance. He highlighted the importance of delivering efficient and meticulous services to pilgrims during their stay at the Hajj House and at the time of departure.

KU's Law School Launches 'Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan' with Rally

Observer News Service

Srinagar: University of Kashmir's (KU) School of Law, in collaboration with the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), organised a programme to mark the launch of the 100-day 'Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan' at the Main Campus.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and to promote a culture of healthy, responsible living.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message, highlighted the importance of collective efforts in addressing the growing challenge of substance

abuse among youth.

"The Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan is a significant step towards creating awareness and empowering young minds to make informed and responsible life choices. Educational institutions must play a proactive role in building a drug-free society," she said.

Dean and Head, School of Law, KU, Prof. Shahnaz, highlighted the role of academic institutions in shaping socially responsible citizens and noted that such initiatives encourage students to engage with pressing societal issues beyond classrooms.

Dean DSW KU, Prof. Parvez Ahmad, also emphasized the importance of sustained awareness

campaigns within campuses, noting that active student participation is key to building a conscious and drug-free academic environment.

As part of the programme, students participated in an awareness rally across the campus, spreading messages on the importance of a drug-free lifestyle and collective responsibility in combating substance abuse. Faculty from School of Law and officials from DSW were also present on the occasion.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty, reflecting a shared commitment towards building a healthier and more aware society.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 43
ZUHR 12:32
ASR 5:11
Magrib 7:04
ISHA 8:29

HIJRI CALENDAR
25 - Shawwal
1447

This Day In History

- 193 - Lucius Septimus Severus crowned Emperor of Rome
- 754 - Pact of Quierzy: between Pope Stephen II, [III] & Pippin the Korte
- 966 - Christianisation of Poland
- 972 - Notger becomes bishop of Liege
- 979 - Challenge to throne of King Aethelred II of England
- 1028 - German emperor Conrad II the Sailor crowns his son Henry III, king
- 1191 - 85-year old Giacinto Bobo becomes Pope Coelestinus III
- 1341 - Sack of Saluzzo (Italy) by Italian-Angevine troops under Manfred V of Saluzzo.
- 1434 The foundation stone of Cathedral St. Peter and St. Paul in Nantes, France is laid
- 1471 Wars of the Roses: Battle of Barnet - Yorkists defeat the Lancastrians and kill the Earl of Warwick
- 1699- Khalsa: Birth of Khalsa, the brotherhood of the Sikh religion, in Northern India in accordance with the Nanakshahi calendar.
- 1792 - France declares war on Austria, starting French Revolutionary Wars
- 1919 -Following Gandhi's nonviolent methods, Muslim and Hindu protest British rule; British troops fire on the crowds, killing 400
- 1940 - Allied troops land in Norway

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

St. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <http://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-03-26-27. Closing Date / Time 08.05.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Sectional signal maintenance contract (SSMC) for the sections of DSTE/FZR for one year.		
Tender Closing Date Time	08.05.2026 15:00 Hrs.	Date Time of Uploading Tender	13.04.2026 13:06 Hrs.
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Rs. 1,49,84,554.68	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	24.04.2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs. 2,99,700.00	Period of Completion	12 Months

NOTE: Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-03-26-27. Date:- 13.04.2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1242/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-35-25-26 Closing Date/Time: 04.05.2026 15:00
St. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-35-25-26 Closing Date/Time 04.05.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of EI Make Kyoson over Jammu division for Three (03) years.		
Tender Closing Date/Time	04.05.2026, 15:00	Date/Time of Uploading Tender	11.04.2026, 18:30
Advertised Value (Rs.)	2,88,78,453.72	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	20.04.2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	5,77,600.00	Period of Completion	36 Months

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1237/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of the deponent has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Ahmed Bin Manzoor (Aadhaar No. 3266 0843 5046). The correct name, as per Birth Certificate record, is Ahmed Manzoor Ahangar. Henceforth, he shall be known as Ahmed Manzoor Ahangar for all official purposes. If any person has any objection, the same may be conveyed within 7 days from the date of publication. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
This to inform to every one that I Nazir Ahmad Sofi S/O Late Wali Mohammad Sofi is cancelling the power connection allotted to my favour through concerned Pdd department. If any one is having objection he may report it to the department within a period of 7 days There after No objection will be entertained. Nazir Ahmad Sofi S/O Late Wali Mohammad Sofi inf

PUBLIC NOTICE
I am applying for the issuance of a pesticide license. If anybody has any objection, they may file the same before the Plant Protection Officer (PPO), Lal Mandi, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter. Name: Nazir Ahmad Bhat R/o: Dhoibwan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing no 4792 6969 7370. The incorrect name is recorded as HAJIM MOHI UD DIN S/O GHULAM MAHI UD DIN DAR, whereas the correct name is HAZIM MOHI UD DIN S/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN DAR as per the Birth Certificate record. An application for correction has been submitted to the concerned authorities. If anyone has any objection in this regard, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter. Sd/- Deponent fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of Ashiq Ahmad Reshi S/o Mohammad Maqbool Reshi, R/o Ranbir Pora, Kunzer, District Baramulla has been wrongly recorded as Ashaq Ahmad in his Aadhaar record bearing no 8903 4352 3599. The correct name is Ashiq Ahmad Reshi as per his domicile certificate and other official records. If anyone has any objection to this correction, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Ashiq Ahmad Reshi R/o Ranbir Pora, Kunzer District Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mohammad Ramzan Bhat S/o Abdul Rahim Bhat R/o Zangam Pattan, have misplaced the number plate of my Motorcycle bearing Registration No. JK05-D-9863 while travelling from Zangam to Khore. I am applying for a duplicate number plate from the concerned authorities. Any person having objection may contact the concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Vehicle Owner : Mohammad Ramzan Bhat Vehicle Number Plate: JK05-D-9863 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of the ward of the deponent has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card as BISMA AKHTER (Aadhaar No. 6220 4899 6567). The correct name as per Birth Certificate is BISMA JAN. Now, the deponent intends to use the correct name BISMA JAN for all official purposes. If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may file the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Deponent Mohammad Rajab Ganie R/o Tara Hama, Kawarhama, Baramulla fko

In loving memory of Smt. Nirmala Devi on her first death anniversary.

17 April 2026: Aakhand Guru Granth Ji Path
19 April 2026: Bhog
19 April 2026: Kiritan (10AM-12PM)
19 April 2026: Guru Ka Langar (12PM Onwards).

At Residence of Surinder Kumar, Rameshwar Temple, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

RSVP: Mathawan Family

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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After All, What Does War Really Achieve?

From economic ruin to psychological scars, modern conflicts reveal that even victory comes at a devastating and lasting cost.



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh



Recent events also demonstrate that external attacks and pressure, rather than weakening a country, can make it more organized and aggressive. When a nation is constantly under pressure, nationalism becomes stronger. People set aside their internal differences and unite against the external threat. Thus, the very strategy adopted to subdue a country can ultimately empower it. It is one of the greatest ironies of war that it often fails to achieve even its stated objectives.

ed to demonstrate balanced and mature diplomacy. They prioritized global peace and stability. This is proof that solutions to complex situations can be found through dialogue and diplomacy.

While this process may be slow and challenging, it is the most reliable path towards lasting peace.

Another important dimension of warfare today is information and propaganda. War is also fought in the media and digital platforms. Information control, the spread of rumours, and attempts to influence public opinion have become integral parts of this conflict.

This has made it even more difficult to distinguish between truth and falsehood. In the age of social media, even a small amount of misinformation can create widespread confusion and tension. Additionally, war has a serious impact on the environment. Bombing, the use of chemical weapons, and the destruction of industrial infrastructure cause long-term environmental damage. Water, air, and land pollution disrupt the natural balance.

This has a negative impact on biodiversity, and this loss is often irreversible. Thus, war also affects future generations.

Ultimately, it is clear that war is not a permanent solution to any problem. It only provides temporary victories and leaves lasting scars.

To advance humanity, development, and peace, nations must prioritize dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding. The role of international institutions also needs to be strengthened so that they can be more effective in preventing conflicts and finding solutions.

Today's world must understand that true power lies in creation and construction. Only those countries and societies that accept this truth will be able to pave the way for lasting peace and prosperity in the future.

The smoke of war may offer the illusion of momentary victory, but when that smoke clears, only destruction, regret, and uncertainty remain.

This is the greatest truth of war, a truth that is more important to understand and accept today than ever before.

The author holds a PhD in Political Science and is a poet and social thinker. He can be reached at satyawnsaurabh333@gmail.com.

KO VIEW

The Coaching Economy Trap

The coaching economy in Kashmir has moved from the margins to the center. Classrooms empty out by afternoon, and learning continues in cramped rooms, glowing screens, and late-night test batches. Families now budget around coaching fees the way they once planned around school fees alone.

Nearly one in three students depends on private tutoring across India. Formal schooling no longer commands full trust.

Aspiration and anxiety fuel this growth together. Competitive exams promise upward mobility, and coaching institutes market themselves as the only reliable bridge to that future.

Cities like Kota have transformed exam preparation into an industry worth thousands of crores, drawing over a lakh students annually and rebuilding entire local economies around test scores.

The trouble arrives after the preparation ends. Degrees multiply, coaching enrollments climb, and jobs lag behind.

A recent report found that 67 percent of unemployed youth in India hold graduate degrees. Graduate numbers have grown faster than the positions available to absorb them. Education has expanded, effort has intensified, spending has surged, and the outcome remains stubbornly uncertain.

Families bear the impact of this crack. Coaching fees, hostel rents, digital subscriptions, and repeated exam attempts drain middle-class savings. Many households treat coaching as an investment with an assumed return, though the odds stay hidden. The system sells preparation, never placement.

Accountability remains absent, as institutes broadcast success stories while keeping quiet about how many students fall short. Rankings and toppers dominate the narrative, while the majority stays invisible. Regulators check infrastructure and safety, but the core question of outcomes goes unanswered.

This extends beyond education into economics.

When a society builds a parallel system to compensate for gaps in schooling and employment, it signals deeper imbalance. The coaching economy thrives because formal systems fall short, and it keeps growing because hope sells easily.

Kashmir shows the same trend in clear ways. Coaching centers continue to expand across towns and cities. Students begin much earlier than before and stay in the system longer. Families keep stretching their finances to keep pace with rising costs.

But secure jobs remain limited despite years of effort and investment. Preparation now feels like a constant state. And the sense of arrival keeps moving further out of reach.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Dispute Economy

Numbers from courts and national data reveal a growing financial crisis hidden inside family disputes.

Irshad Mushtaq

Numbers tell a story that Kashmir can no longer ignore. Matrimonial disputes have risen sharply in recent years, with Srinagar's family courts reporting a 30 to 40 percent increase in filings. Each case brings legal costs, maintenance orders, and long-term financial strain that spreads well beyond one household.

National data adds more weight. Records from the National Crime Records Bureau show that only about 14 to 15 percent of cases under Section 498A end in conviction. That means nearly 85 out of 100 cases fail to establish a crime in court. Such a wide gap raises serious questions about how the law operates on the ground.

Financial losses in each dispute reach staggering levels. A typical family spends 10 to 30 lakh on a wedding. Legal fees over several years can add 4 to 18 lakh. Settlements often range between 10 and 40 lakh. Maintenance payments over time can cross 6 to 18 lakh. Property sales and lost income push total losses to anywhere between 48 lakh and 1.8 crore per case.

Aggregate figures paint an even starker picture. Estimates suggest 300 to 500 disputed cases emerge each year in Kashmir. With an average loss of 50 to 80 lakh per family, the total annual drain reaches 150 to 400 crore. This money could otherwise fund businesses, education, or long-term investments for future generations.

Income patterns also show imbalance in many disputes. Salaried individuals earning 50,000 to 1,00,000 per month continue to receive maintenance ranging from 15,000 to 30,000. This creates a combined monthly inflow that can exceed 1 lakh, while the paying party often struggles to manage basic expenses. These numbers demand attention. A system that moves such large sums each year needs tighter checks, verified disclosures, and faster resolution.

Kashmir economy cannot afford silent losses of this scale, and its families need a framework that reflects both fairness and facts.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

The world once again appears to be at a crossroads where the voice of humanity is drowned out by displays of power, threats, and military activity. Recent events have renewed the question of what war truly achieves. Is it merely a display of strength, or does it hold a lasting solution?

History and experience both confirm that war does not end any problem, but rather gives rise to an endless series of new ones.

Today, as instability in the global landscape grows, this question becomes even more pressing.

War is often initiated in the name of national security, self-defense, or honour, but its consequences are far more widespread and devastating.

After a war, even the so-called victors are weakened from within. Their economies are severely strained, resources are wasted, and social structures begin to crumble.

This has a direct negative impact on areas such as education, health, and development. On the other hand, defeated countries are already buried under the rubble of destruction, where the process of reconstruction can last for years, and generations pay the price.

In this entire process, ordinary citizens suffer the most, who neither directly contributed to the war nor had any influence on the decision-making process.

War not only brings physical destruction, but it also leaves deep wounds at the psychological and cultural level. Displacement, fear, insecurity, and mental trauma are conditions that affect societies long after the war. Children, women, and the elderly are most affected. Their normal course of life is disrupted, and they are thrust into an uncertain future.

Civilizations that develop over thousands of years can crumble in a matter of days or months.

Recent events also demonstrate that external attacks and pressure, rather than weakening a country, can make it more organized and aggressive. When a nation is constantly under pressure, nationalism becomes stronger. People set aside their internal differences and unite against the external threat.

Thus, the very strategy adopted to subdue a country can ultimately empower it. It is one of the greatest ironies of war that it often fails to achieve even its stated objectives.

The impact of war is not limited to the belligerent countries. Its effects are felt globally. Vital sectors such as the international economy, trade routes, and energy supplies are directly affected. A crisis in sensitive sea lanes such as the Strait of Hormuz can impact global economic stability.

The consequences, such as oil price fluctuations, supply chain disruptions, and investment uncertainty, are felt globally. The impact is even more severe for developing countries, whose economies are already dependent on limited resources.

Letter to Editor

Patwaris Hold the Key to Kashmir's Digital Future

Jammu and Kashmir stands at an administrative breaking point. The government's invitation to the Patwaris Association marks a pivotal moment for land governance. This dialogue represents more than routine consultation. It gives a genuine opportunity to align digital ambitions with ground realities that have governed land relations for generations.

The digitization of Jamabandies promises transparency. The practice reveals layered complexity. Uploading backlog mutations requires exhaustive legal verification, careful cross-referencing, and thorough validation. Each entry demands scrutiny. Administrative deadlines often compress these procedural necessities into brief windows.

Field officers encounter two distinct error categories. Quasi-judicial disputes involve conflicting ownership claims and inheritance disagreements. These require Deputy Commissioner intervention and formal adjudication. Clerical mistakes and measurement discrepancies form the second group. Patwaris can resolve these at the grass-

roots level under proper supervision.

Both types consume considerable time, and both demand resolution prior to digital upload.

Land acquisition cases present particular challenges. Compensation often went to possession holders instead of recorded owners. Mutation attestation followed possession patterns while ownership records remained static.

This creates legal ambiguities requiring clear policy frameworks. Special categories like LB6 and S432 add further layers of administrative complexity. Digitizing these entries prior to resolution risks cementing historical errors into permanent digital archives.

The Patwaris Association bears significant responsibility. Members serve as custodians of land governance. Their dialogue participation must emphasize practical solutions and realistic timelines. Training emerges as a critical need. Many field officers need familiarity with digital platforms. Structured fifteen-day programs led by Karnataka experts would build essential capacity. District-wise implementation ensures

accessibility and retention.

Villages vary dramatically in size and record complexity. Uniform deadlines suit few locations. Small hamlets require shorter timeframes. Large settlements need extended periods. Three months provides a reasonable overall benchmark, implemented with flexibility. Multi-level verification systems strengthen accuracy. Patwaris handle initial entry, girdawars conduct secondary checks, and tehsildars provide final validation.

Public participation remains essential. Initial Jamabandie readings drew sparse village attendance. Re-reading exercises should follow mutation completion. Awareness campaigns can restore community confidence. Policy clarity must guide complex mutations. Ambiguity at the top creates confusion at the bottom.

Land records function as legal instruments with emotional weight. Errors generate litigation, social conflict, and economic loss. Speed matters little when accuracy suffers.

The current dialogue must foster

Sincerely,

Mohammad Amin Mir
miramin354@gmail.com

Qaisar Mirza and the Chase That Lives On

From highways to high passes, journeys with Qaisar Mirza reveal a life framed by friendship and fearless reporting.



Khalid Bashir Ahmad

Qaisar Mirza was a delightful person and a dedicated broadcast/print journalist who reported for Voice of America and Associated Press on Kashmir during its most turbulent years during the 1990s. His death in a road accident in Delhi this day in 2002 was a great shock.

I vividly recall two memorable journeys I have had in his company. One was our road and train travel to Delhi in the mid-1990s, accompanied by Jeelani Qadri and late Jan Muhammad Koul.

From Srinagar, we hired a taxi to Jammu, where we were booked in a 2-tier sleeper coach of the Jhelum Express. But fate had other plans. By the time we reached Jammu Tawi Railway Station, the train had already departed.

Stranded, we debated our options. Young Fayaz Qadri, who had driven us in his Fiat to the railway station, boldly offered to chase the train and catch it at the next station. He pressed the accelerator, driving at 100-120 km/h on the highway. My God, what madness it was! We were flying down the road as if in a James Hadley Chase thriller. Yet, when we reached Bari



Brahmana, the Jhelum Express had already steamed away.

What followed was a relentless, nerve-wracking pursuit. At every station, the train had just left. The weak-hearted among us pleaded with Fayaz to slow down, reminding him that life was more precious than catching a train. But he remained determined, more intent on the chase than any of us.

Finally, after 111 exhausting kilometres, we reached Pathankot. To our immense relief, the train was still waiting at the platform. We boarded our reserved coach, drained but triumphant. The ticket examiner, stunned to see us, asked in disbelief, "How have you come here?" His shock was greater than ours, for he was busy trading our seats with passengers without reservation.

We had a jolly good time in Delhi - shuttling between Kashmir House at 5, Prithvi Raj Road, Connaught Place, Palika Bazaar, and the cinema halls. I still remember watching Pooja Bhatt's debut film Daddy at the Regal. The days were filled with laughter and light-hearted banter, thanks to Qaisar Mirza, whose anecdotes and jokes added spice to our journey and made our stay in Delhi truly memorable.

Earlier, we had journeyed together on a trip to Ladakh in the summer of 1989. At the time, I was serving as Assistant Director Information and had proposed to my director that we take a press party to Ladakh to report on the development scenario in the arid desert province.

By then, Kashmir was beginning

to slip into turmoil, with sporadic firing and bomb blasts unsettling daily life. Local journalists, understandably, showed little enthusiasm for a trip to Ladakh when the valley itself was drawing intense media attention. Yet, Qaisar Mirza and Jeelani Qadri accepted the call, joined by my colleague Mohammad Yasin Khan.

A jeep from the State Motor Garage was arranged for our travel. On the appointed day, we planned to pick up Qaisar at Khanyar Chowk. As we reached the spot, however, there was no sign of him. We parked the jeep at the roadside and waited, uncertain of his whereabouts. There were no mobile phones then to check if he had even left his home in Zaina Kadal. The atmosphere around us was

TRAVELLING THROUGH THE MOONLAND IN THE COMPANY OF QAISAR MIRZA, JEELANI QADRI, AND MOHAMMAD YASIN WAS A DELIGHT. The trip was filled with stories, jokes, and anecdotes that kept our spirits high. Qaisar carried his still camera and captured the scenic contours of the Srinagar-Leh Highway, clicking memorable shots of us at Fotula, the highest point on the highway at 13,478 feet.

tense and uneasy: groups of people stood outside shops, their faces far from relaxed. Suddenly, I realized the blunder we had committed by parking a government vehicle in such a setting.

At that time, government property was an easy target for arson, and our jeep stood out conspicuously. Fear gripped us. Driving away without Qaisar was difficult, yet staying put felt dangerous. With anxious hearts, we waited what seemed like an eternity until he finally appeared, blissfully unaware of the tension we had endured.

When I told him how nervous his delay had made us, he simply laughed it off in his trademark style.

The journey to Leh, with a night halt at the Kargil Dak Bungalow, was unforgettable. I had visited Ladakh earlier in 1986-87 during my posting at Leh and again while covering the Chief Minister's visit, but this trip was different.

Travelling through the Moonland in the company of Qaisar Mirza, Jeelani Qadri, and Mohammad

Yasin was a delight. The trip was filled with stories, jokes, and anecdotes that kept our spirits high. Qaisar carried his still camera and captured the scenic contours of the Srinagar-Leh Highway, clicking memorable shots of us at Fotula, the highest point on the highway at 13,478 feet.

In Leh, we met people, explored the town, and visited the upcoming Shanti Stupa. One highlight was interviewing its Japanese priest, Bikshu Gyomo Nakamura.

The blend of camaraderie, adventure, and discovery made that Ladakh journey one of the most cherished experiences of my career.

— Khalid Bashir Ahmad is a noted Kashmiri historian, author, poet, and a former civil servant. He served in the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service and held senior roles as Director of Information and Public Relations and Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages.

Who Failed the Jhelum?

An environmental crisis in Kashmir reveals diffused accountability between state institutions and societal practices.



Dr. Showket Ahmad Mandlo

Kashmir's waters have long been regarded as more than mere features of the landscape. They were woven into the valley's cultural memory, historical identity, and economic fabric.

Snow-fed springs gave rise to river systems such as the Jhelum and its tributaries, sustaining agrarian life while shaping settlement patterns.

These waters came to define the region's identity, entering literary imagination and drawing poets and travellers who found in them a rare confluence of beauty and sustenance.

The oft-quoted invocation, "If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this," conveyed more than poetic flourish, reflecting an ecological harmony in which flowing waters and the surrounding landscape formed an indivisible whole.

But the twenty-first century marks a gradual erosion of this ecological foundation in Kashmir.

Water channels now stand increasingly polluted, biologically compromised, and transformed from lifelines into conduits of waste. Environmental monitoring reports classify the Jhelum River as polluted, recording a BOD level of 7.8 mg/L, which indicates significant organic contamination.

This classification places the river in Priority IV, reflecting pollution levels that exceed thresholds suitable for healthy aquatic life and human use.

Despite this condition, the Jal Shakti Department continues to supply water from the river to most Kashmiri households, often with minimal filtration. Treatment largely relies on chlorination, which addresses biological contaminants while leaving non-biological pollutants untreated.

The Har Ghar Jal vision of safe drinking water appears increasingly compromised within this context. Studies corroborate long-standing

observations: domestic waste, untreated sewage, plastic debris, and chemical loads have steadily altered the water chemistry of the Jhelum, with the most visible stress emerging in urban areas.

At Sopore, municipal drains discharge untreated sewage and household waste directly into the river, while routine dumping along its banks has turned several stretches into dumping grounds. Heaps of plastic, polythene, organic refuse, and household waste lie within and alongside the river.

Such pressures elevate concentrations of chlorides, nitrates, and alkalinity, pointing to rising pollution levels. Sustained contamination has the potential to degrade water quality over time, threaten aquatic biodiversity, and expose communities dependent on the river to long-term public health risks.

Continued neglect could extend the consequences beyond pollution and lead to a water-borne epidemic.

The central question concerns how this degradation occurred, who bears accountability, and what it implies for the valley's environmental future and the majority whose livelihoods depend on the waters of the Jhelum.

This degradation developed gradually and reflects structural issues rather than sudden or accidental causes. It has unfolded alongside population growth and a persistent failure by environmental watchdogs to address its consequences.

Over the years, unchecked human settlements, weak regulatory enforcement, and the absence of long-term environmental planning have steadily eroded the valley's vulnerable ecological balance. Waste that should have been intercepted and treated by government systems enters the river largely unchecked, normalising pollution over decades.

This condition extends beyond governmental dereliction and points toward a deeper infrastructure deficit.

Only a limited number of sewage treatment plants exist, and many operate below capacity or remain in limbo due to unclear constraints. Government initiatives to build new treatment facilities often face delays due to hurdles such as land acquisition.

At the core of this infrastructural gap lies a governance deficit that cannot be overlooked. Multiple government bodies responsible for water quality and ecological balance function with limited enforcement

capacity. This situation also reflects broader governmental priorities.

Emphasis on tourism and urban expansion as engines of economic growth contrasts sharply with the neglect of the very environmental features that attract visitors to the valley.

A critical question arises: who will visit Kashmir if its pristine and salubrious character fades and its waters turn foul?

This degradation also depicts a social dimension that treats rivers as limitless absorbers of waste. Continued reliance on inadequate waste disposal methods, along with the absence of segregation at source, contributes to persistent pollution.

This pattern highlights both behavioural and structural concerns. Citizens contribute to pollution because systems permit it, and systems falter due to weak regulatory enforcement. Weak enforcement persists because environmental governance remains a peripheral priority.

Locating responsibility solely within governance overlooks the everyday human actions that sustain this decline.

Accountability, therefore, becomes diffused. People attribute the crisis to inadequate government facilities, while the government points to public behaviour and fiscal constraints. Municipal authorities cite infrastructural limitations. Responsibility circulates without resolution, while the river continues to bear the cost.

Addressing this crisis needs more than isolated interventions. Stronger enforcement through regulations, penalties, and sustained oversight must accompany deeper public engagement that links river health to public health, livelihoods, and cultural identity.

Such an approach can prevent the valley's rivers from remaining receptacles of waste.

This conundrum demands immediate attention, and responsibility cannot rest solely with the government.

The issue needs collective social engagement and a shared commitment to change. Civil society must confront this challenge as a common responsibility and work toward restoring a pristine and salubrious environment.

— The author works as an Assistant Professor of History at Chandigarh University and can be reached at showketmandlo@gmail.com.

A Life in Fragments

A raw narrative of loss, longing, and the pursuit of inner coherence.



Faizaan Bashir

Human flourishing appears to be at its peak, both culturally and economically. We have adapted to metrics unknown a decade or two ago: streets studded with brightly lit shops, advanced cars, clothes intensely in vogue, upgraded technologies, and income sufficient enough to sustain a fairly comfortable life.

The wheel of advancement has perhaps never moved as fast as it has for the past decade. And it's, in many ways, a good time to exist.

If abject poverty is only remembered and no longer witnessed, who should have a concern with anything at all?

The part that should worry us, however, is the rise in mental health issues.

People are silently suffering, even as they project an aura of invincibility. As a result, academics suffer, relationships fail, addictions rise, self-hatred increases while self-worth decreases, self-destruction intensifies, and crimes occur. The cracks do eventually break open.

The invisible smoke of anxiety stays. However, much we might try to maintain perfection and control, the neglect of our inner world inevitably backfires. The more we sideline it, the more its intense response becomes.

Playing the victim card thereafter only shows our unfortunate condition, which, in the real world, helps no one.

We need to tighten our belts and speak up - to ourselves, to others, to pages, and to therapists. It doesn't matter how complicated or unsettling your personal histories are. Nothing in the world is a sin except for hurting another person. Therefore, let the wildly slumbering scream out, let yourself feel a sigh of relief. Who knows if this could be

the first needed step to bringing the much-needed stability to you?

Not everything is alright, and not everyone is fine. Some are disappointed, others are depressed. Many are absolutely broken.

Let me begin by connecting my current ways of living with my personal history to establish some clarity. That which, after self-awareness, has a direct bearing on our 'Now' needs to be analyzed to regain agency and some sense of normalcy.

If not regain normalcy, at least grow insight into our subconscious minds.

Partial Disclosure:

I have been self-sabotaging for years now. And I fail to understand it. I easily grow attached to people I speak to. Failing for someone mutates into a dreadful anxious attachment: should the connection feel disrupted, the world comes crashing down. I withdraw, writhe through unbearable psychic pain, return, sense no longer being wanted, feel disappointed, and the cycle continues.

I am clingy, and I struggle to get social. Standing up straight feels heavy, distractions feel goody. Going cold turkey over (or reducing the frequency of) unhealthy digital indulgences and smoking fails miserably.

I rarely laugh, and I can't cry. I feel like a prostitute of repressed emotions and feelings.

I weigh forty-eight kilograms at twenty-eight years of age, even though I have a height of five feet and nine inches. I neglect myself. Whoever brings me relief, I cling to. I embrace with my slender body and instability. My academics have suffered. I have never been to college, hardly been to university, missed two semesters, and completed my master's late, drifted without direction.

My room is in disarray as I write this, a ciggy between my lips, lying under the covers. Everything feels meaningless and absurd and heavy. Yet I am aware.

Impartial Disclosure:

I was two years old when my mother passed away. This fissure deepened when I was taken in by my paternal aunt, while my other siblings were raised elsewhere by maternal aunt and grandmother respec-

tively. Fragmented memories of them remained.

When they visited me, happiness knew no bounds. Passive enjoyment knew no boundaries. However, when they left, my mourning started, but deep inside. I would stare blankly at trees, mountains, roads, and cars as I traveled back from my maternal's to my paternal's. I would keep souvenirs of walnuts and nails of my siblings and a couple of pebbles as a way to remember them.

This visitation, leaving, and yearning continued for years. Repressions grew and continued. The continuous and helpless traumatic episodes had been the worst-case psychological scenario that no child should endure. I needed to survive.

Over time, repression gave way to coping mechanisms. Patterns of unhealthy digital addiction and self-gratification provided the much-needed relief and saved me from having to suffer from passively repressing emotions. They became substitutes for emotional processing. The hits of dopamine acted like an antidote to the cancer I was reeling from. The root cause remained, only the way of dealing with it doubled.

Later, smoking became the third coping mechanism, the nicotine kicks of which further helped me survive the mountain of repressions and prospects.

With coping mechanisms remaining intact, I eliminated my urges to feel anything. Coping mechanisms turned into habits. Habits remained, memories and numbness that stood dormant also remained. I solved nothing, yet I survived.

As life progressed, circumstances changed but the patterns remained. Father had to be operated on for a spinal tumour. I had left the coping strategies then and had developed a different coping mechanism: speaking to a girl. Obsession over her grew. Time passed, and she vanished without a reason.

Father was diagnosed with multiple myeloma later. It felt heavy. The misfortune that befell me had to be taken along with the survival strategies I had adopted long ago. Coping strategies continued. I carried somewhat more relief by getting instant hits of highs from an imagined future. I lived the prospects in the present, tasted

them, and left them all in imagination.

As strained as I have been, I thought less about my father and more about expressing the shadow that remained within me to others. I sought relief in attachments with once-in-a-lifetime girls: for their warmth, their intimacy, their love. My being absorbed in erotica and self-indulgence had nothing to do with being real about it. They are indeed energy invested, yet I feel the need is something else: a partner, not someone that I, in childhood, felt disappeared like my unseen mother. The system crashed then, and I carry it still.

The patterns I struggle with today (clinginess, obsession, anxiety) are not random but rooted in the childhood developmental trauma. Personal histories matter. Or in the words of Carl Jung, "We carry our past with us in the form of the unconscious."

Dealing with these psychological torments, I am frustrated by the passing away of my foster father recently. His memories hit me like a storm. He fed me from his table, loved me, and went to the heavens. Not a single drop of tear came to my eyes, only a burning sensation and moisture nearby them.

Too much of what lies dormant and the ongoing circumstances and behavioral mess couldn't let me remain grounded and rooted in decision-making. Self-sabotage, thus, is not a result of weak will. It's not a question of willpower. It's all about a fractured inner system. Trauma continues to shape the present.

When emotions overpower reasoning, clarity becomes the casualty. Health becomes secondary, let alone something to take note of. Survival is all that matters.

Human beings can go to great lengths to survive. Self-awareness, however, can open up the most esoteric secrets of our lives, molding our behavior, crafting our personality, and shaping our future prospects.

We are all suffering in different ways. Some more, some less. Before everything collapses, pause and evaluate yourself.

— The author holds a Master's degree in History and can be reached at peerfaizaanbashir@gmail.com.

SC Seeks Centre, States & UTs Response on PIL for RTE Implementation

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought the responses of the Centre, states and all union territories on a PIL seeking implementation of RTE law which mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi took note of the submissions of a lawyer, representing PIL petitioner Hari Priya Patel, who also sought implementation of the new education policy across all states and UTs in the country.

"We are issuing notices. We

would like to examine the issue," the CJ said.

At the outset, the lawyer said one of the key issues was the enforceability of pre-primary education to children across the country. Besides, he also raised the issue of implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which has been updated from time to time.

The NEP is a comprehensive framework transforming the education system to focus on flexibility, skill development, and holistic learning.

It replaces the 10+2 structure with a 5+3+3+4 model (ages 3-18), introduces vocational

training from Grade 6, and emphasises AI, coding, and multilingualism to foster a "knowledge superpower".

The PIL also sought complete implementation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

This law mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 and ensures foundational education in a neighbourhood school and mandates that private schools reserve 25 percent of seats for economically weaker sections.

Besides the Centre, all the states and the UTs have been made parties to the PIL.

Army Officer Warns Of 'Befitting Response' To Any Enemy Hostility On Borders In J&K

Agencies

Jammu: Army troops are on high alert in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and Poonch districts and are fully prepared to deliver a befitting response to any hostile act by the enemy, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Ace of Spades Division, Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherji said on Monday.

Addressing a well-attended gathering at the 'Rajouri Day' event in the border district, he lauded the role of the local populace and said they will continue to work together in coordination to foil the nefarious designs of the enemy.

'Rajouri Day' is being celebrated on April 13 every year to commemorate the bravery and valour of the soldiers who laid down their lives for the liberation of Rajouri district from Pakistan Army personnel who had infiltrated from across the border in 1947-48.

"Going forward as well, the people of Pir Panjal, the administration, and the security forces will continue to work together in coordination and will always foil the nefarious designs of the enemy, I assure you that our army is fully alert at the borders and is ready to give a befitting response to

every hostile act of the enemy," the officer said.

Maj Gen Mukherji said when the Army protects the borders, the local population stands shoulder to shoulder with the forces, strengthening internal security.

"This trust, partnership, and sense of patriotism constitute the greatest strengths of our region," he said.

He paid heartfelt tributes to those who lost their lives during Operation Sindoor, including Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri Raj Kumar Thapa, Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, Havaladar Sunil Kumar, Lance

Naik Dinesh Kumar and Agniveer Mund Murlu Nayak - all awarded Sena Medal, posthumously in May last year.

The army officer also shared information about a number of new initiatives being taken by the Army in Rajouri and the nearby Poonch district for the welfare of the local population.

To address pollution caused by plastic waste, the GOC said the Army, in coordination with the civil administration, is set to install a plant that will convert waste plastic into interlocking tiles. These tiles will be used for constructing tracks in forward areas along the Line of Control (LOC).

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Prepare Drug

Kashmir: The cornerstone of this campaign is compassionate rehabilitation. We must shift our mindset—addicts are patients and they need our help and support," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the need for accessible and humane rehabilitation centres, asserting that while traffickers must face strict action, those affected by addiction require empathy.

"We will crack down hard on traffickers and criminals, but those trapped need empathy and mercy. If a youth strays, we must help him recover," he said.

Warning drug syndicates of stringent action, Sinha said a newly notified Standard Operating Procedure will target smugglers by revoking passports, driving licences, Aadhaar cards and arms licences.

He further said that under the provisions of the NDPS Act, authorities will confiscate both movable and immovable assets, freeze bank accounts and initiate comprehensive financial investigations.

"I want to assure the people that no perpetrator will escape justice," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon women's self-help groups to form vigilance squads to monitor drug abuse and report suspicious activities to authorities.

"Government and society must unite for surveillance, strengthen anti-drug support systems, and build drug-free villages and towns. Our police and enforcement agencies have been empowered with full authority to dismantle drug syndicates," he said.

On the occasion, Sinha administered an anti-drug pledge and launched the "Nasha Mukh Jammu Kashmir" anthem. The event featured awareness programmes, including cultural performances, nukkad natak and campaigns by students and artists to mobilise public participation against drug abuse.

Reiterating his call for collective responsibility, the Lieutenant Governor said the future of Jammu and Kashmir will be shaped not by policy documents but by the decisions and resolve demonstrated in the coming months.

Iran Warns No

Lloyd's List intelligence. Marine trackers say over 40 commercial ships have crossed since the start of the ceasefire, down from roughly 100 to 135 vessel passages per day before the war.

The blockade threat came after marathon US-Iran ceasefire talks in Pakistan ended without an agreement on Saturday. US Vice President JD Vance said the talks stalled after Iran refused to accept American terms to refrain from developing a nuclear weapon. Iran has demanded compensation for damage caused by US-Israeli strikes that launched the war on Feb 28, and the release of Iran's frozen assets.

Later Sunday, Trump extended his feud over the war with Pope Leo XIV, lashing out in a Truth Social post that called the Catholic leader "terrible on foreign policy" after Leo denounced the war and demanded that political leaders stop and negotiate peace. The pontiff pushed back Monday, telling reporters that the Vatican's appeals for peace and reconciliation are rooted in the Gospel, and that he doesn't fear the Trump administration.

The blockade could have far-reaching effects. The blockade is likely intended to pile pressure on Iran, which has exported millions of barrels of oil since the war began, much of it likely carried by so-called "dark" tankers that evade Western government sanctions and oversight.

The price of US crude rose 8 per cent to USD 104.24 a barrel following the blockade announcement, and Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 7 per cent to USD 102.29. Brent crude cost roughly USD 70 per barrel before the war in late February.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed support Monday for Trump's "strong stance to impose a naval blockade on Iran."

Prime Minister Keir Starmer told BBC radio Monday that Britain will not be part of a US blockade of Iranian ports in response to the closing of the Strait of Hormuz and that Britain is "not getting dragged into the war."

Iran says if you fight, we will fight. A chorus of top-ranking Iranian officials threatened retaliation. Mohsen Rezaei, a military adviser and a former Revolutionary Guard Commander, wrote on X that the country's armed forces had "major untouched levers" to counter a Hormuz blockade.

Iranian parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, who led Iran's side in the talks, addressed Trump in a statement on his return to Iran: "If you fight, we will fight."

Iran's Revolutionary Guard later said the strait remained under Iran's "full control" and was open for non-military vessels, but military ones would get a "forceful response," two semi-official Iranian news agencies reported.

During the 21-hour talks this weekend in Pakistan, the US military said two destroyers had transited the strait ahead of mine-clearing work, a first since the war began. Iran denied it.

No word on what happens after ceasefire expires

Vance, who led the US side in the talks in Pakistan, said Washington would need "an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon."

Iranian negotiators could not agree to all US "red lines," said a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to describe positions on the record. Those red lines included Iran never obtaining a nuclear weapon, ending uranium enrichment, dismantling major enrichment facilities and allowing retrieval of its highly enriched uranium, along with opening the Strait of Hormuz and ending funding for Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthi rebels.

Iranian officials said talks fell apart over two or three key issues, blaming what they called US overreach. Qalibaf, who noted progress in negotiations, said it was time for the United States "to decide whether it can gain our trust or not."

Neither Iran nor the US indicated what will happen after the ceasefire expires on April 22.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said his country will try to facilitate a new dialogue in the coming days. Iran said it was open to continuing dialogue, state-run IRNA news agency reported.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, whose country has supported mediations efforts, suggested that if there is progress in dialogue the ceasefire could be extended for 45 to 60 days to allow for more negotiations.

Iran's nuclear program is a key sticking point. Iran's nuclear program was at the centre of tensions long before the US and Israel launched the war on Feb 28. The fighting has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, 2,055 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states, and damaged infrastructure in half a dozen countries.

Tehran has long denied seeking nuclear weapons but insists on its right to a civilian nuclear program. The landmark 2015 nuclear deal, which Trump later pulled the US out of, took well over a year of negotiations. Experts say Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium, though not weapons-grade, is only a short technical step away. (AP)

Iran's 'Service

for recognition of the framework and payment of associated fees.

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow chokepoint linking the Persian Gulf to global markets, carries around 20% of the world's traded oil, making any changes to its governance a matter of global economic importance.

Iranian policymakers argue that the proposed system is not a restriction on navigation but a formalisation of services already provided, including maritime security, navigation assistance and regional stability.

By defining payments as "service fees" rather than transit tolls, Tehran appears to be attempting to navigate international legal sensitivities while asserting greater control over one of the world's most strategic shipping lanes.

The proposal marks a shift away from unilateral enforcement toward structured agreements with key stakeholders - particularly energy-importing nations in Asia and neighbouring Gulf states.

Oman's potential role. A central element under consideration is the involvement of Oman as an executive or coordinating partner in administering the framework.

The idea would mirror governance models seen in other international waterways, where neutral or regionally trusted actors play a role in oversight and facilitation. Oman, which has historically maintained balanced relations with both Iran and Western nations, is viewed as a potential intermediary capable of lending legitimacy to the arrangement.

Analysts say such a mechanism could provide a veneer of multilateralism while still allowing Iran to exert significant influence over the strait's operations.

Incentives for participation. To encourage adoption, the framework reportedly includes provisions for discounted rates for Persian Gulf countries and major Asian energy consumers - including nations heavily dependent on oil shipments through the strait.

By offering preferential terms, Tehran hopes to attract voluntary participation and gradually normalise the system as an accepted international practice, rather than an imposed measure.

This approach could place pressure on countries to weigh the costs of compliance against the risks of exclusion or disruption, particularly

amid ongoing regional instability.

Legal and geopolitical challenges. The proposal is likely to raise significant legal and diplomatic challenges. Under international maritime law, key waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz are generally considered open to transit passage without discrimination.

Critics may argue that any fee structure tied to access - even if framed as voluntary - could undermine those principles and set a precedent for similar measures elsewhere.

The plan also comes amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington, following recent military threats and disputes over control of maritime routes.

US President Donald Trump has previously warned against any attempts to restrict shipping in the strait, framing such actions as threats to global economic security.

A test of influence. Whether Iran can successfully implement the proposal will depend largely on international response. Acceptance by major trading nations could lend credibility to the framework, while rejection - particularly by Western powers - risks deepening confrontation.

For now, the initiative underscores Tehran's broader strategy: leveraging its geographic position at the mouth of the Persian Gulf to gain economic and political advantage in an increasingly volatile regional landscape.

As one regional analyst noted: "This is about more than fees. It's about who sets the rules in one of the world's most important waterways."

Dry Conditions

the Union Territory. Meanwhile, temperatures are forecast to rise by 2-4 degrees Celsius at many places till April 16.

In view of the prevailing dry conditions, the department has advised farmers to continue their agricultural operations over the next few days.

Most Significant

would be crucial in taking the process forward, noting that there has been broad political consensus on the issue.

He said the proposed reform would significantly enhance women's participation in governance, with projections indicating that the strength of the Lok Sabha could rise to 816 seats, of which around 273 would be reserved for women.

Highlighting the growing role of women in public life, Modi said lakhs of women are already contributing at the grassroots level through panchayati raj institutions, where their participation has reached nearly 50 per cent in several states.

"Women who have received opportunities for representation have delivered outstanding results. Their increased participation brings sensitivity and focus to governance, particularly in sectors like water, education, health and nutrition," he said.

Citing the success of initiatives such as the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Prime Minister said women's involvement in decision-making has strengthened delivery at the grassroots.

He also pointed to a range of welfare schemes launched since 2014, including Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, as part of the government's broader effort to support women across different stages of life.

Modi said the implementation of the Women's Reservation law would create new pathways for women leaders, making the transition from panchayats to Parliament smoother. "The journey from local bodies to the national legislature will become easier, and this will strengthen our democracy," he said.

Calling for continued engagement, the Prime Minister urged women across the country to actively participate in the process and share their expectations with elected representatives.

Assuring full support, he said the government is committed to fulfilling the aspirations of women and expanding opportunities for their leadership in shaping the country's future.

4,704 Pilgrims

monitoring and assistance, replacing the earlier wristbands.

He further said that due to ongoing maintenance work at Srinagar airport, flight operations have been impacted. Aircraft capacity has been reduced, with flights that typically carry 189 passengers now accommodating around 145. Additionally, baggage allowance has been cut from 40 kg to 25 kg.

As a result, flights from Srinagar will include mandatory refuelling halts in Delhi, leading to rescheduling of departures.

Ahmed added that pilgrims from Jammu division and Ladakh will be provided accommodation at Hajj House Srinagar prior to departure, where all necessary arrangements, including stay and logistics, have been put in

place.

He said immigration formalities will be completed in Srinagar itself, after which flights will proceed to Madinah with a technical halt in Delhi.

Lecturer Suspended

Degree College Sopore will remain suspended from April 15 to April 18.

"The decision has been taken to ensure law and order following the protests," the official said.

Further investigation into the case is underway.

LG, CM Greet

highlighted the historical significance of the festival, noting that it marks the foundation of the Khalsa Panth by Guru Gobind Singh. He urged people to recommit to the Guru's teachings of righteousness, unity, devotion, and selfless service, expressing hope that the festival brings prosperity and joy to all.

On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, Sinha paid tributes to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, describing him as a transformative architect of India's social and national ethos.

"A tireless advocate for the oppressed, he devoted his life to eradicate social and economic inequities. His enduring vision continues to illuminate paths of hope and inspiration," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon people to reaffirm their commitment to Ambedkar's principles and work towards building a just, united, and compassionate society rooted in mutual trust and brotherhood.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended warm greetings to the people on the joyous occasion of Baisakhi, highlighting the festival's cultural and spiritual significance.

In his message, the Chief Minister said that Baisakhi marks the harvest season and symbolizes prosperity, hope and new beginnings. He noted that the festival reflects the rich cultural diversity and communal harmony of Jammu and Kashmir, where people of different faiths celebrate each other's traditions with mutual respect and enthusiasm.

The Chief Minister emphasized that such occasions strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and reinforce societal values of unity and inclusiveness.

He expressed hope that the festival would bring peace, happiness and prosperity to every household and prayed for the well-being of the farming community, whose hard work sustains the region's economy.

Govt Puts Mulberry

trees lining the Rawalpura-Bagh-e-Mehtab canal road.

According to the order, the Executive Engineer of R&B Division Rajbagh had initially approached the department in November 2025, seeking permission to remove 92 mulberry trees falling within the proposed road widening and upgradation project. The Directorate had subsequently sought field assessment and intervention to explore ways to safeguard the trees, recognizing their value to the region's sericulture industry.

Following further correspondence, a report submitted by the Additional Director, Sericulture Development Department Kashmir in March 2026 recommended the removal of 62 trees, citing project urgency, inputs from the local MLA, and field verification. Acting on these recommendations, the Directorate had granted conditional permission for the felling through a supervised standing auction process on March 20.

However, the move sparked strong reactions from environmentalists and residents, who described the cutting of mature mulberry trees - some believed to be nearly 50 years old - as a serious ecological loss.

"This is not just tree cutting; it is the loss of decades of natural growth that cannot be replaced," a local resident said, urging authorities to rethink infrastructure projects that come at the cost of established green cover.

Environmental groups warned that the incident reflects a broader pattern of shrinking green spaces in Kashmir due to rapid urbanisation, where development initiatives often override environmental considerations.

Welcoming the government's latest decision, noted environmental activist Raja Muzaffar Bhat said, "The decision to halt the felling of trees is a step in the right direction, especially when Srinagar urgently needs to preserve and expand its green cover to combat rising pollution levels during the winter months from November to February." Bhat called for a comprehensive review of such projects to ensure environmental safeguards.

The order stated that the earlier approval for felling the trees will remain suspended until further directions are issued, signaling a possible reassessment of the road project's impact on the region's ecological and sericulture

assets.

Parliamentary Panel

to strengthening energy infrastructure, enhancing reliability of power supply and expediting reforms to meet the growing demand across the Union Territory.

He emphasized the need for sustained investments in the sector to ensure reliable and affordable electricity for all sections of society.

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's vast hydroelectric potential, Abdullah said the government is focusing on harnessing available resources while also promoting clean and renewable energy initiatives.

Members of the Committee raised concerns regarding existing challenges in the sector and stressed the importance of improving infrastructure and ensuring efficient power distribution.

The Chief Minister assured full cooperation and support from the Jammu and Kashmir government in facilitating the Committee's work and implementing recommendations aimed at strengthening the energy sector.

The study group is part of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy, which examines subjects related to the Ministry of Power and allied sectors.

MLA Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, was also present on the occasion.

Kashmir's Apple

Since HDP varieties arrive earlier in the market, the response is better," said Imtiyaz Ahmad, a fruit trader from Shopian.

Yet, higher productivity has introduced a new challenge.

The surge in output has contributed to market gluts, with carton prices falling from 1,300-1,400 to 750-1,000 during the 2024-25 season. While HDP improves both quality and volume, market infrastructure and price stabilisation mechanisms have not kept pace, as highlighted in the CA&HSI market analysis for 2025.

High Returns, High Costs. If climate resilience is one side of the story, cost is the other.

Establishing an HDP orchard can cost around 1.9 lakh per kanal, with subsidies of up to 50 percent from the government.

"It costs approximately 1.6 lakh per kanal with trellis and a 50 percent government subsidy. Some growers prefer private companies because they provide plants faster," said Mansoor.

The system also requires continuous investment. Farmers depend heavily on imported fertilizers and pesticides, which are significantly more expensive than traditional inputs. Disease management remains a major concern.

"The biggest disease we face is leaf miner. It requires stronger pesticides, which are highly toxic. People spraying them often face health issues," said Mansoor.

Break-even typically occurs after four to five years with subsidies. Without financial support, the timeline extends further, making the system considerably riskier for smallholders.

A Divide in the Orchard. The spread of HDP is creating a visible divide across Kashmir's apple-growing regions.

For farmers with access to capital, HDP represents the future, a way to adapt to climate stress and remain competitive. Many are already planning to expand.

"If the company is genuine and there are no issues with the variety, I would like to expand," said one adopter.

For others, the risks remain too high. "I'm scared to cut my traditional orchard. I don't have enough money, and if I lose that, I won't be able to sustain," said Mohd Amin Mir, a grower who has not adopted HDP.

This hesitation reflects more than financial caution. Traditional orchards are deeply tied to identity and inheritance. Replacing them is not just a technical decision but a generational one.

The Road Ahead. As adoption accelerates, policymakers are shifting their focus from simply expanding HDP acreage to strengthening the ecosystem that supports it. Efforts are underway to scale up cold storage, grading, and export infrastructure, with more than 200 new facilities targeted by 2026, according to state budget projections.

"HDP is a climate-smart model with the potential to transform Kashmir's horticulture sector," said Mir, while acknowledging persistent challenges such as high entry costs, market volatility, and the need for stronger institutional support.

If high-density orchards can better withstand climate shocks but demand greater investment and precision, a critical question remains:

Will this transformation secure the future of Kashmir's apple economy, or deepen the divide between those who can afford to adapt and those who cannot?

Chronic Stress Emerging as Silent Health Threat in Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Stress, once considered a temporary emotional response, is increasingly emerging as a silent public health concern in Kashmir, with doctors warning that a growing number of people, especially youth, are grappling with its long-term consequences.

Medical experts say that stress, triggered by social, economic, and psychological pressures, is no longer limited to specific groups but is affecting people across all age brackets.

"Stress is essentially the body's natural response to pressure or perceived threats, but when it becomes chronic, it can severely impact both mental and physical health," Dr Murtaza Khan, a physician, told KNO.

He explained that while short-term stress can sometimes enhance performance, prolonged



exposure leads to serious complications. "We are witnessing a surge in patients complaining of headaches, hypertension, sleep disturbances, and fatigue, all of which are directly or indirectly linked to unmanaged stress," he added.

Doctors attribute the rise in stress levels to a combination of

factors, including unemployment, academic pressure, financial instability, and social challenges.

Dr Javid Ahmad Reshie, speaking to KNO, said that modern lifestyle patterns and excessive screen time are also contributing significantly.

"People today are constantly exposed to information over-

load, social comparison, and uncertainty about the future. These factors collectively create a state of persistent anxiety," he said. "In Kashmir, additional socio-political stressors further aggravate the situation."

Health experts warn that if left unaddressed, stress can evolve into severe health conditions.

"Chronic stress weakens the immune system and increases the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression," Dr Reshie said. "We are also seeing behavioural changes like irritability, social withdrawal, and substance misuse."

Doctors said that stress not only affects individuals but also disrupts family life, work productivity, and overall societal well-being.

Experts said that while stress cannot be completely eliminated, it can be effectively managed

through simple lifestyle changes. "Regular physical activity, balanced diet, and adequate sleep are the first steps toward stress management," Dr Khan said. "Practices like meditation, deep breathing, and mindfulness can significantly reduce stress levels."

Dr Reshie stressed the importance of social support and open communication. "People should not hesitate to talk about their problems. Seeking help is not a sign of weakness but a step toward recovery," he said.

Doctors have called for greater awareness around mental health, urging institutions and communities to promote stress management programs.

"There is still a stigma associated with mental health issues. Early intervention and counselling can prevent stress from turning into serious disorders," Dr Reshie added.

Construction Halted in Sonamarg After Violations Surface in Eco-Sensitive Zone

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Sonamarg halted construction activity in the Sarbal area after reports emerged that concrete work was being carried out despite an existing ban in the eco-sensitive zone.

The action was taken by the Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) after it received information that construction, including fencing using concrete near the Nallah Sindh, was underway within its jurisdiction in violation of environmental restrictions.

According to KNT, the development assumes significance as construction activities in Sonamarg have remained under a complete ban since 2017, following orders issued by the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. The Sarbal and Thajwas areas have additionally been designated as eco-sensitive zones, where strict



environmental safeguards are meant to be enforced.

According to reliable sources, work involving concrete structures had been ongoing in the Sarbal locality despite the restrictions. The use of concrete, particularly near water bodies such as the Nallah Sindh, is prohibited under the eco-sensitive classification aimed at preserving the fragile ecology of the region.

Following the reports, the SDA intervened and immediately ordered a halt to the ongoing work. Individuals involved in the activity were directed to cease operations and were warned that any violation of the law

would invite legal action.

The incident has raised concerns over enforcement gaps in protected zones, where regulatory oversight is critical to maintaining ecological balance. Authorities have not disclosed whether any penalties have been imposed so far.

Sonamarg, a key tourist destination in central Kashmir, has witnessed sustained regulatory attention due to its environmental vulnerability. The High Court's 2017 directive continues to govern development activities in the region, with eco-sensitive zoning further tightening permissible interventions.

Former Patwari Sentenced To One-Yr Jail In 2007 Bribery Case

M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: A court here on Tuesday convicted a former Patwari in a long-pending corruption case dating back to 2007, sentencing him to one year of simple imprisonment and imposing a fine of Rs 10,000.

The Special Judge, Anti-Corruption Srinagar, Tasleem Arief found the revenue official Ghulam Qadir Bhat, then posted as Patwari of Halqa Khushipora Zainakote, guilty under Section 161 of the Ranbir Penal Code for accepting the illegal gratification.

According to the prosecution, the case was registered following a complaint in April 2007, alleging that the accused demanded a bribe of Rs 5,000 for recording an inheritance mutation in favour of

the complainant's relatives.

Acting on the complaint, the then Vigilance Organization Kashmir (now Anti-Corruption Bureau) registered an FIR and laid a trap.

During the trap operation, the complainant reportedly paid Rs 3,000 to the accused, who accepted the amount and concealed it beneath a pillow in his room. The trap team subsequently recovered the tainted money, with investigative procedures confirming the transaction.

The court observed that the prosecution successfully established the acceptance of bribe money by the accused, which constituted an offence under Section 161 RPC. Relying on legal precedents, the court noted that even in the absence of proven prior demand, acceptance of illegal

gratification is sufficient to attract criminal liability.

While determining the sentence, the court considered both aggravating and mitigating factors. It noted the seriousness of corruption by a public servant but also took into account that the accused is now elderly, a first-time offender, and had faced trial for nearly 17 years. "The most appropriate sentence in the facts and circumstances is simple imprisonment for one year along with a fine of Rs 10,000," the court held.

In default of payment of the fine, the court said, the convict will undergo an additional month of simple imprisonment. The court also directed that any period already spent in custody during the trial be set off against the sentence.

Illegal Walnut Tree Felling Detected During Police Patrol

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Police in Pulwama have booked three individuals for allegedly cutting a protected walnut tree without permission in the Dafferpora area, seized the timber, and initiated legal proceedings.

The action was taken during routine patrolling when a police team noticed the illegal felling of a walnut tree. Upon inspection, it was found that the tree had been cut in violation of the provisions of the

Jammu and Kashmir Preservation of Specified Trees Act, 1969. Notably, walnut trees are protected under the law, and unauthorized felling attracts legal action to prevent environmental degradation and loss of valuable natural resources.

According to KNT, the tree was found to belong to Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Malik, son of Ali Mohd Malik, resident of Dafferpora.

During the enquiry, police identified the accused as Man-

zoor Ahmad Khan, son of Ab Rehman Khan; Hilal Ahmad Bhat, son of Ab Hameed Bhat; and Shahid Ahmad Khan, son of Ab Rashid Khan, all residents of Bangund Wampora.

Police said the timber was seized on the spot and a case has been registered under relevant provisions of law. Further investigation is underway.

Authorities have urged the public to refrain from illegal tree felling and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in protecting the environment.

KMCH Sempora Organizes Walkathon on World Health Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Medical College and Hospital (KMCH), Sempora, in collaboration with the WIO J&K Unit on Monday organized World Health Day under the theme "Together for Health, Stand with Science," led by the Department of Community Medicine.

The day-long programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and staff. It began with a poster presentation, live sand art display on World Health Day and a session by the Community Medicine focusing on community health, followed by a walkathon.

Managing Director KMC, Tausif Ahmad, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Executive Director Insha Qazi was the Guest of Honour. Principal/Dean KMCH, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Khan; Medical Superintendent Prof. Dr. Syed Mubasir; HoD Community Medicine and Chairperson Organizing Committee Prof. (Dr) Shahnaz Nabi; Deputy Medical Superintendent Prof. Dr. H. Vigar; Heads of Departments, and senior faculty members, including Prof. Rubi Reshi, Prof. Sheikh Sajad, Prof. Saheel Majid and others, were also present.

GOC 16 Corps Reviews Preparedness along LoC

Observer News Service

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's White Knight Corps Lieutenant General Prasanna Kishore Mishra along with GOC of Cross Swords Division on Monday visited the Akhnoor sector of the Line of Control to review operational preparedness.

Nagrota-based White Knight Corps, according to KNO, wrote on X: "GOC White Knight Corps, along with GOC Crossed Swords Division, visited the general area of Akhnoor to review the operational preparedness and prevailing security grid. The visit focused on the assessment of counter-infiltration measures, the integration

of new-generation equipment, and overall operational synergy."

"The GOC commended the formation for induction and integration of niche technologies and exhorted all ranks to sustain a robust, agile and responsive counter-infiltration posture. The Knight Stands Vigilant... We Serve, We Protect!" the post read.

Pertinently, the Army guards the 740-km-long Line of Control in Jammu, Poonch, and Rajouri districts in Jammu division, and Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora districts in Kashmir division.

The Army is deployed to prevent infiltration, exfiltration, smuggling and drone activities initiated

from across the LoC by terror outfits with the assistance of Pakistan.

An official said, "These drones are used to drop payloads of arms, ammunition, cash and drugs on the Indian side. Overground workers of terrorist groups pick up these payloads and pass them on to the terrorists to sustain terrorism in J&K."

"The duties of preventing infiltration, exfiltration, smuggling, and drone activities are carried out by the Border Security Force along the 240-km-long international border in J&K," he added.

The international border is situated in Samba and Kathua districts, and partly in the Jammu district.

Zoji-La Tunnel Will Economic Growth: LG Ladakh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday visited the Eastern Portal of Zoji-La Tunnel to inspect the ongoing construction work during his visit to Drass. He reviewed progress on one of the most significant infrastructure projects aimed at ensuring all-weather connectivity to Ladakh.

During the inspection, LG Saxena, as reported by KNO, was given a detailed presentation on the project. He was informed that the tunnel, being executed by Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd at a sanctioned cost of Rs 6,808.69 crore, is expected to be completed by February 2028. The breakthrough of the tunnel is an-

anticipated by mid-2026.

The project incorporates modern engineering features, including lay-bys at intervals of every 750 metres and three ventilation shafts to ensure operational efficiency and safety.

The Lieutenant Governor was also briefed on the use of the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM) from both the western and eastern portals for excavation. However, officials highlighted that poor rock quality in certain stretches has posed challenges, impacting the pace of progress.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved so far, the LG directed the concerned officials to further expedite the work to ensure the timely completion and early operationalisation of

the tunnel, which will be crucial for ensuring year-round connectivity to Ladakh. He called for maintaining the highest safety standards during construction and in the final structure, keeping in view the safety and security of commuters.

Describing the Zoji-La Tunnel as one of the dream projects of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, LG Ladakh commended the dedication and resilience of the workforce engaged in the project, acknowledging their efforts in challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions.

"Upon completion, the tunnel will not only ensure seamless connectivity between Ladakh and the rest of the country but will also significantly boost tourism in the region," he said.

Driving Test Digitised; Digital Licences Within 48 Hours: ARTO Sgr

SRINAGAR: The driving test system at Bemina trial ground in Srinagar has been fully digitised with online slot booking, SMS-based updates and time-bound issuance of digital driving licences, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Srinagar headquarters, Anis Ahmad, said on Monday.

Speaking to KNO, at the trial ground, Anis said driving skill tests are conducted three days a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, under a structured slot-based system to ensure regulated operations. He said the centre handles an average of 130 to 140 candidates daily, with applicants required to book their slots online or through authorised centres and appear strictly on their assigned dates.

"The entire system is slot-based. Candidates are required to come only on their allotted date, which helps maintain discipline and avoids overcrowding," he said. Providing operational data, the ARTO said around 70-80 four-wheelers are tested daily, while the remaining candidates appear for two-wheeler tests depending on category-wise bookings.

"The process is fully transparent, with each driving test videographed and strict identity verification conducted at entry points to eliminate impersonation," he said.

On system flexibility, Anis said the department uses an online rescheduling mechanism in case of adverse weather or unavoidable circumstances, with applicants receiving SMS alerts linked to their registered mobile numbers. "Candidates can also check updated schedules through the online portal," he said. He added that successful applicants are issued confirmation messages and receive digital driving licences within 48 hours of clearing the test. (Observer News Service)

Siblings Drown to Death in Jhelum

SRINAGAR: Two siblings drowned after slipping into the Jhelum River in South Kashmir's Anantnag District on Monday.

An official told KNO that the duo drowned after accidentally falling into the river while washing livestock in the Padshahi Bagh village of Bijbehara town this afternoon. "One of the brothers slipped, and in a bid to save him, the other also slipped into the river," the official added.

Rescue teams, including Anantnag Police and SDRF, rushed to the spot and launched an operation soon after the incident was reported. However, both could not be saved. The bodies were later retrieved by locals and rescue teams. The deceased were identified as Majid Bashir and Shahid Bashir, both sons of Bashir Ahmed Malik and residents of Jablipora Bijbehara.

Locals said that one of the brothers, Majid, was scheduled to get married in May. The area is in deep mourning, and both were laid to rest in a local graveyard. (Observer News Service)

Boy, Girl Found Dead in Abandoned House

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday recovered bodies of a boy and a girl from an abandoned house in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. An official told KNO that two decomposed bodies were spotted by locals inside the house in Kamad village this morning. He said locals informed the police after noticing the bodies, following which a team reached the spot. "The FSL team collected samples for investigation from the location. It appears to be a case of suicide," the official added.

He said that both the deceased—a 25-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl (names withheld)—were residents of a nearby village and had gone missing on March 18 this year.

After conducting the postmortem, bodies were handed over to the families for the last rites. Police have started an investigation. (Observer News Service)

4 Drug Peddlers Arrested in Pulwama, Sopore

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

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a police party of Police Station Kakapora at a checkpoint established at Kandizal near NH-44 Underpass intercepted a vehicle (Innova) bearing registration number JK02DA-4166, with two persons on board. They have been identified as Liyaqat Ali son of Nazir Ahmad Akla resident of Nagrota Jammu, along with a passenger, Amanat Ali son of Gh Mustafa resident of Nagrota Jammu. During the search, approximately 533 grams of poppy straw and 20 charas sticks weighing about 735 grams were recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of the crime has also been seized. (Observer News Service)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR
Phone No. 0194-2052696. Email: to-exenidsrinagar@jk.gov.in

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING
e-Tender_e-NIT No. 04 of 2026-27 dated 10-04-2026_

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Of J&K UT, e-tenders are invited through e-tendering mode from reputed, registered HT Electrical contractors/ workshop holders for Annual HT Electrical Framework Contract of irrigation/ dewatering/ tubewell schemes of Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar and registered with Government of Jammu and Kashmir having up to date Sales Tax Clearance Certificate and relevant experience in work. The e-tenders will be valid for One hundred and eighty days (180) for executing the following contract -

S. No	Particulars of the work	Qty.	Name of Division	Estimated amount (In Rs.)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In ₹)	Earnest money (In ₹)	Bid Validity	Duration of contract
1.	Annual HT electrical Framework Contract of irrigation/ dewatering/ tubewell schemes of Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar covering sub divisions Ganderbal & Headquarter having jurisdiction in district- Ganderbal, Srinagar and Budgam	As per requirement	Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar	648000	soo	12960	180 days	Upto 31st March 2027

Head of account: M.H. 2702, 2711

The Bidding documents consisting of specifications, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the official website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given below:

a.	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	10-04-2026	(1600Hours)
b.	Period of Downloading Tender Documents	10-04-2026 to 25-04-2026	(1600Hours) To (1400Hours)
c.	Document Download End date	25-04-2026	(1400 Hours)
d.	Bid Submission Start Date	10-04-2026	(1600 Hours)
e.	Bid Submission End Date	25-04-2026	(1400 Hours)

Each tender should be accompanied with an Earnest Money in the form of CDR/ FDR/ IBG/ Insurance Surety Bond as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar. In absence of Earnest Money, the Tenders shall be rejected out rightly.

Any information regarding the tenders can be obtained from this office on all working days.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mech. Iri Division, Srinagar

DIPK-353-26
DT: 13/04/2026

US-Vatican Feud Erupts Over Iran

AP

CAIRO: The Pope pushed back Monday on President Donald Trump's criticism of him over the US-Israel war in Iran, telling reporters that the Vatican's appeals for peace and reconciliation are rooted in the Gospel, and that he doesn't fear the Trump administration.

Leo XIV's comments came as traffic through the Strait of Hormuz appeared to have come to a halt, an intelligence firm said, and oil prices resumed their climb after Trump announced on social media that the United States would blockade the waterway.

US Central Command later said the blockade would involve all vessels entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal



areas, and that it would still allow ships travelling between non-Iranian ports to transit the strait, a step down from the president's earlier threat to blockade the entire strait.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard said the strait remained under Iran's "full control" and was open for non-military vessels, but military ones would get a "forceful response," two semi-official Ira-

nian news agencies reported. The moves came after marathon US-Iran ceasefire talks in Pakistan ended without an agreement, setting the stage for a showdown. Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, who led Iran's side in the talks, addressed Trump in a statement on his return to Iran: "If you fight, we will fight."

Netanyahu spoke with Vance after Pakistan talks ended. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that he has spoken with US Vice President JD Vance about the negotiations in Pakistan.

Netanyahu said the pair spoke Sunday while Vance was on a plane returning from the negotiations in Islamabad. Israel supports Trump's "strong stance to impose a naval blockade on Iran," Netanyahu said, and backs the US position that Iran must remove all of its enriched nuclear material and refrain from any more enrichment within Iran for several decades.

Maritime expert previews potential conflict in Strait of Hormuz. The coming days could be a stress test for the rules that are supposed to govern the Strait of Hormuz, according to Sal Mercogliano, a maritime historian at Campbell University.

It remains unclear, he added, how the US would track, intercept and board vessels moving from Iranian ports through the strait. Any US or Iranian attempt to choke off the waterway would run counter to the principle of freedom of navigation, said Mercogliano, who has testified

before the US Senate on commercial shipping and written for the US Naval Institute.

"We are challenging the concept of freedom of the seas," Mercogliano said on his "What's Going on With Shipping?" podcast, which has more than 600,000 followers on YouTube.

Asked to comment on the U.S. announcement of a blockade on Iran's ports and coastline, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "Most likely, such actions will continue to negatively impact international markets, this can be assumed with a high degree of certainty."

Peskov told reporters: "Many details remain unclear and incomprehensible, so I would refrain from making any substantive comments at this time."

Oil Prices Rise Back Above \$100

Oil prices are back above \$100 per barrel, and stock markets are falling worldwide after 21 hours of ceasefire talks failed to end the war with Iran.

But Monday's moves are more modest than many of the extreme swings that have rocked financial markets since the start of the war in late February.

Analysts said that suggests Wall Street still hopes both sides may ultimately avoid a worst-case scenario for the global economy.

The S&P 500 slipped 0.2%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 238 points, and the Nasdaq composite fell 0.2%. Oil prices moved more and jumped 7%.

Pak PM Likely to Visit Saudi Within Next 48 Hrs

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to visit Saudi Arabia within the next 48 hours following an invitation from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, a media report said on Monday.

During the visit, Shehbaz is expected to hold consultations on key regional and international developments, signalling continued diplomatic engagement between the two countries, Geo News reported.

The visit follows much-anticipated talks in Islamabad, which ran from Saturday into early Sunday and were the highest-level discussions between the two sides since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The negotiations came days after a ceasefire between the US and Iran began last week, aimed at ending six weeks of fighting that has killed thousands of people across the Gulf,



the US. Riyadh and Islamabad signed a mutual defence pact in September 2025, committing both sides to treat any aggression against either country as an attack on both. That significantly deepened a decades-old security partnership.

Recently, a Pakistani military contingent comprising around 13,000 soldiers and 10 to 18 jets has reached Saudi Arabia as part of the joint defence agreement.

The military contingent's deployment to King Abdulaziz Air Base in the Eastern Sector includes fighter jets and support aircraft from the Pakistan Air Force, the Saudi Ministry of Defence said last week.

The deployment aimed to enhance joint military coordination, improve operational readiness between the armed forces of the two countries, and support security and stability at regional and international levels, it added.

Iran Open to Talks, Ready for War: Envoy

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Iran is open to holding another round of peace talks with the US if it refrains from "unlawful demands" and accepts Tehran's conditions, Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali said Monday, as the US blockade of Iranian ports takes effect, further escalating the tensions.

The US and Iran failed to reach a peace deal at their historic 21-hour talks in Pakistan that ended early Sunday without a breakthrough, with both sides attempting to hold each other responsible for the stalemate.

Fathali also responded to the US military blockade on shipping traffic entering and leaving Iranian ports saying Washington knows the capabilities of Iran and that Tehran is fully prepared for "all options".

"If you want progress in any diplomatic process, (both) sides should be ready for negotiations. And they should avoid unlawful demands," Fathali told a media briefing at the Iranian embassy. "Our high-ranking officials said we are ready for peace, we are ready for negotiations. But you should know that Iran is also ready for war," he said.

"They wanted to finish the war in three or four days, but the duration, the scope and the geography of the war are under our control. You can



see this situation after the 42-day war," he said.

The Iranian ambassador was responding to questions on whether Iran was ready for a new round of talks as the negotiations between the two sides in Islamabad ended without producing any outcome.

The Iranian side had unveiled some "key points" during the negotiations held in Islamabad, including the nuclear issue, war reparations and relief from sanctions, Fathali said.

Hours after the Iran-US talks ended without any outcome, President Donald Trump said the US military will begin a blockade to stop ships from entering or leaving the Strait of Hormuz and stop all traffic entering

and leaving Iranian ports starting 10 am ET (7:30 pm Indian time) on Monday.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical shipping route that handles roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas). When Fathali was asked about the US blockade of Iranian ports, he said the American side is "very well aware of our capacity and capabilities".

"Our high-ranking officials have said they are ready for all options. You can see how in our response and reaction," he said.

The ambassador also asserted that the Strait of Hormuz is part of Iran's "territorial waters".

Iran will soon announce a mechanism for using the waterway, he said. "Iran announced that the Strait of Hormuz is part of the territorial waters of Iran and Oman, and we said that in the near future, we will announce the mechanism for the passage through this strait," Fathali said.

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Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month

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

Small amount, big corpus

More time = more compounding

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

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