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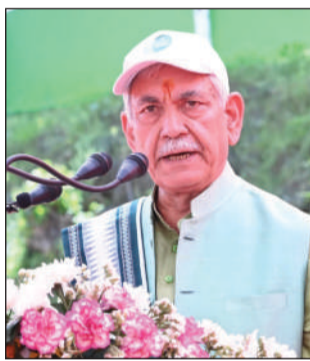
LG Vows 'Surgical Strike' On Drug Hotspots

- ♦ Says Drug Abuse A Social Cancer, Not Just Law & Order Issue
- ♦ 'Pakistan Using Drugs To Target J&K Youth'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said every drug hotspot in Jammu and Kashmir will be targeted "like a surgical strike," as he led a padyatra and addressed a public meeting in Ramban under the Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir campaign.

"Drug abuse isn't just a law & order issue but a social cancer requiring every part of society to fight. I urged for 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach. I believe when the government's strength and society's resolve act as one, then even the



toughest challenges crumble," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He alleged that for decades, Pakistan has orchestrated drug smuggling into Jammu and Kashmir to fund terrorism and destroy the younger generation.

"We will map every hotspot. And I promise you: we will hit each one like a surgical strike. Not a single smuggler will be spared. The entire network will be dismantled," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at a public meeting in Ramban as part of the campaign. | [More on P6](#)

Expedite Action To Dismantle Drug Networks: IGP

Kashmir Inspector General of Police (IGP) V K Birdi on Wednesday directed the force to intensify efforts and expedite legal action to effectively dismantle drug networks in the valley. Birdi chaired a review meeting of Kashmir Zone at the Police Control Room here and conducted a comprehensive | [More on P6](#)

Pak Army Chief In Tehran With US Message

KO Web Desk

Tehran: Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, has arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-level political-security delegation, carrying a new message from Washington as diplomatic efforts intensify to extend a fragile ceasefire between Iran and the United States.

The delegation, which includes interior minister Mohsin Naqvi as well as representatives from the foreign ministry, security institutions and technical experts, landed in the Iranian capital on Wednesday, according to Iranian media reports. Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, welcomed the delegation on arrival.

In Islamabad, the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said the visit was part of ongoing mediation efforts.

The purpose of the visit is to convey a message from the United States to the Iranian leadership and to prepare the ground for a second round of negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Earlier, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, confirmed that Tehran would host the Pakistani delegation and said indirect exchanges between Iran and the US were continuing. "Following the talks that took place in Islamabad, and also the discussions that the Pakistani side | [More on P6](#)

Govt, Opposition Set for Face-Off Over Delimitation, Women's Quota

Centre Eyes Up To 850-Seat Lok Sabha; Seat Redraw Key To 33% Quota Rollout By 20299

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A high-stakes political confrontation is set to unfold in the Lok Sabha as the government prepares to introduce key legislations aimed at implementing the women's reservation law and undertaking a fresh delimitation exercise, with the Opposition uniting to resist the move.

The Centre has listed three major bills for introduction on Thursday—the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, the



Delimitation Bill, 2026, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026—during a special three-day sitting of Parliament scheduled from April 16 to 18.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will introduce the Constitution amendment

to operationalise 33 per cent reservation for women ahead of the 2029 general elections. The expansion is proposed to follow a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census, with a similar increase in seats envisaged for state and Union Territory assemblies.

The seats reserved for women in the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies are proposed to be allotted on a rotational basis across constituencies in states and Union Territories. The bill also seeks to amend Article 81 of the Constitution to reflect the revised composition of the House.

However, the delimitation provisions have triggered widespread concern, particularly among southern states, where leaders fear that a population-based redistribution of seats | [More on P6](#)

New Bills May Trigger Sixth Delimitation In J&K

Agencies

If Parliament approves the proposed legislations on the delimitation of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies, the Jammu & Kashmir's Assembly seats will undergo

delimitation for the sixth time.

According to official documents, Assembly seats in Jammu & Kashmir have previously been delimited in 1957, 1966, 1975, 1995 and 2022. In 1951, Jammu & Kashmir witnessed the carving out of 100 seats, including 25 seats for areas of the state under | [More on P6](#)

MeT Forecast Rains In J&K From April 17

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department on Wednesday forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir on April 16, with only a brief spell of light rain or thundershower expected at a few places towards evening or night.

An official from the MeT Department told news agency KNO that weather conditions are likely to change from April 17, with generally cloudy skies and light rain or thundershower expected at many places during morning or forenoon hours on April 17 and 18.

The department has also warned of gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph and the possibility of hailstorms at isolated locations during this period.

On April 19, scattered areas may receive brief spells of light rain or thundershowers in the afternoon, while dry weather is expected to prevail from April 20 to April 24, the official said. | [More on P6](#)

CBSE Class 10 Results

93.7% Of Students Pass Exam; Over 55,000 Score Above

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: More than 93.70 per cent of students cleared Class 10 board exams, with over 55,000 of them scoring above 95 per cent marks, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced on Wednesday.

Over 2.20 lakh candidates have scored above 91 per cent marks.

Girls outshone boys yet again, with 94.99 per cent of girls clearing the exam, with 1.3 percentage points higher than the pass percentage of boys, which stood at 92.69 per cent. Transgender people recorded a pass percentage of 87.50 in the crucial exams.



In line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP), the CBSE introduced two board examinations for Class 10 students this year. The first examination was held in February-March, and the

second is scheduled for May. It was mandatory for students to appear in the first edition.

"Traditionally, Class 10 results are announced in mid-May. However, this year, CBSE evaluated approximately 1.6 crore answer books in record time, and the result is being declared a month earlier than usual," said CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

"Following the declaration of results, students will be asked to submit their candidature for the second examination through their respective schools," he said.

While 55,368 students have scored | [More on P6](#)

Visually Impaired Srinagar Girl Scores 95%

Observer News Service

In an inspiring feat, a visually impaired student from Srinagar has

secured 95 per cent marks in the Class 10 board examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education, | [More on P6](#)

J&K HC Orders Timely Payment Of Contractor Dues

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday held that the government cannot compel contractors to seek judicial redress for enforcement of admitted claims, underscoring the need for an effective and time-bound mechanism to ensure prompt payment of such liabilities.

A Bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal made the observation while directing the authorities to release Rs 47.47 lakh in admitted dues to a local contractor.

"...this Court deems it appropriate not only to grant relief to the petitioner (contractor), but also to reiterate the position already enunciated by this Court in M/s Saint Soldier Engineers & Contractors Pvt.



Ltd. vs. Union Territory of J&K & Ors., that the State is under an obligation to ensure timely release of admitted and undisputed dues and cannot compel parties to seek judicial redress for enforcement of such claims and emphasized the necessity of putting in place an effective and time-bound mechanism for disbursement of admitted liabilities. It is, therefore,

expected that the respondents shall adhere to and ensure strict compliance with the directions issued therein."

The court noted that despite the catena of judgments and a well settled position of law, the authorities continue to withhold such admitted dues on grounds which are wholly "untenable" in law, such as administrative delays, pendency of approvals, or alleged paucity of funds.

"Such pleas, in the considered view of this Court, are nothing but attempts to shift the burden of internal inefficiencies onto the shoulders of the executing parties, which is impermissible," the court said, underlining that the State, being a welfare entity, is expected to act fairly, reasonably and in a responsible manner in all its dealings. | [More on P6](#)

Amarnath Yatra Registration Begins In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The registration for the annual Amarnath yatra in south Kashmir Himalayas began on Wednesday, with a large number of devotees thronging counters set up here for the pilgrimage.

The advance registration is open in both online and offline modes.

The 57-day pilgrimage will commence from the twin tracks—the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steep Baital route in Ganderbal—on July 3 and will conclude on Raksha Bandhan on August 28.

"The registration for Amarnath Yatra has begun. There is heavy rush as pilgrims are coming to get themselves registered. It has been



opened in both online and offline modes," Punjab National Bank's Jammu Circle Head, DGM Pankaj Kumar Verma, told reporters here.

Punjab National Bank acts as the nodal bank for the yatra. Across India, 556 bank branches are involved in the registration process, out of which 310 branches of Punjab National Bank participate. In Jammu, | [More on P6](#)

CM Unveils Renovated War Memorial At JAKLI

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday unveiled the renovated War Memorial at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) Regimental Centre in Rangreth on the occasion of the regiment's 78th Raising Day.

The refurbished memorial, located near the Old Airfield in Srinagar, stands as a tribute to the soldiers of the regiment who laid down their lives in service of the nation.

Speaking after the ceremony, Omar expressed gratitude to the regiment for inviting him to unveil the memorial. "I am thankful to the regiment for giving me the opportunity to dedicate this memorial. I pray that they stay safe and continue their good work," he said.



The JAKLI Regimental Centre was originally established on April 15, 1948 at Haft Chinari in Srinagar and was later shifted to Rangreth in 1993.

The centre is regarded as one of the premier training establishments of the Indian Army, where recruits undergo a rigorous nine-month | [More on P6](#)

Darbar Move Begins Govt Offices Shift To Srinagar From May 4

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday ordered the annual 'Darbar Move,' directing government offices to shift from Jammu to Srinagar for the summer season.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department, offices observing a five-day work schedule will close in Jammu on April 30, while those following a six-day week will shut on May 2. All departments will resume functioning in Srinagar from May 4.

The government has restricted staff strength for the move to 33 per cent of employees or a maximum of 10 officials per office.

Transport arrangements have been finalised, with the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation set to operate buses for employees on May 1 and May 3. Advance ticket booking will begin from April 20.

To ensure smooth transit, each convoy will be supported by breakdown response systems, including cranes, standby buses and mobile workshops. Police will provide escorts and facilitate movement along key stretches | [More on P6](#)

Man Absconding For 39 Yrs Arrested In Budgam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police in Budgam on Wednesday arrested a man accused in a rape case dating back to 1987, nearly 39 years after he had been evading arrest.

The accused, identified as Bashir Ahmad Ganaie, originally a resident of Drer Kalipora in Shopian and presently living in Kulgam, was wanted in connection with FIR No. 237/1987 registered at Police Station Budgam under Sections 366 and 376 of the Ranbir Penal Code.

According to police, the accused had remained absconding since the registration of the case. Acting on specific inputs, a team from Police Station Budgam launched a well-coordinated operation and apprehended him.

"In a significant breakthrough, police apprehended a long-time absconder who had been evading arrest for nearly four decades," a police spokesperson said. | [More on P6](#)



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Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICE TULLAMULLA
DISTRICT GANDERBAL

No: ZEOT/Plg/207 Dated: 15.04.2026.

Subject: Re-Auction Notice.

References:
 1. CEOG/Plg/58/2025-26/1677-78, dated: 27.12.2025.
 2. No: ZEOT/Plg/187, dated: 08.04.2026.

It is hereby notified that the auction of the dilapidated old school building of MS Wahidpora, Zone Tullamulla, District Ganderbal, which was earlier scheduled to be held on 15.04.2026 at 11:00 AM, has been rescheduled due to the demand of the Intizamaya Committee Jamia Masjid Shareef Wahidpora.
 The minimum bid value has been fixed at rs 2,19,943/- (Rupees Two Lakh Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Three only). Interested bidders are informed to submit their bids to this office on or before 24.04.2026, along with a CDR of rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) pledged in favour of the Zonal Education Officer Tullamulla (J&K Bank). No CDR shall be entertained after the stipulated deadline.

The auction shall be conducted on 25.04.2026 at 11:00 AM at the premises of MS Wahidpora by the Auction Committee comprising the following members:

Zonal Education Officer Tullamulla	Member Secretary
Assistant Executive Engineering Concerned	Member
Representative of forest department (representative)	Member
Concerned Headmaster MS Wahidpora	Member

Zonal Education Officer Tullamulla

DIPK-391/26
 dated: 15-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in my Jammu & Kashmir Bank Account bearing Account Number 0078040150001231 the name is entered as SHEHZADA AKHTER while my actual name as per adhar is DILSHADA BANO. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Branch Manager J & K Bank Budgam with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
 DILSHADA BANO W/O FAROOQ AHMAD MALIK
 R/o MAMATH BUDGAM. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of bearing No 363590164887 the name is entered as NAZA BANO while her actual name is NAZIMA. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
 NAZIMA W/O GULZAR AHMAD BHAT
 R/o BABA JAMAL UD DIN GOGOO BUDGAM fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rafiqa Bano W/o Mushtaq Ahmad Reshi R/o Pariswani, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby inform that my name and D.O.B have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Rafeeqa Begum and D.O.B 12-02-1968 instead of my correct name and D.O.B Rafiqa Bano and 02-11-1968. Objections, if any, may be filed before the concerned Aadhaar Centre at Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.
 Deponent
 Rafiqa Bano fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) SHOWKAT AHMAD to (New name) SHOWKAT AHMAD ANIM . In future i will be known as (new Name) SHOWKAT AHMAD ANIM.
 If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zona Begum W/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o Gundidarvesh, District Shopian, hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Zoona Banoo instead of my correct name Zona Begum as per passport records. Objections, if any, may be filed before the concerned Aadhaar Centre at Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.
 Deponent
 Zona Begum fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my wards name from (old name) SUFYAN SHOWKAT to (New name) SUFYAN SHOWKAT ANIM . In future he will be known as (new Name) SUFYAN SHOWKAT ANIM.
 If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
 SHOWKAT AHMAD ANIM
 F/O SUFYAN SHOWKAT ANIM. mcb

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
Office of the Deputy Director Law Enforcement, Kashmir
 Message for Farmers

All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/ use the below mentioned batch No of pesticide product in their fields, which has been declared as Misbranded by the Quality Control Laboratory Lalmandi Srinagar. The details of Misbranded Pesticide product is as under:-

S.No	Name of the Product	Active Ingredient	Batch No	Date of Manufacture	Date of expiry	Manufactured/Marketed by
1	HIT BAC	Pendimethalin-38.7% CS	JHY26LA005	27.01.2026	26.01.2028	Biostadt India Ltd
2	HITBAC	Pendimethalin-38.7% CS	JMY26LB006	21.02.2026	20.02.2028	Biostadt India Ltd

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide product under Batch No: JHY26LA005 & JMY26LB006 and proceed further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

Sd/-
 Deputy Director Law Enforcement
 Kashmir

DIPK-405/26
 dated: 15-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Lateefa Bano W/o Javaid Ahmad Malik R/o Aatipora Zekhar, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), on behalf of my minor daughter, hereby inform that her name has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Zikra Javid Malik instead of her correct name Zikra Javaid Malik as per official records. Objections, if any, may be filed before the concerned Aadhaar Centre at Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.
 Deponent
 Lateefa Bano fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mursala Mohi Ud Din D/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Malla R/o Reshipora, Tehsil Herman, District Shopian, hereby inform that my name, father's name and D.O.B have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Muirsela Moh Ud Din, Gh Mohi Ud Din Malla and D.O.B 04/09/2021 instead of my correct particulars Mursala Mohi Ud Din, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Malla and D.O.B 02/01/2003. Objections, if any, may be filed before the concerned Aadhaar Centre at Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.
 Deponent
 Zona Begum fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of my ward has been incorrectly recorded in official records. The incorrect name is recorded as "Ruyida Mudasar", whereas the correct name is "Aysha Mudasar". I intend to use the correct name "Aysha Mudasar" for all future legal, official, and personal purposes. If any person has any objection to this change, they may file the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Deponent
 Mudasar Ahmad Dar
 R/o Pahnoo, Shopian fko

Purchasing Committee of The Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society Nowlari

Reg No. Reg date

TENDER NOTICE

The PACS Nowlari intends to install a Manufacturing of Apple Chips and Species at Nowlari. The eligible vendors are hereby invited with an Expression of Interest (EOI) with following terms and conditions:
 01. That the vendors shall specify all brands (Local & Imported) with warranty/Guarantee and prices associated with each Brand in the given Capacity.
 02. That the vendor shall be responsible for installation of the said machine at the given location. All associated equipment along with the labor shall be included by the vendor in the EOI.
 03. The Vendor/Supplier must confirm the ISO certifications of the machinery to ensure compliance certification of the machinery to ensure compliance with quality and standards. The Interested vendors must submit the EOI within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the following address (for further unit specification contact the office of the PACS Nowlari for copy of D.P.R.).

Secretary Purchasing Committee.
 The Pacs Nowlari Block Pattan Dist Baramulla
 contact No. 7889903255

b,g

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from NAZIRA BANO To NAZIRA BEGUM in my passport bearing passport No.. N8929857 in future will be known as NAZIRA BEGUM . If anybody is having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with passport office Srinagar within 07 days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
 Name....NAZIRA BEGUM
 W/O...SYED FAYAZ AHMAD fko
 R/O ...HAIL JAGIR
 Distt.....BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE I, Rahber Bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Ganie R/o Arhama, Tehsil & District Shopian, hereby inform that my name and D.O.B have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Rahbar , D.O.B 05-10-2006 instead of my correct name and D.O.B Rahber Bashir and 30-01-2008. Objections, if any, may be filed before the concerned Aadhaar Centre at Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.
 Rahber Bashir fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Masrat Jan W/o Showkat Ahmad Wagay R/o Tranz, Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name and date of birth of my ward have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Mehvish Jan, D.O.B: 20/04/2014. The correct particulars are Mehvish Showkat, D.O.B: 20/04/2016 as per birth certificate. I have applied for correction in the concerned records. If anyone has any objection, they may file the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Deponent
 Masrat Jan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Mohd Malla S/o Gh Hassan Malla R/o Turkawangam, Tehsil Chitragam, District Shopian, hereby inform that my name and D.O.B have been wrongly recorded as Gh Mohammad Malla, D.O.B 14/04/1967 instead of my correct name and D.O.B Gh Mohd Malla, 10/04/1967. Objections, if any, may be filed before the concerned Aadhaar Centre at Jammu/Srinagar within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.
 Deponent
 Gh Mohd Malla 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 Hoorain Jan D/o John Mohd Mir R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 13/05/2020 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
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name AB RAZAQ TELI R/O AB WAHAB TELI R/O WARIPORA BALA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000 3478 wants to be registered on my name FAYAZ AHMAD TELI S/O AB RAZAQ TELI R/O WARIPORA BALA . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
 Name....FAYAZ AHMAD TELI
 S/O...AB RAZAQ TELI
 R/O ...WARIPORA BALA
 BLOCK.... WAGOORA fko

Office of the Advocate Showkat Ahmad Gojree and Associates

In the case of -
 1. Shabir Ahmad Ganie S/o Abdul Rehman Ganie
 R/o Mulgam Tehsil Kunzer Caveator

V/S
 Public At Large

Non-Caveators/Non-Applicants
 In the matter of: Caveat application.
 May it please your Honour,
 The Caveator/applicant most humbly submits as under:-
 1. That the Caveator/applicant is the permanent resident of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and have every right to approach before this hon'ble court.
 2. That the caveator/applicant has an apprehension that the non-applicants/non-caveators may file a false and frivolous suit/appeal/application against the caveator.
 3. That the Caveator/applicant through the medium of this application prays that should any motion be made by the Non-Caveators/Non-applicants against the applicant/Caveator on the subject above mentioned let no order be passed against the applicant/Caveator in the interim application unless we may be given an opportunity of being heard. fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Kaiser Ahmad Mir S/o Khazir Mohd Mir R/o Pinjoora, Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar as Zulikha Kaiser.
 The correct name is Aizah Noor (D.O.B: 15-04-2022).
 I have applied for correction in the concerned records. If anyone has any objection, they may file the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Deponent
 Kaiser Ahmad Mir fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub . Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth...

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hania Mehraj D/o Mehraj Ud Din Guroo R/o Rakh Duslipora Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 01/03/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. Sd
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

Public Notice..

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Faizan Manzoor s/o Manzoor Ahmed Ganie R/o Ganjipora Buran Tehsil Pattan with verified date of 05/05/2008 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained. Sd
 fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR TILGAM
EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS

Subject:- Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar births and deaths (Block Development Officer Pattan) submitted a case file pertaining to Birth/Death of Pakeeza Nazir D/O. Nazir Ahmad Najar R/O Wanigam bala tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (Birth/ 06-02- as Home. occurred at
 In this connection if anybody having objections to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within Three (03) days, after which no objection shall be entertained. three Naib Tehsildar Tilgam Pattan
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Jahangir Ahmad Paray S/o Ahmad Jahangir R/o Zawoora Badrahama, Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name and parentage have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar bearing no 8828-9890-3058 as Ehamd Jahanger Paray S/o Jahanger Ahmad Paray R/o Baderhama Zawoora. The correct particulars are Jahangir Ahmad Paray S/o Ahmad Jahangir R/o Zawoora Badrahama. I have applied for correction in the concerned records. If anyone has any objection, they may file the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Deponent
 Jahangir Ahmad Paray fko

OFFICE OF ADVOCATE MOHD MOONIS MANZOOR
 LIC NO.: 1070/23

Khizri
 W/o Abdul Samad Bhat
 R/o Rampora, Qamarwari (Caveators)

V/S
 PUBLIC AT LARGE
 (Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C the caveator has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a suit of any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground of Distorted facts/misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any other. walnut ads.

OFFICE OF ADVOCATE MOHD MOONIS MANZOOR
 LIC NO.: 1070/23

Khalid Ahmad
 S/o Abdul Samad Bhat
 R/o Rampora, Qamarwari (Caveators)

V/S
 PUBLIC AT LARGE
 (Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C the caveator has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a suit of any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground of Distorted facts/misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any other. walnut ads.

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of D Class Contractor Card . if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the R&B DIVISION SRINAGAR (SE) within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained..
 Mohammad Aamir Dar
 S/o Ghulam Hassan Dar
 R/o Russu Budgam
 Ph No: 6005575812 BMG

Public Notice

I, Urmilla Sharief D/o Muhammad Sharief Lone R/o Adijan, Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my name, parentage, and date of birth have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar card as Urmilla Jan, D/o Mohammad Shareef Lone, D.O.B: 03-02-2006. The correct particulars are Urmilla Sharief, D/o Muhammad Sharief Lone, D.O.B: 19-02-2007 as per school records. I have applied for correction in the concerned records. If anyone has any objection, they may file the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Deponent
 Urmilla Sharief fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mukhtar Ahmad to Mukhtar Ahmad Beigh. In future I will be known as Mukhtar Ahmad Beigh.
 If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar, within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Media line advt

Public Notice

I, Mohammad Yousuf Parray S/o Muzamil Yousuf Parray R/o Allowpora, Shopian, hereby inform the general public that the name and date of birth of my ward were wrongly recorded in Aadhaar bearing no number 6102 8287 5892 as Muzamil Ah, D.O.B: 10/05/2008. The correct particulars are Muzamil Yousuf Parray, D.O.B: 23/03/2009 as per school records. Hence, I have applied for correction in the concerned records. If anyone has any objection, they may raise it within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Mohammad Yousuf Parray fko

Woman Sets Herself Ablaze in Lal Chowk, Hospitalised

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A woman allegedly set herself ablaze at Pratap Park in the Lal Chowk area of Srinagar on Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

An official told KNO that soon after the incident, the woman was immediately rushed to a

hospital for treatment.

The motive behind the incident was not immediately known. Police have taken cognisance of the matter and a probe has been launched, he said.

Meanwhile, an official from the hospital said the woman has received burn injuries on her face and arm and is currently undergoing treatment.

KU Observes Ambedkar Jayanti

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Students' Welfare (DSW) in collaboration with the Department of History, University of Kashmir (KU), celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar at the Main Campus.

The event was organised to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It aimed to create awareness about his contributions to social justice, equality, and the making of the Indian Constitution.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofar Khan, said, "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of an inclusive and just society continues to guide us even today. His ideas remain deeply relevant in shaping a more equi-

table and progressive nation."

She added that such commemorative events are important for students to understand the values of democracy, constitutional rights, and social responsibility.

Dean Students Welfare KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmad, in his remarks, highlighted the importance of Ambedkar's contributions in promoting education and empowering marginalised communities.

Dr. Younis Rashid, faculty at the Department of History, KU who coordinated the event spoke about Dr. Ambedkar's role as a social reformer, economist, and thinker, and emphasized the continued relevance of his ideas in contemporary society.

Students and research scholars from the Department of History shared their insights on the occasion.



Craftsmen True Ambassadors of J&K's Cultural Heritage: CM Omar

CM Inaugurates 'Know Your Artisan' at Kashmir Haat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major boost to promote Kashmir craft sector, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah inaugurated the 'Know Your Artisan' programme at Kashmir Haat here, under the Handicrafts and Handlooms ongoing 'Soulful Kashmir' brand promotion campaign.

He also inaugurated the new GI Testing Lab, Giant LED Video Walls and launched high precision fibre analysis equipment along with DesignWeave software, designed by IICT Srinagar.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar along with Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh and other senior officers of Industries & Commerce Department were also present on the occasion.

The latest edition of Soulful Kashmir campaign continues the momentum built over the past year, in line with Chief Minister's commitments made during his Budget Speech, aimed at strengthening 'Brand Jammu & Kashmir' and promoting the region's rich handicrafts and handloom heritage.

Immediately after his arrival, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Giant LED Video Wall installed at Kashmir Haat and the Know Your Artisan programme. He also inspected the Department's new initiative of Live Demos under 'Try Your Hands' segment, set up to provide an immersive experience to the visitors and tourists so that they feel the hard work of artisans and back-end processes involved in making such niche crafts.

The Chief Minister himself tried his hands at warping of yarn, an arduous exercise that goes into

handweaving of pashmina. He was specifically impressed by the prototypes on display designed by the School of Designs and CDI.

The Chief Minister later visited the main Exhibition Gallery where 30 display-cum-sale counters offering authentic handmade products have been set up. During his interaction with various Shilp Guru, National and J&K Awardees, he expressed deep appreciation for the initiative and the remarkable craftsmanship on display.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the initiative marks a significant step in promoting Brand J&K and enhancing the visibility of the handicrafts sector. He emphasized that artisans are the custodians of the region's cultural identity and said the programme aims to provide them direct market access, ensure fair value for their work, and strengthen the authenticity of traditional products.

Consultative Meeting on Framing Regulations of JKSSSA Commences

Observer News Service

Srinagar 5: A two-day consultative meeting for the formulation of regulations of the Jammu and Kashmir School Standards and Safety Authority (JKSSSA) commenced here today at JKBOSE, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, subject experts, and representatives from NIEPA, New Delhi, the School Education Department, JKSCERT, Higher

Education Department, Universities of the UT and Administration.

The meeting aimed to deliberate upon and develop a comprehensive, robust and contextually relevant framework of regulations to guide the functioning of JKSSSA. The initiative is a significant step toward strengthening institutional mechanisms for ensuring quality standards, safety protocols and infrastructural parameters across schools in the Union Territory.

IEC Van Drives Anti-Drug Awareness Across Harwan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant push towards building a drug-free society, the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan is gaining momentum at the grassroots level, with an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) van actively traversing remote and rural areas of Harwan block to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.

Moving through several panchayats including

Dara-B, Gandthal, Fakir Gujri and adjoining areas, the IEC van, equipped with a public address system, disseminates powerful messages on the harmful effects of substance abuse, preventive measures, and the importance of collective responsibility in tackling the menace.

The initiative, spearheaded by the Information Department in collaboration with the Rural Development Department, reflects a proactive approach to reach com-

munities at their doorsteps. The use of audio messaging ensures that even those in far-flung areas are not left out of the awareness campaign.

The van not only spreads information but also sparks conversations among locals, particularly youth, about the long-term consequences of drug addiction. The campaign emphasizes early intervention, community vigilance, and the role of families in guiding individuals away from substance abuse.

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी
National Testing Agency
Excellence in Assessment

(उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग, शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के तहत एक स्वायत्त संगठन)

Online Applications Form for Joint Integrated Program in Management Admission Test (JIPMAT) -2026

The National Testing Agency (NTA) will be conducting the JIPMAT-2026 for admission to 5-year Integrated Program in Management at IIM Bodh Gaya and IIM Jammu for the academic year 2026-27, as per following details:

Submission of Online Applications Form	16 April 2026 to 10 May 2026 (upto 11:50 PM)
Last date for successful transaction of Examination fee	11 May 2026 (upto 11:50 PM)
Correction in Particulars	12-14 May 2026 (upto 11:50 PM)
Date of exam	07 June 2026
Timing of exam	03:00 PM to 05:30 PM
Mode of exam	(Computer Based Test CBT)
Paper pattern	Multiple Choice questions

Scheme/duration/medium/syllabus of examination, eligibility criteria, tentative intake, reservation of seats, exam cities, important dates, etc., are mentioned in the Information Bulletin hosted on NTA website <https://exams.nta.nic.in/jipmat/>. Candidates who desire to appear in the exam may read the detailed Information Bulletin for JIPMAT 2026 and apply online only at <https://exams.nta.nic.in/jipmat/>. Applicants should check the eligibility criteria of the respective IIMs. Candidates are advised to be in touch with the NTA website <https://exams.nta.nic.in/jipmat/>. Candidates can write to NTA at jipmat@nta.ac.in or call NTA at 011-40759000.

Sd/-Director

cbc 21354/11/0001/2627

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's and daughters parentage has been wrongly written as MOHD RAFAEQ MIR while his/her correct parentage is RAFAEQ AHMAD MIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having objection in this regard he/she may contact with the office of GOVT HIGH SCHOOL KAKOTHAL / ZONE WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Mane...RAFAEQ AHMAD MIR
F/O ...AIMAN RAFAEQ, & MOHSIN RAFAEQ
R/O ...KAKOTHAL

fko

भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
खेल विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय के तहत एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(Human Resources Division -II)

HEAD OFFICE, GATE NO.10 (EAST GATE),
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM,
LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

F.No. 01-04001(03)/1/2026-6601/233 Date: 25-03-2026

Sports Authority of India Recruitment - Assistant Director Posts on Deputation

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, invites applications for 30 posts of Assistant Director in Pay Matrix Level-10 on deputation basis for a period of 01 year (further extendable upto three years in a cycle of one year at a time, subject to requirement and availability of vacancies in the borrowing department) at its Head Office, New Delhi and various field units. Eligible officers may submit applications in the prescribed format, along with required documents, to the Director (Human Resources Division-I), SAI, J.N. Stadium Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003. Last date for receipt of applications is 22-04-2026 (5:00 PM). Detailed advertisement, eligibility criteria, proforma and instructions will be available on the SAI website (www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in).

CBC 47103/12/0001/2627

भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
खेल विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय के तहत एक स्वायत्त निकाय)

Room No. 210, SAI-Head Office Building, SAI-Headquarter,
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Complex (East Gate-No. 10),
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, Date: 30.01.2026

File No.:01-04001(01)/1/2026-66/150

NOTIFICATION
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE ANALYST ON REGULAR BASIS

Sports Authority of India (SAI) invites applications for filling up the 48 posts of PERFORMANCE ANALYST (Direct recruitment) in the Pay Level-06 (Rs 35400-112400/-) of 7th CPC from the eligible Applicants in 07 Sports Science Disciplines in SAI.
The details of the said post and other relevant information is available on SAI website i.e., <https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in>.

उपनिदेशक (DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
मानव संसाधन प्रभाग - II (HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION -II)
भाषेबा मुड्य कार्यालय (SAI HEAD OFFICE)

Cbc 47103/12/0002/2627

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 941993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
27 - Shawwal
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4: 33
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:11
Magrib	7:05
ISHA	8: 30

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Shakeela Akhter W/O TARIQ AHMAD R/O HARDUSHOORA KUNZER have applied for upgrade of my contractor Card to Class A .If any person have any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections(if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer, CID wing JKSPDC Kashmir, Bemina, Srinagar or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B), Civil Secretariat Jammu within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NOTICE

I want to transfer the Electric Connection bearing Consumer No. 0202050002197 , Installation No. 132846-R1 which is registered in the name of Kulsum Begum R/o: Masjid Shareef Majeed Bagh Sanat Nagar Srinagar in the Electric Department. In this regard, if anybody having any objection He/She may convey to Assistant Executive Engineer Electric Sub Division Baghat within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Arshid Nazir S/o: Hakeem Nazir Ahmed
R/o: Majeed Bagh Bagi Firdous Near AhliHadees Masjid Sanat Nagar Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Quick Money Rush

Instagram reels and short videos now set the tone for many young people in Kashmir.

A phone screen shows a fast life filled with iPhones, branded clothes, and quick success stories. That image creates a sense that success must come quickly and should look a certain way.

This shift is pulling attention away from traditional crafts like carpet weaving and papier-mâché. These crafts built entire communities over decades. They sustained families through difficult periods and kept local economies alive when other options were limited.

The Kashmir Government Arts Emporium once stood as a symbol of that strength, connecting artisans to buyers from India and abroad. A different mindset is now taking root. Many educated young people hold degrees from colleges and universities, though they hesitate to enter crafts that supported earlier generations. The concern is beyond skill or ability. It is essentially time and return.

A hand-knotted carpet may take months, while a daily wage job or a small online trade brings money at the end of the day. Social media amplifies this comparison every hour.

This creates a gap between expectation and reality. A young graduate may wait for a high-paying role that matches the image seen online. That wait often stretches into months or years.

Data from employment exchanges in Jammu and Kashmir shows lakhs of registered unemployed youth, many of them educated. The frustration grows when effort does not match outcome, and when visible success stories seem out of reach.

A few young entrepreneurs are trying to bring crafts into the digital marketplace. They use Instagram pages to sell papier-mâché décor or handwoven shawls, and some have found buyers outside the valley.

But their numbers remain small when compared with the larger pool of job seekers who remain stuck between aspiration and action.

This trend also touches social life in the valley. Families speak about delayed marriages and rising expectations in matches. Financial readiness now includes lifestyle signals shaped online, which adds pressure on young men and women who are still searching for stable income.

The result is a growing mismatch between real earnings and projected lifestyles.

A course correction needs collective effort. Colleges can host practical sessions on local industries and self-employment. Schools can introduce students to crafts early so that skill and pride grow together. Religious leaders and community groups can speak about balance in ambition and spending, grounding young minds in reality.

Kashmir's past shows that skill and faith together built strong communities. That lesson still holds value.

Social media will remain part of daily life, though it should not decide the direction of an entire generation.

A grounded approach to work and income can reconnect young people with both opportunity and heritage, while reducing the pressure created by a fast and often misleading digital world.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Wealth Illusion

Strong assets mask a growing struggle for steady monthly income in Kashmiri homes.

Irshad Mushtaq

Many Kashmiri families live in big homes, own good land, and carry gold passed down for decades. These are signs of comfort. Still, many households feel uneasy because money coming in each month has become uncertain.

Business is slower, jobs are harder to find, and incomes from orchards and small trades no longer stretch the way they once did. Wealth looks strong on paper, although day-to-day life feels tighter.

A house does not pay school fees. A plot of land cannot cover groceries unless you sell it. Families learn this quickly when savings start slipping away. Some have also lost money to scams or emotional lending that never came back.

Regular income brings peace that old assets cannot always offer. A fund of 1 crore placed in balanced mutual funds or monthly income plans can earn 8-12 percent a year.

This gives families the confidence to plan ahead without touching land or gold.

Balanced and hybrid funds work for many households because they mix stable bonds with growth-oriented stocks. Monthly Income Plans send payouts that feel like a salary and are handled by trained professionals, so families do not need to track markets every day.

Every investment should remain in your own name with proper documents. A registered financial advisor offers safer guidance than informal promises.

Kashmir is changing, and steady earnings matter more than ever. Turning old wealth into dependable monthly income helps families protect dignity, comfort, and their future.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.



Toxic Winds Over the Himalayas

Rising desert dust is carrying harmful microbes into mountain regions, intensifying risks for residents and tourists alike.



By Pankaj Chaturvedi



If scientific solutions are not found to mitigate the impact of Thar dust and these invisible enemies, both the pure climate of the mountains and the lives that depend on it will remain in grave danger.

The snowy peaks of the Himalayas, long revered as symbols of pristine purity and life-giving air, are falling victim to a dangerous, invisible microbiological attack.

Recent findings reveal that dust from distant deserts is seeding the mountain climate with deadly pathogens.

Carrying micro-bacteria from thousands of kilometers away, these desert winds are disrupting a sensitive ecosystem and sparking a burgeoning health crisis for local populations.

Often called the "Third Pole," the Himalayas are facing this challenge due to climate change and human interference.

As global warming intensifies, the Thar and Middle Eastern deserts are becoming increasingly arid. Devoid of moisture, fine soil is easily swept into the atmosphere during winter and spring.

Historically, the Aravalli Range acted as a natural barrier against this dust. However, decades of mining and deforestation have weakened this shield, creating a direct corridor for dust to reach the high altitudes.

This influx does more than just accelerate glacier melt. It introduces foreign minerals into nutrient-poor Himalayan lakes, triggering uncontrolled algae growth that suffocates aquatic life.

The severity of this shift was recently confirmed in a study published in the prestigious interna-

tional journal Science of the Total Environment in its December 15, 2025, issue.

A metagenomic analysis conducted by researchers Antara Pramanik, Sanat Kumar Das, and colleagues in the Eastern Himalayas revealed a startling reality: 80 percent of the bacterial population in the Himalayan air is now non-local.

Transported from the Thar Desert, these foreign microbes have disrupted natural microbial diversity by up to 60 percent, effectively turning the mountain air into a "global conveyor belt" for disease.

During the summer, when desert winds peak, bacterial concentrations in the Himalayan atmosphere can soar to 6.7 lakh per cubic metre. Space-based monitoring shows a thick layer of Thar dust accumulating at altitudes of two to three kilometers over the eastern mountains.

The health implications are specific to the winds origin. While one-third of the dust-borne bacteria cause skin infections, nearly 45 percent of bacteria carried by winds from the foothills trigger respiratory issues.

Furthermore, pathogens descending from the upper atmosphere have been found to contain bacteria that sicken the stomach and digestive systems.

Surprisingly, the Himalaya's own local bacteria, which now account for only 20 percent of the

total population, are also increasingly associated with spreading infections. However, with the advent of desert dust, the presence of exotic and unique bacteria has increased by 40 percent.

This situation indicates that the health challenges for the population living in the Himalayan regions and the tourists visiting there are going to be more complex in the future.

This research serves as a global warning for public health. The way atmospheric processes are carrying life and disease from thousands of kilometers away shows the extreme sensitivity of the mountain environment.

The time has come to stop limiting Himalayan conservation to simple plantation drives or waste management. We must take these microbiological changes occurring at the atmospheric level seriously.

If scientific solutions are not found to mitigate the impact of Thar dust and these invisible enemies, both the pure climate of the mountains and the lives that depend on it will remain in grave danger.

The author has been writing about the environment and science for the past 40 years, and regularly publish in almost all major Hindi Indian newspapers. He can be reached at pc7001010@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Why Radio Kashmir Still Matters in the Age of Smartphones

Radio Kashmir Srinagar continues broadcasting seventy-seven years after its founding, providing news, music, and companionship through every upheaval the valley has faced.

Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah inaugurated the station on July 1, 1948, near what locals still call Zero Bridge. J.N. Zutshi served as first Director General, with Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din leading daily operations. Their mission reached households through simple receivers requiring only batteries and attention, bypassing the subscriptions and screens that dominate today's media landscape.

Specific programs etched themselves into collective memory over decades. Zoon Dab, written by Pushkar Bhan, entertained listeners for nineteen years, creating appointment listening for families gathered around wooden radio sets.

Hello Farmaish, Sakhi Saheli, and Hawa Mahal brought requests and advice into homes through voices that felt like relatives visiting. Ghulam Hassan

Sofi's folk songs preserved Kashmiri musical traditions, transmitting classical poetry and regional ballads to audiences far beyond concert halls.

Radio Kashmir maintains dedicated space for Gojri programming, traditional drama, and agricultural broadcasts that streaming platforms exclude.

The medium demonstrated irreplaceable value during September 2014, when devastating floods submerged Srinagar. Television stations went dark, internet connections dropped, and mobile networks collapsed. Radio Kashmir transmitted continuously from a temporary studio atop Shankaracharya Hill after floodwaters surrounded the main building.

The station coordinated rescue operations, broadcasting urgent messages between stranded families and Omar Abdullah's government. SMS pleas for help reached listeners who mobilized boats and supplies, illustrating how this technology serves as critical infrastructure during catastrophe.

My father, Ghulam Mohammad

Bhatti, listens radio daily at our home in Raiyar. He tunes into morning news broadcasts and evening music programs, finding greater satisfaction through audio than through LCD screens or smartphones. His routine illustrates a broader truth: innovation marches forward, though certain tools retain unique utility for specific purposes.

Radio engages imagination differently than visual media. Listeners construct mental images during dramas or cricket commentary, activating creativity rather than receiving predetermined pictures. The announcer's voice generates intimacy, speaking directly into kitchens, taxis, and agricultural fields during labour. Audio accompanies daily tasks, permitting listeners to focus their eyes elsewhere.

Contemporary stations now stream online, reaching diaspora communities through websites and applications. Educational programming continues serving remote villages beyond broadband's reach. Health campaigns

and agricultural advice reach farmers working distant pastures. The original wireless adapts while retaining essential strengths.

Radio Kashmir represents something beyond nostalgia. It functions as cultural archive, emergency infrastructure, and daily companion for millions. The station preserves Kashmiri identity while connecting listeners to wider worlds through news and music.

Seventy-seven years after Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah activated those transmitters, the frequencies still bind the valley together.

Some technologies earn permanence through service rather than spectacle. Radio continues delivering exactly what Kashmir needs.

Sincerely,

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Kashmir's Empty Homes

As families scatter and houses grow larger, elderly parents are left to face their final years in silence and distance.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

A few decades ago, I received a large set of books from a well-known Dawah NGO in South Africa. Among them was a beautifully designed poster.

In bold letters, it declared, "An old home is not for parents."

Beneath it was a detailed saying of the last Prophet, peace be upon him, reminding us of our duty toward our parents, their honour, care, and rightful place within our homes.

At that time, the message felt distant. In our valley, such a reminder seemed almost unnecessary, as our culture, values, and faith were deeply rooted in serving and honouring our parents.

I folded the poster carefully and placed it inside one of the books, as if preserving something that belonged to another world.

A few days ago, I came across the same poster again. As I unfolded it, the bold letters felt heavier than before.

This time, they did not feel distant. They felt real, uncomfortably real.

The world around our homeland Kashmir, the Posh-e-Vaer, had changed.

Not long ago, when a landline was the only way to stay in touch, an elderly woman in our neighbourhood passed away. Her only son was living in America with his own family. She had been left behind, her care entrusted to a maid.

When she breathed her last, the neighbours tried to reach her son. His response was practical, almost detached. He said it would take him more than two days to reach Srinagar and asked them to proceed with the last rites.

Among those neighbours was Sheikh Sahib. Without hesitation, he took responsibility, and arranged everything, the washing, the shrouding, the funeral prayers, and the burial. He did it sensibly, and respectfully, as one would do for his own mother.



Four days later, the family arrived. Mourners gathered and offered condolences. When Sheikh Sahib came to meet them, the son reached into his pocket and pulled out a bundle of money. "Please tell me," he said, "how much you spent on my mother's last rites?"

Sheikh Sahib looked at him, his eyes carrying both pain and restraint. "Nothing," he replied.

The son insisted, almost anxiously, "No, no... how can that be? I must pay. You have to take it."

Sheikh Sahib stopped for a moment and then spoke words that cut deeper than any accusation. "You know, I did not have enough money myself. So I went around and requested a few people, telling them that a mother had passed away and her son is in America. They gave whatever they could. I used that for her last rites, and now I do not even remember who gave how much."

That old poster, once folded and forgotten, had now come alive in real life. What once felt like a warning for others had silently become a

TODAY, THE LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED. GRAND HOUSES RISE EVERYWHERE, BUT MANY OF THEIR OWNERS LIVE FAR AWAY, OUTSIDE THE VALLEY. The walls are strong, but the bonds are weaker. Elderly parents are often left behind, entrusted to maids and servants who may provide physical presence over emotional care. Loneliness has silently entered these spacious homes. Many older people now spend their final days without the comfort of their children or the warmth of familiar voices. Some even die in the absence of their loved ones.

reality among us.

A few decades ago, Kashmir was a land of modest homes and large families. Most families lived in small or medium-sized houses, but those homes were full of people, warmth, and shared lives.

During my teenage years, my brother and I shared the same

room for studying and sleeping. We often fought, but those quarrels were signs of closeness, rather than distance.

In our home, eleven people lived within six rooms, bound together by love, patience, and mutual dependence.

Today, the landscape has

changed. Grand houses rise everywhere, but many of their owners live far away, outside the valley. The walls are strong, but the bonds are weaker.

Elderly parents are often left behind, entrusted to maids and servants who may provide physical presence over emotional care. Loneliness has silently entered these spacious homes.

Many older people now spend their final days without the comfort of their children or the warmth of familiar voices. Some even die in the absence of their loved ones.

This transformation reminds us that prosperity measured in bricks and concrete can never replace the wealth of togetherness.

A small house filled with love is far richer than a large, empty mansion without human connection.

True progress lies in preserving our relationships. At times, one wishes to return to the past, which is neither possible nor truly desirable in a literal sense. Time moves only forward.

Today, jobs have shrunk, econo-

mies have changed, and survival now often demands physical distance. Even so, while we cannot return to the old world, we can still recover its values.

Earlier, people lived together because they adjusted their expectations. But now, livelihoods have scattered families. Even then, separation need not become abandonment.

We should acknowledge that the real loss is beyond migration for work. It is the loss of responsibility and empathy. We must also accept a hard truth: economic compulsion is real, but emotional neglect is a choice.

Even when children work outside the valley, bonds can survive through careful effort, regular calls, shared decision-making, seasonal returns, and involving elders in family matters rather than reducing them to dependents.

Old parents mostly need presence, respect, and a sense of purpose.

At a social level, the answer lies in community revival rather than individual nostalgia. Earlier, neighbours functioned as extended family. Reviving mohalla culture, community kitchens, shared prayers, and local support groups can help fill the void left by shrinking households.

Even empty homes left by those living abroad can be used, on a voluntary basis, for the day care of older people. Institutions like mosques, shrines, and community centres can once again become spaces of human connection, rather than just ritual.

Most importantly, we must redefine success.

A bigger house and a foreign job should not become symbols of achievement if they come at the cost of our parents' loneliness. Progress without compassion is a silent form of regression.

We cannot return to the past, but we can carry its spirit into the present by choosing responsibility over convenience and relationships over display.

All said and done, the question remains:

Have we begun to forget what it truly means to be a son or a daughter?

—The author works in agricultural seed production and is currently writing his first short story collection in Kashmir.

Love and Life in Kashmir

A reflective counsel on marriage, defined by decades of observation and truth.



Syed Majid Gilani

I have spent forty-nine autumns in Kashmir, and each one has left its mark on my hair, and heart.

The grey strands I see in the mirror carry stories of patience, endurance, and the people who have shaped my life.

I have met kindness and cruelty, honesty and deceit, sometimes in the same person. I have learned that appearances are often misleading.

A public smile can hide a private indifference, even a coldness.

Sahil, you are about to marry. Marriage is a commitment that merges two lives, two families, and two sets of values. It is easy to be swept away by love, excitement, or family pressure, but the smallest misjudgment can shape decades.

Take your time, observe, and listen. Start with the girl herself. Notice how she treats elders, how she speaks, and how she cares for her family. Watch for patience, kindness, and respect. Ensure her choice is hers, freely given. Pressure, obligation, or hesitation in her heart will eventually echo



as bitterness in yours. Early clarity saves years of silent regret.

Observe her home, especially her mother. A woman often learns the pulse of family life at home. How re-

spect flows, duties are shared, and care is given. These patterns shape future homes.

Beware of imbalance. Men I know have built homes and livelihoods

only to find love replaced by material pursuit or indifference. Loyalty unreciprocated becomes pain. Care unacknowledged turns into frustration. Examine her habits. Substance

abuse or harmful practices may not appear in polite conversation, but they define daily life. Protect your peace, Sahil.

Love cannot thrive where fear, pride, or resentment exists. Reciprocity is the foundation of trust, and trust is the only currency of lasting partnerships.

Men who establish boundaries, expect respect, and insist on honesty often find stability. Those who tolerate imbalance slowly lose value.

Words are ignored. Kindness becomes taken for granted. Life is too short to be a provider without partnership. No one should rule your home through fear or humiliation. Love must be chosen, freely, every day.

Marriage built on honesty, care, and shared values can be one of life's greatest blessings. Marriage built on greed, lies, or obligation can slowly erode dignity and peace.

I have watched good men give their hearts, resources, and loyalty, only to discover they were merely providing. Protect your self-respect. Walk away if love and understanding are absent.

Sahil, step into marriage with open eyes and a calm heart. Choose a partner whose intentions are true, character is gentle, and love is real. Build your home on respect, honesty, and shared care.

When boundaries are respected and love is mutual, the home becomes a haven.

—The author is a government officer by profession and a storyteller by passion. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

MARRIAGE BUILT ON HONESTY, CARE, AND SHARED VALUES CAN BE ONE OF LIFE'S GREATEST BLESSINGS. Marriage built on greed, lies, or obligation can slowly erode dignity and peace. I have watched good men give their hearts, resources, and loyalty, only to discover they were merely providing. Protect your self-respect. Walk away if love and understanding are absent.

CAG Flags Academic, Regulatory Lapses at University of Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged multiple academic, regulatory and administrative deficiencies in the functioning of the University of Jammu, including running courses without mandatory approvals.

The CAG recommended corrective measures and said that the university should strengthen its affiliation process to ensure that only institutions meeting regulatory norms are granted affiliation, along with the preparation of comprehensive inspection reports to safeguard academic quality.

It also drew attention to the issues of poor industry linkages, delays in evaluation and weak placement outcomes.

The university was offering a wide range of programmes, including 38 doctoral, 24 MPhil, 50 postgraduate, 19 undergraduate courses, besides diplomas and certificate programmes across eight faculties, the CAG report

on Union Territory finances for the year ended March 31, 2024, said.

However, the audit noted that the university had obtained approval from the All India Council for Technical Education for only two technical programmes -- MBA and MCA -- while four other technical courses were being run without approval. "Further, the MCA programme had not been accredited by the National Board of Accreditation, depriving students of quality assurance benefits".

The report also highlighted deviations from prescribed academic standards, including non-adherence to the AICTE model curriculum and lack of required infrastructure in programmes such as M Tech Computer Science.

On degree norms, the CAG observed that the university failed to align course nomenclature with guidelines of the University Grants Commission. "The Business Administration in Hotel Management (BBA-HM)



course continued with outdated nomenclature and duration, in violation of UGC regulations".

The audit further pointed out that teacher education programmes were being conducted without recognition from the National Council for Teacher Education. "The university neither sought mandatory approvals nor adhered to prescribed norms for admissions and faculty requirements".

In terms of academic collaboration, the CAG pulled up the university for weak industry-academia linkages.

"Of 26 MoUs signed with national and international institutions, only two were fully functional, while 20 remained non-operational. The Industry-academia partnership centre, established in 2019, was also found non-functional due to infrastructure constraints".

The CAG report said that the university's innovation and startup ecosystem was similarly underperforming. "The University Business Incubation and Innovation Centre (UBIIC) and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), set up to promote entrepreneurship, remained largely inactive with activities limited to webinars".

The report also raised concerns over poor placement outcomes. "Of over 1,000 students enrolled in professional courses between 2017 and 2022, only 224 secured placements, while students from general courses had virtually no placement support".

The audit report pointed to "serious" deficiencies in the examination system, including errors in marks cards, incorrect evaluation of answer sheets and delays in re-evaluation results. "The audit noted that up to 27 per cent of students saw their results change from fail to pass after re-evaluation, indicating significant flaws in assessment

processes", it added.

Delays were also reported in PhD thesis evaluation, with only 22 per cent completed within the prescribed six months, it said, adding that in some cases, delays extended up to over four years, adversely affecting students' academic progression.

The CAG also pointed to instances of out-of-syllabus questions in 135 examination papers, leading to re-examinations and awarding of grace marks, but noted that no action was taken against erring paper setters.

On research, the audit found delays and incomplete projects, with eight projects remaining unfinished despite expenditure while monitoring mechanisms as "inadequate".

"The University Business Incubation and Innovation Centre (UBIIC) and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), set up to promote startups and entrepreneurship, remained non-functional, the audit said, adding that the university failed to provide adequate support for

innovation and startup ecosystems", it added.

Additionally, the report highlighted that 82 per cent of affiliated colleges had not obtained accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, despite mandatory requirements.

It also found that several colleges were operating with temporary affiliation for years and lacked qualified teaching staff.

The report highlighted that placement activities were confined to a few select departments. "Of around 1,000 students enrolled in professional courses between 2017 and 2022, only 224 secured placements through the Placement Cell".

The CAG further noted that 84 colleges under the university were functioning with temporary affiliation for periods ranging from six to 28 years. "In 51 physically verified colleges, 113 out of 331 teachers appointed in 24 non-government colleges did not possess prescribed qualifications".

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Vows 'Surgical'

Intensifying the drive against drug menace, he led the padyatra from District Police Line to District Administrative Complex, Ramban. The march saw participation from public representatives, senior officials of civil and police administration, civil society members, religious leaders, members of business and trade community, ex-servicemen, prominent citizens, women, students, youth, and people from different walks of life, who gathered in large numbers with a resolve to eradicate drug addiction at its roots and secure the future of the youth.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted society's role in fighting the menace and called for collective action.

"If the neighbour's house is on fire, yours is not safe. Because drugs don't spread like flames but they spread like wind. That's why a 'Whole of Society' response is our only real and potent weapon against drug menace," he said.

"I firmly believe when society stands united behind a cause, the law becomes a thousand times stronger. We must build a society where the dealer fears law, and the one who breaks free from drugs feels proud of themselves, their family, their society, and their government," he added.

He said history proves that organised societies drive change and stressed the crucial role of women.

"This fight belongs to mothers and sisters, elders, youth, teachers, panchayats, athletes, and elected representatives alike. It is not the job of just one department. Defeating addiction is our collective responsibility," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon every panchayat and ward to form women's vigilance committees.

"Women are the frontline of this war. You know where the household money goes. If anyone in the family showing symptom of addiction, don't hide it. Don't call him a criminal. Call him a patient. But that patient needs society's help, not just four walls," he said.

Directly addressing the youth, he cautioned against drug abuse, saying it is not a symbol of being "cool" but a form of slavery.

"Channel your energy into sports fields, art, and in study. In schools and colleges, we will make drugs a symbol of cowardice, not cool. Treatment, identification, and rehabilitation will be our priority," he said.

He emphasised strict monitoring of de-addiction centres, stating that any centre found operating illegally or harming society must be shut down within 24 hours, regardless of influence.

"No one should be spared. Action is already underway against all such centres," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed police officials to break drug supply chains, list all drug traffickers in Ramban at police stations, and dismantle networks.

"The time for silence for society is over. Our divisional and district administration have prepared a comprehensive multi-pronged strategy covering every ward and panchayat. This fight is ours, all of us. If we fail today, future generations won't forgive us," he said.

"Let us make a pledge today that no drug dealer will find shelter in our village or our street. Every addict will be guided toward healing. Every young person's energy will be channelled toward purpose," he added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Anti-Drug Pledge and flagged off a bike rally, while a series of awareness programmes were organised to encourage public participation in the fight against narcotics.

Expedite Action

review of crime across the region, a spokesman said. It comprised detailed presentations by senior superintendents of police (SSPs) from respective districts, who outlined the measures undertaken to curb criminal activities within their jurisdictions, the spokesman said.

Discussions primarily focused on the disposal of general crime cases, along with issues pertaining to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, absconders, and other offenses.

Preventive actions initiated under various laws, as well as pending inquest proceedings, were also examined, the official added.

IGP Kashmir commended district police chiefs for sustained efforts in crime prevention and stressed the importance of enhancing the

quality of investigations.

Birdi highlighted the need to improve conviction rates by developing a strong follow-up mechanism, particularly in cases related to narcotics and terrorism.

The IGP directed district SSPs to further intensify efforts and expedite legal action to effectively dismantle drug networks, the spokesman said.

He also reviewed the progress of the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan' across the zone.

During the assessment, he took stock of enforcement measures, including the attachment of properties identified as proceeds of crime in NDPS cases and the arrest of drug peddlers.

He evaluated various awareness drives and anti-drug rallies aimed at sensitising youth against drugs.

While reviewing the security framework, IGP Kashmir directed officers to intensify area domination drives and night patrolling, especially in vulnerable locations, to reinforce the security grid.

Birdi reaffirmed the commitment of Jammu and Kashmir Police towards maintaining peace and security in the region, and urged officers to ensure transparency, accountability, and prompt disposal of cases to effectively safeguard the rights and safety of the public. (PTI)

Govt, Opposition

could reduce their political representation despite better performance in population control.

On the eve of the special session, Opposition leaders convened a meeting at the residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to chalk out a joint strategy. The meeting was attended by senior leaders including Rahul Gandhi, along with representatives from DMK, RJD, Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP-SP, Samajwadi Party, CPI, CPI(M), AAP and other parties.

After the meeting, Kharge said the Opposition supports women's reservation but would oppose the delimitation provisions, alleging that the move is politically motivated.

Leaders across parties reiterated that one-third reservation for women should be implemented based on the current Lok Sabha strength of 543 seats for the 2029 elections, without linking it to a future delimitation exercise.

Rahul Gandhi described the proposed amendment as an "attempted power grab," warning that delimitation and gerrymandering could distort the federal balance and disadvantage southern, northeastern, and smaller states.

Concerns have also been voiced by southern chief ministers, including Tamil Nadu's M K Stalin and Telangana's A Revanth Reddy, who have cautioned that the proposed exercise could dilute their states' representation in Parliament. Reddy has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking an all-party meeting to deliberate on the issue, while Stalin has warned of a "massive agitation" if the state's interests are affected.

The ruling NDA, however, has rallied behind the move, projecting it as a historic step toward greater representation of women in governance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that implementing the women's quota will strengthen democracy and accelerate the vision of a developed India.

The Business Advisory Committee has allocated 18 hours for discussion in the Lok Sabha, with debates likely to extend into Friday before the bills are sent to the Rajya Sabha for consideration.

Passage of the Constitution amendment bill will require a special majority—more than 50 per cent of the total membership of the House and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting—making the outcome of the debate politically significant.

With numbers closely watched and positions sharply defined, the upcoming session is expected to shape the future contours of representation and federal balance in the country.

New Bills May

Pakistan's occupation. This arrangement underwent changes during the delimitation exercises carried out in 1957, 1966, 1975, and 1995.

The last delimitation exercise in the erstwhile state was completed in 1995, based on the 1981 census, after deliberations that lasted seven years.

Before 2019, the delimitation of Assembly seats in Jammu & Kashmir was governed by the Jammu & Kashmir Constitution and the Jammu & Kashmir Representation of Peoples Act, 1957,

while the delimitation of parliamentary seats was governed by the Constitution of India.

The situation changed in 2019 with the abrogation of Article 370, when the Centre made legal provisions in the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act to carry out delimitation exercise.

In 2020, the Union Government constituted a three-member commission headed by Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Desai to increase seats as well as redraw the boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies. The exercise was completed in 2022, with the commission unveiling its final award. (KNO)

Govt Offices

of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

The Health Department has been directed to establish medical aid facilities at multiple points along the route, including Jhajar Kotli, Udhampur, Ramban and Banihal, to handle emergencies.

Employees have been advised not to occupy government accommodation in Srinagar without proper allotment. However, they may retain their Jammu quarters for family members as per existing rules.

A uniform special travelling allowance of Rs 25,000 has been sanctioned for employees undertaking the move within the stipulated period. The government has also permitted advance drawal of April salary on April 29.

The order further stated that leave during the move period will be granted only in exceptional cases. Jammu-based employees opting out of the move may avail up to three days of special casual leave.

Departments have been instructed to complete all preparatory arrangements, including detachment of attached staff, by April 27.

Office timings in Srinagar will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm for the Civil Secretariat and 10:00 am to 4:30 pm for other offices.

93.7% Of Students

above 95 per cent marks, 221,574 have scored above 90 per cent. More than 1.47 lakh candidates have been placed in the 'compartment' category.

The Trivandrum and Vijaywada regions have recorded the highest pass percentage of 99.79 per cent. The lowest pass percentage has been recorded by the Guwahati region (85.32 per cent). Delhi achieved a pass percentage of 97.38 per cent.

Institution-wise, the best performance was achieved by the Kendriya Vidyalayas with a pass percentage of 99.57 per cent. It was followed by the Navodaya Vidyalayas at 99.42 per cent. The private schools achieved a pass percentage of 93.77 per cent, while government-aided schools recorded the lowest pass percentage at 91.01 per cent.

Children With Special Needs (CWSN) have achieved a pass percentage of 96.24 with at least 91 of them scoring above 95 per cent marks and 452 students in the category scoring above 90 per cent marks.

According to the earlier decision of the board to avoid unhealthy competition amongst students, no merit list has been declared by the CBSE. Also, the board did not award first, second or third divisions to its students.

"However, we will issue the merit certificate to top 0.1 per cent of students who have scored the highest marks in the subjects. The merit certificate will be made available in the DigitLocker of the student concerned after the second board examinations," he said.

The board also declared the results for students appearing for the exams in the Middle East, where the examination was cancelled in view of the prevailing situation due to the West Asia crisis. The CBSE had announced an alternative marks calculation policy for these students.

"Given the prevailing situation in West Asian countries, CBSE has decided to release the results of students from this region simultaneously with other students, ensuring fairness and consistency in accordance with CBSE policy," Bhardwaj said.

The foreign schools recorded a pass percentage of 99.10.

This time, more than 24.71 lakh candidates appeared for the exam, which was conducted at 8,074 centres. On February 21, the CBSE conducted examinations of 24.95 lakh candidates, which was the biggest examination conducted in a single day. More than 10 lakh rooms and 20 lakh invigilators were used on this day.

Visually Impaired

the results of which were declared on

Wednesday.

Zainab Bilal scored 475 out of 500 marks, including a perfect 100 in computer science, scripting a remarkable academic achievement despite visual impairment.

A student of the Learning Resource Centre at Delhi Public School Srinagar, Zainab also made history by becoming one of the first visually impaired students to appear in the CBSE examination using a laptop, without the assistance of a scribe.

Aspiring to build a career in the information technology sector, the 16-year-old said she plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer applications.

"Since my childhood, I have wanted to get into the information technology sector. I intend to do my bachelor's degree in computer applications," she said.

Zainab credited her school, teachers, and family for their unwavering support throughout her journey.

"I am thankful to Vijay Dhar and my teachers for their support. I do not have words to thank my parents, who have been the biggest support of my life," she said.

Encouraging parents of specially-abled children, she urged them to believe in their children's potential and stand by them.

"If I can do it, anyone can. They just need your support," she added.

Apart from academics, Zainab has also excelled in extracurricular activities. At the age of 12, she interviewed former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Bollywood actor Aamir Khan for Radio DPS, a student-run radio station of the school.

Her achievement stands as a testament to determination, resilience, and the power of support systems in overcoming barriers.

MeT Forecast

Temperature data indicates a continued rise across the region, with several stations recording above-normal temperatures. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 26.8°C, which is 6.6°C above normal, and a minimum of 7.6°C. Gulmarg also reported temperatures significantly above normal, with a maximum of 17.6°C, around 8.1°C above average.

In other parts of Kashmir, Qazigund recorded 26.3°C and 5.4°C, Pahalgam 21.6°C and 2.8°C, Kupwara 25.2°C and 5.2°C, and Kokernag 23.8°C and 7.0°C.

The Jammu division continued to witness warmer conditions, with Jammu city recording a high of 35.4°C and a low of 17.4°C. Katra, Banihal, Batote and Bhaderwah also reported relatively high temperatures for this time of the season.

The department said no significant rainfall was recorded at most stations in the past 24 hours.

In its advisory, the MeT Department said farmers can continue agricultural operations till April 16, after which weather conditions may turn less favourable.

Pak Army Chief

has had with the United States, our views have been conveyed and heard," he said. "Naturally, during this visit, the two sides are expected to discuss their viewpoints in detail."

The renewed diplomatic push comes as a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the US, brokered by Pakistan, remains in place and is set to expire on 22 April. The truce followed 40 days war that broke out on 28 February, when the United States and Israel launched attacks on Iran, disrupting global energy markets and trade.

Mediators are now attempting to bridge differences on three key issues that derailed the first round of talks in Islamabad over the weekend: Iran's nuclear programme, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and compensation for wartime damages.

Although the US and Iran held rare direct talks in Pakistan, the negotiations ended without agreement. US vice-president JD Vance, who led the American delegation, said the talks faltered over Tehran's refusal to abandon its nuclear programme. Iran, however, blamed the failure on what it described as "excessive demands" by the US.

Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, speaker of Iran's parliament and head of its delegation, said his team had presented "forward-looking initiatives", but the opposing side failed to gain the trust of Iranian negotiators.

Pakistani officials said preparations were under way for a second round of talks in the coming days, with Islamabad likely to remain the venue. Geo News reported that authorities

and security agencies had been instructed to make the necessary administrative and security arrangements.

The diplomatic activity has been accompanied by optimistic remarks from US president Donald Trump, who said the world should brace for an "amazing two days", suggesting the conflict could be nearing an end. In remarks to the New York Post, he said: "You should stay there, really, because something could be happening over the next two days."

Trump also indicated that US negotiators could return to Pakistan, praising Munir for doing a "great job" in facilitating the talks.

Separately, Pakistan's prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, began official visits to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Türkiye on Wednesday. The foreign office said the visits were primarily bilateral, focusing on cooperation as well as regional peace and security, but also formed part of broader efforts to support a diplomatic resolution between Iran and the US.

J&K HC Orders

"The practice of compelling citizens to seek judicial intervention for enforcement of admitted claims cannot be approved and deserves to be deprecated," the court said, adding, "It must be emphasized that once the State has availed the benefit of work executed, it is under a corresponding obligation both legal and constitutional to ensure timely payment."

Any failure in this regard, the court said, strikes at the core of Article 14 of the Constitution of India, which mandates fairness, reasonableness and non-arbitrariness in State action.

"The consequences of delayed payments are significant, particularly for small-scale units, which operate within limited financial capacity. Unjustified withholding of dues results in financial hardship and adversely impacts business viability," the court said, adding, "The State cannot be permitted to derive benefit from completed works while denying the corresponding financial entitlement to the executing party."

While emphasizing the need for administrative accountability, the court said the authorities must ensure availability of funds prior to allotment of works. "Failure in this regard cannot be used as a defense to defeat legitimate claims," the court underscored.

Amarnath Yatra

six counters have been set up," he added. The offline branches in Jammu, including those of J-K Bank and PNB, witnessed long queues since 8 am as devotees lined up an hour before the start of the registration process.

"I want to be among the first to pay obeisance at the cave shrine. That is why I came early this morning to get myself registered. This will be my second yatra," Jammu resident Yamni Sharma told reporters.

Sharma, who will be undertaking the yatra via the Pahalgam route with her parents, sister and brother, said there is huge improvement in facilities and normalcy is prevailing in Kashmir, so more Hindus should come and pay obeisance.

Vinood Kumar, who had come from Pathankot in Punjab for registration at the PNB branch in Rehari Colony, said this is the 11th time he is undertaking the yatra.

"We have always paid obeisance at the cave shrine in the first batch for the last many years. This year too, we have registered for the pilgrimage," he said.

"Our message to all devotees is to come and pay obeisance and seek blessings. For us, this yatra is in our annual calendar," he said.

The PNB DGM said as the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly, support from banks has also increased.

"We are anticipating that the number of people will rise further. Accordingly, we are assessing how we can further simplify and ease the bank registration process," he added.

The offline registration can be done in 556 bank branches across the country, including 310 branches of Punjab National Bank, 90 branches of J&K Bank, 37 branches of Yes Bank and 99 branches of SBI, besides others, officials said.

CM Unveils

programme that includes field craft, weapon handling and physical conditioning.

The event marked both a remembrance of the regiment's legacy and a reaffirmation of its continued role in training soldiers for service in diverse and challenging conditions.

CA Cold Storage Proving Game Changer for Apple Growers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Controlled Atmosphere (CA) cold storage units across Jammu and Kashmir are once again proving their importance for apple growers, as farmers continue to fetch encouraging returns despite recent fluctuations in market rates.

Growers said that although apple prices witnessed a dip for a brief period of one to two weeks last month, the rates have now rebounded, offering them profitable returns—though still slightly below the peak levels recorded during January and February.

According to estimates from the horticulture sector, around 20-30 per cent of the apple stock is still lying in cold storage units, giving growers the flexibility to release their produce in line with market demand.

"Rates had gone down for a short time last month, which caused some distress among

growers, but now prices have picked up again," Abdul Hameed, an orchardist from south Kashmir, told KNO. "Though the rates are not as high as during peak winter, we are still getting good returns compared to the main harvest season."

Another grower from Sopore, Ghulam Rasool, said the decision to store apples instead of selling them during the harvest period has turned out to be beneficial. "During the main season, there was hardly any demand, and prices were very low. That is why most of us opted for cold storage. Now, we are selling gradually and earning better profits," he said.

Farmers said the availability of CA storage has helped them avoid distress sales and reduced their dependence on middlemen. "Earlier, we had no option but to sell immediately after harvest when markets were flooded. Now, we can wait and choose the right time," said another grower



from Shopian. "This has given us control over pricing and improved our bargaining power."

Growers added that cold storage units were fully packed during the harvesting season last year, reflecting a shift in strategy among orchardists who preferred to wait for better market conditions rather than selling in bulk at low rates.

"Cold storage has become a lifeline for us," said an orchard owner from Pulwama. "It allows

us to send produce to markets as per demand. If we release apples in bulk, prices crash, but when supply is regulated, we get handsome returns."

Experts believe that CA storage plays a crucial role in stabilising the market by preventing oversupply and ensuring a steady flow of produce over several months. This system not only safeguards fruit quality but also helps maintain price stability. The improved returns from

stored apples are also benefiting the broader horticulture economy, enabling growers to reinvest in better inputs such as high-quality pesticides, packaging, and modern farming techniques.

However, growers stressed the need for expanding cold storage infrastructure, particularly in remote fruit-growing areas, so that small and marginal farmers can also benefit.

"If more units are established closer to villages, it will reduce transportation costs and post-harvest losses," said a grower. "Cold storage is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity for sustainable apple farming."

With a significant portion of apples still in storage and demand expected to improve further in the coming weeks, growers remain optimistic that prices will strengthen, reinforcing the role of cold storage as a game changer for Kashmir's fruit industry.

CM Omar Avoids Cutting Tricolour Ribbon

SRINAGAR: Faced with an inaugural ribbon in saffron, white and green stripes, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday refused to cut it and instead untied it and handed it back to the organisers with the instruction that it should be kept with respect.

Abdullah was inaugurating the 'Know Your Artisans' event at the Kashmir Haat here. In a moment that was captured by camera crews and quickly went viral on social media platforms, the chief minister was seen walking towards the ribbon stretched across and then stopping short as he noticed the colours of the tricolour. According to PTI, he was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, his advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and a host of others. The ribbon dispensed with, Abdullah went on with the rest of the proceedings at the Kashmir Haat in the heart of the city. (Observer News Service)

Northern Railway Announces Budgam-Delhi Parcel Train Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to ease transportation of goods from Kashmir Valley, Northern Railway's Jammu Division has announced the operation of a dedicated parcel train service between Budgam and Delhi from April 17 to May 31.

The service, named "Joint Parcel Product – Rapid Cargo Service" (JPP-RCS) will run between Adarsh Nagar, Delhi and Budgam, primarily aimed at benefiting fruit growers, traders and handicraft dealers.

Officials informed KNO that the train from Budgam will depart at 6:15 AM and reach Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, at 5:00 AM the following day. On its return journey, the train will leave Delhi at 5:00 AM and arrive in Budgam at 10:45 AM the next day. The train will comprise eight parcel vans and one seating-cum-luggage rake (SLR) and will halt at Bari Brahmana and Ambala Cantt stations to facilitate loading and unloading. (Observer News Service)

CAG Flags Massive Lapses in J&K Waste Management

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged serious inefficiencies in the management of Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Jammu and Kashmir, revealing significant underutilisation of funds and poor waste processing.

According to the audit report for the period ending March 2022, only Rs 74.55 crore (43 per cent) out of the available Rs 175.33 crore was utilised during 2017-22. The report noted that fund under-utilisation ranged between 74 and 84 per cent during these years.

The audit, accessed by KNO revealed that merely 31 to 39 per cent of collected waste was treated, while around 18.35 lakh metric tonnes of unprocessed waste accumulated across urban local bodies.

Additionally, Rs 103.65 crore in user charges remained uncollected, highlighting lapses in revenue realisation and governance.

The report attributed under-utilisation in 2018-19 partly to non-utilisation of Rs 28.55 crore released under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). For 2021-22, it noted that Rs 89.55 crore was released by the Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), J&K, at the end of the financial year (March 30, 2022), limiting its utilisation.

Audit of 17 sampled Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), including JMC and SMC, revealed that the prescribed method of

assessing waste generation—based on seasonal sample collection across three major seasons—was not followed. Instead, waste generation was estimated using average per capita figures, rendering the assessment unrealistic.

The audit further observed that weighbridges and a computerised Management Information System (MIS) were not available at waste dumping sites in 16 sampled ULBs, including JMC, making it difficult to accurately determine the actual quantity of waste collected.

It was also noted that solid waste generation declined from 1,592.78 metric tonnes (MT) per day in 2017-18 to 1,544.79 MT per day in 2021-22. Despite this, between 91 per cent and 99 per cent of the waste generated in ULBs across the State/UT was reportedly collected during the period 2017-22.

It was further observed that only 31 to 39 per cent of the collected waste was treated, while a significant portion continued to be dumped at landfills or open dumping sites, posing serious environmental risks. During the Exit Conference (February 2025), the Commissioner/Secretary stated that, under SBM 2.0, 78 Solid Waste Management Centres (SWMCs) had been approved for scientific processing of municipal solid waste, of which 33 had been made operational by 2024-25.

However, given the low proportion of waste being treated (39 per cent) and the risks associated with unsci-

entific disposal, there is an urgent need to expedite the completion of all 78 SWMCs.

Audit further revealed that no dedicated waste deposition centres had been established for the safe disposal of Domestic Hazardous Waste (DHW). Instead, DHW was being disposed of along with municipal solid waste (MSW) without segregation.

Records from seven sampled ULBs in the Jammu Division indicated that DHW was reportedly disposed of through burial in pits. However, during joint physical inspections conducted between December 2022 and March 2023, audit teams found no evidence supporting the practice of deep pit burial as claimed. The lack of segregation and improper disposal of DHW alongside MSW pose significant public health risks.

Additionally, audit findings across 17 sampled ULBs showed that sanitary waste was not being segregated at source. No separate bins were provided for dry or non-biodegradable waste, resulting in improper disposal practices that could potentially endanger public health.

Audit of 17 sampled ULBs, including JMC and SMC, revealed that no user charges were collected in three ULBs, while collection remained partial in the remaining 14 during 2017-22. Against an estimated Rs 139.04 crore collectable from waste generators under door-to-door collection, only Rs 35.39 crore was realised, leaving a shortfall of at least Rs 103.65 crore.

Peak Power Need Plunges 17% in J&K, Ladakh in February

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have recorded a negative variation of over 17 per cent in power requirement in the month of February during peak hours.

According to the official documents showing the anticipated power supply position v/s actual power supply position (Provisional) of Northern Region during the month of February-2026 states that in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh it has anticipated power requirement of 2020 Million Units (MU) and availability of 1661 MUs respectively.

The official figures reveal that there was a variation of 17.8 per cent in power requirement. It also said that NRPC had anticipated power availability of 980 MUs against the 1660 MUs of actual availability.

Earlier KNO reported that in the peak winters of 2025-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilising nearly 1,000 Megawatts (MWs) of coal and gas energy amid dip in hydel power generation.

The official figures available in this regard revealed that in the month of January-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilising 999.21 MWs of thermal energy including 870.14 MWs of coal and 129.7 MWs of gas energy from the allocated shares in joint and central sector utilities.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES KASHMIR SRINAGAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM

Subject: Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax Collection contract for the year 2026-27 w.e.f. 01-05-2026 to 30-04-2027 for a period of 365 days.

AUCTION NOTICE.

E-NIT No: MC/BUD/2026-27/01 of 2026

Dated: 15/04/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons/parties for Auction of Adda/Entry Fee / Terminal Tax of Municipal Council Budgam, for the year 2026-27 w.e.f. 01-05-2026 to 30-04-2027 for a period of 365 days. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed for Rs. 69,21,000/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lacs and Twenty One Thousand Only). The Tax/rate schedule of the vehicles is as under and the successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fee as per the same schedule.

S. No	Name of Vehicle	Rates
01	Government vehicles, security forces vehicles, and vehicles engaged by the State or Central Government for the development of Ring Roads and other public/Govt infrastructure projects shall be exempted from all applicable charges, or levies.	Exempted
02	All Private Light vehicles	Exempted
03	Tipper	Rs:30 Per Trip
04	Dumper/Double Ducker	Rs:40 Per Trip
05	Bus/Tata bus 407	Rs:30 Per Day
06	Taxi /Sumu/Tavera	Rs:30 Per Day
07	Auto /Load Carrier	Rs:20 Per Day
08	Tata Mobile , Load Carrier / Jeep /Winger Cab/ Tempo Travelers	Rs:30 Per Day
09	Tractor	Rs:20 Per Trip
10	Truck	Rs:40 Per Trip
11	School Bus	Rs:20 Per Day
12	Trolley 10 to 14 tyres	Rs:50 Per Trip
14	Recovery/Hydra Van (6, Wheel)	Rs:40 Per Trip
15	Recovery/Hydra Van (4 Wheel)	Rs:20 Per Trip
16	Tourist Buses	Rs:50 Per Trip

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in, as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	15-04-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 15-04-2026 to 27-04-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	15-04-2026 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid submission End Date	27-04-2026 upto 9.00 AM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	27-04-2026 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam.
6	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	The highest bidder, has to deposit 10% of contract value cost, on spot at the declaration of highest bidder and same will be forfeited if terms and conditions shall be breached.
7	Mode of Payment	10% token money on spot after evaluation of successful bidder (Technical/ Financial Evaluation). 65% to be deposited on the time of possession of posts. 25% after three months from date of possession, for which successful bidder shall submit the irrevocable bank guarantee from any nationalized bank within seven days from the date of possession, failing which the contract shall be cancelled, without any intimation.
08		Cash deposit Rs.138420/- pledged to Accounts officer MC Budgam at the time of opening of bid (CDR) in original

- Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Bank Challan / Receipt (Credited to A/c No. 0078040500018986 Accounts Officer, Municipal Council Budgam amounting to Rs. 2000/- (Two Thousand Only). The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam.
- The bids for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- BID SECURITY.**
- Bid Security Declaration: If the successful bidder fails to sign the contract or to submit the performance security before the deadline defined in the request for the bid documents, the bidder will be suspended for the participation in the tendering process for the works / tenders for a period of one year from the bid due date of this Auction.
- Any bid not accompanied by the BID security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non-responsive.
- Every bid shall be accompanied with a CDR of Rs. 138420/- from a Nationalized Bank, pledged to Accounts Officer Municipal Council Budgam, without which the bid shall not be entertained.
- The contract of collection of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax shall be for the year 2026-27 w.e.f. 01-05-2026 to 30-04-2027 and no claim for extension on any pretext will be entertained beyond the allotted period.
- The successful bidder in case fails to deposit 10% or first installment (65%) of the bid amount, the CDR/10% bid amount as the case, shall be forfeited and the bidder shall be black listed for future participation/ auctions and in case the allottee fails to deposit the 2nd installment of the bid amount, the Municipal Council Budgam shall take over the possession of the collections posts and go for fresh auction viz-a-viz recovery of the defaulted amount as per norms.
- That, the successful bidder has to execute an agreement with the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam within the seven days after taking possession.
- The successful Bidder shall be bound to effect recovery of Entry Fees as per approved schedule of MC Budgam, which is available with this office as mention above. In case of any violation to the approved schedule, legal action against the contractor / allottee will be initiated.
- The successful bidder shall pay the electric/ Water tax to the concerned quarter well in advance and shall be responsible for operational maintenance of the Toll posts.
- The Successful bidder shall have to maintain the infrastructure (Collections posts) at his own by way of displaying the rate schedules as well as paint to the Collections posts twice during the contract.
- The receipt books to be used by the contractor at the entry fee posts shall be got authenticated by the Chief Executive Officer concerned.
- The successful bidder shall be solely responsible for arranging and bearing the cost of manpower, stationery, furniture, sanitation, toll posts (wherever required), and any other resources necessary for the execution of the contract. No claim for compensation or reimbursement in this regard shall be entertained by the office of the undersigned.
- The highest bidder shall be deemed to have quoted the rates inclusive of all applicable taxes, duties, and levies. No additional charges shall be entertained beyond the quoted amount.
- After expiry of the contract i.e. on 30-04-2027, the successful bidder shall hand over the possession of the Entry posts to the MC Budgam in its original position without any damage.
- That, the successful contractor shall have to collect Entry Fee on the following toll Posts only: 01. Srinagar Toll Post. 2. DC office Toll Post 3. Ichgam Toll Post. 4. Mamat Shogpora Road Toll Post 5. Narkana Toll Post.
- That, the successful contractor shall have to collect Entry Fee strictly in accordance with the approved schedule of rates issued by this institution. The collection process shall be carried out in a public-friendly manner, ensuring no inconvenience is caused to visitors. Additionally, the approved rate schedule shall be prominently displayed at each toll post within the town.
- The contractor shall be responsible to maintain entry fee collection posts with special care to sanitation / hygiene of the environment and surroundings.
- That All vehicles that fall under the category of exemption—including but not limited to Government vehicles, vehicles belonging to security forces, and vehicles deployed by State or Central Government agencies for developmental activities such as the construction of Ring Roads and other public infrastructure—shall be fully exempted from the payment of any levies, toll charges, or entry fee at all designated toll posts. Under no circumstances shall

- the contractor collect any fee from such exempted vehicles. Any violation of this clause shall be treated as a serious breach of contract and shall attract strict penal action, including immediate termination of the contract and forfeiture of the Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) without any prior notice. The successful bidder shall collect the entry fee from all other vehicles and machinery strictly as per the approved schedule of rates. Any deviation, unauthorized collection, or overcharging shall similarly lead to the termination of the contract and forfeiture of the CDR.
 - That, the Authority (Chief Executive Officer MC Budgam) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof;
 - In case of any dispute arising between the parties with respect to any of the conditions as laid down herein above or any ambiguity will be referred to arbitrator and the decision of the arbitrator, Director Urban Local Bodies shall be final and binding upon the parties.
 - That the successful bidder shall not charge the entry fee in respect of the empty commercial vehicles.
 - The Tender of the bidder shall not be entertained who has been defaulter from any of the Municipal Institution.
 - That the allottee shall be bound to adhere to all Government orders, statutory rules, and instructions issued or to be issued from time to time in this regard. All such directions shall be applicable and enforceable as per prevailing Government norms, and the bidder shall be obligated to ensure full compliance. No claim for compensation or relaxation shall be entertained on account of any such Government directives.
 - That, the successful bidder shall have to note that no compensation/ relaxation/ extension/relief/ concession/ rebate will be given to him in case of any untoward situation like Hartals, Civil Curfew/ Govt Restrictions/ Flood/ Covid-19 / Curfew/ natural Disaster/ Calamity etc will happen during his contract period. Instructions to the Bidders regarding E- Tendering process:
 - a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
 - c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.
 - e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 - Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ challan in favour of Accounts Officer, Municipal Council Budgam and bid securing declaration must be uploaded with the bid.
 - The Bidder must have to upload (soft copies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-
 - Valid original Bank Challan/Receipt & CDR
 - BID Securing Declaration on stamp paper duly attested by Notary.
 - Valid GSTIN/ PAN Card No.
 - The Bidder should upload the Tender Document form attached below (Not Mandatory).
 - Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including
 - BID Securing Declaration and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has / have not been uploaded shall not be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
 - The Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tendering portal before issuance of Allotment.
 - GST Registration Mandatory.
 - Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies Annual Turn Over and Income Tax return (latest).

No: MC/BUD/2026-27/917-20
Dated: 15/04/2026
DIPK-NB-166-26
DT: 15/04/2026

Sd/
Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council
Budgam.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION) CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/ SRINAGAR.

Subject: Final seniority list of PG Masters/ PG Teachers in the discipline of Dogri as on 01.10.2025 - Addendum thereof.

**ADDENDUM TO GOVERNMENT ORDER NO. 355- JK (EDU) OF 2025
DATED : 01.05.2025**

The following incumbents (PG Teachers in the discipline of Dogri) shall and shall always be deemed to have been added in Government Order No. 335 - JK (Edu) of 2025 Dated: 01.05.2025:

S. No.	NAME	DESIG	PLACE OF POSTING	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF 1st APPOINTMENT	DATE OF PASSING PG	REMARKS
93-A	Sandhya Devi	Teacher	PS Jakh Jammu	14.11.1975	13.02.2004	-05-2011	Inclusion in the seniority is on the basis of recommendations furnished by the Committee constituted vide Government Order No. 188-JK(Edu) of 2024 dated 15.03.2024.
105-A	Rekha Rani	Teacher	Govt. MS Birnoo Udhampur	18.10.1976	12.12.2005	10-11-2022	Inclusion in the seniority is on the basis of recommendations furnished by the Committee constituted vide Government Order No. 188-JK(Edu) of 2024 dated 15.03.2024.
133-A	Reena	Teacher	Govt. PS Upper Chowadi Purmandal Jammu	25.10.1976	29.01.2009	23-11-2001	
171-A	Mamta Sharma	Teacher	GMS Karyal Brahmana Bishnah Jammu	03.04.1983	29.09.2014	05-06-2008	
172-A	Suhel Sharma	Teacher	Govt. Primary School Kattal UDHAMPUR	06.08.1981	25.11.2014	24-11-2006	
180-A	Aneeta Devi	Teacher	Govt. Primary School Pattani UDHAMPUR	20.07.1980	24.09.2016	20-01-2009	

No. Edu-HRM/256/2021-01 (85464)
Dated: 13.04.2026.
DIPK-393-26
DT: 15/04/2026

Sd/-
(Ram Niwas Sharma), IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government,
School Education Department.

China Surpasses US as India's Largest Trading Partner in FY26

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: China has overtaken the US to emerge as India's largest trading partner in 2025-26, with bilateral trade reaching USD 151.1 billion, while the country's trade deficit with Beijing widened to USD 112.16 billion during the period, government data showed.

The US was India's largest trading partner for four consecutive years till 2024-25.

India's exports to China rose 36.66 per cent to USD 19.47 billion during the last fiscal year, while imports increased 16 per cent to USD 131.63 billion. The trade deficit swelled to an all-time high of USD 112.6 billion in 2025-26 as against USD 99.2 billion in 2024-25.

On the other hand, the country's outbound shipments to the US grew marginally 0.92 per cent to USD 87.3 billion during the last fiscal year, while imports increased 15.95 per cent to USD 52.9 billion. The trade surplus declined to USD 34.4 billion in 2025-26 from USD 40.89 billion in 2024-25.

According to commerce



ministry data, China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 till 2017-18 and also in 2020-21. Before China, the UAE was the country's largest trading partner. The US has been the largest partner since 2021-22.

The major trading partners with which India recorded negative exports growth in 2025-26 include the Netherlands, the UK, Singapore, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Australia, France, South Africa, and Malaysia. However, exports to the UAE, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Nepal, Brazil, Spain, Belgium, and Vietnam registered positive growth last fiscal year.

The major trading partners with which India recorded negative imports growth in 2025-26 include Russia, Iraq, Indonesia, Australia, Qatar, and Taiwan.

India's Exports Plunge 7.44 Pct in March; Trade with West Asia Nosedives

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Exports posted the steepest fall in five months, declining by 7.44 per cent in March to USD 38.92 billion due to trade uncertainty and geopolitical tensions, with shipments to West Asia contracting by more than 50 per cent in the month, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The trade deficit, however, narrowed to a nine-month low of USD 20.67 billion in March on account of lower imports.

Imports dipped by 6.51 per cent to USD 59.59 billion in March, driven by a significant decline in inbound shipments of crude oil and gold, the data showed.

For the full 2025-26 fiscal year, exports grew 0.93 per cent to an all-time high of USD 441.78 billion, while imports rose 7.45 per cent to USD 775 billion. The trade deficit ballooned to USD 333.2 billion due to a jump in gold and silver imports during the last fiscal.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal told reporters that the country's goods and services exports increased by an estimated 4.22 per cent to an all-time high of USD 860.09 bil-



lion in 2025-26 against USD 825.26 billion in 2024-25.

He said that despite global challenges, Indian exporters are showing resilience and are registering positive growth.

"We are hopeful that 2026-27 will be a much better year," he said.

The secretary said that India's exports to the Middle East region fell by 57.95 per cent in March, while imports from the Gulf nations fell by 51.64 per cent.

"Our exports to the Middle East in March dipped by 3.5 billion dollars (USD) and it has impacted (overall) exports," Agrawal told reporters. Agrawal said that April could also

be a tough month for exports due to the conflict, which is hampering ship movements in international waters.

Crude oil imports in March dipped 35.91 per cent to USD 12.18 billion, while in 2025-26, it declined 6.37 per cent to USD 174 billion. Gold imports in March dipped 31.63 per cent to USD 3.06 billion, while in 2025-26, these rose by 24 per cent to USD 71.97 billion.

The war in the Middle East has disrupted the flow of oil and gas through the Strait of Hormuz, pushing up freight and insurance costs for exporters.

"We hope the challenges that we face today will not sustain for long, and we may have smoother trades across the world in months to come," the secretary said.

Services exports, the secretary said, have remained robust.

Meanwhile, China has overtaken the US to emerge as India's largest trading partner in 2025-26, with bilateral trade reaching USD 151.1 billion, while the country's trade deficit with Beijing widened to USD 112.16 billion during the period, government data showed.

The US was India's largest trading partner for the four consecutive year

SC Holds Banks Accountable for Stale Cheques

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said banks act as agents for their customers and are under a "statutory obligation" to exercise due diligence and present a cheque for collection before it becomes "stale" as such a negligence constitutes a manifest deficiency in service.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan held the Canara Bank guilty of deficiency in service for failing to present cheques within their validity period, while reducing the compensation awarded to the complainants.

"A bank receiving cheques for collection acts as an agent of the customer and is under an obligation to exercise due diligence in presenting the instruments within the prescribed validity period. The failure to do so, resulting in the instrument becoming stale, in the absence of any reasonable explanation, would result in negligence in the discharge of banking duties which would constitute deficiency in rendering service within the meaning of the consumer protection law," Justice Bhuyan, who authored the 57-page verdict, said.

The dispute came on an appeal from the Canara Bank against the judgment of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), which had ruled in favour of customer Kavita Chowdhary.

The dispute arose in May 2018, when Kavita and Priya Chowdhary deposited two cheques for approximately Rs 1.06 crore into their Canara Bank accounts.

The cheques, issued by M/s Assotech Limited, were dated March 3, 2018, meaning they were set to expire on June 2, 2018. Following the deposit on May 29, a nationwide bank strike was called on May 30 and May 31. While the bank was excused for the delay during the strike, the verdict found that it had failed to re-present the cheques on June 1 or June 2, both of which were functional working days.



After Pope, Trump Turns on Italy's Meloni

AP

MILAN: Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni was supposed to be Europe's bridge to US President Donald Trump. It may be burning.

After chastising Pope Leo XIV, Trump turned his ire on Meloni, long one of his closest European allies, for calling his papal broadcast "unacceptable" and not backing the US-Israel war on Iran.

"I thought she had courage," Trump said in an interview with leading Italian daily Corriere della Sera. "I was wrong."

Meloni has not directly responded to Trump's attacks. But they may be to her advantage as she recovers from a decisive referendum defeat last month and as she seeks to dull the impact of the deeply unpopular Iran war, including higher energy prices.

"I actually think this is a god-send for her," said Nathalie Tocci, a professor at Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe and the director of the International Affairs Institute. "Trump has become completely toxic across Europe, across much of the world, including Italy."

Trump doubled down on Wednesday, saying their bond had frayed. "She's been negative," Trump told Fox News. "Anybody that turned us down to helping with this Iran situation, we do not have the same relationship."

The only European Union leader

invited to Trump's second inauguration, Meloni was expected to leverage her strong ties with him once he returned to office 15 months ago. The two had a perceived natural alliance, with nationalistic tendencies and similarly hard-line stances on immigration.

But Italy was not spared the pain of Trump's tariffs, and some may argue she has gotten little out of the relationship. When asked if they had spoken this month, Trump told Corriere, "No, not in a long time."

After an uncomfortable appearance in the Oval Office a year ago when she avoided directly confronting Trump on tariffs, the

distance grew over the Iran war. Meloni has stated Italy will not participate in the war and the country last month refused US bombers the authorisation to land at a pivotal air base in Sicily.

Meloni's statement this week calling Trump's attack on the pope "unacceptable" was the most direct criticism of the president yet.

"It's been building up over time, not so much because she is moving away from him but because he has become increasingly unhinged," Tocci said.

Cabinet minister Adolfo Urso, a member of Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy, said US-Italy relations would not be shaken by the flap.

Amit Shah Vows to Drive Infiltrators Out of Country

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Upping the ante against Mamata Banerjee's TMC on Bengali New Year's Day in poll-bound West Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said while the Election Commission has removed infiltrators from the state's electoral rolls, the larger task would be to drive them out of the country's borders.

In a virtual address to supporters in Darjeeling's Lebong where inclement weather prevented the landing of his helicopter, Shah promised priori-

tising resolution of the Gorkha issue and the withdrawal of all cases registered against community leaders and workers for violent agitations in the past, as soon as the BJP assumed power in the state.

Addressing multiple rallies in the hills and in the plains of Jalpaiguri, Alipurduars and Cooch Behar districts, Shah intensified the party's anti-infiltrator poll pitch, while laying thrust on issues of corruption, syndicate and cut-money culture, women's safety and the sensitive Babri Masjid construction row against the TMC.

Shah said that once the BJP forms a government in the state, it will "seal the country's eastern borders in such a manner that even birds won't be able to flap their wings" around the fences.

"Didi (Mamata Banerjee) doesn't want to give 600 acres of land to the BSF required to build border fences. We have decided that once we have a BJP CM here, we will complete the task of fencing within 45 days on the required land," Shah told a gathering at Tufangunj in the Bangladesh-bordering Cooch Behar district of north Bengal.

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Corpus: ₹11.6L (10 Years, Invested: ₹6.0L, Money grows to 1.4x)

Corpus: ₹4.1L (5 Years, Invested: ₹3.1L, Money grows to 1.4x)

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