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Won't Rest Till J&K Is Drug-Free: LG

Kashmir Leg Of 'Nasha Mukht' Campaign To Begin May 3



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said he will not rest until Jammu and Kashmir is freed from the drug menace, announcing that the anti-drug campaign will be launched in Kashmir on May 3. Addressing a gathering here, Sinha said the administration

has intensified its efforts under the 'Nasha Mukht' campaign, which was launched in Jammu on April 11.

"We have decided that we will not rest till we eradicate the drug abuse problem," he said, adding that the movement would now be expanded to Kashmir.

Referring to **| More on P6**

Push Credit, Tech, Market Access For Women Farmers: LG

₹3.11 Lakh Women Farmers Registered Across Sectors in J&K

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday underscored the central role of women farmers in sustaining food systems and driving rural economies, calling for their greater empowerment through **| More on P6**

'No More CUET'

J&K Falls Back On 10+2 Merit Amid Empty Classrooms

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Higher Education Department on Thursday announced that undergraduate admissions in all Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) across Jammu and Kashmir will no longer be conducted through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) from the academic session 2026-27, reverting instead to a merit-based system on Class 12 scores.

In a fresh notification, the department said that admissions to all UG programmes

will be granted on a non-CUET basis, with selections made strictly on the basis of 10+2 marks. Students will, however, be required to register and apply through a centralised admission portal, where allotment of colleges will be determined by merit and the preferences submitted by candidates.

The department said the advance notice is intended to help students and parents prepare for the upcoming admission cycle, while outlining key changes for the 2026-27 session.

The decision **| More on P6**

3 Bills To Tweak Women's Quota, Set Up Delimitation Panel Introduced

» 131st Amendment Bill Gets 251-185 Backing

» Debate Sharpens Over Census, Seat Expansion & 2029 Rollout

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The government on Thursday introduced three key pieces of legislation in the Lok Sabha aimed at modifying the existing women's reservation framework and initiating a fresh delimitation exercise, triggering a sharp political debate in the House.

The most significant among them, the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, was introduced after a division of votes, with 251 members supporting its introduction and 185 opposing it. The Bill seeks to amend provisions related to the



implementation of the women's quota in legislatures and is tied to a proposed expansion and redrawing of constituencies ahead of the 2029 general elections.

Alongside it, two ordinary bills — the Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill — were also tabled. These are intended to **| More on P6**

Shah Rules Out Muslim Reservation

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that Muslims will not be given reservation on the basis of religion as such a quota would be unconstitutional. During a fiery 40-minute debate, following which three bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha for amendment of the women's quota law and **| More on P6**

No State Will Be Discriminated In Delimitation: PM

KO Web Desk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asserted that no state will face discrimination in the upcoming delimitation exercise linked to the implementation of the women's reservation law, as the Lok Sabha witnessed a charged debate over three key bills. Intervening during the discussion on the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, the Delimitation Bill, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, Modi sought to allay concerns, particularly from southern and **| More on P6**

US Pushes Lebanon Ceasefire As Iran Talks Gain Pace

Trans Asia News

Washington/Beirut: US president Donald Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon Thursday, saying the two sides agreed to halt hostilities following US-led talks aimed at easing regional tensions.

In a post on Truth Social on Thursday, the US president said he had held "excellent conversations" with Lebanon's president, Joseph Aoun, and Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

"These two leaders have agreed that ... they will formally begin a 10-day ceasefire," Trump said, adding that it would take effect at 21:00 GMT.



The announcement follows rare talks between Israeli and Lebanese officials in Washington earlier this week — their first engagement in more than three decades. US secretary of state Marco Rubio and vice-president JD Vance

were involved in the diplomatic effort, with Trump saying senior officials had been tasked with working towards a lasting settlement.

Trump later said he would invite Netanyahu and Aoun to the White House **| More on P6**

Gulf Allies 'Exceptional Teammates', Says US

Trans Asia News

US defence secretary Pete Hegseth has praised Gulf Arab allies for their "exceptional" support during

Washington's recent military campaign against Iran, highlighting deepening regional cooperation even as he criticised other partners for failing to step up. Speaking at a **| More on P6**

'White Collar' Terror Module Case SIA Files Chargesheet Against 10

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Thursday filed a chargesheet against 10 accused persons in the 'white collar' terror module case involving several doctors from Jammu and Kashmir.

"The SIA Kashmir filed the chargesheet in a significant terrorist conspiracy case involving a covert module commonly referred to as the 'Doctors' Terror Module,'" an agency spokesperson said.

Dr Umar Un Nabi, one of the ten accused, was killed in the Red Fort blast last November.

The other nine are Arif Nisar Dar alias Sahil, Yasir Ul Ashraf Bhat, Maqsood Ahmad Dar alias Shahid, Irfan Ahmad Wagay alias Owais, Zameer Ahmad Ahanger alias Mutlashi, Dr Muzamil Shakeel Ganaie alias Musab, Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather alias Javaid, Dr Shaheen Saeed, and Tufail Ahmad Bhat.

All 10 accused were booked at Srinagar's Nowgam Police Station.

Gusty Winds Damage Property, Disrupt Power

Rain, Winds Till April 19: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Gusty winds swept across several parts of Kashmir on Thursday evening, damaging rooftops and infrastructure and causing minor disruptions to power supply in some areas, officials said.

The sudden winds, reported from multiple districts, uprooted temporary structures and affected electricity lines, leading to brief outages.

A 40-year-old labourer died and four others injured after strong winds blew away the roof of a cold storage facility in Pulwama district, officials said. The incident occurred at the Lassipora industrial estate, where the structure suffered damage due to gusty winds, they said.

Five persons were trapped under the debris and were later evacuated and rushed to the hospital, where one of them, Sajad Ahmad Mir, 40, was declared dead on arrival, officials said.

The four injured are undergoing treatment, they added.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast an extended spell of unsettled **| More on P6**

Encroachment, Sewage, Silt Choke Hokersar Lake, Warns CAG

Open Water Down 7%, Scrub Up 1,100%; Audit Flags Policy Gaps, Failed Evictions

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has raised serious concerns over large-scale encroachment and ecological degradation of Hokersar Lake, warning that the Valley's key wetland is rapidly deteriorating and risks losing its "pristine glory."

In its audit report on conservation of lakes in Jammu and Kashmir for 2023-24, the CAG said over 2,528 kanals of the Hokersar wetland have been encroached upon for construction, plantations and agricultural use. Despite notices issued to violators, authorities failed



to evict encroachers, pointing to weak enforcement and poor monitoring. The report pulled up agencies for the absence of a comprehensive conservation and

management plan, noting that reliance on fragmented annual plans failed to address critical issues such as pollution, hydrological changes and biodiversity loss.

Highlighting alarming land-use changes between 2014 and 2020, the audit recorded a 7 per cent decline in open water area, alongside a sharp rise in ecological stress indicators. Scrub area grew by over 1,100 per cent, aquatic vegetation increased by 42 per cent, while siltation, river expansion and built-up areas also saw significant growth. These shifts were attributed to unchecked human activity, inflow of untreated sewage and inadequate **| More on P6**



Boatmen row on Dal Lake as gusty winds rip apart a shikara's roof in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

3 Nabbed In Sopore Over Fake SM Content

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three persons were arrested in North Kashmir's Sopore for allegedly spreading rumours through various social media with the intent of disturbing peace, police said on Thursday.

Police in Sopore area of the north Kashmir district arrested three persons for spreading misinformation and sharing old videos by portraying them as recent incidents, with the intent to disturb public peace and order, a police spokesman said.

He said a case was registered at Sopore police station against the accused. Acting swiftly, police identified and apprehended the accused, he said, without identifying them.

Further investigation into the matter is underway, **| More on P6**



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
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 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

For Minor Applicant

I have changed my wards name from (Old name) Arsalan Galib to (New name) Arsalan Ghalib. In future he will be known as Arsalan Ghalib (New name). If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Ghalib Mohiuddin Shah
R/o Rajbagh, Srinagar
F/o Arsalan Ghalib

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

This office has received a written application from Zahoor Ahmad Lone S/o Gh Qadir Lone R/o Harwan, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Zuhar Zahoor - 05-08-2021
 Musaib Zahoor - 12-06-2018
 Medhat Binte Zahoor - 31-07-2017
 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

This office has received a written application from Yawar Wali Lone S/o Assad Lone R/o Natipora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Yawar Wali Lone born on 10-06-2013
 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

This office has received a written application from Mohd Ayoub Khanday S/o Gh Ahmad Khanday R/o Zalora, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Mohd Ayoub Khanday born on 02-01-1978
 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.
 After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
 Executive Magistrate
 Bomai
 fko

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K), Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

Subject: Grant of registration of the proposed paying Guest/ homes stay unit under the name & Style of M/s.FOREST BREEZE HOME STAY" situated at New Theed Harwan Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Samriti Kohli W/o Vaibhav Kohli R/o Flat no 3 ,JK Housing Board Flats,Next to Kv school Hospital Road Gandhi Nagar Jammu Intends to apply in the office of the prescribed authority of Director of tourism for registration of my proposed paying Guest house/Home stay under the name and style" M/s. FOREST BREEZE HOMESTAY" situated at New Theed Harwan Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12 . Whereas,I will submit landownership certificate from concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy commissioner concerned rent/lease deed/partnership deed/issued by concerned sub-registrar , judicial magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as home stay), Character certificate of the applicant from the concerned police station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration public notice inviting objections,if any in the print media,list of family members Name,age,and photograph self attested by owner, photographs of the unit as mentioned in the applicant (such of exterior and individual be rooms and bathrooms), inspection report by the committee (The recommendation of the inspection committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.Now before my case is processed for registration by the prescribed authority.The matter is hereby notified for information of general public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley,objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE BUDGAM

I have passed / appeared in SSE/HSE-I/ HSE-II (Class 10th / 11th / 12th) under Roll No.: 207238 Session: OCT - NOV. Year: 1989 through THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BORD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. The error has been committed by the PARENTS against my CASTE as ABDUL RASHID YATOO instead of AB. RASHID FETHEE.
 Now I have applied for correction in the The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub office Budgam. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub-Office Budgam Kashmir within Seven day from the date of the publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.
 This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under:
NAME: ABDUL RASHID YATOO
FATHERS NAME: ABDUL REHMAN YATOO
MOTHERS NAME: JANA
DATE OF BIRTH: 02-02-1973
RESIDENCE: NAGAM CHADOORA BUDGAM
MOBILE: 9622660590



THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION SUB OFFICE BUDGAM

ATTENTION PLEASE
 I have passed / appeared in SSE/HSE-I/ HSE-II (Class 10th,11th,12th) under Roll No. 117008056 , 217003021 , 317024001 ,Session Annual Year 2024, 2025, 2026. Through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the GOVT. MIDDLE SCHOOL BUDGAM against my Date of Birth as 05-12-2008 instead of 15-12-2008.
 Now I have applied for correction / rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir board of School Education, SUB OFFICE BUDGAM KASHMIR. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the SUB OFFICE BUDGAM within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, afterthe expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.
 This is published for the information of the general public. The Correct particulars be recorded as under:
 Name: KAMREEN ZEHRA,
 Fathers Name: MOHAMMAD JAFFAR BHAT, Mothers Name, PARVEENA BANO
 Date of Birth: 15-12-2008,
 Residence: BUDGAM,
 MOBILE: 914991751.



Sher-e-Kashmir

University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Main Campus Shalimar Srinagar

ABBREVIATED ADMISSION NOTICE - 2026

(For Domiciles of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir /NRI-Sponsored/Other States-UTs)
 (For Undergraduate Degree Programme | Academic Session 2026-27)

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) invites online applications from eligible candidates viz. Domiciles of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Other States-UTs, and NRI-Sponsored candidates, for admission to Undergraduate Degree Programmes for the Academic Session 2026-27. The admission portal shall be live from 16.04.2026 (10:00 a.m.) till 10.05.2026 (11:59 p.m.)

Detailed admission notice containing all other requirements/eligibility, seat matrix and other terms and conditions is available on University website www.skuastkashmir.ac.in

Sd/-
 (Prof. Azmat Alam Khan)
 Registrar

No. Au/Acad/U-09/2026/443-99
 Dated: 13 - 04 - 2026

DIPK-NB-177/26
 dated: 16-04-2026

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Javid Ahmad Ganaie s/o Ghulam Mohi ud din Ganaie R/o Ganiepora Burn pattan for issuance of dependent certificate.

Public Notice

IT is inform to general public that applicants father's dependent certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely Ghulam Mohi ud din Ganaie s/o Abdul Khaliq Ganaie R/o Ganiepora Burn died on 27/04/1994 and the dependents on deceased at the time of death are as under.

- 1 Mst Zoonza Begum widow of deceased .
 - 2 Mst Meema daughter of deceased..
 - 3 Javid Ahmad Ganaie son of deceased.
 - 4 Mohammad Rafiq Ganaie son of deceased.
- In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 fko

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Bali Sakeena D/o Zahoor Ahmad Dar R/o Kripalpora payeen Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 08/02/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Firdous Ahmad Fikeer, S/o Assad Ullah Fikeer, R/o Goni Pora, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that my name and my father's name have been wrongly entered in my Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 0687) as Firdous Assad, Father: Assadullah Shah.

The correct name is Firdous Ahmad Fikeer, S/o Assad Ullah Fikeer as per School Certificate record. I am applying for correction of the same in Aadhaar 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.
 Firdous Ahmad Fikeer
 R/o Goni Pora, Baramulla
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Yaseen Reshi, S/o Ghulam Nabi Reshi, R/o Kanwal Bag Khunchi Pora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that the name of my ward and father's name have been wrongly entered in Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 2023) as Mubashir Yaseen, Father: Mohammad Yaseen Reshi.

The correct name is Mubashir Ahmad Reshi, S/o Mohammad Yaseen Reshi as per School Certificate record. I am applying for correction of the same in Aadhaar 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.
 Mohammad Yaseen Reshi
 R/o Kanwal Bag Khunchi Pora, Baramulla
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rashida Kaunsar, W/o Gulzar Ahmad Wani, R/o Tajpora Osan Bangil, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that my name has been wrongly entered in my Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 4253) as Rashida Kounser.

The correct name is Rashida Kaunsar as per School Certificate record. I am applying for correction of the same in Aadhaar 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.
 Rashida Kaunsar
 R/o Tajpora Osan Bangil, Baramulla
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Rasool Mir, S/o Gh Ahmad Mir, R/o Gowharpora Kati Bug, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that my name has been wrongly entered in my Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 9066) as Ghulam Rasool.

The correct name is Gh Rasool Mir as per Domicile Certificate record. I am applying for correction of the same in Aadhaar 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.
 Gh Rasool Mir
 R/o Gowharpora Kati Bug, Baramulla
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohammad Rajab Ganie, S/o Ghulam Rasool Ganie, R/o Tara Hama, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that the name of my ward has been wrongly entered in Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 9114) as Shazia Rajab.

The correct name is Shazia Jan as per Birth Certificate record. I am applying for correction of the same in Aadhaar 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.
 Mohammad Rajab Ganie
 R/o Tara Hama, Baramulla
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulshana Bano, W/o Sunuallah Bhat, R/o Batoo, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that my name and my husband's name have been wrongly entered in my Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 5243) as Hasena Akhter and Sunuallah Bhat.

The correct name is Gulshana Bano, W/o Sunuallah Bhat as per Domicile Certificate record. I am applying for correction of the same in Aadhaar 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
 Gulshana Bano
 R/o Batoo, Baramulla
 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 Umair Ibn Ashraf S/o Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 22/09/2024 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohamad Shamim Khanday, S/o Abdul Samad Khanday, R/o Hardubani, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that my minor children Shujan Shamim (DOB: 28-05-2014) and Asrar Shamim Khanday (DOB: 06-09-2017) were born at home and their birth certificates have not been issued till date. Their DOBs are not recorded in any official record. I am applying for issuance of their birth certificates before the competent authority.

Objections, if any, may be filed within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.
 Shamim Khanday
 R/o Hardubani, Baramulla
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Hamaid Ganaie, S/o Ghulam Ahmad Ganaie, R/o Buna Gam, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that the name of my ward has been wrongly entered in Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 6446) as Amir Hameed Ganaie.

The correct name is Amir Hamiad Ganaie as per Birth Certificate record. I am applying for correction in Aadhaar 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.
 Abdul Hamaid Ganaie
 R/o Buna Gam, Baramulla
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Farida Akhter, W/o Abdul Majeed Baba, R/o Lalpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that my name and my husband's name have been wrongly entered in my Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 0806) as Fareeda Begum and AB Majeed Baba.

The correct name is Farida Akhter, W/o Abdul Majeed Baba as per Domicile Certificate record. I am applying for correction of the same in Aadhaar 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.
 Farida Akhter
 R/o Lalpora, Baramulla
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shakeela Begum, W/o Abdul Aziz Hajam, R/o Bandi Pain Kalantra, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby declare that the name of my ward has been wrongly entered in Aadhaar Card (No. XXXX XXXX 0584) as Sakib Aziz Hajam.

The correct name is Saqib Aziz Hajam as per Birth Certificate record. I am applying for correction of the same in Aadhaar 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
 Shakeela Begum
 R/o Bandi Pain Kalantra, Baramulla
 fko

Public Notice

I, Shahid Ashraf Rather S/o Mohd Ashraf Rather R/o Ogmuna Kunzer, proprietor of "Chill Chase Tours and Travels", hereby inform the public that due to personal financial constraints, I am unable to continue the operations of the agency. Consequently, I am transferring the complete ownership and liabilities of the said agency to Mr. Sameer Ahmed and Mr. Faisal Bashir.

Any person or party having any objection may contact to the Assistant Director Tourism Department Gulmarg within 15 days,
 bmg

ان نیا بت مہنگ با جلاس نامب تحصیلدار مہنگ
 درخواست از جانب عوان: عادل سلطان اتود ولد محمد سلطان اتوسا کنہ لہاں تحصیل چٹن
 برادرا جرائی یوم پیدائش

نمبر شمار	نام و صوبہ	تاریخ پیدائش	عمر	پیشہ	سالہ آمدنی
1	ریاض احمد گنائی	برادرساں	32 سال	مزدوری	3000 روپے
2	فہیمہ اختر	بانی ساں	30 سال	گھریلو کام	1000 روپے
3	عائشہ سکن	برادرساں	31 سال	مزدوری	2000 روپے
4	عیسہ اختر	بھیسوساں	27 سال	زیر تعلیم	0 روپے
5	محمد عباس گنائی	ساں	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	0 روپے

کلیں آمدنی: 385000 روپے سالانہ کے لیے 03 سالہ ذیلی زمین موجود ہے جس کی آمدنی سالانہ 15000 روپے ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ برادری سے کئی کئی ٹکڑے زمین کا حصول ہوا ہے اور مسکن پورے سال سے سکونت پذیر ہے۔ برادری میں سے کسی سے کوئی بھی زمین حاصل نہیں کی گئی ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو زمین حاصل کرنے کی ضرورت ہو تو وہ ایک طبقہ کے اندر اندر رہنے والے ہیں۔ اگر کسی کو زمین حاصل کرنے کی ضرورت ہو تو وہ ایک طبقہ کے اندر اندر رہنے والے ہیں۔
 تحریر الصدور۔
 تحصیلدار مہنگ
 mcb

ان نیا بت مہنگ با جلاس نامب تحصیلدار مہنگ
 درخواست از جانب عوان: عادل سلطان اتود ولد محمد سلطان اتوسا کنہ لہاں تحصیل چٹن
 برادرا جرائی یوم پیدائش

اشتہار برادرا جرائی یوم پیدائش
 معاملہ مندرجہ عوان میں ساں نے ایک درخواست برادرساں اندراج کرنے یوم پیدائش تک عادل سلطان اتود ولد محمد سلطان اتوسا کنہ لہاں تحصیل چٹن اور ولد تو اہر عادل سلطان اتود ولد محمد سلطان اتوسا کنہ لہاں تحصیل چٹن یوم پیدائش 20-04-1997 ہے۔
 لہذا اس بارے میں برادری میں سے کسی کو زمین حاصل نہیں کی گئی ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو زمین حاصل کرنے کی ضرورت ہو تو وہ ایک طبقہ کے اندر اندر رہنے والے ہیں۔ اگر کسی کو زمین حاصل کرنے کی ضرورت ہو تو وہ ایک طبقہ کے اندر اندر رہنے والے ہیں۔
 تحصیلدار مہنگ
 fko

95% of Dal Houseboats Now on Sewage Network, Says VC LCMA

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chairman of the Lake Conservation and Management Authority Manzoor Qadri on Thursday said that nearly 95 per cent of houseboats operating on Dal Lake are now connected to sewage treatment systems.

Speaking to KNS, Qadri said the linkage of houseboats to treatment infrastructure has reduced the direct discharge of waste into the lake, a problem that had persisted for years.

"Untreated sewage should not enter the lake under any circumstances," he said. "All wastewater generated within the lake and its catchment is diverted to Sewage Treatment Plants and treated as per standards set by the Central Pollution Control Board."

Qadri said six Sewage Treatment Plants are currently functional in the Dal Lake area, with five managed by LCMA and one by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department. Even treated discharge, he said, complies with environmental norms.

While sewage control has seen progress, Qadri said maintaining the lake requires continuous intervention.

According to KNS, authorities are using machines to remove lily pads from open sections, while manual de-weeding continues in narrow

channels where machines cannot operate, he said.

He also said that a system is also in place for regular collection of solid waste from the lake's surface to prevent accumulation and impact on water quality.

"These measures are part of an ongoing cycle," he said. "The lake requires continuous attention rather than periodic clean-ups."

On concerns about encroachment, Qadri said there is no active encroachment at present. He said enforcement teams respond to complaints to prevent any violation from taking hold.

Tourist inflow, particularly during the Tulip Garden season, has increased movement into Dal Lake through houseboats and motorboats, he added.

Qadri said this supports the local economy but also requires regulation.

"The challenge is to ensure that tourism growth does not translate into ecological stress," he said.

Qadri said communities living within the lake are part of conservation efforts through regular outreach and engagement. Legal safeguards, including a 200-meter buffer zone under court directions, are also in place to regulate construction.

"Dal Lake is a heritage asset," he said. "Its future depends on how responsibly we use it."



Tulip Garden Closes After Drawing Nearly 3.9 Lakh Visitors

Revenue Crosses Rs 3.66 Cr During Season Run

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar closed for the season on Wednesday after attracting nearly 3.9 lakh visitors and generating over Rs 3.66 crore in revenue, officials said.

Assistant Floriculture Officer In-charge, Tulip Garden Srinagar, Imran Ahmad said the garden recorded 3,82,297 visitors till the last day, with the final figure expected to touch around 3.89 lakh after inclusion of pending online ticketing data.

"Footfall will be around 3.89 lakh as at least 7,000 more visitors will be added once the final online figures are received," he said.

The garden witnessed a steady

flow of tourists throughout the season, with a notable surge even on the closing day despite the bloom declining significantly.

"Even in the last phase, the response remained strong. The closing day saw a heavy rush of visitors," Ahmad said.

In terms of revenue, the garden generated Rs 3,66,43,504 from ticket sales. Of this, Rs 7,64,104 was earned through online bookings, while the final e-ticketing figures are awaited.

Officials said offline ticketing continued to dominate, though digital bookings are gradually increasing.

The visitor profile reflected strong participation across categories. Around 2,24,233 tourists from outside Jammu and Kashmir visited the garden, while 1,56,842 were local

visitors. Additionally, 1,222 foreign tourists explored the site, highlighting its growing global appeal.

The garden, which opened 10-12 days earlier than usual, maintained an average daily footfall of nearly 10,000 visitors, with peak days witnessing even higher numbers.

Visitors described the experience as a highlight of their Kashmir trip, praising the scale, beauty and scenic backdrop of the garden.

Officials said the Tulip Garden once again served as the curtain-raiser for Kashmir's tourism season, drawing large crowds and setting a positive tone for the months ahead.

The garden was closed as the bloom declined to around 20 per cent, falling below the operational threshold.

Three Residential Houses Destroyed in Blaze

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three residential houses were gutted in a fire incident in the Alamgari Bazar area of Srinagar, with firefighting teams bringing the blaze under control after a coordinated multi-unit response, officials said.

The fire broke out in a cluster of residential structures and quickly spread, engulfing all three buildings before emergency services reached the scene.

As per KNT, the State Fire Control Room at Batamalo received a distress call, following which fire tenders from multiple stations, including Nowshera, Safakadal, Rainawari, Syed Haameed Pora, and headquarters, were dispatched to the site.

Upon arrival, firefighters found the structures fully involved in flames and launched simultaneous operations to contain the blaze. The fire was eventually brought under con-

trol after sustained efforts, and cooling operations were initiated to prevent further spread.

Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services Command Srinagar Dr. Aqib Husain Mir said three residential structures — a three-storeyed, a double-storeyed, and a single-storeyed building, were involved in the incident.

He said all buildings were of pucca construction with GCI sheet roofing, and the damage was extensive.

According to officials, roofing structures including attic portions of all three buildings were completely damaged, while the first and second floors of the three-storeyed building and the first floor of the double-storeyed building suffered severe destruction. Household goods, furnishings, and fixed installations were also damaged, while other portions sustained indirect impact from heat, smoke, and water.

Mega Shikara Rally Held on Dal Lake to Promote Drug-Free Society

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a unique initiative, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Tourism Department, organized a mega anti-drug shikara rally on the iconic Dal Lake under the ongoing Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The initiative was a part of the ongoing 100-Day 'Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir' campaign launched by the Lieutenant Governor J&K, and in line with the calendar of activities of District Administration Srinagar.

The rally aimed to spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse among a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including tourists, shikara own-

ers, and communities residing in and around water bodies.

The initiative sought to ensure that the message of a drug-free society reaches even the most remote and water-bound habitations.

Dozens of vibrantly decorated shikaras glided across the waters of Dal Lake, carrying banners, placards, and messages advocating a drug-free lifestyle.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS
FAJR 4: 31
ZUHR 12:32
ASR 5:11
Magrib 7:06
ISHA 8: 32

HIJRI CALENDAR
28 - Shawwal
1447

This Day In History

- 1895 - Treaty of Shimonoseki is signed ending the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)
- 1930 - Abkhazian ASSR forms in Georgian SSR
- 1932 - Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia ends slavery
- 1939 - Stalin signs British-France-Russian anti-Nazi pact
- 1941 - World War II: The Kingdom of Yugoslavia surrenders to Germany.
- 1945 - German occupiers flood Wieringermeer, Netherlands
- 1945 - Benito Mussolini flees from Salò to Milan
- 1946 - US troops land in central Mindanao, 1946 - Syria declares independence from French administration
- 1967 - Surveyor 3 launched; soft lands on Moon, April 20.
- 1970 - Apollo 13 limps back safely, Beech-built oxygen tank no help
- 1971 - Egypt, Libya & Syria form federation (FAR)
- 1979 - Four Royal Ulster Constabulary officers are killed by a Provisional Irish Republican Army van bomb in Bessbrook, County Armagh; the bomb is believed to be the largest PIRA bomb used up to that point.
- 1982 - Proclamation of the Constitution Act by Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau
- 1986 - IBM produces 1st megabit-chip
- 1986 - Netherlands & Scilly Islands sign peace treaty (war of 1651)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Sr. DEE/GJAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.: 251-J-Elect-T-03-2026-27
Name of work: Electrical Work in c/w Provision of air conditioners in Station Master's Office/Panel/VDU room/Power Cabins at 75 stations/locations over Jammu division.
App. Cost (in ₹): 56,66,504.40
Earnest Money (in ₹): 1,13,300.00
Completion period: 6 Months
Opening of tender: 08.05.2026 after 15:00 Hrs
Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in
No.: 251-J-Elect/T-Notice No.03-Elect/2026-27 Dated: 16.04.2026 1262/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

انتقال پر ملال

انتہائی رنج و غم کے ساتھ اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ ہمارے پیارے مرحوم غلام قادر شیر گوری مورثہ 14 اپریل 2026 (منگل) کو اس دارقانی سے کوچ کر کے اپنے خالق حقیقی سے جا ملے۔

مرحوم کی جدائی سے خاندان پر غم کا پہاڑ ٹوٹ پڑا ہے۔ ہم دعا گو ہیں کہ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کی مغفرت فرمائے، ان کی تمام لغزشوں کو معاف فرمائے اور انہیں جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا فرمائے۔ آمین۔

سوگ کی مجلس تین دن تک جاری رہے گی۔
اللہ دانا الیہ راجعون

پسماندگان:
اہل خانہ مرحوم غلام قادر شیر گوری

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

It is with profound grief and deep sorrow that we inform about the sad demise of

Tanveer Ahmad Khan
S/o Late Abdul Rashid Khan
Resident of House No. 40-B, Lane 14
Moominabad Batamalo Srinagar,
who departed for his heavenly abode on
Wednesday, 15th April 2026
(26th Shawwal 1447 AH).

May Almighty Allah grant the departed soul **Jannat-ul-Firdous** and bestow patience, strength, and courage upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Condolences (Fatiha) will be received for three (03) days only.

Fatiha will be held on Friday, 17th April 2026 at 2:30 PM at the Graveyard, Mominabad, near Court Complex, Batamalo, Batamalo, Srinagar.

CONTACTED
7006345527 9419054271 7006717605

SKUAST KASHMIR
Fish Reproduction Lab
Division of Aquaculture
Faculty of Fisheries, Rangil Ganderbal-190006

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications in the prescribed proforma (Available on www.skuastkashmir.ac.in) are invited from eligible candidates to work on temporary basis as Junior Research Fellow (JRF) under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) sponsored project on "Nanovaccine for improving reproductive performance in *Oncorhynchus mykiss*". Interested candidates should send their application along with updated resume/ testimonials/ experience to the Principal Investigator by or before 24-04-2026 via Indian speed post. The shortlisted applicants will be informed via Email/Phone for attending in-person interview at Faculty of Fisheries, SKUAST-K, Rangil-Ganderbal. Further details can be obtained via email at drirshadahmad@skuastkashmir.ac.in "or" by contacting at 6005295979.

Name of the position	Junior research Fellow (JRF)
No. of Positions	01
Essential Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M.F.Sc /M.V.Sc /M.Sc (Life Sciences) Candidates should have qualified NET/GATE or should have Ph.D. in the relevant field.
Desirable Qualification	Knowledge and working experience in bioinformatics/ fish reproduction/ molecular biology / Nano-drug designing.
Emoluments	Rs. 37000 + HRA (as per norms)
Duration	Initial appointment for one year extendable based on performance and co-terminus with the project.

DIPK-NB-181/26
DATED: 16-04-2026

Sd/-
Dr. Irshad Ahmad Hajam
Principal Investigator

Terms & Conditions:

- No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.
- The JRF shall have no legal right to claim his/ her regularization/ appointment in the University.
- The Position is purely contractual & co-terminus with the project.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Child Health Crisis

Kashmir is raising a generation that eats more and gains less. Doctors in Srinagar report a gradual rise in overweight schoolchildren, even as iron and vitamin deficiencies remain widespread.

Recent national survey data show that more than a third of children in Jammu and Kashmir face anaemia. Pediatricians now flag vitamin D deficiency in a large share of urban children. These trends move in the same direction and point to a deeper problem.

Daily diets have changed fast. Packaged snacks, fried street food, and sweetened drinks now fill lunch boxes and school bags. Traditional meals of vegetables, lentils, and home-cooked grains appear less often. Parents juggle long work hours and turn to convenience foods that fill stomachs fast. Shops near schools stock rows of chips and fizzy drinks. Children develop taste and habit early, and these habits stay.

Movement has fallen just as fast. Screens dominate free time. Phones and gaming replace outdoor play. Many neighbourhoods offer little open space, and winters keep children indoors for long months. Schools give limited time to sports and physical education. A typical day leaves little room for running, games, or simple exercise.

Hospitals now see the result in clear terms. Doctors report more cases of childhood obesity, early signs of high blood pressure, and rising blood sugar levels in teenagers.

At the same time, many children face fatigue, poor focus, and frequent illness linked to low iron and other micronutrients. This double burden places a long-term strain on families and the health system.

Schools can change this path. Regular health checks can track height, weight, vision, and basic blood markers through the year. Clear food rules can keep junk food out of canteens and school gates. Midday meals can include fresh vegetables, fruit, and iron-rich foods. Daily sports periods can bring back movement as a habit rather than an event.

Public policy can support families with clear action. Front-of-pack labels can warn about high sugar and salt. Local campaigns can promote traditional Kashmiri foods that offer balanced nutrition. Community kitchens and anganwadi centres can guide parents on simple, affordable meals. Health workers can run periodic camps that screen children and guide early care.

Food fills plates, but health still slips through the gaps in the valley. Strong action in homes, schools, and public systems can change this course and secure a healthier generation.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Cost Spiral

Healthcare expenses in Kashmir drain incomes, savings, forests, and the future in a widening economic crisis.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir presents a striking contradiction. Visitors seek renewal in its landscape, while residents face a system that extracts income, time, and stability through basic medical care. Healthcare costs in the valley exceed national averages by a wide margin, even as doctors charge modest fees. Geography, travel burdens, and centralized services turn routine treatment into a financial event.

A single visit to Srinagar often consumes an entire day and a large share of a household's earnings. Travel, food, diagnostics, and lost wages dwarf the consultation fee. Families pay two to three times what others pay elsewhere in India. That gap gradually erodes savings and blocks investment. Money that could build assets or fund education disappears into repeated medical expenses.

Waiting rooms function as economic choke points. Long delays reduce daily income for workers and disrupt family routines. Multiplied across thousands of patients, these losses reach staggering totals each year. The effect spreads through the economy as consumption weakens and small enterprises stall.

Health expenses also redirect household priorities. Education payments are deferred. Business plans remain unrealized. Financial tools such as systematic investments never begin. Over time, this produces a widening wealth gap between Kashmir and regions with lower medical costs.

Environmental damage enters this cycle. Rural households under financial strain turn to timber for fuel or sale. Forest loss intensifies ecological risks and contributes to further illness, which drives additional spending. A destructive loop takes hold.

Policy can interrupt this pattern. District-level specialist care would reduce travel costs. Reliable appointment systems would cut lost work hours. Expanded insurance coverage would protect savings. Financial literacy could encourage long-term planning.

Kashmir's economy cannot sustain a system where illness triggers cascading losses. Reform in healthcare delivery stands as economic policy, not only social welfare.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

Iran's Endgame

By resisting militarily and raising the costs of war, Iran blunted regime change ambitions and forced a strategic rethink in Washington.



Wajahat Qazi

No matter the ultimate denouement of the war of aggression on Iran, the country has won the war morally, politically, and ethically.

How? Primarily, by defeating the primary war aims of the United States and Israel, that is, 'regime change'. This warrants elaboration.

War is not about battlefield deaths, destruction of victuals, munitions, and so on. These are mere technical elements of war and war making. Essentially, though reductively, war is about sapping the will and morale of the adversary, who then capitulates.

Has the American-Israeli war of aggression achieved this?

No. Consider this: The legitimate government of Iran is standing. It may be materially somewhat weakened, but it stands and has ably performed all the functions of government, from running tap water to paying salaries on time and clearing war debris, and so on.

The primary war aim of regime change stands defeated. But that is only one prong, albeit a major one, of the saga.

In the strategic and general calculus of those who initiated and enabled this war of aggression, it was held that Iran would fold and crumble the moment it was attacked. Grist to the mill for this assertion lay in the assumption that Iran's government and power structure were riven with factionalism, and that there were rival claimants in Iran's military and national security apparatus who would either defect or lay low during the war.

Above all, the major assumption was that disaffected Iranians would come out on the streets, or that there would be fissiparous tendencies in Iran's various regions with different ethnic makeups.

None of these scenarios came to pass. On the contrary, Iranians of all stripes, colours, and beliefs rallied around their government and came out on the streets in support. The country's military structure held its own and remained a cohesive fighting unit.

Iranians resisted ably and fought an asymmetric war in which time, surprise, and raising the costs of war were central. Key was, and remains, the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran restricted to create ripple effects and pressure points across the region and even the world.

Ironically, and even somewhat strikingly, American war aims have whittled down to contesting control over, or using, the Hormuz Strait as a choke point.

But, it appears, sometime during the course of the war, both America and Israel realized that the war was unwinnable in the terms they had initially set. This is perhaps best reflected in the nature, form, and pattern of their bombing and strafing campaigns.

The targets shifted from the decapitation of Iranian leadership to universities, hospitals, major roads and buildings, and other assorted critical infrastructure. The obvious premise of these attacks appears to be to hobble Iran's economy, make reconstruction difficult, and thereby complicate post-

war governance of the country.

This appears to rest on an assumption: to frazzle the war-induced unity of Iranians and create splits between the affected people of Iran and their legitimate government.

But now, that war has been rendered infructuous by the able resistance of Iranians, it appears that, despite public posturing by Donald Trump, America is seeking a lasting, or even a permanent, cessation of hostilities with Iran.

Why? The reasons primarily accrue from Iran's able resistance, the pivotal aspect of which has been to raise the costs of war.

The result has been the fraying of the regional security architecture that America, along with its Gulf allies, had built over decades. It has also caused lasting economic damage to the Gulf monarchies that had positioned themselves as oases of calm and peace, a 'perfect habitat' for capital and investment.



“Iran can, in the terms of negotiations and the frame of reference for these, assuage the fears of Gulf Arabs. But this cannot and must not be a mere abstract goodwill gesture. A robust quid pro quo, in the form of financial assistance for post-war reconstruction, must be sought.”

Other themes include high gasoline and fertilizer prices, the risk premia for shipping, and the overall uncertainty and risk that pose a clear and present danger to the global and regional economy.

Add all these up, and what you have is an imminent global recession.

With mid-term elections looming in the US and Donald Trump's approval ratings plummeting, the only possible way out for America is the conversion of the 14-day ceasefire into a permanent cessation of hostilities.

In a loose sense, then, almost all cards lie with Iran. It should play them well, but what would this entail in practice?

While the real and actual decisions lie with Iran's strategists and its military and political classes, they must do what serves both the long-term interests of Tehran and the broader welfare of all Iranians.

By way of suggestion, however, Iran must stay cool and calm, as it has been till now, without resorting to overreactions, and overplaying of the

proverbial hand. In specific terms, this could mean crafting conditions in a way that redounds to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

One, Iran must seek reparations for the damage caused by the war. Two, sanctions relief. Three, a permanent cessation of hostilities against the country, guaranteed by the US president. This guarantee should cut across all future US administrations.

To make it foolproof, it could be underwritten by a troika of world powers that includes Russia and China. This is the broad outline.

What Iran chooses to do with its nuclear program is absolutely its own choice and preference.

In terms of the putative and "new" regional security architecture, even though this may sound counterintuitive, Iran can reach out to the Gulf states. Their hopes of a superpower patron have been belied. And, given the fiasco into which the war of aggression degenerated, America may be considering a form of offshore balancing in the region.

Iran can, in the terms of negotiations and the frame of reference for these, assuage the fears of Gulf Arabs. But this cannot and must not be a mere abstract goodwill gesture.

A robust quid pro quo, in the form of financial assistance for post-war reconstruction, must be sought.

Besides alleviating financial stress, post-war reconstruction can provide some relief to frictional and structural unemployment in Iran and have spillover, economy-wide benefits.

All in all, to repeat, Iran holds the aces. It must neither overplay these nor overreact.

Another bold and beautiful chapter in the admirable civilizational and revolutionary history of Iran is about to be opened. Viva Iran!

The author holds a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen and combines scholarship with real-world engagement. He has worked in academia and media, including as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.

Letter to Editor

Why Fewer Kashmiris Are Going for Hajj

The Ka'ba calls out every year to the faithful. The annual summon pulls millions toward Mecca, drawing hearts from Srinagar to Sopore toward a single point of devotion.

Hajj stands as Islam's fifth pillar, a transformative journey that erases sins and renews faith. Pilgrims clad in white ihram chant ancient supplications, seeking divine pleasure above all else. They respond to Prophet Ibrahim's old invitation with enthusiasm that makes this the world's largest annual religious gathering. Every Muslim longs to circle the black-draped cube at least once during their lifetime.

Kashmir hears this call with growing difficulty as local applications show troubling declines. Hajj 2026 applications show troubling declines throughout Jammu and Kashmir. District after district reports shrinking numbers as economic distress bites deep. Travel costs soar while household budgets shrink, forcing families to choose between spiritual obligations and financial survival.

Many Kashmiris now opt for Umrah, mistakenly believing this voluntary pilgrimage suffices during genuine hardship. Those with adequate resources who skip Hajj forfeit a mandatory pillar of their faith. They exchange the

complete experience for a lesser substitute, losing the total spiritual purification promised to those who complete the full journey.

Administrative failures compound these economic pressures through recent policy changes. The Hajj Committee of India recently opened fifty per cent of State Haj Inspector positions to applicants who lack Hajj experience. These inspectors guide groups of one hundred fifty pilgrims through complex rituals requiring practical knowledge. Theoretical understanding alone falls short on the ground in Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the Committee reserved categories exclusively for those who performed Hajj within five years, while veterans with experience gained six or seven years ago remain eligible only for open positions.

This administrative approach fundamentally misunderstands the practical nature of pilgrimage. Hajj logistics demand hands-on expertise developed through personal experience. Inspectors serve as vital links between pilgrims and Indian consular services in Jeddah. They coordinate travel, accommodation, and ritual observance during physically demanding days under harsh sun. Guides lacking experience jeopardize pilgrim safety and ritual correctness during critical moments. A

single error during essential rites can compromise the spiritual validity of the entire journey. Practical knowledge of Mina's tent cities, Arafat's plains, and Muzdalifah's collecting grounds comes only through direct participation.

The Committee maintains comprehensive training programs through certified Hajj Trainers. These experts first receive instruction from national authorities, then conduct district-level orientation camps for selected pilgrims. These sessions cover logistics and ritual obligations, emphasizing practical knowledge over book learning. Attendance at these sessions remains compulsory for all selected pilgrims. State Haj Inspectors undergo additional testing and interviews before deployment. Recent policy changes undermine this preparation by placing novices alongside veterans, creating confusion during peak pilgrimage periods when clear leadership proves essential.

Pilgrims embarking on this year should maximize available technological resources. The Haj Suvidha application provides accommodation details, flight information, and emergency contacts. Google Maps assists with location tracking throughout the holy cities. Female pilgrims should consult scholars regarding jurisprudential matters before departure. All

travellers must secure documents carefully, stay hydrated, and seek shade during peak sun hours. Smartphones facilitate economical communication through applications like IMO, keeping pilgrims connected with families back home in Kashmir. The Nusuk application manages entry permissions for Riyadh-ul-Jannah.

Hajj completion brings profound spiritual renewal through proper observance of all manasik. Kashmir deserves inspectors who understand this weight personally. The Committee should restore experience-based selection criteria, ensuring every pilgrim receives guidance rooted in actual practice.

Practical expertise matters more than theoretical knowledge when guiding the faithful through this once-in-a-lifetime obligation. Veteran inspectors recognize the difference between textbook descriptions and the heat-soaked reality of Saudi plains.

The Ka'ba continues its magnetic pull upon Kashmiri hearts. Kashmir's faithful deserve support worthy of their devotion.

Sincerely,

Mir Imtiaz Aafreen
imtiyazaafreen@gmail.com

Bring Them Back

Kashmir's forgotten village institutions may hold the key to tackling drugs and fixing land records.



Mohammad Amin Mir

I grew up in a south Kashmir village where everyone knew everyone. If a stranger passed by or a dispute flared up over land boundaries, it was the lumberdar or chowkidar who stepped in. They didn't wear uniforms or hold degrees, but they carried something rarer: the village's trust. Today, I rarely hear their names mentioned in serious conversations about rural policy or reform. Their duties have become symbolic, their roles reduced to lines in revenue files. And yet, the village is hurting again, just in newer, more complicated ways. Across Jammu & Kashmir, especially in rural districts, heroin, opioids, and synthetic drugs have begun to hollow out communities. Young men who once helped harvest apples or attend college now loiter, lost and restless. Families stay silent out of shame. Villagers whisper but don't report. Local police are stretched thin. The social fabric is tearing apart, and we are running out of hands to hold it together. This is where I believe we must return to the idea of the lumberdar and chowkidar. Historically, lumberdars were village-level heads who collected revenue, mediated conflicts, and

kept the government informed about life in the village. Chowkidars acted as watchmen who reported unnatural deaths, crimes, or sudden disturbances. These weren't high-profile positions. They were embedded in the everyday rhythms of rural life. Though their legal status still exists in parts of J&K, their salaries, often just honorariums, and official roles have withered. Their local wisdom, however, remains alive. They know who owns what, who recently returned from jail, whose sons dropped out of school, and which panchayat decision stirred tension. This knowledge can be transformative if we dare to use it again. The fight against drugs in Kashmiri villages needs more than police raids and awareness camps. It needs eyes on the ground, people who notice when a new vehicle starts coming around at night or when a teenager's routine suddenly changes. Lumberdars and chowkidars can help track suspicious activity, alert families early, and support rehabilitation efforts. With training and a legal mandate, they can become partners in prevention. Imagine a village cell, headed by the lumberdar, assisted by the chowkidar, filing a monthly report to the block officer. They note signs of drug circulation, changes in school attendance, and new outsiders moving in. It sounds basic, but it's the sort of low-cost, community-led monitoring we're missing. Apart from drug crisis, they can help in land reforms. Digitizing land records was a much-needed reform, and J&K has made notable progress with its JAMABANDI and GIS-linked databases. But many records still contain errors. Oral partitions are missing, names of deceased own-



PATWARIS ALONE CANNOT VERIFY EVERYTHING ON THE GROUND.

Chowkidars and lumberdars, with their local memory and deep village ties, are best placed to cross-check documents with reality. They can flag inaccuracies, explain disputes, and even help settle longstanding confusion between families.

ers linger, and encroachments go unreported. Patwaris alone cannot verify everything on the ground. Chowkidars and lumberdars, with their local memory and deep village ties,

are best placed to cross-check documents with reality. They can flag inaccuracies, explain disputes, and even help settle longstanding confusion between families. If we ignore them, digital land

records risk becoming neat lies in a neat system. To make this work, we need more than goodwill. We need policy. Start by offering proper salaries: ₹10,000 a month would recognize their time and dignity. Train them in digital tools. Give them identity cards and mandate their involvement in Panchayat planning. Let them learn to send geo-tagged photos, access WhatsApp coordination groups with revenue and police officials, and submit basic monthly reports. We should not fear giving them power. We should fear what happens when no one is watching. Some may argue they are too old or uneducated. That's true in some cases. So let them nominate young-

er assistants. Let them remain as advisors. Let the system evolve, not be discarded. There's also the risk of misuse: reporting rivals or shielding culprits. But performance reviews, community feedback, and grievance mechanisms can reduce this. Every system has faults. The solution is to fix them, not abandon the idea. In Punjab, some border villages use chowkidars as official informants in anti-drug campaigns, rewarding credible tips. In Himachal Pradesh, they help monitor illegal logging. Bangladesh uses village police in land disputes and flood warnings. Even Estonia and Rwanda have models where village-level workers validate digital land records. Why can't J&K build its own? Start with 40 villages: 20 facing drug challenges, 20 with known land disputes. Monitor outcomes for six months. Let policy evolve from the ground up, like it should. There is still something sacred about the person who lives among us, yet holds responsibility for the village's wellbeing. That's what the lumberdar and chowkidar once stood for. They don't belong in dusty files. They belong in active governance. At a time when rural Kashmir faces both invisible threats and digital transitions, we need them as guardians of a new kind. Let us bring them back: trained, trusted, and transformed. The village has always needed someone to look out for it. That someone is still here. We only have to knock. — The author is a policy commentator and legal researcher based in Jammu & Kashmir. He writes on land governance, rural administration, and social justice.

The Classroom in the Courtyard

A teacher without a title builds futures for village children while restoring her own sense of self.



Gowher Bhat

I first heard about Zeenat Basir in Chevakanan, a village in Pulwama where everyone seems to know her name. Even as a child, she stood apart. "She was always in her own world," her friend Amina told me. "While we ran and played, Zeenat would sit under the old walnut tree, completely lost in her books." That love for learning never left her. She went on to earn a postgraduate degree in English, a B.Ed, and a diploma in computers, a rare achievement in a region where just 12% of rural women reach such milestones. Her teachers whispered about her bright future, and neighbours assumed she would soon secure a government job, lifting her family's fortunes along the way. But life had other plans. By 34, after years of preparing for teaching posts and competitive exams, Zeenat faced rejection after rejection. "Every time I failed, it felt like a piece of me disappeared," she said, sitting in her modest home as the evening breeze carried the scent of pine from the hills. Nights were the hardest. She lay awake, tracing the ceiling beams, haunted by questions: What if my education means nothing? What will people think? Mornings brought a fog of sadness. She withdrew from neighbours and relatives, dreading their casual questions: "When will you get that government job?" Her husband, Farooq, watched silently as she faded. One evening, he took her hand while tears traced her cheeks: "Zeenat, those exams don't decide your worth. You're already a teacher, even



without a certificate. Teach one child. Let that be enough." His words planted a seed of hope. The following week, Zeenat stepped into her small courtyard. A few children sat cross-legged on the mud floor, notebooks open. Her voice trembled as she explained a grammar rule, but when she saw understanding flicker in their eyes, something inside her shifted. Word spread quickly. Soon, the courtyard buzzed with laughter, questions, and the scratch of pencils. Little Safiya Gulzar once said, "Madam, English felt like punishment before. Now I help my brother with homework!" Zeenat laughed: "That's wonderful, Safiya. English can be your friend if you let it." Ayesha Sofi, shy but determined,

stayed after class. "My father says girls should stop school after 10th. But when you teach us, I feel I can go further." Zeenat knelt beside her: "Education is your light, Ayesha. I'll stand by you." Even soft-spoken Samiya Firdous whispered, "One day, I'll be a teacher like you. You're my role model." Those words wrapped around Zeenat like warmth on a cold day. Still, the shadows returned. Some nights, fear crept in: What if this falls apart? Farooq suggested therapy. "People will laugh if they know I see a therapist," she protested. He held her hand: "Seeking help is strength. If the body can fall sick, so can the mind." Hesitant, Zeenat began online sessions with a Delhi-based therapist. The first meeting was heavy with

tears and silence, but the therapist's calm voice steadied her: "Depression isn't your identity. It's an illness we can treat together." She learned breathing exercises to calm her heart, journaling to untangle thoughts, and small daily goals to rebuild confidence. Her panic attacks eased. "Progress is about persistence," her therapist reminded her. Faith became her anchor. After prayers, she whispered to Allah, "Grant me patience and healing. Guide me, keep me close." Slowly, strength returned. With Farooq's support, therapy, and her students' trust, she found her balance. Then came a new chapter. She was blessed with a daughter, radiant and full of life. Motherhood brought responsibility, but also purpose. Zeenat balanced caring for her

baby with teaching village children and even started online English classes. Her home now echoes with lullabies and lessons. With calm determination, she resumed preparing for government exams, but this time without fear. Farooq often tells her, "Even if that job never comes, you're already changing lives, more than any post could offer." Today, Chevakanan sees Zeenat differently. Her students adore her, neighbours respect her, and her story inspires others facing silent battles. "You are not your failures," Zeenat says, smiling at her daughter. "You are the courage to begin again." — The author is a freelance journalist, book reviewer, and educator based in Kashmir.



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J&K Govt Proposes Overhaul of Revenue Service Rules

Over 10,000 Posts In Draft, With 507 Naib Tehsildars, 4,800+ Patwaris

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday unveiled a draft notification proposing a major restructuring of the Revenue (Subordinate) Service

Recruitment Rules, 2009, in a move aimed at rationalising cadre strength and updating recruitment norms after the Union Territory's reorganisation. Officials said the revision follows the bifurcation of the

erstwhile state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, necessitating a redistribution of sanctioned posts under the existing SRO-74 of 2009. According to the draft Schedule-I placed in the

public domain by the Revenue Department, the proposed sanctioned strength exceeds 10,000 posts across various categories. This includes 507 Naib Tehsildars, 1,207 Girdawar/Saddar Qanungo, 4,809 Patwaris, 28 Section Officers,

29 Geo Spatial Specialists, 74 Geo Spatial Analysts, 163 Junior Scale Stenographers, and 2,694 multi-tasking staff, among others. The draft also provides for a five per cent deputation reserve and a five per cent leave

reserve, with 324 posts created in the Registration Department to be included in the deputation pool. As per Schedule-II-A, 40 per cent of Naib Tehsildar posts will be filled through direct recruitment, while 60 per cent

will be filled by promotion from Girdawar with a minimum of three years of service. The post of Patwari will be filled entirely through promotion, requiring at least five years of service in the feeder cadre.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Won't Rest Till

the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020, the Lieutenant Governor said enforcement agencies in J&K have stepped up action against drug trafficking.

"Police are taking action on their part. More drugs are being seized, there are more arrests than earlier, and more cases are being registered," he said.

Sinha stressed that the government alone cannot tackle the issue and called for collective action.

"We have seen families suffer due to drug abuse. This menace can only be eliminated when the efforts of the government are supported by the people," he said.

He urged women, youth and all sections of society to actively participate in the campaign to make Jammu and Kashmir drug-free.

3 Bills To Tweak

operationalise the revised quota framework in Union Territories, including Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.

The introduction followed a nearly 40 minute heated debate, with opposition parties questioning both the timing and the intent behind the proposed changes. Several leaders asserted that while they support reservation for women in legislatures, they oppose linking it to delimitation.

Congress leader K C Venugopal argued that the amendments were unnecessary and should have been incorporated when Parliament originally passed the women's reservation law. He also objected to the Constitution amendment Bill being taken up alongside ordinary legislation.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav questioned the urgency of the move, asking why the government was proceeding without conducting a fresh Census.

Responding to the criticism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Census process is underway and confirmed that caste enumeration would also be undertaken. He maintained that the legislative process was in line with constitutional provisions and reiterated that religion based reservation remains unconstitutional.

Members of the DMK staged a symbolic protest in the House, wearing black attire. Party leader T R Baalu said the party supported the original 2023 women's quota law but opposed the present amendments, alleging they were primarily aimed at facilitating delimitation.

RSP leader N K Premchandran echoed similar concerns, arguing that the focus of the amendment was not reservation but constituency reorganisation.

Speaker Om Birla dismissed procedural objections, citing precedents to allow simultaneous discussion of the Constitution amendment Bill and related ordinary bills.

According to the draft of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill circulated among members, the number of seats in the Lok Sabha could be increased from the current 543 to a maximum of 850. The expansion, coupled with a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census, is aimed at enabling the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women before the 2029 general elections.

The Bill also proposes a corresponding increase in the strength of state assemblies and Union Territory legislatures. Seats reserved for women would be allotted on a rotational basis across constituencies.

Opposition parties, which had earlier announced a coordinated strategy, voted against the introduction of the Bill's delimitation provisions, maintaining that their resistance was limited to the proposed mechanism and not to the idea of women's reservation itself.

The legislation is expected to be taken up for further discussion in the coming days, with both sides holding firm on their positions as the debate over representation, census timelines and constituency boundaries intensifies.

Push Credit, Tech,

targeted policies, resources and institutional support.

Addressing a women farmers' conference organised by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited in Srinagar, Sinha said women farmers form the backbone of agriculture and food security.

"Without women farmers, every plate would be empty, leaving humanity starved. They sustain the world, work harder than their male counterparts and anchor food security," he said.

Highlighting a structural imbalance, the Lieutenant Governor noted that while women contribute significantly to agriculture, they are often excluded from economic gains. He urged stakeholders to identify and remove barriers that limit their participation and growth.

"The global food system rests on women's labour, yet it excludes them from prosperity. We must eliminate these barriers one by one," he said.

Sinha described the United Nations' declaration of 2026 as the International Year of Women Farmers as a historic opportunity to recognise women as creators in agriculture rather than mere labourers.

"I see 2026 as a defining moment to acknowledge women's leadership in agriculture and allied sectors and to fulfil their aspirations," he said.

Push for Women-Led Agricultural Reform
Calling for a policy shift, the Lieutenant Governor asked departments including agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and dairy to prioritise women farmers in resource allocation and

programme implementation.

He also urged financial institutions to design loan products that enable landless women farmers to access credit in their own names, and called on technology innovators to develop tools tailored to their needs.

"Empowered women farmers are bearers of climate resilience, building robust agri-ecosystems with quality seeds, digital tools and market linkages," he said.

Sinha stressed the need for direct market access through cooperatives and emphasised strengthening women-led farmer producer organisations (FPOs) and self-help groups.

Schemes and Participation
Highlighting ongoing initiatives, the Lieutenant Governor said the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) has registered 14,782 women farmers, while the Jammu and Kashmir Climate-Informed Agriculture Project (JKCIP), launched in June 2024, has enrolled 5,248 women.

He added that over 90,000 women beneficiaries are covered under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. Thousands more are engaged across sectors, including natural farming, horticulture, sericulture, dairy, sheep farming and fisheries.

"In total, nearly 3.11 lakh women are registered across agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir," he said, while acknowledging that many more remain unregistered and should be brought under government schemes.

Sinha also highlighted the role of skill-based programmes in mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, food processing and horticulture in transforming rural women into agri-entrepreneurs and decision-makers.

"When women control production resources, inputs and services, they ensure food security," he said.

Call for Institutional Support

The Lieutenant Governor urged IFFCO to establish a farmers' training centre, a multi-facility service centre and a sheep production unit in Jammu and Kashmir, along with mobile soil testing facilities to support farmers.

He stressed that empowering women farmers is key to achieving sustainable agricultural growth and improving rural livelihoods.

Event and Participation
On the occasion, Sinha felicitated women agri-entrepreneurs and visited stalls set up by IFFCO and local participants.

The event was attended by Agriculture Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, IFFCO Chairman Dileep Singhani, Managing Director K.J. Patel and other senior officials, along with women farmers, entrepreneurs and members of self-help groups.

Reiterating his vision for women-led development, Sinha said that strengthening women's role in agriculture would not only boost productivity but also ensure long-term food security and economic resilience in Jammu and Kashmir.

PULL QUOTE: "Without women farmers, every plate would be empty, leaving humanity starved. They sustain the world, work harder than their male counterparts and anchor food security."

No State Will Be

eastern states, over a possible loss of representation.

"I want to say with full responsibility that whether it is the south, the north, the east or the west, small states or big states, no state will be discriminated against and no injustice will be done," he said.

The prime minister made it clear that the proportion of Lok Sabha seats allocated to each state would remain unchanged even after the proposed expansion of the House. "There will be no change in that proportion, and the increase will also be in the same proportion," he said.

The proposed legislation seeks to raise the strength of the Lok Sabha to 815 seats, with 272 seats reserved for women, amounting to 33 per cent representation. The changes are aimed at operationalising the women's quota ahead of the 2029 general elections following a delimitation exercise.

Framing women's reservation as a constitutional right rather than a political concession, Modi said no one should assume they are "giving" representation to women. "This is their right," he asserted.

He also issued a political warning, saying parties opposing the measure risk facing backlash. "Those who opposed giving this right to women in the past have not been forgiven. Even today, if there is any flaw in our intent, the women of this country will not forgive," he said.

At the same time, Modi struck a conciliatory note, urging opposition parties not to view the issue through a political lens. He even offered to let them take credit for the implementation of the law. "We do not want credit. If you want to take it, you can," he said, adding that the focus should remain on national interest.

The prime minister acknowledged that while the women's reservation legislation was passed earlier, its implementation required time and structural changes. "It could not be done in 2024. Now we have time till 2029. The demand of the time is that we should not delay further," he said.

The debate comes amid sharp differences between the government and the opposition over linking women's reservation to delimitation and census exercises. While opposition parties have expressed support for the quota in principle, several have opposed the proposed mechanism for its rollout.

The three bills introduced in the Lok Sabha are expected to be taken up for further discussion and passage, with the issue of representation, regional

balance, and electoral restructuring set to remain at the centre of the political debate.

Shah Rules

to set up a delimitation commission, Shah said a caste census will be carried out along with population enumeration during the ongoing census exercise.

"The question of providing reservation to Muslim women on the basis of religion does not even arise. Our Constitution does not allow at all to give reservation on the basis of religion. I want to make it clear our government's resolve that Muslims will not be given reservation on the basis of religion. Such reservation is unconstitutional," a combative Shah said after the Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav and Dharmendra Yadav spoke in favour of giving a quota to Muslims.

The home minister said the Samajwadi Party members were saying that they would place the demand for a caste census but he would like to inform them that the government had already taken a decision to carry out the caste census and it would be carried out along with the population enumeration.

"Right now, the counting of households is underway and the households do not have any caste. If the Samajwadi Party had its way, they would determine the caste of households as well," he said.

Shah also said "if the Samajwadi Party gives all its tickets to Muslim women, where do we have any objection, we have no objections at all".

He said that during the population enumeration, the census authorities would keep a provision for caste enumeration, "which I personally want too".

"I want to make it clear that this census will be conducted along with caste enumeration," the home minister said.

The housinglist under the census 2027 started on April 1. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on April 30 last year decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census. Caste was excluded from all census operations conducted since Independence.

The Lok Sabha on Thursday took up the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Delimitation Bill, 2026, for debate and passage.

As per the proposal, the strength of the Lok Sabha will be increased to 815, of which 272 seats will be reserved for women – a total of 33 per cent.

Gusty Winds

weather across Jammu and Kashmir till April 19. Officials said the weather will remain generally cloudy, with intermittent spells of light rain and thundershowers expected at many places, particularly during morning and late evening hours.

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

In view of the forecast, an advisory has been issued asking farmers to suspend agricultural operations from April 17 to 19 to minimise potential damage to crops.

Authorities have urged residents to remain cautious during periods of strong winds and thunderstorms and to follow official advisories.

Weather conditions are expected to improve from April 20 onwards, with generally dry weather likely to prevail for a few days.

SIA Files Chargesheet

accused deliberately used the name of JeM to exploit its notoriety and create psychological impact, while covertly advancing the re-establishment and operational build-up of AGuH, he said.

The spokesperson said the module had as its members highly educated individuals, including medical professionals, who misused their knowledge, access, and institutional spaces for unlawful activities.

"The accused were actively disseminating extremist propaganda through digital platforms and had undertaken procurement of materials and experimental activities related to explosive fabrication, including within residential premises and facilities linked to Al-Falah Medical University," he said.

The investigation has revealed that the group identified Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP) – a highly sensitive and volatile explosive used in several global terror incidents – as a preferred material due to the relative ease of sourcing its precursor components.

The scale of accumulation of explosive substances and precursor materials by the module sent shockwaves across security and investigative agencies, underscoring the seriousness of intent, level of preparedness, and the potentially catastrophic consequences had the conspiracy not been timely detected and neutralised.

"Through a comprehensive, evidence-driven investigation, SIA has successfully dismantled the entire terrorist network and its support structure," the spokesperson said.

He said the SIA unearthed clinching and irrefutable evidence, comprising recoveries, digital forensics, scientific analysis, and corroborative witness accounts, which firmly establishes the complicity of each accused in the conspiracy.

US Pushes Lebanon

for further talks, which would mark the first direct engagement between the two countries' leaders since 1983.

The ceasefire appears to have been a precondition for dialogue. According to Al-Jazeera,

Aoun had refused any direct engagement with Netanyahu without a truce in place, prompting an intensified US push for de-escalation.

While Iran was not mentioned in Trump's announcement, the ceasefire is widely seen as linked to ongoing US talks with Tehran, with Vice President JD Vance playing a central role in both tracks.

Pakistan had earlier said that peace in Lebanon was essential for talks it is mediating to end the war between the United States and Iran.

Although a separate two-week ceasefire between Washington and Tehran was announced on 7 April, Israel continued its strikes in Lebanon – a development Iran said violated the spirit of the truce.

US and Israeli officials have insisted Lebanon was not part of that agreement, but Washington had been quietly urging Israel to scale back operations to prevent undermining its peace talks with Iran.

Iran-US Talks held in Islamabad last weekend ended without agreement, with Tehran insisting that any broader deal must include a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who led the Iranian side in talks, reinforced that position on Thursday.

"For us, a ceasefire in Lebanon is as important as a ceasefire in Iran," he said after speaking with Lebanon's parliamentary speaker, Nabih Berri, adding that Tehran had been pushing for a permanent ceasefire across all conflict zones, including during the Islamabad talks.

In Israel, the security Cabinet did not formally vote on the ceasefire. During an urgent phone call, Netanyahu informed ministers the truce would begin at midnight at Trump's request.

Senior Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah was quoted by Reuters saying the group had been informed by Iran's ambassador to Lebanon that a one-week ceasefire could begin on Thursday evening.

Asked if Hezbollah would commit to the truce, Fadlallah said everything was tied to Israel's commitment to halt all forms of hostilities and credited Iran's diplomatic efforts for the possible ceasefire.

Failed war goals

Israel has failed to achieve its stated objectives in the Lebanon war, including ensuring the safety of northern Israeli residents and establishing a buffer zone extending to and beyond the Litani River, says former Israeli diplomat Shaiel Ben Ephraim.

He added that Israel's silence on Donald Trump's announcement of a ceasefire pointed to deeper issues.

"First, it suggests the ceasefire has been forced upon Israel and amounts to a diktat," Ben Ephraim told Al Jazeera. "Second, Netanyahu has yet to figure out how to present this to the Israeli public or even to his own cabinet, which is reportedly shocked and outraged."

He also warned that Israeli forces on the ground in Lebanon could be left vulnerable if hostilities cease.

"This indicates there was immense pressure on Israel, and it now has no clear way to explain the situation to its citizens, who are likely to view this as yet another failure," he said.

Gulf Allies 'Exceptional

Pentagon briefing on Thursday, Hegseth said countries including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan had played a crucial role in supporting US operations during what he described as "Operation Epic Fury".

"They have been exceptional teammates," he said, pointing to their contribution to regional defence efforts and coordination with US forces during the conflict.

The remarks come as the US maintains a military blockade against Iran and a fragile ceasefire remains in place following weeks of fighting.

Admiral Bradley Cooper, the US Central Command (Centcom) chief, echoed Hegseth's assessment, saying cooperation with Gulf allies had strengthened during the conflict. He said US forces had worked "side-by-side" with regional militaries to build what he described as the "largest air defence umbrella in the world" across the Middle East.

Cooper added that Gulf leaders had expressed strong support for US troops, noting that senior figures in Bahrain, including the king and crown prince, had personally recognised American personnel deployed in the country.

"This is a sentiment that is widely shared across every Gulf ally," he said. "I heard this message over and over again – we stand with you."

The US has deployed tens of thousands of personnel across the region, with more than 50,000 service members operating from over 70 locations, according to Centcom. American forces have been engaged in air defence, naval operations and strikes on Iranian military infrastructure during the conflict.

Hegseth contrasted the role of Gulf partners with what he described as a lack of meaningful support from other allies outside the region.

"There's a lot of talk," he said, adding that many countries had failed to contribute when it mattered most. "When shots were fired and those countries were needed, they weren't there."

He suggested that countries reliant on energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz – particularly in Europe and Asia – should take greater responsibility for securing key maritime routes rather than depending on the US Navy.

"We should live in a world where other countries can defend waterways, not just the United States," he said.

The Pentagon said US naval forces are currently enforcing a blockade targeting Iranian ports and shipping, with thousands of personnel, warships and aircraft involved in the operation.

Despite the ceasefire halting major combat operations, US officials said forces remain on high alert and ready to resume action if diplomacy fails.

The US has also sought to emphasise the strength of its military partnerships in the region, particularly with Israel and Gulf states, as it continues to pursue a broader strategy aimed at curbing Iran's military capabilities and preventing it from developing a nuclear weapon.

While Washington has welcomed the support of its Middle Eastern allies, Hegseth's comments underline growing frustration within the Trump administration over what it sees as an imbalance in global security responsibilities.

J&K Falls Back

follows concerns over poor enrolment in several government colleges, many of which saw low intake through the CUET route in recent years. Earlier, the department had already exempted 64 GDCs from CUET-based admissions for the 2024-25 session after reviewing admission trends.

Official figures indicate a worrying pattern of declining student numbers across colleges in the Union Territory. As of March 2026, two colleges – GDC Baghi Dilawar Khan and GDC Chattisinghpura – reported no active enrolment. Both institutions have since been placed under the administrative control of Government Degree College Anantnag and S.P. College Srinagar, respectively.

Data shared by the government further reveals that 13 colleges have fewer than 30 students each, while at least five colleges were functioning with enrolment below 20 in 2025. Eight colleges had fewer than 30 students, and 14 colleges recorded enrolment below 50.

In addition, 24 colleges had fewer than 100 students, while another 13 institutions reported enrolment in the range of 100 to 300 students.

The department had earlier acknowledged that many students were reluctant to opt for CUET-based admissions due to factors such as geographical constraints, difficult terrain, and limited infrastructure in certain areas. Of the 64 colleges exempted last year, 35 were in the Jammu division and 29 in the Kashmir region.

Officials said the policy shift was taken after consultations with stakeholders and a review of admission patterns, particularly in colleges where CUET failed to attract adequate student interest.

With the rollback, the administration is expected to rely on the centralised portal and 10+2 merit to streamline admissions and improve enrolment across government colleges in the coming academic session. (inputs from KNO)

Encroachment, Sewage,

conservation measures.

The CAG further noted that authorities failed to identify key sources of pollution or implement measures to prevent silt inflow. Essential interventions such as scientific dredging and restoration of water channels were either inadequate or missing, contributing to the steady shrinkage of the lake's open water.

Satellite imagery analysis between 2005 and 2022 revealed expanding built-up areas in the lake's catchments, including Haji Bagh, Soibug and HMT (Zainakot), most of which lack sewage treatment facilities. Wastewater inflows from these areas continue to degrade water quality, the report said.

Flood management infrastructure was also flagged as inefficient. The Padshahi Bagh flood spill channel, originally designed to carry 17,000 cusecs of water, is now operating at a reduced capacity of around 6,000 cusecs due to silt accumulation and debris.

Although Rs 46.29 crore was spent between 2018 and 2022 on works such as channel construction, dredging and slope protection, key components including hydraulic gates, silt retention basins and sewage treatment plants were not executed, limiting the effectiveness of these interventions.

The audit also pointed to a lack of scientific basis in conservation activities like de-weeding and dredging, with no vegetation mapping, bathymetric surveys or impact assessments carried out.

Citing research studies, the report warned of declining dissolved oxygen levels, disappearance of native aquatic species and the spread of invasive plants, all of which threaten the wetland's ecological balance.

In response, the Forest Department said a policy aimed at preserving the ecological character of wetlands is under consideration, adding that efforts are underway to remove unwanted vegetation and reclaim encroached land.

The CAG has recommended urgent corrective measures, including identification and treatment of pollution sources, scientific dredging to restore open water areas, and comprehensive survey and demarcation to prevent further encroachment and recover lost land.

It also stressed the need for a holistic conservation strategy addressing hydrology, biodiversity and pollution to safeguard the wetland's ecological and livelihood value. Located across Srinagar and Budgam districts, Hokersar is fed by the Doodhganga stream and Sukhnag Nallah. Notified in 1945 and later designated a Conservation Reserve, the wetland is a critical habitat for migratory birds and plays a key role in the region's ecological system.

3 Nabbed In

he added. The police advised the public to refrain from creating, sharing or amplifying unverified content on social media, warning such actions may attract strict legal consequences

Rapid Conversion of Paddy Fields Raises Food Security Concerns in Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The rapid conversion of agricultural land into horticulture across Kashmir is emerging as a serious concern, with experts warning that the trend could leave the Valley heavily, if not entirely, dependent on other states for its staple food, particularly rice.



years," he warned. The shift toward horticulture, especially high-density apple farming, has been largely driven by better financial returns compared to traditional paddy cultivation. Farmers are increasingly opting for orchards as they promise higher profits and relatively stable market demand.

A directorate-level retired officer of the Agriculture Department, speaking with KNO said that Kashmir is already facing a food deficit of nearly 40-50 per cent. He said the steady shift from paddy cultivation to high-density apple orchards over the past five to six years has only deepened this dependence. "Thousands of hectares of fertile paddy land have been converted into orchards, primarily for apple cultivation. While this transition has improved the income of some farmers, it has significantly reduced local rice production," the officer said.

He cautioned that the Valley, once known for its self-sufficiency in rice, is now at a critical juncture. "If this trend continues unchecked, Kashmir could become 100 per cent reliant on other states for rice in the coming

years," he warned. The shift toward horticulture, especially high-density apple farming, has been largely driven by better financial returns compared to traditional paddy cultivation. Farmers are increasingly opting for orchards as they promise higher profits and relatively stable market demand.

However, experts believe this economic gain comes at a long-term cost. "Horticulture undoubtedly boosts farmers' incomes, but it also exposes the region to external risks. Any disruption in supply chains—whether due to natural disasters, transport issues, or political instability—can trigger food shortages," said an official of the Agriculture department, wishing anonymity. Historically, districts like Kulgam and Pulwama have been regarded as the rice bowls of Kashmir. But over the past two decades, these areas have witnessed

a sharp decline in paddy cultivation.

"In Kulgam alone, more than 50 per cent of paddy fields have been lost to horticulture and urban expansion," the official said. Pulwama presents an even starker picture. "There were areas where orchards were almost non-existent a few years ago. Today, after the introduction of high-density apple varieties, nearly 70 per cent of paddy land has been converted. If this demand continues, we may not see any paddy fields left in certain belts," he added. Official figures underline the alarming trend. The area under paddy cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir has declined from 1,62,309 hectares in 2012-13 to 1,34,067 hectares in 2021-22—a drop of around 17 per cent.

Experts believe that the current decline could be even steeper, given the pace of land conversion in

recent years.

Over the past decade alone, nearly 35,000 hectares of paddy land have reportedly been converted to non-agricultural uses, including horticulture and construction.

At present, nearly 60-70 per cent of the rice consumed in Kashmir is sourced from outside, mainly from Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. Supplies are routed through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as well as private traders. Officials warned that such heavy reliance on external sources makes the region vulnerable. "In case of any disruption, the Valley could face serious food security challenges," they said.

Despite the alarming trend, officials pointed out that there is currently no strict legal framework to prevent the conversion of paddy land into other uses. "There is an urgent need for policy intervention. If corrective measures are not taken now, the situation may soon reach a point of no return," they cautioned. Experts have called for a balanced approach that safeguards food security while also supporting farmers' incomes.

Northern Railway to Operate Regular Delhi-Kashmir Parcel Train Service

Observer News Service



JAMMU: The Jammu Division of Northern Railway on Wednesday said it will operate a Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo Service (JPP-RCS) train between Adarsh Nagar in New Delhi and Budgam in central Kashmir from April 17, offering relief to traders in the Valley, particularly fruit growers and handicrafts merchants.

The service will run regularly on a trial basis till May 31, after which it is likely to be inducted into regular service subject to satisfactory occupancy levels, an official release said. Train 00462 will depart

from Budgam at 6.15 am and arrive at Delhi's Adarsh Nagar at 5 am the following day. To facilitate loading and unloading operations en route, the train will also make scheduled halts at Bari Brahmmana and Ambala cantonment stations.

The timing for Train 00462 at Bari Brahmmana Railway Station has been revised to

provide greater convenience to the trading community, the statement said. On the return journey, Train 00461 will depart from Adarsh Nagar at 5 am and arrive at Budgam at 10:45 am the next day. It said this special parcel train would consist of eight parcel vans and one seating-cum-luggage rake.

The railways said the service offers faster transit than road transport, covering the distance in 23-24 hours and ensuring perishable goods such as apples and cherries remain fresh. "This initiative has been undertaken with the objective of strengthening the

economy of Jammu and Kashmir and facilitating the rapid transport of local products -- such as saffron, walnuts, pashmina shawls, and handicrafts -- to markets across the country," the release said.

According to PTI, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singh said the Northern Railway has decided to run the parcel train on a regular basis from April 17 to May 31 following persistent demand from traders and farmers.

"Our primary objective is to provide fruit growers and handicraft traders in Kashmir with a fast, safe, and economical mode of transport," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS KASHMIR

NOTICE
Through the medium of this Notice, the general public of Kashmir Valley are hereby informed that the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Kashmir is intending to distribute PDS-SKO (Kerosene Oil) to the targeted beneficiaries strictly in terms of S.O. 108 of 2022 dated 22-03-2022 for the purposes of cooking and illumination only wherever required. It is further informed that the supply of Kerosene Oil (K.Oil) in Kashmir Division could not be continued from November 2022 onwards due to the facts that none of the dealers (Retail/Wholesale) applied for a license in terms of the said S.O. - 108 of 2022 and poor demand from the general public.

Now in order to ensure smooth distribution of PDS-SKO, the Department is inviting applications from the interested persons, for grant of fresh Kerosene Oil dealership licenses (Retail/Wholesale), strictly in accordance with the provisions of S.O. 108 of 2022. Interested persons including those who were already dealing with Kerosene Oil (Registered with the Department) may apply before the Assistant Director concerned, FCS&CA, in the prescribed format within weeks' time positively, i.e. from 16-04-2026 to 22-04-2026. The applicant must have adequate infrastructure for storage and distribution of Kerosene Oil and the proposed depot should preferably be located at District/Tehsil/Block headquarters or a Panchayat with a sufficient number of ration card holders.

- A. Eligibility Criteria for Retail Dealership License**
- Be a domicile of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - Be a Matriculate.
 - Be not less than 18 years and not more than 40 years of age (relaxation applicable as per Government norms).
 - Unemployment Certificate issued by Gazetted Officer.
 - Furnish a Character and Antecedent certificate issued by a Gazetted Officer/SHO concerned.
 - Possess suitable premises along with adequate storage capacity along with a site plan.
 - Obtain NOC from the Fire & Emergency Services Department.
- B. Eligibility Criteria for Wholesale Dealership License**
- Be a domicile of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - Be at least 10+2 qualified.
 - Be not less than 18 years and not more than 40 years of age (relaxation applicable as per Government norms).
 - Unemployment Certificate issued by Gazetted Officer
 - Furnish a Character and Antecedent certificate issued by a Gazetted Officer/SHO concerned.
 - Possess suitable premises and adequate storage facilities, along with a Site Plan.
 - Obtain NOC from the Fire & Emergency Services Department.

Additional Condition

1. The applicant shall furnish an affidavit to the effect that: -
- Only one Kerosene Oil dealership (Retail or Wholesale) shall be held by him/her and no other member of his family shall apply.
- Neither the applicant nor any of his/her family members shall be engaged in subsidized kerosene oil business or any other petroleum product business.
- None of the applicant's family members/close relative is an employee of the Department of FCS&CA.

The applicant must possess an SKO Dealership agreement with a recognized Oil Marketing Company and hold a valid Wholesaler license. However, in order to provide a reasonable breathing period, applicants who do not currently fulfill these requirements shall be granted a period of 45 days to submit the requisite dealership agreement and valid license. For further details, interested applicants may contact the concerned Assistant Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir. No: DFCSA-Supl/9/2026-02-(E-8116581) Dated: 16-04-2026

District: Deputy Director, Supplies, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Kashmir.

"Application for grant of fresh Wholesale PDS-SKO License in terms of New Subsidized Kerosene Oil Policy as notified vide S.O - 108 of 2022 dated 23-03-2022"

1. Name of the applicant/licensee: _____
2. Parentage of the applicant/licensee: _____
3. OMC License No: _____ Date of issuance _____
4. Residential address of the applicant/licensee: _____
5. Whether Licensee is Divisional based/district based: _____
6. Whether having operational storage facility (Yes/No): _____
7. Location where storage tank has been installed: _____
8. Capacity of the storage tank (in Kls): _____
9. Has the applicant been convicted in the past for any offence relating to K. Oil or any other essential commodity: _____

Declaration:

I hereby declare that the particulars furnished above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that nothing has been concealed. In the event that any information is found to be false or incorrect, I shall be personally responsible, and the department shall be at liberty to initiate appropriate action against me. Further I undertake that,

1. I shall strictly adhere to the prescribed routes and sequence of Retail SKO depots as communicated to me in the roster allotted to my firm.
2. I shall receive all payments from Retail SKO dealers towards the cost of SKO only through Payee's Account Cheque or NEFT. No cash transactions shall be undertaken by my firm in this regard.
3. I shall not permit the use of the PDS-SKO vehicle/tanker by any unauthorized person for the decantation or delivery of Kerosene Oil (K. Oil) to retailers.
4. I shall operate the license personally and comply with all instructions and guidelines issued by the department from time to time to ensure fair and transparent distribution of K. Oil.
5. I shall maintain accurate, complete, and up-to-date records of dealer-wise distribution.
6. I shall produce and reconcile such records as and when required by the FCS&CA Department.
7. I shall not engage in or facilitate any diversion of SKO in any manner whatsoever.
8. I shall not sublet, transfer, or assign my license to any other person under any circumstances.

I have carefully read the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Kerosene Oil (Licensing) order, 2022 issued under SO-108 of 2022 dated: 23-03-2022 and agree to abide by all the terms and conditions laid down in the licensing order.

Place:- _____ Date:- _____ Signature of the applicant/ Wholesale SKO Dealer

The applicant shall furnish the documents as per enclosed Notice.

Application for grant of fresh Retail License PDS-SKO License in terms of New Subsidized Kerosene Oil Policy as notified vide S.O - 108 of 2022 dated 23-03-2022"

1. Name of the applicant/licensee: _____
2. Parentage of the applicant/licensee: _____
3. Residential address of the applicant/licensee: _____
4. Location where storage tank has been installed: _____
5. Capacity of the storage tank (in litres): _____
6. Number of RTS attached with the Depot PHH _____ AAY _____
7. Has the applicant been convicted in the past for any offence relating to K.Oil or any other essential commodity: _____

Declaration:-

I hereby declare that the particulars furnished above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that nothing has been concealed therein. In case any information is found to be false or incorrect, I shall be personally responsible for the same, and the Department may initiate appropriate action against me. Further I undertake that,

1. I shall make all payments to the Wholesale SKO dealer towards the cost of SKO only through Payee's Account Cheque or NEFT. No cash transactions shall be made in this regard.
2. I shall not issue PDS-SKO to any unauthorized person for decantation or delivery of Kerosene Oil (K. Oil) at any place other than the authorized location.
3. I shall operate the said license personally and comply with all instructions and guidelines issued by the Department from time to time regarding the free and fair distribution of K. Oil.
4. I shall maintain proper, accurate, and up-to-date records of category-wise offtake of SKO for all beneficiaries.
5. I shall produce and reconcile such records as and when required by the FCS&CA Department.
6. I shall not indulge in or facilitate diversion of SKO in any manner whatsoever.
7. I shall maintain courteous, respectful, and appropriate behaviour with beneficiaries during the distribution of SKO.
8. I shall not sublet, assign, or transfer my license to any other person under any circumstances.

I have carefully read the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Kerosene Oil (Licensing) order, 2022 issued under S.O. 108 of 2022 dated: 23-03-2022 and agree to abide by all the terms and conditions laid down in the Licensing Order

Place:- _____ Date:- _____ Signature of the applicant / Retail SKO Dealer

The applicant shall furnish the documents as per enclosed Notice. DIPK-433-26
DT: 16/04/2026

13 Drug Peddlers Arrested Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday arrested 13 alleged drug peddlers and seized contraband substances in multiple operations across Kashmir as part of the ongoing "Nasha-Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan."

According to the details available with KNO, in Anantnag district, police carried out a series of operations leading to several arrests and recoveries.

Acting on specific information, a police team from Grigufwara raided a house in Dachigam and recovered around 2 kg of charas-like substance.

In separate naka checking operations at Shakras and Pethnoo Crossing, two persons were apprehended with around 2 kg of charas-like substance each.

In another operation, police intercepted a passenger auto at Iqbal Market near Mill Mod and arrested two persons, recovering about 12 grams of heroin from them.

Separately, one person was apprehended at K.V Pora Marhama, and around 7.854 kg of charas-like substance

was recovered from his possession, they said.

In Awantipora, police arrested two persons traveling on a motorcycle at Toll Plaza and recovered 1.258 kg of charas-like substance. The motorcycle was also seized.

In another naka check at Nambal Crossing along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, two more persons were held with around 12 grams of heroin-like substance, officials said.

In Pulwama, one person was arrested at Zadoora with 520 grams of poppy straw and 30 grams of charas powder-like substance. In a separate operation at Tujan Telsar crossing, another individual was apprehended with around 3 grams of heroin-like substance.

In Ganderbal district, police recovered about 580 grams of charas-like powder from a cowshed during a search operation conducted in the presence of an executive magistrate and local representatives, and arrested one person. Cases under relevant provisions of law have been registered in all instances and investigations are underway, police said.

Police Seize JCBs, Tractors in Night Crackdown on Illegal Mining in Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Police in Anantnag conducted night operations at multiple locations and seized several vehicles involved in illegal mining, officials said on Thursday.

During the intervening night, a police team from Police Station Dooru intercepted and seized one JCB and five tractors allegedly engaged in unlawful extraction and transportation of minerals.

The vehicles were taken into custody and cases were registered under relevant provisions of law.

In a separate operation, Police Post Dialgam



conducted a raid at Brinty Nalla in Dialgam and seized one JCB and two tractors involved in illegal extraction of minerals.

According to KNT, all seized vehicles have been taken into custody, police said. Anantnag Police said the action is part of an ongoing drive against illegal mining and warned that strict measures will continue against those involved in such activities.

COURT OF SUB JUDGE AT PATTAN

Coram: Mr. Anjeet Singh

In the case of:
Inhabitants of Village Rakhi Buren & Zangam through
1. Bashir Ahmad Lone Son of Mohammad Ramzan Lone
2. Ghulam Rasool Khan Son of Abdul Aziz Khan
Adopted son of Ahad Khan
3. Shahzad Ahmad Khanday Son of Wali Mohammad Khanday
4. Haji Bashir Ahmad Khanday Son of Ghulam Ahmad Khanday
5. Muneera Begum Wife of Bashir Ahmad Lone
All Residents of Zangam/ Ganjipora Rakhi Buren, Tehsil Pattan, Baramulla (Applicants/Plaintiffs)

Vs.

1. Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through Commissioner Secretary to Irrigation and Flood Control Department at Srinagar/ Jammu
2. The Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department at Srinagar
3. Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department Division Baramulla
4. Assistant Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Department Sub Division Pattan
5. Sub Divisional Magistrate Pattan
6. Tehsildar Singhpora
7. Ali Mohammad Wani Son of Ghulam Ahmad Wani R/O, Ganjipora Rakhi Buren, Singhpora
8. Mohammad Rafeeq Khan Son of Ali Mohammad Khan R/O, Ganjipora Rakhi Buren Tehsil Singhpora Baramulla (Non-Applicants/Defendants)

SUIT FOR Declaration, Prohibitory and Mandatory Injunction and Recovery of Possession

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Through the medium of this publication, the public at large is hereby informed that the plaintiffs have instituted the above captioned suit in the representative capacity in which the next date of hearing is fixed on 08.04.2026, if anybody have any objection or want to become a party in the suit plaintiff or defendant he/she may approach this court on or before the next date of hearing, failing which the case shall be heard and appropriate orders warranted under law shall be passed. Let a copy of this publication notice be published in any daily newspaper of Kashmir. Office is directed to forward a copy of the notice to the Editor concerned for its publication. Let the come up on 18-04-2026.

Announced _____ Sd/-
01.04.2026 _____ Sub Judge Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded in her Aadhaar Card as AYEDA JAVAID instead of her correct name HAFSA JAVID. The correct name is HAFSA JAVID. If anyone has any objection regarding this correction, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Javid Ahmad
R/o Talwanpora Trigam, Tehsil Sumbal, District Bandipora

Concerns Raised Over JKSSB Recruitment Process Amid Pending Legal Challenge

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Concerns have been raised over the conduct of the Junior Assistant recruitment process by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), with criticism focusing on the decision to proceed with the examination despite a reported pending legal challenge.

The criticism, expressed by aspirant voices, questions whether the recruitment process should have been deferred until a final judicial verdict was delivered.

The statement alleged that proceeding with the examination while legal issues remain unresolved could be inconsistent with established judicial principles, and called for greater transparency in the recruitment process.

It further warned that any future judicial decision affecting the examination could impact candidates who qualify on merit, raising concerns over fairness and certainty in recruitment.

According to KNT, the statement also urged the government to take note of the issue and ensure accountability within the system.

Man Killed After Stone Falls on Him

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 60-year-old man died after a stone fell and struck him in the Charunda area of Uri sector in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday morning.

The incident occurred while the man was grazing livestock in the area, ac-

ording to reports. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Shafi Jinder, son of Shera Jinder, a resident of Charunda Uri.

Reports said a stone suddenly rolled down from an upper slope and hit him, causing fatal injuries. According to KNT, he died on the spot due to the impact, reports added.

Rampant Punjab Kings crush Mumbai Indians by 7 wickets in IPL

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer struck fluent fifties as Punjab Kings' winning run continued with a seven-wicket hammering of Mumbai Indians, who suffered a fourth consecutive defeat in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Even as Quinton de Kock, with a brilliant 112 not out, and Naman Dhir (50) bailed Mumbai Indians out in the first half with a robust 132-run third-wicket stand, the hosts' 195/6 was never challenging enough on a docile track against the rampant Punjab batters.

Prabhsimran made a wicketless Jasprit Bumrah (0/41) and MI pay for a regulation drop early, smashing a strokeful 80 not out off 31 balls (11x4s, 2x6s), while skipper Iyer was in his elements, notching up his third fifty in as many outings with a 66 off 35 balls (5x4s, 4x6s), as the duo stitched a sturdy 139-run stand for the third wicket.

Chasing 196, PBKS went over the line with 21 balls to spare, scoring 198/3 as MI bowlers continued to disappoint collectively, with AM Ghazanfar's 2/31 being the only performance of note.

Punjab were quick off the blocks as the first over from Deepak Chahar yielded 21 runs, putting MI on the backfoot.

A pivotal moment arrived in the third over when Bumrah, placed at short third, spilled a regulation chance off Hardik Pandya when Prabhsimran was only on 11.

Ghazanfar dismissed Priyansh Arya (15) and Cooper Connolly (17) to give Mumbai two elusive wickets in the powerplay, but the hosts could never capitalise on those breakthroughs.

Prabhsimran unleashed his rich repertoire of strokes, hitting a flurry of fours, while Iyer relished batting on his home track of the Wankhede Stadium, dispatching the bad balls with ease.

Their 139-run stand came from only 67 balls as Prabhsimran and Iyer eclipsed the first-innings heroics of de Kock and Dhir.



In the 16th over, a powerful pull from Iyer went through Dhir's hands for a six and the Punjab skipper sent the next to Shardul Thakur flying into the stands. However, a flick off the pads in the air gave Dhir another chance, which he converted with a fine diving catch in the front.

Earlier, a belligerent century from Quinton de Kock (112 not out) and a gritty 50 from Naman Dhir pulled MI out of doldrums and lifted them to an under-par 195/6.

Confined to warming the bench so far, de Kock replaced Rohit Sharma and smacked his third IPL hundred to lead an inspirational fightback for the troubled Mumbai Indians, who had slipped to 15/2 in three overs.

The veteran Protea batter was in his elements during his unbeaten ton -- a 60-ball 112 not out (8x4s, 7x6s) and his first in IPL since 2022 -- clobbering the ball powerfully on the leg-side and picking boundaries with precision and terrific timing on the off.

Arshdeep Singh (3/22) swung the ball precariously and bowled immaculate lengths to snaffle two key wickets early on, while a third came late in the innings.

After beating Ryan Rickelton (2) persistently with deliveries that swung away, Arshdeep had the South African caught at deep square leg on

a shortish ball. He was then all over India T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav (0), luring him outside off on the first ball and beating him with the swing to have a thick edge flying to short third.


With Suryakumar back in the hut and Tilak Varma (8) out of sorts, MI took a punt in promoting Dhir at No. 4 and the right-handed batter repaid the faith with a gutsy knock.

Dhir was also lucky when on 10, as Yuzvendra Chahal spilled a sitter at short fine-leg off Marco Jansen in the fifth over. He was lucky again when a misjudgement in calling for a single in the next over did not result in de Kock being run-out at the non-striker's end, as Shreyas Iyer missed the direct hit.

De Kock and Dhir put on 132 off 68 balls in a robust third-wicket stand which not only revived MI but built a strong platform to push on for a big total, but the hosts could not manage one.

With a strong bottom-hand stroke play, Dhir struck three sixes and as many fours and played a perfect second fiddle to de Kock.

In the 18th over, Iyer had his arms spread wide in celebration after he caught the ball off Hardik Pandya (14) while being airborne over ropes at long-on and hurling it to Xavier Bartlett for a superbly-executed catch.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department Of Culture

WORLD HERITAGE DAY

18 APRIL 2026


Theme
Emergency Response for Living Heritage in contexts of Conflicts and Disasters

Conflicts, Floods, Fires, Earthquakes, and Time itself— they do not just damage structures, they erase memories forever.

This World Heritage Day, Let Us

Understand Risks to Our Heritage

Identify and Safeguard Vulnerable Heritage Sites



Learn Disaster Response Skills

Preserver Heritage for Future Generations

Train as 'Heritage Mitras'


Heritage lives through people. Join the movement and protect what defines us.

Issued by: Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K

MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

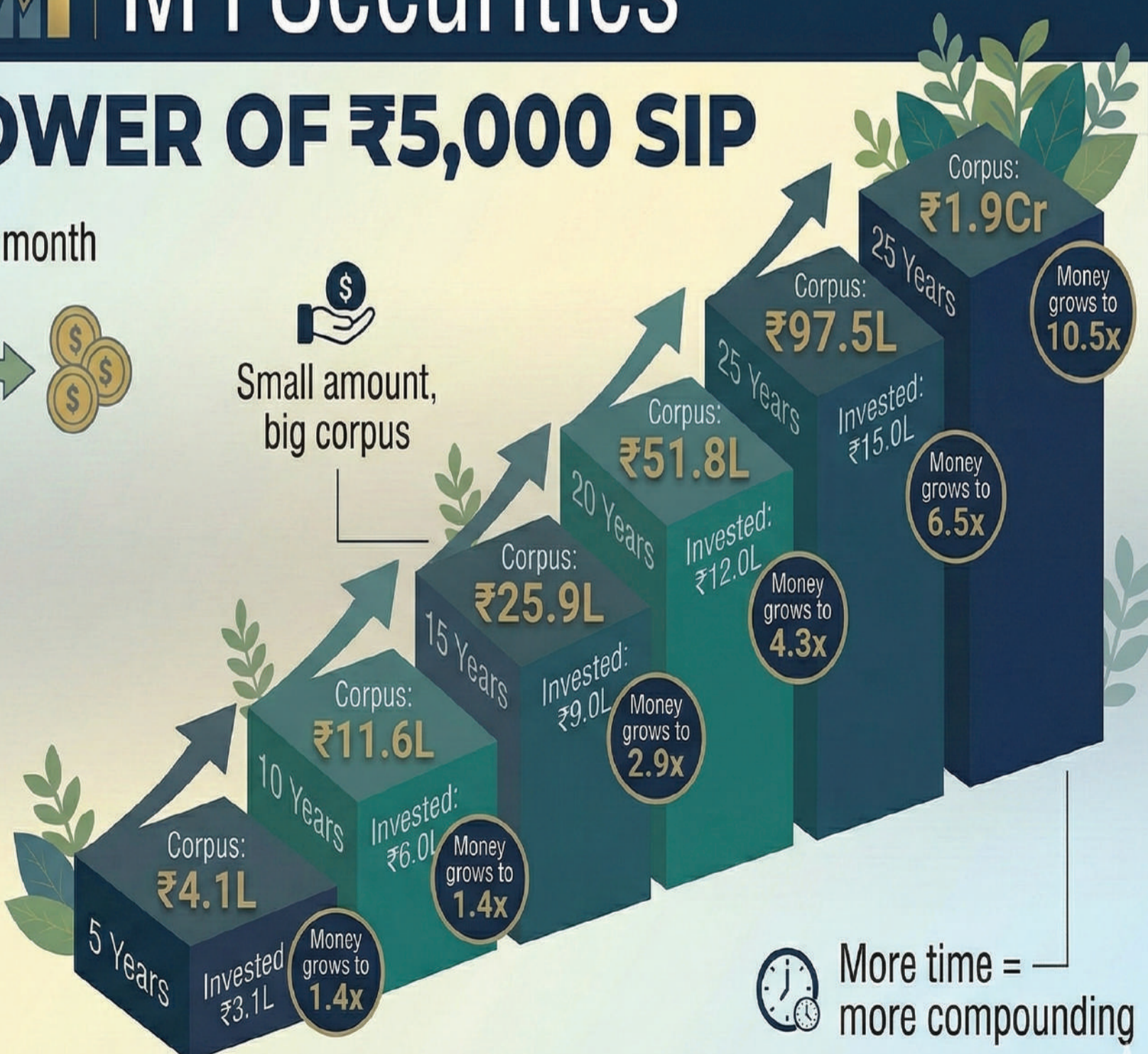
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

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

Small amount, big corpus



More time = more compounding

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

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