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Udhampur Bus Tragedy

21 Killed After Crowded Bus Falls Off Hill



Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least 21 people were killed and 51 others injured on Monday after an overcrowded passenger bus plunged nearly 100 metres down a hillside in Jammu and

Kashmir's Udhampur district, crushing an auto-rickshaw before landing upside down on the road below, officials said. The accident occurred around 10 am near Kagort village in the Ramnagar area when | [More on P6](#)

Ex Gratia Announced, Condolences Pour In

Observer News Service

Following the tragic bus accident in Udhampur that left 21 people dead and dozens injured, President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives. The Prime Minister announced an | [More on P6](#)

Cries, Chaos, Courage

Survivors Recall Udhampur Bus Tragedy

Press Trust Of India

Survivors of the deadly Udhampur bus tragedy recalled scenes of sheer panic and desperate cries for help, crediting the Army's swift and heroic rescue | [More on P6](#)

Kishtwar To Hold Air Raid, Blackout Drill

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Authorities will conduct an air raid and blackout mock drill in Kishtwar district on April 23 to assess preparedness and response mechanisms for emergency scenarios, officials said on Monday.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, where arrangements for the civil defence exercise were reviewed.

Officials said the drill aims to strengthen operational readiness and | [More on P6](#)

Smart Bus Expansion Row Stalls Kashmir Transport

Commuters Left Waiting As Operators Protest Rollout

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Valley witnessed a near-complete halt in public transport on Monday as private operators enforced a valley-wide "chakka jam" against the proposed expansion of Smart City bus services into district routes, disrupting normal life across regions.

From Srinagar to south, north and central Kashmir, major roads wore a deserted look with buses, minibuses and inter-district cabs largely off the roads. Key transport hubs such as Parimpora, Batamalo, Nowgam, Sopore and Anantnag saw suspended activity, leaving commuters stranded.

The shutdown was called by transport unions under the banner of the All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association, which alleges that extending Smart City buses beyond Srinagar into semi-urban and inter-district routes threatens the survival of traditional operators.



Commuters Bear The Brunt Passengers were left waiting for hours at bus stops, with many forced to walk or rely on limited private options. "I need to return to Kupwara, but there are no buses or cabs," said a commuter, Imtiyaz Malik, highlighting the widespread

disruption. Officials said while private transport remained off the roads, auto-rickshaws and government-run buses operated in limited numbers, offering partial relief. "Question Of Survival" For Transporters Association

Kashmir president Shabir Ahmad Matta said the protest reflects growing unrest over what he termed "unconsulted expansion" of Smart City services. "We are not against development, but when routes that have sustained thousands of | [More on P6](#)

US-Iran Talks in Doubt as Tensions Grow, Outlook Unclear

Trans Asia News

Dubai - Pakistan has warned Donald Trump that a continued US naval blockade of Iranian ports risks collapsing fragile diplomatic efforts to prevent a renewed war, as Tehran signals it will not attend a second round of negotiations in Islamabad, and Washington casts doubt over extending a ceasefire due to expire this week.

According to a Reuters report citing a Pakistani security source, Islamabad's chief mediator, army head Field Marshal Asim Munir,



told Trump that the blockade was undermining attempts to bring Iran back to the table. The warning comes amid escalating tensions following a US boarding of an Iranian cargo vessel in the Sea of

Oman, an incident Tehran has condemned as an act of aggression.

Trump is said to have responded that he would "consider" the advice, but his public remarks suggest a diminishing appetite for diplomacy. In comments to Bloomberg, the US president said he was "highly unlikely" to extend the two-week ceasefire announced earlier this month, raising fears of renewed hostilities between the US and Iran.

Iran pulls back from talks Iran has hardened its stance in recent days. | [More on P6](#)

Vance at White House, Not Pakistan

Reports based on Trump saying to The New York Post that Vice President JD Vance was en route to Pakistan were off by several thousand miles. The vice president's motorcade pulled up to the White House at roughly 11 am EST on Monday, meaning that he has not left for Islamabad for talks regarding the Iran war. US official confirms it will host another round of Israel-Lebanon talks this week. -AP

Where Is The Roadmap? CM Asks Centre On Statehood

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday criticised the Centre over the continued delay in restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, questioning its intent and seeking a clear timeline.

Addressing a public rally in Rajouri, Omar said repeated assurances by the BJP-led government, including those made in Parliament and before the Supreme Court, have not translated into action.

Referring to the Centre's position that statehood would be restored "at the right time", the Chief Minister questioned what the phrase meant in practical terms.

"A promise linked to democratic rights and constitutional status cannot be deferred indefinitely," he said, urging the Centre to spell out a roadmap and clarify if any



conditions were attached to the restoration.

He added that people deserve to know the benchmarks, if any, they are expected to meet. "Without clarity, uncertainty and mistrust will continue," he said.

"Process Completed, Yet No Progress"

Omar pointed out that the sequence earlier outlined by the Bharatiya Janata Party - delimitation. | [More on P6](#)

SC Plans Spl Courts For Terror, Drug Cases

States, UTs Asked For Case Details

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked all states and union territories to provide details of terror and narcotics cases being probed by Central and state agencies, including the NIA and the NCB, as a step towards setting up special exclusive courts for early disposal of the cases.

The top court asked the Centre to consider providing funds of Rs 1 crore each for setting up the courts in all states and UTs to prosecute cases lodged under the UAPA (the Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act) and the NDPS

Act (the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act).

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Jyotsna Bagchi also asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to consider releasing Rs 1 crore annually for ensuring smooth functioning of the special courts.

The suo motu case was fixed for further hearing on May 8. On March 24, the apex court directed the establishment of special courts for cases investigated by the National Investigation Agency and those falling under the UAPA. Expanding the ambit, the CJ on Monday | [More on P6](#)

Anti-Drug Drive Nets 11 Peeddlers, 7 Kg Drugs Seized

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday arrested 11 alleged drug peddlers from different parts of the Valley and recovered over seven kilograms of contraband, officials said.

The action comes as part of an intensified crackdown on drug trafficking under the on-going "Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan", with police conducting multiple operations across districts.

In Anantnag, police arrested three alleged peddlers in two separate operations and recovered over 1.3 kilograms of charas powder from their possession.

In Pulwama, four persons were apprehended in two separate actions, with recoveries including 7.5 grams of a heroin-like substance along with Rs 1,500 in cash, and 8.5 grams of a brown sugar-like substance.

In Handwara, one alleged peddler was arrested during naka checking at Shahlaal Crossing, and a charas-like substance was seized.

In Baramulla, two persons were held during routine checking at Wanigam Payeen. Police recovered 18 grams of charas and 70 tablets of Tapentadol from them, and also seized their vehicle.

In Bandipora, police apprehended a "notorious drug peddler" during | [More on P6](#)

J&K On Alert Ahead Of Pahalgam Attack Anniversary

Grid Strengthened, Tourist Hubs Secured, Border Vigil Intensified

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Security has been significantly beefed up across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the first anniversary of the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

According to officials, senior officers are holding preparatory meetings to finalise a comprehensive security plan, focusing on religious shrines, tourist destinations and vital installations across the Union Territory.

The attack at Baisaran meadow had left 25 tourists and a local pony handler dead, triggering a sharp dip in tourist inflow. Authorities had shut nearly 50 tourist spots as a



precaution, reopening them in phases after security audits.

Tourist Monitoring, Shrine Security

Officials said a QR code-based identification system has been introduced for

tourism service providers in Pahalgam to improve monitoring and enhance visitor safety.

Security has also been heightened at key religious sites, including the Vaishno Devi shrine. | [More on P6](#)

'Older Adults In India At 12% Higher Depression Risk When Children Unemployed'

Press Trust Of India

A new analysis of data collected as part of India's longitudinal survey of older adults reveals a 12 per cent higher risk of depression when adult children are unemployed.

Findings published in the journal Social Science and Medicine also show that the link between older adults' well-being and children's employment status is stronger in families where children's economic and social support is crucial to parents' security. Researchers, including those from Sweden's Umea University, also found that older adults who are socially active fare significantly better compared to those living isolated lives.

The team analysed data from the Longitudinal Ageing Survey of India (LASI) -- a full-scale, nationally representative survey of over 73,000 adults aged 45 and above -- initiated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Wave 1 of LASI was conducted in 2017-18.

Despite having a young population, India is home to the world's second largest absolute number of older adults and does not have a formal universal healthcare system, the researchers said.

Only 18 per cent of the older adults aged 60 and above are covered by health insurance, they said.

The team also noted the country's family-based culture where young members care for parents and grandparents, indicating a heavy dependence of the older adults on adult children for financial and healthcare support.

The study provides a unique picture of how families are affected when adult children fall out of the labour market, the researchers said.

"Our results show how closely interconnected generations in India are, and how vulnerable many older adults become when younger generations lose their foothold in the labour market. Without social participation, the impact is felt directly by older

-- the result reflects India's cultural norms where eldest sons are expected to support parents in their later lives, the researchers said.

The expectations mean that a son's unemployment has greater consequences for parents' psychological



people," author Rishabh Tyagi from Umea University's centre for demographic and aging research said.

The authors wrote, "Our findings show a 3.14 percentage points (ppts) increase in absolute terms (and a 12.48 per cent relative increase) in the probability of parental depression risk associated with adult children's unemployment." Unemployment among first-born sons was found to be more strongly linked with the parents' depression risk, compared to unemployment among first-born daughters

well-being, they added.

However, despite the central role of the family, the researchers found a clear protective effect of social networks and active social engagement. Older adults who take part in social activities have a lower risk of developing depression, even when their adult children are unemployed, they said.

For those with a limited social engagement, however, the association is significantly stronger, and the risk of depression rises sharply when adult children lose their jobs, the team said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On my Driving License, bearing DL No. * JK0520150053315 * name is mentioned as REYAZ AHMAD MALIK, but my actual name is RAYAZ AHMAD MALIK, and my father's Name is mentioned as ABDUL KHALID MALIK, but my actual name is ABDUL KHALID MALIK. I now want to correct it. If you have any objections, please get in touch with the ARTO Office, Soporte, within 7 days. After that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: RAYAZ AHMAD MALIK
 S/O: ABDUL KHALID MALIK *
 R/O SANGRAMA SOPORE BARAMULLA, Baramulla, Baramula, Jammu and Kashmir 193201 ab

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Sariwarpora

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

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Musab Rashid s/o Abdul Rashid Najar R/O Seriguo Dangerpora Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 04/03/2008 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 Sariwarpora fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

my name has been wrongly written in my service book records as Reyaz Ahmad Lone Instead of Riyaz Ahmad Lone . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Commandant IRP -11the BN Anantnag within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rehanti, W/o Abdul Aziz Khanday, R/o Ramnagri, District Shopian, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Rehanti Bano in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2904 8071 3188, whereas my correct and actual name is Rehanti as recorded in all other personal and official documents.

Now, I have applied for correction of my name from Rehanti Bano to Rehanti in the Aadhaar records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Rehanti
 W/o Abdul Aziz Khanday
 R/o Ramnagri, Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th,IITH)Under Roll No.: 121021070 / 221021056 Session: A/R Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed Against My Mother's Name As Fareeda Akhter Instead Of Fareeda Akhtar Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in 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 Magam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.



Name: Irem Mushtaq
 Father's name: Mushtaq Ahmad Lone
 Mother's Name: Fareeda Akhtar
 DOB: 26/11/2009
 Residence: Reram
 Mobile no: 9797298461 bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that a cheque leaf of J&K Bank bearing No. 168481, issued in favour of New I A Enterprises for an amount of Rs. 86006, has been lost on 20th April 2026 while traveling from Soura to Zaina Kadal.

If anyone finds the above-mentioned cheque leaf, kindly return it to the undersigned.

AI Salem Global
 Phone: 7889582890

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the front number plate of vehicle bearing registration No. JK16-6132, belonging to Manzoor Ah Khan S/o Ab. Rashid Khan, R/o Bakura Alustang Ganderbal, has been lost. Despite best efforts, the number plate could not be traced. Therefore, if the same is not recovered, I shall apply for a duplicate number plate from the concerned authorities.

If anyone has any objection regarding this matter, he/she may contact the RTO Ganderbal, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Manzoor Ah Khan
 6005529568

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Mohammad Shuja to (new name) Haseeb javaid . In future i will be known as (new name) Haseeb javaid .

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office srinagar, within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

اطلاع عام

از عدالت ایگزیکٹو جیٹو محکمہ درجہ اول تحصیلدار ڈاگنر پورہ درخواست اجازت جناب منظور احمد ریشی ولد عبدالغنی ریشی ساکنہ ڈاگنر پورہ زلوارہ برادری عیال کے جو کہ ریکارڈ ہے اس بارے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیال ہے کہ ساکنہ/اسانہ واقعی المہرزولری میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ/اسانہ کا کنڈیڈ بیلڈ فرمیشن ہے منظور احمد ریشی ولد عبدالغنی مزدوری 48 سال ٹیکمیلٹیوہ زوجہ گھریلو کام 46 سال خالد منظور پسر مزدوری 22 سال نصرت منظور دختر گھریلو کام 20 سال مشرف منظور پسر زرتعلیم 18 سال یاد منظور پسر -- 15 سال اویس منظور پسر -- 10 سال

سائل مذکورہ RBA سرفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کنڈیڈ مہوار آمدنی 7000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرفیکٹ زریخت اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیایا عزیاض ہوتو وہ بعد شہر اجراء سات دن کے اندر آمد آئے عزیاض عدالت حذا کو دفترى اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عزیایا عزیاض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

اطلاع عام

برخص وعام کو بڈریو اشتہار مطلع کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بنگلی ایگر بیسٹ زیر کنٹرول پوزیشن نمبر 0206010020352 جو کہ میرے شوہر کے نام پر خورشید احمد میر کے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو میرے نام یعنی پروین بیٹی الدین کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیاض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندر آمد آئے عزیاض عزیایا عزیاض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

پروین بیٹی الدین زوجہ خورشید احمد میر
 ساکنہ خالص صاحب بڈگام۔ MBC

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-II, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

Tender Notice
 eNIT No. STD-II / 05 of 2026-27 Dated 15-04-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from A-class electrical contractors/ registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency/Transformer Repairing Agencies to fix "Annual rate contract for repairs of 33kv/11kv Power Transformers (damaged) under the jurisdiction of Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar for the year 2026-27 or till next rate contract."

SNO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Tender Fee (in Rs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Annual rate contract for repairs of 33kv/11kv Power Transformers (damaged) under the jurisdiction of Sub Transmission Division-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar for the year 2026-27 or till next rate contract.	Rs 2,00,000/-	Rs 2000/-	08-05-2026; 2:30pm

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 18-04-2026; 4:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	18-04-2026; 4:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	08-05-2026; 4:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18-04-2026; 4:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	08-05-2026; 4:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	09-05-2026; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs 2000.00 (Rupees Two Thousand Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 200000.00 (Rupees Two Lac Only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.
- Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.
- The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be up loaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 Sub Transmission Division-II,
 Rajbagh, Srinagar.

No: STD-II/344-46/Ts
 DIPP-NB-211/26 Dated: 20-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

On my Driving License, bearing DL No. * JK0520150053315 * name is mentioned as AWAIZ AHMAD * , but my actual name is *AWAIZ AHMAD MUGHAL , and my father's Name is mentioned as ABDUL KARIM MUGHAL . but my actual name is ABDUL KARIM MUGHAL . I now want to correct it. If you have any objections, please get in touch with the ARTO Office, Soporte, within 7 days. After that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: AWAIZ AHMAD MUGHAL
 S/O: ABDUL KARIM MUGHAL
 R/O SALAMABAD URI BARAMULLA
 SALAM ABAD, BARAMULA, JK
 Pincode: 193123 ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

SEARAT HANIEF
 D/O HANIEF MOHAMMAD SHEIKH
 R/O DANSEERA BEERWAH BUDGAM . mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Hajam S/o Ghulam Mohammad Hajam, R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward and my name have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4607 5358 5175 as Ziyun Rasheed S/o Abdul Rasheed. The correct particulars are Ziyun Rashid Hajam S/o Abdul Rashid Hajam as per school records. Now, I have applied for the correction of the said entries. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Rashid Hajam
 R/o Yall, Kunzer, Baramulla
 fko

از نیابت بومی زمینگیر

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب نصرت مقبول دختر محمد مقبول زوجہ محمد اسحاق ساکنہ ڈاگنر پورہ برادری اجرائی Property Certificate

اشتہار برخص وعام

معاملمندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرسہ پر اپنی سرفیکٹیشن پیش کی ہے جو کہ ریکارڈ ہے اس بارے میں فیڈلٹے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیال ہے کہ موضع ہرون میں نمبر 756, 757, 764/1, 748 زیر رقمہ 5 مرلہ 6 مرلہ 2 مرلہ موجود ہے جس کی ملکیت فی سال 600000 کل رقبہ کی ملکیت ہے اب ساکن نصرت مقبول دختر محمد مقبول اپنے حق میں Property Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔

سرفیکٹیشن زریخت اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیایا عزیاض ہوتو وہ بعد شہر اجراء سات دن کے اندر آمد آئے عزیاض عدالت حذا کو دفترى اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عزیایا عزیاض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

Srinagar Water Disruption Postponed, Fresh Dates to Be Announced: PHE

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The proposed disruption in water supply across Srinagar, which was scheduled to begin from Tuesday, has been postponed, officials said on Monday.

Superintending Engineer PHE Anbreena Anjum said the decision to defer the shutdown was taken due to administrative reasons.

"Fresh dates will be announced shortly," she said.

The disruption was earlier planned in view of repair works on the

Sindh Power Canal, which supplies raw water to key treatment plants serving Srinagar and adjoining areas.

The postponement provides temporary relief to locals who were preparing for a 48-hour water shortage.

According to KNT, authorities have advised people to stay updated through official communication channels for revised dates and further instructions.

Officials said the repair works will be rescheduled, and prior notice will be issued before any future disruption.

Amandeep BR Medicity Performs First Revision Knee Replacement

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amandeep BR Medicity in partnership with Ujala Cygnus, achieved another milestone in clinical excellence with the successful completion of the first-ever revision knee arthroplasty at its unit, expertly performed by Dr. Burhan, Consultant Orthopaedics. The pre-operative imaging reflected

aesthesia, OT team, nursing, and support services, and a culture focused on patient safety, precision, and outcomes. "At Amandeep, we have always believed in bringing the most advanced orthopedic procedures to our region. This successful revision surgery reinforces our position as a center of excellence for complex joint care," said Dr. Avtar Singh,



advanced joint pathology with significant functional limitation, while the post-operative results demonstrate excellent prosthetic alignment, restoration of joint mechanics, and a remarkable improvement in overall limb function. "Revision knee arthroplasty is a complex procedure that demands precision at every step. Seeing the patient walk pain-free again is the greatest reward for our entire team," said Dr. Burhan, Consultant Orthopaedics.

This achievement is not just a surgical success, but a reflection of our commitment to evidence-based, high-quality care, seamless coordination between orthopaedics, an-

Chairman, Department of Orthopaedics, Amandeep Hospital in partnership with Ujala Cygnus.

Most importantly, the patient's recovery has been smooth, and both patient and attendants have expressed high satisfaction, reaffirming our purpose and direction. Kudos to Dr. Burhan and the entire team for setting yet another benchmark. From capability to credibility, Amandeep BR Medicity continues to raise the bar.

The Amandeep Group has grown into a prominent healthcare network, comprising over 750 beds and a distinguished team of more than 170 specialist doctors across six strategic locations.



Monday Mayhem: Vehicles inch forward amid heavy congestion at Jahangir Chowk, highlighting the city's growing traffic woes. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Srinagar Police to Dismantle NDPS Hubs, Boost Conviction Rates

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy (IPS), on Monday chaired a comprehensive crime review meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir, laying emphasis on dismantling narcotics hotspots and improving conviction rates in key cases.

The meeting was attended by all Zonal SPs, SP Headquarters, Deputy SPs (Headquarters), SDPOs, DySP DAR, SHOs, in-charge police posts and officials from the district police office.

According to officials, detailed deliberations were held on enhancing the quality of investigation and prosecution in cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and other categories of general crime.

The review covered a wide spectrum of cases, including those under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, crimes against women, murders, thefts and burglaries, besides action against absconders and

proclaimed offenders. Issues related to grievance redressal, organised crime, and implementation of Nyaya Sakshya were also discussed.

SSP Chakravarthy stressed the need for expeditious disposal of pending cases and called for professional handling of investigations, particularly in UAPA and NDPS matters. He directed officers to strictly adhere to legal provisions and standard operating procedures to improve conviction rates.

Highlighting the financial dimension of crime, the SSP instructed officers to identify and attach properties and freeze bank accounts linked to illegal proceeds. He further directed investigating officers to explore both forward and backward linkages in NDPS and UAPA cases, with a focus on comprehensive financial investigations.

Calling for intensified action against drug trafficking, the SSP emphasised the need to systematically dismantle NDPS hotspots across Srinagar.

The meeting also reviewed the on-going three-month Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, launched on April

9, 2026. The SSP underscored the importance of coordinated efforts between the police and district administration to raise awareness about drug abuse, urging involvement of community leaders and Imams in public sensitisation initiatives.

Officers were directed to take stringent action against drug peddlers, including initiating legal measures such as cancellation of passports, Aadhaar cards and driving licences, wherever applicable under law.

Expressing concern over acquittals and discharges in certain UAPA and NDPS cases, SSP Chakravarthy called for addressing investigative gaps. He instructed SHOs to hold regular review meetings with investigating officers to enhance professional competence and ensure accountability.

Reiterating that performance would be closely monitored, the SSP warned that strict action would be taken against officers failing to meet targets. He concluded by urging all officers to work with renewed commitment to ensure effective crime control and a safer Srinagar.

NIT Sgr Bags Patent for Innovative Eco-Friendly Road Engineering System

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major advancement in sustainable infrastructure engineering, the National Institute of Technology Srinagar has been granted a patent by the Patent Office, Government of India, for a novel material system titled "Zinc-Coordinated Porphyrin-Integrated

Geocomposite Systems for Sustainable Pavement Engineering."

The patent has been awarded to a research team led by Dr. Vivek (Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering) and Dr. Ravi Kumar (Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry), along with collaborators including PhD scholar Dr. Waseem Arif, Mr. Attaullah Kaleem, Ms. Kizafa Aftab, and Mr. Man-

zoor Hussain.

The innovation marks a significant step forward in the development of high-performance, eco-friendly road construction technologies.

The patented technology introduces a new class of functional geocomposite materials by integrating zinc-coordinated porphyrin structures into pavement systems.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT SD DOORU, ANANTNAG, J&K, 192211

E-NIT NO.01 of 2026-27
Dated: 18-04-2026

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir online tenders through JK tenders Portal (jktenders.gov.in) are invited from the **manufactures/Authorized distributors/Registered dealers for supply of Emergency Medicines, consumables, disposables, Lab. Reagents, surgical items, dental items, IEC material for the Year 2026-2027. etc during the year 2026-27.**

Important Dates and Cost of EMD & Tender Fee:

Sr.No	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & Time of floating of bid	18-04-2026 18:00PM
2.	Date & time of online bid submission. (Any query to clear can be done through e-mail Id on medhospitaldooru@gmail.com from 14-04-2026 to 19-04-2026 time 04:00pm)	Start Date & Time: 18-04-2026 18:00PM End Date & Time: 23-04-2026 16:00pm
3.	Date & time of online technical bid opening	23-04-2026 16:30PM
4.	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs:10000/= (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)
5.	Cost of tender document	Rs. 500/= (Rupees Five Hundred Only) Account Number :004404010000179, Account Name: Medical Superintendent, SDH Dooru. IFSC Code: JAKA0DOOROO

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria and detailed terms and conditions of contract can be downloaded from online portal www.jktenders.gov.in.

The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPK-550/26

S/d
Medical Superintendent
SDH Dooru.

NO:-ACC/SDHD/MS/72 Dated: 20-04-2026

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 25
ZUHR 12:31
ASR 5: 14
Magrib 7:10
ISHA 8: 36

HIJRI CALENDAR
03 Zil-Qadah
1447

This Day In History

- 43 BC - Battle of Mutina: Mark Antony is again defeated in battle by Aulus Hirtius, who is killed. Antony fails to capture Mutina and Decimus Brutus is murdered shortly after.
- 1453 - Turkish fleet sinks ships Golden Receiver in Constantinople
- 1521 - Battle at Villalar: Emperor Charles I beats Communards

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication,
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)
2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/685/2024 02-01-2026

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
Versus
WONDER WAGE WAGGON TRADING CO PRIVATE LIMITED

To
(CD 1) WONDER WAGE WAGGON TRADING CO PRIVATE LIMITED REGISTERED OFFICE AT RAZVI HOUSE, RESHIPORA Budgam, JAMMU AND KASHMIR - 191111
(CD 2) MR NISSAR HUSSAIN DAR (AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE/MANAGING DIRECTOR/MORTGAGOR / GUARANTOR) S/O MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH DAR, R/O D-1, LOTUS BHAVAN KH-40, SATBARI, CHATTERPORA New Delhi, DELHI-0
(CD 3) MRS SAKEENA NISSAR (DIRECTOR/MORTGAGOR/GUARANTOR) W/O NISSAR HUSSAIN DAR, R/O D-1, LOTUS BHAVAN KH-40, SATBARI, CHATTERPORA New Delhi, DELHI-0
(CD 4) ABDUL HAMEED DAR (GUARANTOR) S/O GHULAM AHMAD DAR, R/O SHOLIPORA Budgam, JAMMU AND KASHMIR - 0
(CD 5) MUHAMMAD LATEEF KHAN (GUARANTOR) S/O GHULAM AHMAD KHAN R/O NEAR JAMIA MASJID HUMHAMA JAMMU AND KASHMIR - 190021
(CD 6) MR IMTIYAZ AHMAD AHENGAR (GUARANTOR) S/O GHULAM NABI AHENGAR, R/O HAFIZ COLONY PEER BAGH, HYDERPORA, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR - 190014.
(CD 7) MOHAMMAD YOUSIF MIR (GUARANTOR) S/O GHULAM ALI MIR, R/O BUDINA, BUDGAM, JAMMU AND KASHMIR - 191111.
(CD 8) MR KHURSHED AHMAD MALIK (GUARANTOR) S/O GHULAM MOHLUDDIN MALIK, R/O CHAKAR, RENZIPORA, PULWAMA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR - 192305.
(CD 9) IRSHAD AHMAD YATOO (GUARANTOR) S/O GHULAM HUSSAIN YATOO, R/O SIR SYED BEMINA, SRINAGAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR - 190018.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1) in OA/1527/2022 an amount of Rs 89132561.68 (Rupees Eight Crore Ninety One Lakh Thirty Two Thousands Five Hundred Sixty One And Paise Sixty Eight Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 18% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 21/07/2022 till realization and costs of Rs 150005 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousands Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

- You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
 - You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.
 - You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 28/05/2026 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
 - In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
 - Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
 - All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
- Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 02/01/2026

Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the electricity connection bearing consumer ID No. 0201030002792 & Installation Number. 000955-R1-L-0.500, currently registered in the name of my father namely, Late. Ghulam Nabi R/O Khar Mohalla, 250 KV New Theed, Srinagar, now, I Hilal Ahmad Dar S/O Late. Ghulam Nabi R/O Khar Mohalla, 250 KV New Theed, Srinagar, hereby applies for the transfer of the said electricity connection in my favour at the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division, Nishat, Srinagar. If anyone has any objection regarding this transfer, he/she may submit the same to the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division, Nishat, Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmad Dar
S/O Late. Ghulam Nabi Dar
R/O Khar Mohalla, 250 KV New Theed, Srinagar
Mobile No. 9149734127 inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, MAAJIS UL HAQ S/O BASHIR AHMAD NAJAR R/O Bilal Colony Bemina Srinagar have applied for upgrade of my Class "B" contractor registration issued vide No. SE/Hyd/Bud/51/2023/2024 "BEE" Class C/Cil/Sanitary to Class A. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit their objections (if any) in writing to the office of Chief Engineer, CID wing JKPDC Kashmir, Bemina, Srinagar or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B), Civil Secretariat Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Contact No.70063809409 ab

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KO VIEW

The New Aspiration Trap

A young graduate in Kashmir today is expected to do three things at once. Prepare for a government job, build a stable life at home, and plan a way out of the region. Each goal makes sense on its own. But together, they form a trap.

The numbers show how deep this tension runs.

More than 3.5 lakh educated youth in Jammu and Kashmir are registered as unemployed, many with college and professional degrees. Youth unemployment in the region has touched about 17.4 percent, well above the national average. These figures point to a basic mismatch. Education has expanded faster than jobs.

The government job still sits at the center of aspiration. It promises stability, social respect, and long-term security. Families often invest years in exam preparation, coaching, and waiting.

The problem is simple. The number of applicants rises every year, while recruitment remains limited and irregular. A system built for scarcity cannot meet mass expectations.

At the same time, the idea of stability has changed. A secure job is no longer enough. Young people want predictable income, upward mobility, and a lifestyle that matches what they see online and in cities outside the region. Migration becomes part of the plan. Coaching centers for English tests and overseas education have multiplied. Leaving is no longer a last option. It is built into the first plan.

This creates a three-way pull. Government jobs demand patience and long preparation. Private sector jobs remain limited in a region with a small industrial base and seasonal tourism economy. Migration offers opportunity, but also cost, uncertainty, and distance from home.

Many young people try to keep all three options open. That spreads time, effort, and money thin.

Research on unemployment in Kashmir shows that prolonged joblessness affects mental health, delays life decisions, and strains families. A similar pattern appears in national skill programs.

Millions have been trained, but fewer than 15 percent find jobs, which shows how training and employment often fail to connect. The gap is not only about jobs. It is about direction.

Expectations have moved ahead of the economy that is supposed to support them. Degrees signal ambition, but they do not guarantee absorption into the workforce. Migration signals mobility, but it does not ensure success. Government jobs signal stability, but they cannot scale.

A realistic reset is needed. Policy must expand private sector capacity, support small enterprises, and link education to actual demand. Society must also rethink what success looks like. A single path cannot serve an entire generation.

The aspiration itself is not the problem. The problem is the belief that all aspirations can be fulfilled at once.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Kashmir's Costly Illness

When a hospital visit drains income, forests, and futures in the valley.

Irshad Mushtaq

Morning in Kashmir looks orderly, with shops opening and people moving into work. Beneath that surface, healthcare costs push families into a cycle that reaches far beyond illness. A single visit to a hospital often turns into a full day of travel, waiting, and lost income, with expenses that climb well past the doctor's fee.

A patient from Kupwara or Baramulla spends on transport, food, tests, and missed work before even meeting a specialist in Srinagar. Doctors charge modest fees, often far lower than in big cities, which shows their commitment to the community. The system around them adds layers of cost that families absorb each time they seek care. Long queues, delayed appointments, and repeated visits turn routine treatment into a financial setback.

This pattern affects thousands every day. A worker gives up wages, a parent spends hours in a crowded waiting room, and a family returns home with less money and more uncertainty. Estimates suggest that these combined losses add up to crores each day, draining the local economy without drawing much public attention.

Savings meant for education or small investments get redirected to medical bills. A child's school fee often waits while treatment takes priority, which shifts long-term prospects for entire families. Over time, this pattern widens the gap between regions where healthcare costs remain lower and savings continue to grow.

Pressure extends into rural areas where families cut trees to meet expenses during harsh winters. Forest loss then feeds back into environmental stress, which in turn raises health risks and costs.

Kashmir needs stronger local healthcare access, efficient scheduling, and wider insurance coverage. Every delayed reform adds another layer of loss. A place known for beauty now pays a hidden price that it can no longer afford.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

CA Boom or Bubble?

As CA units crowd industrial zones, falling storage charges and rising costs test the sector's profitability.



Tajamul Islam Salroo

Almost every entrepreneur today is either talking about CA storage or investing in it. But is this surge driven by real opportunity, or a growing herd mentality?

This question is becoming increasingly relevant as Kashmir witnesses a rapid expansion of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage facilities across major horticulture belts.

What was once an unfamiliar and niche segment has now turned into a popular investment choice, attracting businessmen, orchardists, and even first-time investors.

The primary reason behind this rush is the strong and well established apple economy of the region. Apples form the backbone of the region's horticulture sector, and every year, a huge quantity is produced.

Traditionally, farmers used to sell their produce immediately after harvest due to lack of storage, often at low prices. CA storage has changed this completely.

By allowing apples to be preserved for several months without losing quality, it gives growers and traders the flexibility to sell when the market is favourable. This simple advantage has made CA storage a powerful tool for improving returns. Naturally, where there is value, investment follows.

At a broader level, there is some small gap between apple production and available storage capacity. However, this is only one side of the picture. On the ground, certain areas, especially industrial zones, are witnessing a high concentration of CA stores. In such locations, competition is increasing, and storage charges are gradually coming down.

This means that while the overall scope exists, unplanned and clustered expansion may reduce profitability.

At the same time, we are witnessing a shift towards high-density apple plantation. These modern

orchards produce higher yields and better-quality apples, especially premium grades that are perceived to be ideal for storage.

This creates a link between high-density farming and CA infrastructure.

While it is important to understand that only top-grade (A grade) apples benefit from CA storage, lower-grade produce (B grade) continues to be sold immediately in the market.

So, the success of a CA store depends not just on quantity, but on quality of supply.

CA store is seen as a highly profitable business



CA store is seen as a highly profitable business because it generates income through storage charges and grading plays an important role in enhancing revenue. However, the business comes with its own challenges of high capital investment, rising electricity costs, maintenance and operational complexity, and increasing competition.

because it generates income through storage charges and grading plays an important role in enhancing revenue.

However, the business comes with its own challenges of high capital investment, rising electricity costs, maintenance and operational complexity, and increasing competition.

From a broader industry perspective, it is evident that value in today's market is created not just by producing goods, but by managing them efficiently after harvest.

Profitability, therefore, depends on planning, efficiency, and market understanding rather than just infrastructure.

One cannot ignore the growing trend of people entering the CA storage business simply because others are doing so. When a few units succeed, many more follow, often in the same area and with similar models.

This reflects a degree of herd mentality.

While growth and investment are positive signs, blind replication without proper study can lead to overcapacity and reduced returns. Not every project will succeed if planning is ignored.

CA storage is undoubtedly a vital part of Kashmir's evolving horticulture ecosystem. Its importance will only increase with rising production and better farming practices.

However, sustainable success requires proper location planning, understanding of supply and demand, strong linkages with growers and traders, and efficient operations.

The focus should be on smart investment rather than fast investment.

The growing interest in CA storage reflects both opportunity and optimism. It is a sign that Kashmir's business community is willing to invest and grow. At the same time, it is important to move with caution.

CA storage is not just about building infrastructure, it is about understanding the market, managing risk, and thinking long term.

Those who approach it with knowledge and planning will benefit. But those who follow the crowd without preparation may find it difficult in an increasingly competitive environment.

The author is the Managing Director of Zum Zum Food Products, based at the Industrial Growth Centre, Lassipora. He can be reached at tajamul12@yahoo.co.in.

Letter to Editor

The Real Threat to Dal Lake Lies Above It

Every morning, Srinagar wakes up to the Zabarwan Range. The mountain stands guard over Dal Lake, over the Jhelum, over the city itself. Most residents glance at those slopes without really seeing them. They notice the rock, the scrub, the brown patches baking in the sun. They assume this is simply how the mountain looks.

It is not. The word Zabarwan comes from two Kashmiri roots: Zabar, meaning better, and Van, meaning forest. The mountain's own name insists it once wore a thick green cloak. Oak, Alder, and Elm covered these slopes. The canopy ran deep enough to hold soil, store water, and cool the air drifting down into the valley. Today, that same mountain faces the city like a skeleton. The back side still shelters Dachigam's Hangul in thick forest. The front side faces Srinagar with bare rock and thin grass. The difference is not geology. The difference is us.

Centuries of timber extraction stripped the trees. Decades of overgrazing prevented their return. Cattle and goats cropped every seedling before it could grow. Rain washed the loosened

topsoil down the steep grades. Without soil, seeds found no purchase. And without seeds, the soil kept bleeding away. The cycle fed itself.

What looks like natural barrenness is actually manufactured desertification, engineered by goats and axes.

The usual response has been to plant conifers. Deodar and Pine survive harsh conditions, so foresters reached for them by habit. These trees are beautiful. They are also incomplete. The Zabarwan's original ecosystem relied on broad-leaved species, particularly Oak and Elm.

Oaks build soil. Their leaf litter composts into rich humus. Their roots crack rock and create new dirt. Their canopies intercept rain and feed groundwater tables. Science now shows that Oak regenerates naturally in protected pockets of the range. The tree wants to come home. We need to open the door.

That means planting with precision rather than optimism. Seedlings should go into rocky crevices where moisture pools, a technique called nesting. High-altitude acorn planting can use traditional tools adapted to modern needs.

Most importantly, we should plant

in dense islands rather than scattered rows. These islands attract birds and wind, which carry seeds to surrounding barren patches. The mountain heals itself through passive restoration once humans give it the right starting points.

Technology offers additional tools. Hydroseeding, spraying a slurry of native seeds, mulch, and biochar onto inaccessible cliffs, gives vegetation a foothold on sheer rock. Biochar acts like a sponge, holding water through the dry sub-Mediterranean summers that parch the range from April through November. In the lower foothills near Nishat and Brain, the Miyawaki method, ultra-dense planting of native species, can create self-sustaining mini-forests within years rather than decades. These buffers absorb urban heat and filter runoff before it reaches Dal Lake.

All of this requires treating the Zabarwan as a single living system rather than a patchwork of jurisdictions. Right now, Dachigam enjoys strict protection while the city-facing slopes fall into administrative gaps. A goat overgrazing above Nishat causes a landslide that silts up the Dal. A hectare lost to en-

croachment raises valley temperatures. The connections are direct, even when the causes are invisible.

The solution lies in a Greater Zabarwan Ecological Zone that brings local communities into guardianship. The people of Brain, Nishat, and Khonmoh understand these slopes better than any bureaucrat. When a village sees the forest as its water supply and its flood shield, protection becomes self-interest rather than imposed duty. Social forestry turns residents into the most effective rangers available.

Srinagar spends enormous energy saving Dal Lake. It organizes campaigns, allocates funds, and debates drainage. All of this matters, but none of it works if the mountain above keeps bleeding soil and heat into the basin.

You cannot save a bucket with a hole in the roof. The Zabarwan is that roof.

Sincerely,

Haris Mashooq Zia
harismashooqharis@gmail.com

Tuesdays Are the New Fridays

Our calendars write the weather we believe we experience.



Dr. Akhtar Purvez

Every Tuesday this Virginia winter arrived with the same sharp greeting. The coldest morning of the week came like clockwork, again and again.

At first, I called it coincidence. Weather behaves erratically, and the human mind loves to impose order on chaos. The repetition persisted.

A cold front would sweep through over the weekend or early Monday. Winds would slow, skies would clear, and by Tuesday morning, the cold would bite harder and hold longer.

Breath would cloud in thicker plumes, and frost etched deeper patterns on the windshield.

The trend stayed subtle. Once noticed, it seized the eye.

Here is where the mind rushes toward the wrong conclusion. We want to believe Tuesday itself has grown colder, that modern weather now obeys the calendar.

But this winter reveals something far more interesting. We experience weather only where it meets our lives.

I learned this decades ago in Kashmir, where I grew up.

Older generations there often spoke about Fridays as the coldest or hottest days of the week. People treated this as common knowledge.



Like every other Kashmiri, I accepted it as settled truth.

Years later, I asked why. The answer pointed toward human attention.

Many Kashmiris worked in cottage industries. Shawl weaving, carpet making, and intricate textile work demanded long hours of stillness and repetition. Artisans spent entire weeks bent over looms in dim rooms, fingers moving through wool and silk, the outside world reduced to a rectangle of sky through a window. Friday offered the only rest. The loom fell silent, and the kitchen filled with the smell of fresh bread. People stepped outside, gathered at mosques, strolled through markets, and stopped on doorsteps.

Friday became the day they felt the weather.

The cold arrived every day. It howled past the loom sheds on Wednesday. It settled into the valley on Thursday. Friday simply provided the space to notice, discuss, and remember.

Over cups of noon chai, men compared the sting of the air. Women pulling shawls tighter remarked on the bite of the wind. Shopkeepers lifted their eyes to judge the clouds. Children home from school felt the sun's rare warmth on their faces. The sensation entered interaction, then memory, and then lore. What people called a weather pattern was actually a pattern in life.

Standing in Virginia all these years later, I began to wonder

whether Tuesday had assumed a similar role, though for entirely different reasons.

Modern weather along the East Coast moves in multi-day cycles. A system drifts through, a front passes, pressure builds, and skies clear. The bitterest temperatures often follow the storm itself, during the silent aftermath, when winds grow calm and radiational cooling peaks. The earth releases its stored heat into a cloudless night, and the thermometer drops to its lowest point just before dawn.

When those systems pass early in the week, the coldest morning lands a day or two later.

Tuesday. Meteorologists understand these cycles well. Some research explores



OVER CUPS OF NOON CHAI, MEN COMPARED THE STING OF THE AIR.

Women pulling shawls tighter remarked on the bite of the wind. Shopkeepers lifted their eyes to judge the clouds. Children home from school felt the sun's rare warmth on their faces. The sensation entered interaction, then memory, and then lore.

whether human activity, traffic, pollution, and urban heat, might generate subtle weekly variations in temperature.

Cities exhale heat during the bustle of Monday. Roads absorb the friction of tires. Buildings radiate the warmth of a thousand furnaces. By Tuesday dawn, that thermal blanket has thinned.

The evidence remains mixed. The timing of weather systems alone produces the appearance of a weekly pattern.

Appearance, repeated often enough, begins to feel like truth.

Tuesday in the United States demands full engagement as the week gathers momentum. Meetings stack up and deadlines begin to loom. Any sense of breathing room disappears and the buffer evaporates.

The cold arrives into full motion.

The commute stays on schedule as the school day begins. Coffee cools fast while the car warms slow. The body meets the cold in motion, without time to adjust. Shock sharpens the chill with each abrupt transition. The mind misses the clear winter dawn, seeing only ice on the pavement.

We notice discomfort most when life demands we move through it. Friday held the weather in Kashmir because it held attention. Tuesday

may hold it in Virginia because it holds friction.

Tuesday is inherently colder only in our experience. The atmosphere operates outside human time. It remains indifferent to expectation. A high-pressure system recognizes only pressure gradients. The jet stream ignores the workweek.

We do. That alone determines what we remember.

We like to imagine weather as objective, recorded in precise numbers. One sense makes it objective. Our experience of it remains something else entirely.

This winter's Tuesday pattern may amount to coincidence, a temporary alignment of weather systems.

The instinct to assign meaning will remain.

We observe the atmosphere. We also observe ourselves moving through it.

—The author is an interventional pain physician who earned his medical degree from Government Medical College Srinagar. He completed his residency in anesthesiology at Boston University Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in pain management at the University of Virginia.

The Breaking Point We Don't See

Emotional repression, loneliness, and stigma are leaving Kashmiri men without safe spaces to share pain, creating a hidden but deadly crisis.



Musaib Bilal

I tried to take my life at sixteen, and again at eighteen.

Both times I felt I had run out of room for pain, shame, and the weight of feeling unworthy.

I believed I was a waste, burden, and underserving of space.

The first time, I was drowning in the chaos of adolescence. My grades were slipping, friendships were thin, and mask of perfection was cracking.

The second time, the ache was heavier, more suffocating. Years of unspoken grief had built a wall around me. I thought I was too far gone.

But here I am, writing this. That, in itself, is proof. Survival and healing are possible. Life can be rebuilt.

People don't end their lives because they hate living. They do it because they want their pain to stop.

Suicide is rarely about a single event. It grows out of layers: mental illness, stress, shame, isolation, trauma, money worries, and heartbreak.

These forces converge until hope seems to vanish.

Behind every attempt there is a cry for help to end the misery.

The way we speak about suicide adds another wound. The label "pagal" is thrown around with ease.

That one word erases the human story, the years of silent battles, and the weight of trauma.

It turns a life into a caricature and a family into a whisper. This stigma not only dishonours the dead but also silences the living. People who might reach out stay silent, afraid of ridicule,



and being treated as broken.

Stigma also shapes the way support works. Those who open up are often dismissed with casual remarks or quickly labelled "depressed," as if naming it is enough. They are treated as outsiders instead of people in need of care.

Every struggling person requires understanding. They need a listener who will sit with their pain without judgment. Breaking stigma means building a culture where seeking help is seen as strength.

Kashmir's outer realities make inner battles even harder.

Joblessness here is among the highest in the country, draining men of their sense of identity and dignity. Addiction to opioids and prescription drugs is rising, trapping young people in cycles of dependency.

Decades of discord have left invis-

ible scars on our psyches. Children grow up with uncertainty, families carry generational trauma, and many households lack the emotional scaffolding to support their young.

Add broken family structures, domestic violence and societal pressures, and despair begins to feel like a permanent atmosphere.

Mental-health services are thin, underfunded, and often out of reach. Together, these forces create a climate where suicide feels like an exit door.

Another hard truth: suicide here, as elsewhere, disproportionately claims men's lives.

Almost three out of four suicides in India are by men. It's not because men feel less pain but because they are taught to hide it.

Boys grow up hearing they must be strong, that tears are shameful, and that vulnerability is weakness. Anger

is allowed, grief is not.

This bottling up is lethal. Without ways to express emotion, many men carry their pain alone until it crushes them.

There's also what some call the "male loneliness epidemic."

Male friendships are often built around activities, jokes or political talk, not around sharing feelings. Without a space to confide in, men bear their troubles in silence.

When loneliness combines with unemployment, family pressure or addiction, hopelessness takes hold. Without emotional resilience or a support network, suicide starts to look like relief.

Changing this culture begins with language. We must teach boys that crying is not weakness, asking for help is human, and strength is not measured in stoicism.

We must create spaces for deeper friendships and communities where men can lean on each other. Giving men the words to describe their feelings will save lives. Real courage lies in letting the pain out.

The shame around male vulnerability runs deep in the valley. Homes shaped by conflict and economic strain reward toughness and ridicule softness. Tears are mocked, silence is praised.

Men inherit a version of masculinity that offers no space for fear, grief or confusion. They are expected to provide without being taught how to process the burden. Friendships rarely move beyond the surface. Confessing depression invites dismissal.

This cocktail of cultural silence, lack of resources and rigid masculinity is costing lives.

Shifting it requires bravery from families, schools and communities. Families must let boys cry. Schools must allow conversations about feelings. Communities must swap judgment for empathy.

Kashmiri men deserve better than silence. They deserve friendships that hold their pain and a society that sees vulnerability as part of being human, not a humiliation.

The numbers are grim. Globally, suicide is among the top causes of death for young people. In India, two-thirds of suicides happen between the ages of 18 and 45. Jammu and Kashmir faces a sharp rise in attempts and fatalities, mostly among youth.

Behind each number is a story: a young man collapsing under despair, a young woman fading in isolation, and a family left searching for answers.

I look back at my sixteen- and eighteen-year-old selves and wish someone had said: You are human, and worthy of life.

If you are struggling today, hear this: you are not alone. There is help, hope, and future beyond the pain.

Your story is not over.

—The author is a mental-health advocate. He can be contacted at musaibilal.216061@gmail.com.



REGIONAL HATRED WEAKENS SOCIETY IN PRACTICAL WAYS AS WELL. Fragmented communities remain easier to control. History teaches that internal division drains collective strength. While Kashmiris argue among themselves, larger injustices escape scrutiny. Regionalism harms both soul and strategy.

26 Candidates Bag Perfect 100 NTA Score in JEE-Main

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Twenty-six candidates have bagged a perfect 100 NTA score in the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Monday.

Twenty-four candidates had achieved the feat in 2025.

While over 13 lakh candidates had appeared in the first edition of the crucial exam in January, more than 10 lakh candidates had appeared in the second edition in April. Over eight lakh common candidates appeared in both sessions.

Among the candidates who have secured an NTA score of 100, five each are from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana followed by four from Rajasthan, three from Delhi and two

each from Maharashtra and Haryana.

One candidate each from Chandigarh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Gujarat have achieved the feat.

All 26 candidates are male. According to officials, the NTA score is not the same as the percentage of marks obtained but normalised scores.

"The NTA scores are normalised scores across multi-shift papers and are based on the relative performance of all those who appeared for the examination in one shift. The marks obtained are transformed into a scale ranging from 100 to 0 for each shift of examinees.

"The NTA score is not the same as the percentage of marks obtained," a senior official explained.

India, US Begin Talks on Finer Details of Bilateral Trade Agreement

Press Trust Of India

Washington: India and the US are negotiating finer details of a bilateral trade agreement in light of the US Supreme Court decision against the sweeping tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump.

A team of officials, led by Darpan Jain, an additional secretary in the Department of Commerce, is on a three-day visit here to finalise the bilateral trade agreement.

"The Indian trade delegation will be arriving in Washington this week. A great step to finalise our bilateral trade deal. A win-win for both nations," US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said in a

post on X on Monday.

India and the US announced the framework of the bilateral trade agreement on February 2 and released the text of the deal on February 7.

India is seeking preferential access to the US markets as part of the agreement, as the two countries eye the target of achieving bilateral trade of USD 500 billion by 2030.

According to that framework, the US had agreed to reduce tariffs on India to 18 per cent, from 50 per cent. It had removed the 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods for buying Russian oil and was to cut the remaining 25 per cent to 18 per cent under the pact.

But on February 20, the

US Supreme Court ruled against Trump's reciprocal tariffs, which were imposed under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

However, the Trump administration imposed a 10 per cent tariff on all countries from February 24 for 150 days.

As circumstances have changed, every country is engaging with the US to see the nature of its trade agreements with America.

China has overtaken the US to emerge as India's largest trading partner in 2025-26. The US was India's largest trading partner for four consecutive years until 2024-25.

Protest Erupts In Jammu College Over Student's Death During College Trip

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: In the wake of a student losing her life after falling off a moving bus last week, hundreds of female students from a government college for women staged a protest in Gandhi Nagar here on Monday, demanding justice. In a tragic incident, Anjali Choudhary, a fourth-semester student of GCW Gandhi Nagar, died after accidentally falling off a moving bus at Udhampur while on her way to Patnitop for a college picnic trip on Thursday.

The protesting students boycotted classes and sat on a dharana on a busy road, raising slogans and seeking action against those responsible for the alleged

negligence in the student's death.

They demanded the suspension of the teachers in question, alleging that their negligence led to the incident. They also called upon the college authorities to address their concerns.

"We are seeking the presence of teachers here. They are not coming out to talk to us. We want the administration to act and provide justice. Those behind the negligence which resulted in Anjali's death must be held accountable. We want their suspension," an agitating student told reporters. The protest led to the disruption of traffic on the highway for two hours before police intervened and restored movement.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

21 Killed After

the private bus, carrying over 65 passengers including women and students, lost control while negotiating a blind curve. Most of those onboard were daily commuters travelling from Ramnagar to Udhampur.

An Army convoy passing along the stretch immediately launched rescue operations. The effort proved extremely challenging as the bus was reduced to a mangled heap of iron, with its top portion almost completely torn off. Local residents joined police and Army personnel in pulling out victims from the wreckage.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma said 15 passengers died on the spot, while others succumbed later in hospitals. Two critically injured victims died during treatment at Udhampur District Hospital, taking the toll to 21.

Over 50 Injured, Some Critical
Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo said 51 people are undergoing treatment, with 43 admitted at Udhampur District Hospital and others in Ramnagar. Two critically injured patients have been shifted to Government Medical College, Jammu for specialised care.

Dulloo stressed the need for strict monitoring of traffic violations, including overloading, vehicle fitness and driver eligibility, to prevent such accidents in the future.

Ex Gratia Announced,

ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also announced relief from the CM's Relief Fund, including Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased, Rs 1 lakh for the seriously injured and Rs 25,000 for those with minor injuries, stating it as an immediate support measure for affected families.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha directed the administration, police, SDRF and health department to ensure all necessary assistance.

In a post on X, the LG said, "Tragic road accident in Udhampur is heartbreaking. My deepest condolences to bereaved families. May God grant them strength. Praying for a speedy recovery of the injured."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed condolences to the families of those killed in the Udhampur bus accident.

In a message posted on X, Shah said the road accident in Udhampur is extremely tragic.

"I express my deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this accident. The local administration is fully engaged with utmost promptness in relief and rescue operations. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured" he said.

The chief minister extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

In a post on Omar said: "The government stands firmly with the victims and their families in this hour of grief, and that all necessary assistance is being extended."

Former chief minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra and Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Sat Sharma also expressed grief over the incident.

Union minister Jitendra Singh, who represents the Udhampur constituency in the Lok Sabha, condoled the tragedy and is expected to visit the injured in the hospitals on Tuesday evening.

Survivors Recall

with saving numerous lives. At least 21 people were killed and 29 others injured on Monday when a packed private passenger bus plunged nearly 100 metres down a treacherous hillside in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, crushing an auto-rickshaw before landing horrifically upside down on the road below.

An Army convoy passing along the winding hilly stretch rushed to the spot and led the intense rescue operation after the driver of the private bus lost control while negotiating a sharp blind curve near the hilltop Kagort village in the Ramnagar area around 10 am.

Amid piercing screams, mangled metal and entangled bodies, hope seemed to fade with each passing moment, survivors said, recalling the harrowing accident on the

Udhampur-Ramnagar road, about 40 km from the district headquarters.

"Army personnel were the first to reach us, appearing like messiahs amid the chaos and confusion. They pulled us out of the wreckage. I had a miraculous escape — this feels nothing less than a second life for me," said Neetu Rani (32), wife of Sanjay Sharma, speaking to PTI from her hospital bed.

Still shaken, she recalled the terrifying moments after the crash, saying there were cries for help all around as injured passengers lay trapped inside the mangled bus before rescuers arrived swiftly and began evacuating them.

Having sustained injuries to her back, legs and face, she said she was on her way to her maternal home in Udhampur when the accident occurred.

Rani said the journey, meant to be a routine visit to her mother's house, turned into a nightmare within moments as the bus lost control on the treacherous stretch.

"I have lost all my belongings, but life saved is everything. Nothing else matters now — I am just grateful to be alive," she said, her voice trembling, adding that the horrifying moments of the crash would stay with her for a long time.

An Army soldier, who was leading a convoy from Udhampur to Ramnagar, said they swung into action immediately after noticing the civilian vehicle rolling down the hill.

"I was leading the convoy when the accident occurred on the way. The vehicle fell from a height of nearly 100 metres. We immediately secured the area and launched the rescue operation, thus saving many precious lives including those of men and women with great difficulty," the soldier said.

Army personnel were soon joined by local villagers and police teams led by Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma, who worked in close coordination to break open the mangled remains of the bus and extricate the injured on priority.

The rescuers pulled out survivors trapped in the wreckage before carefully retrieving the bodies of the deceased.

Sahil Thappa's uncle Rajesh said they are thankful to the rescuers including the Army and the police for their prompt action. Thappa (19) was among nearly a dozen students heading for college on board the bus and had suffered head injuries in the accident.

During its violent descent, the bus struck an auto-rickshaw on the road below before crashing with massive force and landing upside down. The impact was so severe that the entire top portion of the bus was crushed, leaving the vehicle mangled and trapping several passengers inside the wreckage.

Eyewitnesses described scenes of chaos, with injured passengers crying for help amid twisted metal and shattered glass.

A hydraulic crane was later brought in to straighten the overturned bus, allowing rescuers to access those still trapped and to clear the debris from the accident site.

The cause of the accident is yet to be officially determined, though initial reports suggest the driver may have failed to negotiate the sharp turn. An investigation has been initiated.

Smart Bus Expansion

families for decades are taken away without safeguards, it becomes a question of survival," he said, adding that repeated assurances on route rationalisation have not been implemented.

At Parimpora bus stand, rows of idle vehicles and silent booking counters captured the scale of the shutdown. Drivers said rising fuel prices, loan burdens and declining passenger numbers have already strained the sector.

"We are ordinary people running vehicles on bank loans. If passengers disappear, our families disappear with them," said Mushtaq Ahmad, a driver.

Smart City Expansion At Core Of Row
Transporters said the planned extension to districts like Pulwama, Kangan and Sopore, along with the reported induction of additional buses, has intensified fears of income loss due to direct competition.

They have urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to halt the expansion and initiate dialogue.

Warning Of Escalation

Union leaders said the shutdown is a warning rather than an indefinite strike but cautioned of further escalation if their concerns are not addressed.

Meanwhile, authorities have not issued any official response to the demands, even as the standoff continues to impact daily life across the Valley.

MeT Predicts

precipitation over the past 24 hours. Pahalgam recorded the highest rainfall at 9.2 mm.

Weather is expected to remain generally dry from April 20 to 23, with only brief spells of light rain possible at isolated places.

Rain, Gusty Winds Likely Later This Week
From April 24 to 25, conditions are likely to turn partly to generally cloudy, with one or two spells of light rain or thundershowers at scattered to many places. Gusty winds are also expected at a few locations, especially during late afternoon and evening hours.

On April 26, brief spells of light rain or thundershowers may occur at a few places, while April 27 and 28 are expected to remain largely dry.

Another spell of light rain and thundershowers, accompanied by gusty winds, is forecast at isolated places on April 29 and 30.

The MeT department has advised farmers to continue agricultural operations till April 23 in view of the prevailing dry conditions.

It also said that day temperatures are likely to rise further by 2 to 4°C across many parts of Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days.

US-Iran Talks

linking any return to negotiations with the lifting of the blockade and accusing Washington of bad faith. Officials in Tehran say US demands remain excessive and inconsistent with earlier understandings conveyed through Pakistani intermediaries.

Speaking from Ankara, deputy foreign minister Saeed Khatibzadeh insisted diplomacy remained the only viable path but warned that Iran would not compromise on sovereignty or security. "The United States has tried war," he said, "but it cannot achieve its objectives through force."

"The enemies thought they could create cognitive confusion among the [Iranian] people and then push them to act against their own country. However, the overwhelming majority of the people stood up against this."

Khatibzadeh said Iranians are facing a "vile" enemy, whose scale of shamelessness, hostility, and crime is immeasurable.

"Yet despite all this, a people, a nation, and a country like Iran have no choice but to emerge victorious in this national battle, in this national resistance. Defeat is not an option," he said.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei echoed that position, pointing to what he described as contradictions between US rhetoric and actions. Tehran has already retaliated symbolically by declaring the strategic Strait of Hormuz closed, a move with potentially severe consequences for global energy markets.

The Iranian leadership has also vowed retaliation for the seizure of its merchant vessel and indicated it will send a delegation to Islamabad unless a clearer framework for talks emerges.

Pakistan pushes for dialogue
Islamabad, which hosted the first round of talks on 11 April, is scrambling to salvage the diplomatic track. Deputy prime minister and foreign minister Ishaq Dar held a call with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi, urging continued engagement to stabilise the region.

Pakistan's mediation has drawn international attention, with Australia's foreign minister Penny Wong praising Islamabad's "constructive role" and warning of broader economic fallout if tensions escalate.

Officials familiar with the process say the first round of negotiations yielded little progress, in part due to disagreements over a ceasefire framework linked to wider regional conflicts, including tensions involving Israel and Lebanon.

Ceasefire on brink
Senior Iranian and American negotiators held approximately 21 hours of talks in Islamabad on April 11 without an agreement, with Iranian officials blaming

Washington for its excessive demands and shifting positions.

While Trump has indicated a new US negotiating team — reportedly led by vice-president JD Vance — could travel to Pakistan, his reluctance to extend the truce has cast doubt on the initiative.

The standoff is already reverberating beyond the immediate conflict zone. Analysts warn that disruption in the Gulf, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, could deepen a global energy crisis and hit developing economies hardest.

Meanwhile, parallel diplomatic efforts are under way elsewhere in the region. US officials confirmed that Israeli and Lebanese representatives will meet in Washington later this week, underscoring how multiple interconnected conflicts are shaping the broader crisis.

A narrowing path to diplomacy
For now, Pakistan's attempt to position itself as a neutral broker hangs in the balance. With Iran refusing to attend talks under current conditions and the US maintaining military pressure, the space for diplomacy appears to be shrinking rapidly.

Whether Washington softens its stance — particularly on the blockade — may determine if negotiations resume or if the region slides back into open conflict.

Where Is The

elections and then restoration of statehood — had largely been completed.

He noted that delimitation had been carried out and elections, including Parliamentary and Assembly polls, were held in 2024. "Despite this, there has been no progress on the final step," he said, adding that more than a year has passed since an elected government took office.

The Chief Minister described the 2019 reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory as a move many people viewed as punitive. He said participation in subsequent elections was partly driven by assurances that statehood would be restored.

He also raised concerns over the delimitation exercise, alleging it was used for political advantage, though he noted that electoral outcomes did not entirely reflect such efforts.

On women's reservation, Omar reiterated support for greater representation but questioned the timing of the exercise, citing the absence of a fresh census.

He asserted that the demand for restoration of statehood goes beyond party lines and reflects a broader public aspiration. The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, he said, will continue to press the issue.

"Raising questions and seeking accountability is part of democratic responsibility," the Chief Minister said.

Kishtwar To Hold

ensure seamless coordination among various agencies during situations such as air raids and blackout conditions.

Detailed deliberations were held to finalise a comprehensive action plan, including communication protocols, inter-departmental coordination, emergency response mechanisms and public awareness strategies.

"All departments have been directed to work in close coordination," officials said, adding that civil administration, police, paramilitary forces, health services, fire and emergency services, transport authorities and telecommunication agencies will be involved in the exercise.

Authorities said the drill will evaluate the district's capability to handle emergencies, with emphasis on timely deployment of resources and adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Preparations include pre-positioning of response teams, ensuring readiness of ambulances, hospitals and fire services, and activating control rooms round-the-clock during the exercise. Departments have also been asked to identify shelters, safe zones and vulnerable areas, and ensure communication systems and emergency equipment are fully functional.

Officials said prior information about the drill will be disseminated through print and electronic media as well as local announcements to prevent panic among residents.

The exercise is also expected to help authorities identify gaps and improve overall emergency preparedness. The Deputy Commissioner stressed that all activities must be conducted in a controlled manner,

with public safety as the top priority.

J&K On Alert

while agencies remain on high alert following inputs of suspected militant movement along the International Border in Kathua and Samba districts.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Anuj Kumar, reviewed arrangements in the Ramgarh sector, inspecting checkpoints and border posts and stressing inter-agency coordination.

Operations Intensified Since Attack
Officials said security forces have intensified anti-terror operations over the past year, with around 46 militants killed since the Pahalgam attack, including those linked to the incident.

In the Jammu region, operations in Kishtwar, Udhampur and Kathua districts have continued despite difficult terrain and weather conditions. Several key militants, including top commanders, have been neutralised in targeted operations this year.

According to the White Knight Corps, multiple militants involved in attacks on civilians and security personnel have been eliminated in recent operations in Kishtwar district.

Officials said sustained operations, including winter deployments in higher reaches, have restricted militant movement. However, concerns persist over infiltration attempts along the International Border, with forces maintaining round-the-clock surveillance and conducting search operations based on intelligence inputs. (KNO)

Anti-Drug Drive

naka checking at Banyari Ajas, recovering 5.7 kilograms of charas powder from his possession.

A police spokesperson said the operations are part of a sustained drive to curb drug trafficking and dismantle networks involved in the illegal trade.

He added that strict action against peddlers and smugglers will continue to safeguard the youth and protect society from the menace of drugs.

SC Plans Spl

asked advocate generals of 17 states to furnish the details of cases lodged under the UAPA and the NDPS Act, irrespective of whether they are prosecuted by the NIA or the state police and by Narcotics Control Bureau or by state agencies.

The bench highlighted that early disposal would balance the rights of the accused and victims both.

The bench also issued notices to the remaining states and asked them to furnish the requisite information.

The suo motu petition was initiated following concerns that NIA trials were languishing for years.

The court noted that in many of the 17 high pendency states, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir, special courts were overburdened because presiding officers were also assigned non-NIA cases.

"NIA Courts should exclusively deal with UAPA or other related trials and such Presiding Officers should not be entrusted with any other cases," the bench said.

A Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Office Memorandum of January 7, 2026 outlined a robust financial framework for these courts. It said the Central government will provide an annual grant of up to Rs 1 crore per court for staff salaries and office expenses.

It also provided for one-time non-recurring limit of Rs 1 crore for infrastructure renovation, IT equipment (computers, broadband, etc.), and furniture.

The MHA had said each court will follow a specific "model staff pattern", including a special judge, stenographers and a dedicated driver with a vehicle for the presiding officer.

The bench had identified 17 states where more than 10 NIA trials are currently pending. The 17 states are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana. They agreed to set up at least one exclusive court as a pilot project.

The bench further directed the chief justices of the respective high courts to fast-track the appointment of judges with "fair and reasonable experience in conducting criminal trials".

Nowshera Infrastructure Gets Boost as CM Omar Inaugurates Road, 100-Bed Hospital

Observer News Service

NOWSHERA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday inaugurated a key road project and a newly upgraded 100-bedded Sub-District Hospital in Nowshera during an extensive tour of the Rajouri district, underlining the government's renewed focus on strengthening connectivity and healthcare infrastructure in the Pir Panjal region.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Health and Medical Education Minister Saakeem Ito, and Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, received a rousing welcome from enthusiastic crowds, with residents lining both sides of the road and showering flower petals as his cavalcade passed through the town.

The newly upgraded road, connecting the NH-144A Bridge to Nowshera town, has been execut-



ed by the Public Works Department (R&B) at a cost of ₹7.99 crore. The project is expected to significantly ease traffic flow, improve connectivity, and reduce travel time for commuters in the region.

Later, Abdullah inaugurated the 100-bedded Sub-District Hospital, developed at an estimated cost of ₹18.18 crore. Equipped with modern

healthcare infrastructure, the facility is aimed at enhancing patient care and expanding access to quality medical services for residents of Nowshera and adjoining areas.

During his visit to the hospital, the Chief Minister inspected key facilities, including X-ray, ECG, and ultrasound sections, examination rooms, and the blood stor-

age unit. He also interacted with doctors, staff, and patients, taking stock of the availability and quality of healthcare services.

Addressing a large public gathering, Abdullah emphasized that public office is a responsibility to serve the people and improve their quality of life. "Positions of power are not meant for personal comfort but to bring relief to the people and make their lives easier. Our priority is to strengthen schools, hospitals, roads, and address unemployment and poverty," he said.

Highlighting the government's development agenda, he reiterated that the aspirations of the people would continue to guide policy decisions and governance. He assured the public that their concerns would be addressed through responsive and inclusive governance.

The Chief Minister also reiterated commitments to regularizing

daily wagers and ensuring justice for Anganwadi and ASHA workers through improved wages and stipends. He highlighted welfare measures such as free gas cylinders for the poorest households, electricity support, and free bus travel for women.

He noted that key projects such as the Nowshera road and hospital, which had remained pending for years, were completed due to the focused efforts of the present government.

Earlier, en route to Nowshera, the Chief Minister reviewed progress on the ongoing Sungal Tunnel project. Officials from the Border Roads Organisation briefed him on the status of excavation, structural works, and associated road development under Project Sampark.

The 2.79-km-long tunnel across the Kalidhar Range is expected to reduce travel time by 40 to 45 minutes and is slated for completion by June 30 this year.

J&K Govt Forms Inquiry Committee To Probe GMC Anantnag Incident

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has constituted an inquiry committee to conduct a detailed probe into the incident at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag following reports of alleged negligence and lack of timely medical intervention. As per Government Order No. 354-JK (HME) of 2026, a three-member committee has been formed comprising Mission Director NHM as Chairperson, Director Health Services Kashmir as Member, and Medical Superintendent Children Hospital Bemina Srinagar as Member. The committee has been tasked to examine all facts and circumstances leading to the incident, assess availability of adequate manpower at GMC Anantnag at the relevant time, and fix responsibility, if any, for lapses in preparedness, medical intervention and service delivery. It will also recommend corrective measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents and submit a detailed report along with documentary evidence to the Administrative Department within one week from the date of issuance of the order.

According to KNC, the Principal GMC Anantnag and all concerned officers and officials have been directed to extend full cooperation and provide all necessary records and documents to the committee. (Observer News Service)

Income Tax Dept to Hold Outreach Programme on New I-T Act Provisions

SRINAGAR: In a bid to enhance awareness among taxpayers about the newly introduced provisions under the Income Tax Act, 2025, the Income Tax Department will organise an outreach programme in Srinagar on April 23.

The programme will be held at the Conference Hall of the Income Tax Office near Silk Factory, Rajbagh, commencing at 3:00 PM, officials said.

The session will focus on key aspects of the new law, including registration procedures for trusts and societies, available tax exemptions, filing of income tax returns, and other statutory compliance requirements.

Officials said the initiative is part of the department's continued efforts to educate stakeholders and ensure smoother implementation of the updated legal framework.

Representatives of charitable and religious trusts, societies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), along with chartered accountants, advocates, and other professionals, have been invited to participate in the programme. (Observer News Service)

PCOS Burden Surges in Kashmir, Outpacing National Levels

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The prevalence of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) in Kashmir is significantly higher than the national average. While the national prevalence of PCOS is below 20 per cent, Kashmir faces a far greater challenge, with nearly 30 per cent of the population affected.

According to a study conducted under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Task Force, represented by Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director of SKIMS, and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the prevalence of PCOS in India is 19.3 per cent.

Speaking at the 6th Annual International Conference of the M.P.-PCOS Society at SKIMS, Dr. Yoginder Gupta,

as reported by KNO, said that Kashmir faces a disproportionately high regional burden, with nearly 30 per cent of the population affected by PCOS. Dr. Gupta emphasised that such alarming figures call for collective, multi-sectoral action, stating that PCOS can no longer be addressed in isolation.

"The extensive data generated at SKIMS has been instrumental in shaping national and global understanding of the disorder, including its medical and social implications," he said. "The research has enabled the ICMR to undertake multifactorial studies, addressing not only clinical aspects but also the stigma and broader societal consequences associated with PCOS."

The two-day international conference, hosted at the SKIMS Audi-

torium, brought together leading national and international experts to deliberate on the growing burden of PCOS, endocrine disorders, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which are increasingly being termed a global epidemic.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Manilika Sumantilleke, Chair Elect of the International Diabetes Federation (South East Asia Region), President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, and President of the Diabetes Association of Sri Lanka, highlighted that PCOS remains a neglected health issue in several countries. He noted that exposure to the scientific sessions and clinical research at SKIMS has provided valuable insights, which he intends to take back to strengthen healthcare responses in his country.

FIR Filed After Miscreants Chop Apple Trees in Sopore Orchard

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in Sopore have registered an FIR after unidentified persons chopped down dozens of apple trees in an orchard at Bohripura area in Baramulla district, causing significant loss to the owner.

Family told KNO that the incident took place during the night when miscreants entered the orchard and cut several apple trees, many of them high-density plants nearing harvest.

The orchard owner, Qalbi Husain Mir, said around 55 plants were destroyed. He termed the act deliberate and said the orchard was the family's main source of income.



"We have suffered a loss of around Rs 5 to 8 lakh. These were high-density apple plants, and we were expecting nearly 800 to 900 boxes this season," Mir said.

The family has sought strict action and urged the police to identify those involved. "The act appears deliberate, and someone wanted to cause harm to us," Mir said.

A police official said an FIR has been registered and further investigation taken.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, KASHMIR

Email: ddipr1-kmr@jk.gov.in

DASTI QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from interested and experienced professional Photographers / Videographers / Media Personnel for providing Photography and Videography services for events to be conducted by this office. The assignment includes comprehensive photo and video coverage of the events

Scope of Work:

- Professional photography coverage of the entire event.
- Professional videography coverage of all official proceedings.
- Supply of high-resolution edited photographs in soft copy.
- Supply of professionally edited video footage/highlights of the event.
- Timely submission of all photographs and video recordings immediately after completion of the event.
- Availability during the entire event schedule as per departmental requirements.

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested candidates/agencies shall submit their detailed Resume/Profile along with experience credentials in handling Government/VIP events.
- Preference shall be given to experienced professionals having prior experience in coverage of official Government functions/VVIP visits.
- Rates shall be paid strictly as per the Government approved rates/norms in force.
- No separate TA/DA or any additional charges shall be admissible.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason therefor.
- Selected candidate(s) shall be required to maintain confidentiality and professionalism during the event coverage.

Interested candidates may submit their Resume/Profile along with contact details in the office of the undersigned by hand (Dasti) within 5 days of issuance of this notice positively during office hours. For any clarification, candidates may contact the office of the undersigned.

No:INF/K/PR-28/2026 DPK-584-26 Deputy Director Information
Dated: 18-04-2026 DT: 20/04/2026 Press and Public Relations, Kashmir.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DIRECTORATE OF LIBRARIES & RESEARCH J&K, SRINAGAR/JAMMU

Subject: Final selection list for the posts of Binder under Item No. 53, Culture Department, Division Cadre Jammu advertised vide advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020 - Forwarding thereof.

NOTICE

The below mentioned candidate, who has been recommended by the J&K Service Selection Board for appointment to the post of Binder under item No. 53 Culture Department, Division Cadre Jammu advertised vide advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020 and subsequently forwarded for appropriate action by the Administrative Department vide letter No. Cul-AdmLib/14/2026-01 dated 02.04.2026 are hereby directed to submit his personal contact details in the Establishment Section of 0/0 Directorate of Libraries and Research, J&K at Jammu/Srinagar in person within (21) days from the date of issuance of this notice for uploading the same on the Employees Verification System (EVS) portal, failing which it shall be presumed that he is not willing to take up his appointment as Binder (Divisional Cadre, Jammu) in the Department of Libraries and Research, J&K and shall forfeit the right of appointment without further notice.

Name of Candidate	Parentage	Address	Date of Birth	Selection Category	Qualification
Deeptanshu	Bharat Bushan	294 Vikram Nagar Rehari Colony Jammu 180005	30.12.1991	OM	10th

No. DLR-PFT/1/2026-03 Comp. No.:7884455/2026/90-92 Sd/-
Dated: 16.04.2026 DPK-589-26 Director General,
DT: 20/04/2026 Libraries and Research, J&K

IN THE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS BANDIPORA

D.O.I: 22.08.2012 Cnr no. JKBP030000262012 D.O.O: 17.04.2026

In the case of:-
UT of Jammu and Kashmir through SHO P/s Aragam FIR no. 17 of 2012 Offences U/s 427, 366 511, 354, 451 RPC
(Through Ld. APP for UT)

Versus

Muntazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Plan Bandipora Ward no. 2 Accused

CORAM: Amandeep Singh U.I.D No. JK00352

ORDER

- Learned APP present. Nemo from accused. Non-bailable warrant issued to the accused is received with the report that the accused is absconding and is trying to conceal himself so that the warrant could not be executed. The report is made part of the file. Upon careful perusal of the report as well as the proceedings of the case, this court is satisfied that accused is intentionally trying to conceal himself in order to avoid the execution of the warrant. Hence, through the medium of this order, office is directed to issue a proclamation requiring the accused to appear before this court by or before 18-05-2025.
- The proclamation shall be affixed in conspicuous part of his house as well as in the concerned police station. Additionally, one copy shall be affixed in the notice board of district court complex Bandipora.

Announced Sd/-
17.04.2026 Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Bandipora

IN THE COURT OF THE JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS BANDIPORA

Present :Amandeep Singh Jo Code: JK00352

In the case of:
State through P/S Aragam FIR no. 17 of 2012 Offences U/s 427,366 511,354,451 RPC
Vs
Muntazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Plan Bandipora Ward no. 2

PROCLAMATION U/S 87 CRPC

In the Matter of: Proclamation requiring the appearance of accused Muntazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Plan Bandipora ward no. 2. Whereas in the above titled challan supra mentioned accused person has been arrayed as accused and general warrant of arrest has been issued against him which returned with the report that the said accused could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the above mentioned accused has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant.

As such Proclamation is hereby made that the above name accused persons is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of publication of proclamation failing which appropriate proceedings as warranted under law shall be initiated against them. Given under my hand and seal of this court today on 17-04-2026.

Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate
1st Class Bandipora

DPK-575-26 DT: 20/04/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF JAL SHAKTI IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL, KASHMIR

HYDRAULIC CIRCLE SRINAGAR/ GANDEBAL

HQ: SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NO: 08 Of 2026-27 Date: 18-04-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, e-tenders (in two Cover System) on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors for the following work to be received by the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/Ganderbal.

S.No (1)	Name of Work (2)	Estimated Cost (in lacs) (3)	Administrative Approval (4)	Major Head (5)	Time of Completion (6)	EMD (in lacs) (7)	Tender Document Cost(₹) (8)
01	Construction of Catch water drain/drainage network inside & outside Yatri Niwas	569.04	Chief Engineer Kashmir Irrigation and FC Department Srinagar's Order NO: 01 of 2026-27 Dt: 17.04.2026	UT CAPEX	24 Months	11.380	10,000/-

- Contractor Eligibility: AAY Class
- Position of Technical Sanction: Accorded by Chief Engineer Kashmir Irrigation and FC Department Srinagar's vide Order NO: 04 of 2026-27 Dt: 17.04.2026
- Position of Funds: Budgetary provision under UT CAPEX

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:

1. Publishing Date	18/04/2026 from 06:00-P.M
2. Download Date Start	20/04/2026 from 09:00-A.M
3. Tender Submission date Start	20/04/2026 from 09:00-A.M
4. Tender Submission date Ends	04/05/2026 from 04:00-P.M
5. Date of pre-bid meeting	22/04/2026 at 12:00 Noon in the office of Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar
6. Date of Opening (cover 1st) (Technical Cover)	05/05/2026 at 12:00 Noon
7. Date of Opening (cover 2nd) (Financial Cover)	Will be intimated online after completion of the evaluation of technical bid

Note: The Department shall not be responsible for any delay in the online submission of bids due to any reason whatsoever. Prospective bidders are advised to thoroughly read and understand the instructions and conditions provided in the NIT/SBD, prior to submitting their bids. Submission of the tender shall be deemed as confirmation that the bidder has read, understood, and accepted all terms and conditions stipulated therein.

NO: I&FCD/GBL/835-84 DPK-558-26 Executive Engineer
Dt: 18.04.2026 DT: 20/04/2026 Irrigation and FC Division
Ganderbal

Tilak Ton Scripts Memorable Turnaround For Mumbai Indians

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Tilak Varma played a knock for the ages as his maiden IPL century turned the corner for Mumbai Indians with the five-time champions crushing Gujarat Titans by 99 runs here on Monday.

Spurred by skipper Hardik Pandya's 'hard talk' asking him to get a move-on during the strategic break after he scratched his way to 19 off 22 balls, Tilak changed gears in a flash to amass 82 off the next 23 deliveries and end on an unbeaten 101 off 45 balls.

Mumbai Indians' 199 for 5 was good enough as Jasprit Bumrah broke his wicket-less streak for five matches with a first-ball dismissal of Sai Sudharsan and GT never recovered from there to get all out for 100 in 15.5 overs.

The defeat also exposed the chinks in GT armoury, especially their fragile middle-order where they have carried two 'non performing assets' in Rahul Tewatia and M Shahrulkh Khan for the longest time.

Between them, they played 24 balls and scored only 25 runs and it is baffling to see head coach Ashish Nehra placing so much faith in the mediocre duo.

The win, after four straight defeats, took Mumbai Indians to seventh place in the points table, but more importantly, it improved their net run rate significantly (+0.067).

MI looked a different outfit till the 14th over when the second strategic time out was taken. Post that, Tilak did the unthinkable to give the total respectability, which looked improbable after the powerplay thanks to an intimidating first spell by Kagiso Rabada.

At the strategic time-out post 14th over, TV cameras caught skipper Pandya animatedly telling something to Tilak, who had



looked unconvincing till that point of time and was occasionally booed by the Motera crowd.

But after that break, one saw the Tilak that one has always known as he threw the kitchen sink at GT's fastest bowlers. Prasidh Krishna went for 19, and new pace sensation Ashok Sharma was toyed with for 26 runs.

Before Monday's innings, Tilak's poor form was one of the talking points as he managed only 43 in the previous five out-

ings. In all, he hit eight fours and seven sixes on the day, with a few over covers and some hit down the ground.

Pandya (15 off 16 balls) did push Tilak but hardly did anything of note himself in their 81-

run stand off only 38 balls. The last six overs yielded 96 runs, largely due to the ever inconsistent Prasidh Krishna (1/54 in 4 overs), who gave away 41 in his final two overs.

This was after Rabada (3/33 in 4 overs) got the ball to seam at a quick clip as he blew the top-order away inside powerplay to ensure that it would be another day of below par total for the five-time champions who had been looking completely out of sorts until then.

Rabada, rated as one of the legends of his generation alongside Pat Cummins, Bumrah and Josh Hazlewood, bowled the 'Test match length', faster, fuller and attacked the stumps to get three wickets.

Danish Malewar (2) understood the gulf between domestic and world class bowling as he couldn't get his bat down on time and Rabada rapped him on the pads plumb in front. Quinton de Kock (13 off 11 balls) played a rasping square cut when Rabada gave him width but a short ball saw

him balloon a pull shot, which the bowler collected gleefully.

The best dismissal certainly was the one where he set up out-of-form India T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav (15 off 10 balls). Surya had clipped Rabada for a six into the cow corner and straight drove him for a boundary.

Rabada came back with a banger -- a 152 kmph delivery pitched up on fourth stump line that cut back sharply. There was no visible footwork and the bat was away from the body as it breached through the defence to peg the stump back.

Naman Dhir, who scored a fifty in the last game, resurrected the innings. He used Ashok Sharma's pace to get a couple of boundaries and kept pushing the scoreboard although he never dominated the attack.

It was only post the strategic break that Tilak suddenly changed gears and played the most memorable knock of his IPL career. It was the fastest hundred for Mumbai Indians in the history of the tournament.

Leading Indian Golfers For Liv-Backed International Series In Singapore

Press Trust of India

SINGAPORE: Several leading Indian golfers, including Sachin Baisoya, Karandeep Kochhar, and Gaganjeet Bhullar, will be in contention at the Singapore Open -- part of the International Series on the Asian Tour -- scheduled to be held here from April 23 to 26.

The USD2 million Singapore Open, set to be played at the Serapong course at Sentosa Golf Club, is the second event of this year's LIV-backed International Series, following last month's tournament in Japan.

The seven-strong Indian contingent features five players who have tasted success on the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) Tour over the past eight months. Among them are Pukhraj Singh Gill, winner of the 2025 IGPL Order of Merit, and Sachin Baisoya, who claimed the IGPL Invitational



Mauritius hosted by Leander Paes.

Also in the field is Karandeep Kochhar, who won the ADT Tour in Egypt in 2025, while Gaganjeet Bhullar remains the most successful Indian on the Asian Tour with 11 titles.

Bhullar, 37, is widely regarded as a legend of Indian golf. His 11 Asian Tour titles place him third on the Tour's all-time wins list.

Stalwart Jeev Milkha Singh, one of India's all-time greats with six Asian Tour victories, four Japan Tour titles, and four DP World Tour wins, will also tee it up in Singapore. He notably won the Singapore Open in 2008 at the same course.

In December, Jeev ended a long title drought by claiming the IGPL Invitational Colombo.

The Indian challenge will also include six-time Asian Tour winner, SSP Chawrasia, also a two-time Indian Open champion. Chawrasia's six wins include four on the DP World Tour.

Shiv Kapur, a former Asian Tour Rookie of the Year in 2005, is still going strong and has four wins in Asia and, like Jeev and Bhullar, he has also played the Majors.

Nahid Rana Takes Five Wickets As Bangladesh Beats New Zealand To Level ODI Series

AP

MIRPUR: Pace bowler Nahid Rana claimed 5-32 to help Bangladesh win the second ODI against New Zealand by six wickets and level the three-match series on Monday.

The second five-wicket haul in Nahid's brief career was instrumental in bowling out New Zealand for 198 in 48.4 overs, giving Bangladesh a strong chance to level the series.

Opener Tanzid Hasan then struck a fluent 58 ball 76 and Najmul Hossain Shanto made a patient 50 before retiring hurt, taking Bangladesh to the winning target of 199-4 with 87 balls remaining. New Zealand captain Tom Latham opted to bat first but his side struggled to deal with Nahid's express pace on a slow surface.

Opener Nick Kelly hit 83 off



102 balls, including 14 fours to register his maiden fifty-plus score and push the visitors close to the 200-mark.

However, he received little support from the rest of the batting lineup, with no other batter crossing 20. New Zealand began cautiously on a sluggish pitch where the ball frequently kept low, making Nahid made the early break-

through, clocking 144.7 kph to dismiss Henry Nicholls. He struck again in his next over to remove Will Young, before Latham edged one behind to wicketkeeper Litton Das, giving Soumya Sarkar his only wicket after returning to the side in place of Afif Hossain.

Despite Kelly's resistance, Nahid continued to rip through the middle order with pace and aggression.

Shoriful Islam eventually removed Kelly with a short-pitched delivery and later dismissed Blair Tickner to finish with 2-32.

Nahid completed his second ODI five-wicket haul by clean bowling Jayden Lennox for a duck. He nearly had a sixth when Will O'Rourke survived a review but Taskin Ahmed dismissed him to wrap up the innings.

Pacer Nathan Smith removed Saif Hasan and O'Rourke dismissed Soumya in single-digit figures, leaving Bangladesh at 21-2 in the fourth over, giving New Zealand glimmer of hope.

Tanzid and Shanto then shattered that hope, adding 120-runs for the third wicket. Left-arm spinner Jayden Lennox broke through by sending back Tanzid and also removed Litton, who was playing his 100th ODI, for 7.

MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

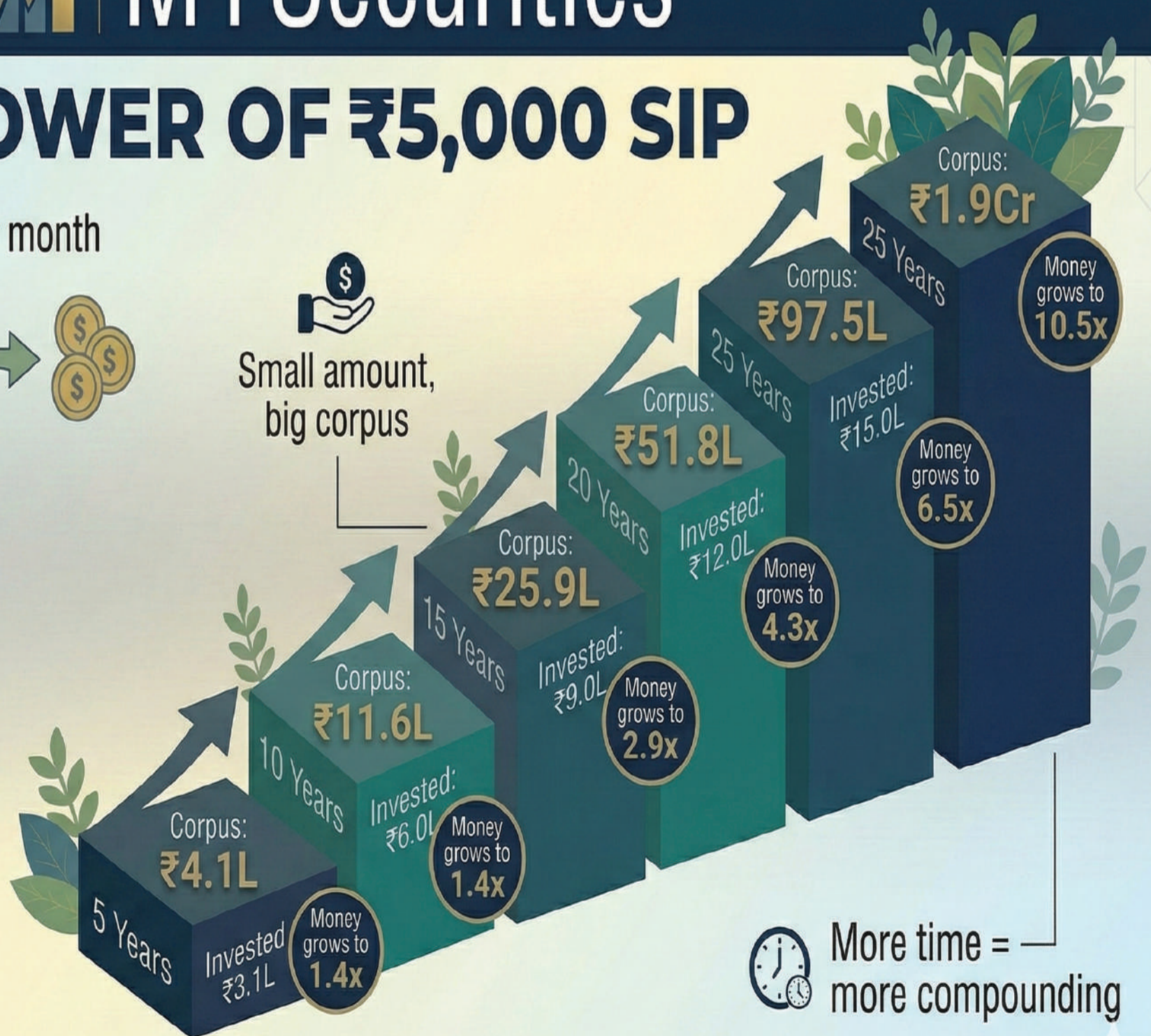
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



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.