

KO Classifieds

PLACE YOUR
AD TODAY!

*You can
do it all
here*

• PUBLIC NOTICES • NAME CHANGE • SALE/ PURCHASE • BIRTHDAY WISHES • OBITUARIES

ONE YEAR AFTER PAHALGAM ATTACK

Grief, Resolve & A Message On Terror

From Tributes To Tough Talk, India Signals Firm Stand Against Terror

Army Reiterates Resolve, Security Stepped Up Valley-wide



Observer News Service

Srinagar: One year after the Pahalgam terror attack, the nation mourned the victims and sent a firm message on terrorism as commemorations were held across the country and security was stepped up across Kashmir. Across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond, remembrance events and tributes marked

the day, reflecting a shared sense of loss over the killing of 26 people, mostly tourists, in the attack. The tragedy continues to weigh heavily on public memory, with many describing it as a lasting scar. Security was tightened across the Valley, particularly at tourist destinations, with additional deployment of police and paramilitary forces.

Authorities said measures have been strengthened to ensure safety, including verification systems for service providers and increased surveillance in vulnerable areas. On April 22, 2025, a dastardly terrorist attack ripped through the quaint Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam, killing 25 tourists and a local pony-ride operator. The brutal | [More on P6](#)

Operation Sindoore Continues: Army

Observer News Service

The Indian Army on Wednesday reaffirmed its steely resolve to fight against terrorism and said that, for acts against India, "the response is assured". On April 22 last year, terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, at Pahalgam in south Kashmir. The dastardly act had shaken the nation and drawn condemnation from governments and leaders across the world. In retaliation, India launched a military operation codenamed Operation Sindoore early on May 7 and decimated multiple pieces of terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). "For acts against India, the response is | [More on P6](#)

Pahalgam Draws Tourists, Rolls Out QR-Based Safety System

'10 Lakh Tourists Visit Pahalgam Since The Terror Attack'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A year after a deadly terror attack cast a shadow over Pahalgam, the famed meadows in south Kashmir are once again drawing crowds, with tourists returning in significant numbers and expressing confidence in the destination's safety. Often referred to as "Mini Switzerland," the resort in Anantnag district is



witnessing a steady buzz, with visitors saying they do not regret their decision to travel | [More on P6](#)

India Won't Bow To Terror: Prez, PM Reaffirm

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday led the nation in paying tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, asserting that India remains resolute and will not bow to terrorism. Marking the first anniversary of the attack, the President said the loss of innocent lives remains etched in the country's collective memory. She expressed condolences to the bereaved families and said such acts cannot deter India's commitment to peace and unity. "We remain resolute in our determination | [More on P6](#)

Won't Forget, Won't Forgive: LG Sinha

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday paid tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, asserting that India stands united against terrorism and remains committed to its

eradication from the region. Marking the first anniversary of the attack, Sinha said the nation will neither forget nor forgive the act, calling it a solemn vow. "We will not forget. We will not forgive. This is our solemn vow. India stands unified against | [More on P6](#)

Committed To Ensure It Never Happens Again: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the people of the Union Territory remain united against terrorism and resolute in ensuring that incidents like the

Pahalgam attack are never repeated. Marking the first anniversary of the attack, Omar said the day continues to weigh heavily on the people of Jammu and Kashmir, while reaffirming a collective commitment | [More on P6](#)

Dry Spell To Persist In J&K Till April-End

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness largely dry weather conditions till the end of April, with only brief and isolated spells of rain expected on select dates, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said on Wednesday. Director of the MeT Centre Srinagar, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said there is no forecast of any major weather activity across the Union Territory in the coming days. However, short spells of light rain and thundershowers may occur around April 24-25 and again on April 29-30. According to the forecast, April 22-23 will remain generally dry, though a few places may receive light | [More on P6](#)

Industrial Growth Driving J&K's Transformation: LG Sinha

Says Rs 200 Cr Eveready Plant to Boost Jobs, Growth

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated a new industrial unit of Eveready Industries India Limited in Samba, describing it as a landmark moment in the Union Territory's industrial transformation. The greenfield plant, set up with an investment of Rs 200 crore, is expected to generate significant employment, boost ancillary units and create opportunities for local youth and women, while contributing to the overall



economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Sinha said the establishment of the unit reflects growing investor confidence in the region and signals a shift

towards sustained industrial development. "Establishing this esteemed company's plant is a landmark moment for the entire Jammu and Kashmir. It signals readiness to embrace opportunity and reflects strong confidence in the immense potential of the Union Territory," he said. Highlighting the broader transformation, the Lieutenant Governor said the industrial push witnessed across Samba, Kathua, Jammu and parts of Kashmir marks the beginning of a new era. He noted that over the past five | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Districts Plan Air Raid Mock Drills

Night Blackouts Announced; Public Advisory Issued

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The district administrations across Kashmir have announced civil defence mock drills, including air raid simulations and brief night blackouts, as part of emergency preparedness measures. According to official notices, Kupwara will conduct the exercise on April 24, with a drill at 3:30 PM followed by a blackout from 8:00 PM to 8:10 PM. Anantnag will hold a similar exercise a day earlier,

on April 23, with identical timings for both the daytime drill and the evening blackout. Meanwhile, in Ganderbal district, the administration has finalised arrangements for a large-scale mock drill scheduled for Thursday. The exercise will simulate an air raid and district-wide blackout at Government Degree College (GDC) Ganderbal. Officials said multiple agencies, including the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), first response teams, medical units, | [More on P6](#)

Naming Leaders Doesn't Absolve Yasin Malik: NIA To HC

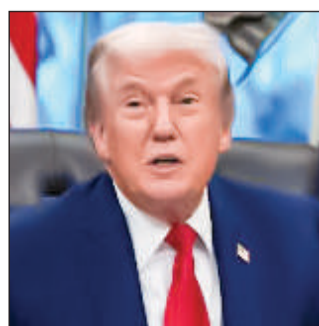
Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday told the Delhi High Court that taking names of senior politicians and bureaucrats does not absolve separatist leader Yasin Malik or negate his links with militants like Hafiz Saeed. The NIA filed a rejoinder to Malik's reply to its plea for enhancing his life sentence in a terror-funding case to death penalty and asserted that the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief was "well connected with multiple terrorist organizations and with supporters of the terrorist organization LeT" and that he dropped names of senior politicians, media personnel, foreign | [More on P6](#)

Trump Extends Iran Ceasefire Amid Threats, Reversals and Faltering Diplomacy

Trans Asia News

London: The US president, Donald Trump, has announced an indefinite extension of the fragile ceasefire with Iran, delaying a threatened military assault while urging Tehran to return to negotiations brokered by Pakistan. The decision, revealed late on Tuesday, marks the latest abrupt shift in Washington's position after a week of escalating rhetoric and contradictory signals. Only hours earlier, Trump had warned that "if there's no deal, the bombs will drop", insisting US forces were ready to launch a large-scale attack on



Iranian infrastructure. Instead, the White House now says it will hold off, citing appeals from Pakistan's leadership, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and army chief Asim Munir, who

are attempting to revive stalled talks in Islamabad. A ceasefire under strain The truce, originally announced on 7 April, followed weeks of intense confrontation that reportedly saw more than 100 waves of Iranian retaliatory strikes targeting US and allied positions across the Gulf. Strategic sites in countries including the UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia were hit, underscoring the regional scope of the conflict. Despite the pause in direct hostilities, tensions have continued to simmer. Washington has maintained a naval blockade of Iranian ports — a move Tehran has | [More on P6](#)

Unemployment Bites

Ex-Lab Technician Seeks Sweeper Job In Pulwama

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A man in south Kashmir's Pulwama district has applied for a sweeper's post at a primary health centre where he earlier worked as a lab technician, drawing attention to rising unemployment in the region. The case surfaced after Mohit Bhan, spokesperson of the Peoples Democratic Party, shared the man's application letter on Facebook, withholding his identity. In the letter addressed to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Awantipora, the applicant, a

resident of Beighpora village, said he had previously worked at the same facility as a lab technician. He stated that he had come to know about recruitment for sweeper posts on an out-sourced basis and requested that his case be considered, citing unemployment and the need for work. The letter did not mention the reason for leaving the earlier job. Reacting to the development, Bhan said the case reflects a deeper employment crisis, adding that the youth deserve dignity | [More on P6](#)

'GLR Record Lacks Probative Value'

HC Sets Aside Sonawar Eviction Order

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday quashed an eviction order issued by the Cantonment authorities against residents of Sonawar here, holding that disputed questions of land title cannot be decided through summary proceedings under the Public Premises Act. A bench of Justice M. A. Chowdhary, while allowing a petition filed by four persons, set aside the order dated 8 August 2022 passed by the Estates Officer, Cantonment

Board, Badami Bagh. The petitioners had challenged the eviction proceedings initiated under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971, asserting ownership and long-standing possession of land at Bonamsar, Sonawar Srinagar. They relied on revenue records, mutations, and a civil court decree to claim the land as proprietary. On the other hand, the Union of India and Cantonment authorities argued that the land formed part of Defence property recorded as | [More on P6](#)



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

'Sub-Optimal Diets Responsible For 4 Mn Ischaemic Heart Disease Deaths Globally In 2023'

Press Trust Of India

Less-than-optimal diets, such as one being low on whole grains or high on sodium, may have caused over four million deaths worldwide from ischaemic heart disease in 2023, according to an analysis.

Ischaemic heart disease, or coronary artery disease, is a condition in which flow of oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle is reduced because plaque build-up narrows coronary arteries.



Compared to 1990, the number of global diet-related ischaemic heart disease deaths increased by 41.59 per cent in 2023, the team found. However, the age-standardised death rate attributable to dietary risks decreased by nearly 44 per cent between 1990-2023, from 80.62 per 100,000 population to 45.22 per 100,000 population, suggesting population growth and health improvements, they said.

Further, the authors said that most regions showed a decline in ischaemic heart disease burden due to a less-than-optimal diet over time, except Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and South Asia.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Hameeda Begum W/o: Naseer Ahmad Tantry, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely R/o: Gund Brath D/o B: Aisha Naseer = 18-01-2013 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate Bomai

ASF ENTERPRISES

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

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

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Reyaz Ahmad Bhat S/o: Gh. Mohideen Bhat R/o: Bomai, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Farhan Ahmad Bhat = 01-01-2012 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate Bomai

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Rifat Riyaz D/o: Riyaz Ahmad Reshi R/o: Yembrzalwari, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Rifat Riyaz: 22-05-2006 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate Bomai

NOTICE

It is hereby notified that in my Driving Licence bearing No. JK-01 2001 0000252, my particulars have been incorrectly recorded as follows:

Name: Ashaq Hussain Shah
 Father's Name: Jawhar Ahmad Shah
 Date of Birth: 11.02.1983
 Blood Group: A+

Whereas, the correct and actual particulars are as under:
 Name: Ashak Hussain Shah
 Father's Name: Jawahir Ahmad Shah
 Date of Birth: 11.03.1983
 Blood Group: A-

Therefore, the necessary corrections are required to be made in the official records. If any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit the same to the RTO Kashmir within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Ashak Hussain Shah
 S/o Jawahir Ahmad Shah
 R/o Urpash, Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as RAHIL ABASS while his actual name is RAHIL ABASS DAR. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM within a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SHAHEEN HUSSAIN DAR
 F/o RAHIL ABASS DAR
 R/o Jawalpora BUDGAM CELL. 9596167724

mcb

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER GUREZ

AUCTION NOTICE

In compliance with the order issued by the District Development Commissioner Bandipora vide No.: DDC/Bpr/Education/2025-26/6992-97 dated: 24-11-2025 and the communication of the Chief Education Officer Bandipora (Chairman Auction Committee) vide No.: CEO/Bpr/Plg/Auction/2025-26/2089-94 dated: 24-03-2026, sealed short-term tenders are hereby invited by and on behalf of the Chairman Auction Committee (Chief Education Officer Bandipora) from eligible agencies/tenders for the auction of an old dilapidated school building of Higher Secondary School Izmarg, Bagtore, District Bandipora.

The minimum reserve price, as assessed by the Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Division Gurez of District Bandipora, is: 2,46,045/- (Rupees Two Lacs Forty Six Thousand & Forty Five Only)

Submission of Tenders
 The CDR of 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) pledged in favour of the Zonal Education Officer Gurez must reach the office of the undersigned by or before the due date. The standing auction shall be conducted as per details below.

Auction Details

- Date of Auction: 04 / 05 / 2026
- Time: 11:00 AM
- Venue: Higher Secondary School Izmarg, Bagtore.
- Minimum Bid Amount: 2,46,045/-
- Mode of Auction: Open Bidding (On-the-spot Standing Auction)
- Dismantling Responsibility: Successful bidder

Terms & Conditions

- Site Inspection: Interested bidders must inspect the site/material beforehand.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Bidders must carry valid ID proof and deposit an EMD of 10,000/- in the form of CDR on or before 1st of May 2026 in the office of Zonal Education Officer Gurez. No CDR shall be accepted after the last date.
- Dismantling & Clearance: The successful bidder shall be responsible for dismantling, lifting, and clearing the site at their own cost and risk within the time specified by the Auction Committee.
- Auction Committee Presence: The auction will be conducted in the presence of:
 - Chief Education Officer Bandipora - Chairman
 - Tehsildar Tulail - Member
 - Zonal Education Officer Gurez - Member
 - Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gurez - Member
 - Principal, HSS Izmarg, Bagtore - Member
- Payment Terms: The successful bidder must deposit the full bid amount immediately or within 24- hours of the conclusion of the auction.
- Right of Authority: The auctioning authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason. Contact: For any queries, contact the undersigned during office hours.

Zonal Education Officer
Gurez

No.: ZEO/G/PLG/2026-27/Auction/
DIPK-643/26 Dated: 22-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER S/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF RATHER R/O KREERI GUND BUDGAM CHADOORA am applying for contractor Card-Dee class in the office of the JKPCD chief office Bemina Srinagar anybody having any objection may please contact above mentioned department within a period of seven days after that No objection will be entertained

ab

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, SUB OFFICE GANDERBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have Passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-4/HSE-class 10/11/12th under Roll No-124018121-Session-Annual Regular-Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the Parents-against my & my Mother's Name 25 HAAMEEM MANZOOR & NUSRAT instead of HAMEEM MANZOOR BHAT & NUSRAT JAHAN Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, sub office Ganderbal, if any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Board Office Ganderbal within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars be recorded as under Name- HAMEEM MANZOOR BHAT- Father name MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT- Mother name -NUSRAT JAHAN ARA Date of birth -10-04-2007 Tenth of April Two Thousand Seven Residence -DUDERHAMA GANDERBAL- Mobile no -8825083869.

ab

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420170033223 issued in favour of SARWAR ALI MIR Parentage ALI MOHAMMAD MIR

Whereas an application has been received by one SARWAR ALI MIR Parentage ALI MOHAMMAD MIR wherein he claimed that the Father's Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as GH ALI MIR Which needs to be changed as ALI MOHAMMAD MIR.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) SHANI BHAT to (New name) SHANI RASHID. In future I will be known as (new Name) SHANI RASHID.

If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

SHANI RASHID W/O SHOWKAT AHMAD BHAT mcb
 R/O SIR SYED ABAD WANABAL RAWALPORA SRINAGAR.

Office Of The Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam

Tele fax 01951.260.276 Pin Code 193401

Notice for the General Public

It is hereby Notified That Applicant Namely Shaheel Ahmad Malla S/o Ghalam Ahmad Mallo R/o, Narbal district Budgam had applied for the issuance of birth certificate of his son namely Mohsin Shaheel S/o Shaheel Ahmad Malla The applicant intends to Register the D.O.B. of his son/daughter as per school record /vaccination card as (25-08-2021) If Anybody is having any objection/claim regarding the same he/she may approach the office of under signed with in a period of seven days (07) days from the date of publication of this notice or else any such claims /objections shell not be entertained.

Dated 21/04/2026

Executive Magistrate
1st class NARBAL

fko

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Palhallan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) Pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of Date of Birth certificate Certificate in favour of Mushtaq Ah Wani S/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Wani R/o Palhallan Ghat WITH DOB 29-05-1982

Objections, if any, regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objections are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Birth certificate as per rules in vogue.

Naib Tehsildar Palhallan
Palhallan

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, Sameer Maqbool S/o: Mohd Maqbool Wani R/o: Shuhama Ganderbal have applied for enlistment as Class D civil Contractor. 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 JKSPDC Bemina Kashmir or Secretary Technical PWD (R&B), Civil Secretariat Jammu within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

On my Driving License, bearing DL No. * JK-0520080007464 * name is mentioned as SHAHNAZ AHMAD SHEIKH, but my actual name is SHAHNAZ AHMAD, and my father's Name is mentioned as BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH, but my actual name is BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH. I now want to correct it. If you have any objections, please contact the ARTO Office, Sopote, within 7 days. After that, no objection will be accepted.

Name: SHAHNAZ AHMAD
 S/O: BASHIR AHMAD SHEIKH ab
 R/O RABAN SOPOTE, BARAMULA JK 9596144487
 Pincode: 193201

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sajad Ahmad Ganaie F/o Hafsa Sajad R/o Chanderseer, Tehsil Pattan, Post Office Kreeri, District Baramulla, do hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter has been inadvertently recorded as Hafsa Sajad in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 6390-0570-8185, which is incorrect. That her actual and correct name is Hafsa Sajad. Now, I intend to correct her name from Hafsa Sajad to Hafsa Sajad in official records. If anybody has any objection to this change, they may file the same before the concerned authority within the stipulated period.

FKO

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that a case for issuance of Date of Birth Certificate has been submitted in favour of Yasoob Hasnain yattoo s/o Muhammad Maqbool yattoo, R/o Sultanpora, with Date of Birth recorded as 24-09-2013.

Objections, if any, regarding the particulars of the applicant may be submitted in writing before the Office of the Naib Tehsildar Palhallan within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objections are received within the stipulated period, the case shall be processed as per rules.

Naib Tehsildar
Palhallan

FKO

Public Notice

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th, 11th) 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 Akhtar 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

fko

ازنیات یومی زمینگیر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب انعام یوسف ولد محمد یوسف شیخ ساکنہ برات کلاں برادر اجرائی لیگل ہیئر بچن خود

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرش لیگل ہیئر سرفیکٹیف پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کی کہن اختر عیان مورخہ 2026-03-24 کو فوت ہوئی ہے اور متوفیہ کے دارا ثاں جائزہ میں ہے

محمد یوسف شیخ ولد محمد شیخ مزدوری 56 سال والد متوفیہ حسن آرا زویہ محمد یوسف گھریلو کام 52 سال والدہ- شہید احمد ولد محمد یوسف پروڈیف ملازم 30 سال برادر متوفیہ انعام یوسف ولد محمد یوسف زیر تعلیم 21 سال --

اس کے علاوہ ادرو کوئی افراد کوئی نہیں ہے سرفیکٹیف زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غمزی یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حد آکو دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزر سے معاد کوئی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
FKO

ازنیات یومی زمینگیر

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب محمد شیخ ولد عبدال کریم شیخ ساکنہ سیلو برادر اجرائی لیگل ہیئر بچن خود

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان صدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرش لیگل ہیئر سرفیکٹیف پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کی والدہ مورخہ 2024-05-20 کو فوت ہوئی ہے اور متوفیہ کے دارا ثاں جائزہ میں ہے

محمد شیخ ولد عبدال کریم شیخ سرکاری ملازم 52 سال پسر متوفیہ زاہدہ بیگم بنت عبدال کریم گھریلو کام 38 سال دختر- شادی شدہ رقیہ بیگم بنت عبدال کریم 20 سال --- نصرت بیگم بنت عبدال کریم 25 سال -- شادی شدہ

اس کے علاوہ ادرو کوئی افراد کوئی نہیں ہے سرفیکٹیف زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غمزی یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مندرجہ اعتراض عدالت حد آکو دفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزر سے معاد کوئی مندرجہ اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
FKO

NGT Examines Felling of 234 Trees at Amar Singh College

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken on record a response from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) stating that no permissions for tree cutting or removal have been issued within its jurisdiction over the past five years, in connection with a case related to alleged large-scale felling at Amar Singh College.

The matter is being heard by the Principal Bench of the tribunal in Original Application No. 360/2024, initiated suo motu based on a news report.

A bench comprising Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Chairperson, along with Expert Members Dr A. Senthil Vel and Dr Afroz Ahmad, noted during the proceedings that the reply filed by the concerned respondents had been submitted and directed the registry to examine and place it on record.

The tribunal has listed the matter for further hearing on July 2, 2026.

According to the affidavit submitted before the tribunal, the SMC stated that its Tree Authority has

not granted permission for cutting, felling, or removal of trees from the financial year 2020-21 to 2024-25.

The corporation said the Tree Authority, constituted under the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, has not approved any such requests from individuals or government departments during this period.

The affidavit was sworn by SMC Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb, who affirmed that the information provided was based on official records.

The civic body also informed the tribunal that it has proposed a formal mechanism for processing applications related to tree felling, including a prescribed format and fee structure, which has been submitted to the government for approval.

It said the system will be implemented once clearance is received.

The case stems from reports alleging that 234 trees were cut within the premises of Amar Singh College, triggering public concern and calls for accountability. (KNT)



39 Underweight LPG Cylinders Seized in Bemina

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Acting on multiple consumer complaints, the Legal Metrology Department on Tuesday seized at least 39 underweight domestic LPG cylinders during an inspection in Bemina, officials said.

The enforcement drive was carried out by a team led by Deputy Controller Enforcement Mohammad Muzaffar Wani after residents reported discrepancies in the quantity of gas being supplied in cylinders.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Wani said that as per norms, each domestic LPG cylinder must contain 14.2 kilograms of gas, excluding the weight of the cylinder. "During the inspection, we found shortages ranging from 700 grams to 800 grams, and in some cases exceeding one kilogram," he said.

He added that no weighing scale was available at the distribution point, depriving consumers of their right to

Under the Consumer Protection Act, every consumer has the right to get the cylinder weighed before accepting it. This provision was not being followed,"

verify the weight of cylinders at the time of delivery. "Under the Consumer Protection Act, every consumer has the right to get the cylinder weighed before accepting it. This provision was not being followed," Wani said.

Officials said violations were de-

tected under Section 36 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. The department has also initiated proceedings under the Legal Metrology Act as well as the Essential Commodities Act.

The cylinders were found to belong to Bharat Gas Company Limited. Officials said that plans to initiate action and formally register a case against the company have been set in motion, and the process is underway. "The necessary legal action has been initiated and will take some time as per procedure," Wani said.

He further stated that all standard operating procedures (SOPs) were followed during the inspection. "Strict action will be taken to ensure such violations are not repeated and that consumers are not short-changed," he added.

Meanwhile, locals have welcomed the move, terming it a timely intervention to safeguard consumer rights and ensure accountability in the distribution of essential commodities.

Paramedical Students at GMC Protest Fee Structure

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Discontent is brewing among students pursuing B.Sc Allied Health Care (Paramedical) courses at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, who have raised serious concerns over what they describe as an "unjustified and disproportionate" fee structure. The students have formally appealed to the Principal Dean, urging a comprehensive review and rationalisation of the fees.

As per KNO, they staged a peaceful protest on Wednesday, alleging that they are being charged nearly Rs 65,000 for their three-year course, significantly higher than the approximately Rs 25,000 charged from B.Sc Nursing students and around Rs 60,000 for the entire five-year MBBS programme at the same institution. Such disparity is difficult to justify, especially given the shorter duration and comparatively limited facilities available to paramedical students, they said.

Students pointed to stark contrasts with other institutions, such as Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), where the total fee for similar paramedical courses is reportedly around Rs 18,500. "Charging nearly

three times the fee without providing adequate facilities raises serious questions about fairness and transparency," they said.

Apart from the financial burden, students also flagged the lack of basic infrastructure. They said that the paramedical department lacks a dedicated building, permanent faculty, proper administrative systems, hostel accommodation, and sports facilities. "Despite the absence of essential infrastructure and institutional support, we are being asked to pay an excessively high fee, which appears unreasonable," they said.

Many students, particularly those from economically weaker sections, said the current fee structure is placing immense financial strain on their families. They have requested the administration to reconsider the fee framework in line with other courses within the institution and comparable colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, AIMS Vice President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan termed the fee disparity as "unfair" and urged authorities to intervene promptly. "Education, especially in the healthcare sector, must remain accessible and affordable. Any policy that places an excessive financial burden on students needs urgent reconsideration," he said.

Director A&T Kashmir Reviews Treasury Operations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director, Accounts and Treasuries (A&T) Kashmir, Imtiaz Ahmad Wani on Wednesday visited the Additional Treasury at Tankipora in Srinagar to review its functioning and assess the efficiency of service delivery mechanisms.

During the visit, the Director laid emphasis on ensuring citizen-friendly and streamlined services, particularly in the disbursement of pensions. He stressed the need for hassle-free payment systems through treasuries and banks, underlining that timely and smooth pension delivery remains a critical public service.

Wani inspected key facilities at the treasury, including accessibility, seating arrangements for

visitors, and the overall ease of availing services. He also interacted with pensioners present on the premises to gather first-hand feedback on the functioning of the office and the challenges faced by them.

Reviewing the internal functioning, the Director assessed aspects of financial governance, implementation of IT interventions, computerisation of records, and staff attendance. He highlighted the importance of maintaining transparency, discipline, and accountability in day-to-day operations.

Reiterating the role of technology in enhancing efficiency, Wani called for optimal utilisation of digital systems to further strengthen public service delivery and ensure greater convenience for citizens.

Minor Fire Incident at Lal Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A minor fire incident was reported in the Lal Chowk area of Srinagar on Wednesday, partially damaging a readymade garment shop near Lala Rukh Hotel in the city centre.

Officials said smoke was first noticed emanating from the shop without visible flames, prompting immediate alert and response from fire services.

Fire tenders rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control in

time, preventing the fire from spreading to adjacent structures in the busy market area. Authorities said the incident was contained swiftly and no major loss was reported.

According to KNT, the cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Office of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Sgr.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,

e-Mail: xen-phemds@jk.gov.in

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No. JSMD5/e-NIT-02 of 04/2026 Dated 21.04.2026

On behalf of the Hon'ble LG of J&K UT, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division, Srinagar, invites tenders by e-tendering mode on **percentage rate basis** from experienced and reputed Electrical licensed /registered Contractors/firms with established Workshops for "Annual Framework/Rate Contract of Electrical Works at all schemes of City left & City Right Sub- Division of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Srinagar. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' -Tender fee, Earnest Money Deposit, fulfillment of qualification criteria and acceptance to commercial terms and conditions, technical specifications and price schedule of the tender document. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Qty.	Est Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (Rs)	Earnest money (Rs)	Bid Validity	Duration of contract
1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Annual maintenance frame-work contract of Electrical works at various Lift Stations of PHE Mechanical City Right & City left Sub-Division	As per requirement	20.00	250.00	20000/-	180 days	For financial year 2026-27

Major Head of Account = 2215 (M&R)

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

1.	Date of publishing on tender portal	22-04-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22-04-2026, 10.00 A.M to 12-05-2026, 4.00 P.M
3.	Period of clarification	From 22-04-2026, 10.00 A.M to 12-05-2026, 4.00 P.M
4.	Period of uploading of bids	From 22-04-2026, 10.00 A.M to 12-05-2026, 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	13-05-2026 at 02.00 P.M in the office of the Executive Engineer JS PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar.
6.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after Technical Bid evaluation is completed.

Each tender should be accompanied with an Earnest Money in the form of CDR/ FDR/ IBG as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division Srinagar. In absence of Earnest Money, the Tenders shall be rejected out rightly. Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

Note: All the interested parties are requested to visit the sites before bidding for proper assessment of the subject work.

No: JSMD5/CC/212-16
DIPK-670/26
Date:22/04/2026

sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical
Division Srinagar

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


AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
05 Zil-Qadah
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4: 22
ZUHR	12:31
ASR	5: 16
Magrib	7:11
ISHA	8: 38

This Day In History

- 1229- Christian king Ferdinand III of Castile conquers the Arab-held town of Cáceres as part of the reconquest of Almoahad Spain
- 1344- Order of the Garter founded by English King Edward III, the most senior knighthood in the UK with just 24 living members plus the monarch (or 1348)
- 1348- The Order of Garter founded by English King Edward III, Britain's highest civic or military honor
- 1504- King Maximilian I routes troops to Bavaria
- 1563- Cornerstone laid for El Escorial, new Spanish royal palace commissioned by Philip II, by architect Juan Bautista de Toledo
- 1633- Sweden & Protestant German monarchy form Union of Heilbronn
- 1660- Treaty of Oliwa is established between Sweden and Poland
- 1661- English king Charles II crowned in London
- 1662- Connecticut chartered as an English colony
- 1702- Queen Anne is crowned at Westminster Abbey, London
- 1789- President-elect George Washington moves into Franklin House, New York, first official resident of a US President
- 1795- William Hastings acquitted in England of high treason
- 1798- Dutch emperor accepts new Constitution
- 1826- Missolonghi, Greece captured by Turks
- 1827- Irish mathematician and astronomer William Rowan Hamilton presents his Theory of Systems of Rays
- 1849- Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky and members of the Petrashevsky Circle are arrested in St. Petersburg
- 1861- Arkansas troops seize Fort Smith on the Arkansas River
- 1867- Queen Victoria & Napoleon III turn down plans for a channel tunnel
- 1908- Denmark, Germany, Britain, France, Netherlands & Sweden sign North Sea accord
- 1918- Dover Patrol overthrows Germany U-boat in East Sea
- 1918- Raid of Zeebrugge; the British navy attempts to block German vessels from leaving port by sinking obsolete ships - mostly fails
- 1920- Turkish Grand National Assembly 1st meets in Ankara, under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk denounces the government of Sultan Mehmed VI and announces a temporary constitution
- 1921- Charles Paddock runs world record 100m (10.4 secs)
- 1923- Inauguration ceremonies take place at Gdynia, Poland to mark its new status as a temporary military port and fishers' shelter
- 1924- British Empire Exhibition opens at Wembley, London
- 1925 - Having badly defeated Spain and driven her out of Spanish Morocco, the native Rif, led by Abdel-Krim, turn on the French in French Morocco
- 1941 - Greece Army surrenders to German Nazis RAF brings Greek king George II to Egypt
- 1942 - 4-day allied bombing on Rostock begins
- 1943 - British & US offensive directed at Tunis and Bizerta
- 1949 - Netherlands annexes Elten & Tudderren
- 1965 - Launch of 1st Soviet communications satellite becomes 1st in-flight casualty
- 1971 - Soyuz 10 launched; cosmonauts become 1st in Salyut 1 space station
- 1972 - Apollo 16 astronauts explore Moon surface
- 1978 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1984 - AIDS-virus identified as HTLV-III (acquired immune deficiency syndrome)
- 1992 - McDonald's opens its 1st fast-food restaurant in China
- 1993 - Eritrea votes to secede from Ethiopia
- 1997 - Ormaria massacre in Algeria: 42 villagers are killed.
- 2003 - Beijing closes all schools for two weeks because of the SARS virus.
- 2012 - 38,000 London Marathon entrants have their home and email contacts published in a data protection breach
- 2013 - 28 people are killed and 70 are injured during clashes between police and Sunni Muslims in Hawija, Iraq

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmiobserver.net

Homes Going Hollow

Thirteen lakh people are trapped in addiction. The real question is what comes after the posters come down.



KO VIEW

Kashmir Growing Apart

As urban pressure, digital life, and economic stress transform Srinagar, Kashmir's traditional neighbourhood bonds face a deep social decline.

People in Srinagar once measured community through everyday interaction. A wedding belonged to an entire mohalla. Funeral gatherings filled lanes before dawn. Children moved freely between homes, watched by grandparents sitting outside bakeries and local shops.

Every neighbourhood functioned like a shared social system where people knew who needed help, who fell sick, and who struggled financially.

That culture now feels increasingly distant.

Modern Kashmir has entered a phase of rapid urban expansion without a matching social vision. Concrete colonies continue to replace older neighbourhoods built around shared courtyards and open community spaces. Multi-storey homes rise where orchards and playgrounds once stood. Families living wall to wall often remain strangers.

Data reflects this social shift clearly. Government figures and the Jammu and Kashmir Economic Survey show sustained migration toward Srinagar during the past two decades. Education, healthcare, and employment opportunities continue to pull people toward the city. Population density has increased sharply in several urban pockets, especially on Srinagar's outskirts. Physical proximity, however, rarely produces social familiarity anymore.

Digital culture has accelerated this change. Internet access has connected Kashmiri youth to global conversations, entertainment, and opportunity. Phones also consume hours once spent in neighbourhood interaction. Local parks, reading rooms, and informal meeting spaces attract fewer young people today. Social media creates visibility without real companionship. Many residents know online influencers better than the families living next door.

Economic pressure has further narrowed community life. Jammu and Kashmir continues to record high unemployment among educated youth, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey. Families increasingly organize daily life around coaching centers, competitive exams, healthcare bills, and job insecurity. Social interaction often revolves around obligation rather than familiarity.

Mental health experts in Kashmir frequently connect rising emotional stress among young people to isolation and shrinking community support. Government figures presented in the Assembly in recent years showed increasing numbers linked to anxiety, depression, and substance abuse. Earlier generations processed hardship collectively through neighbourhood interaction, religious gatherings, and shared routines. Present-day urban life encourages privacy and withdrawal.

Public spaces have also changed dramatically. Wetlands and open grounds continue to face encroachment while commercial construction expands rapidly. Weddings now move into banquet halls managed by event companies. Community preparation, shared cooking, and collective participation have gradually faded from daily life.

Decades of discord also influenced social behaviour in profound ways. Families developed habits of caution and emotional restraint during years of uncertainty. Those habits remain visible even as the social environment changes.

Kashmir still possesses the foundations for rebuilding community life. Volunteer groups, mohalla libraries, seasonal food drives, and citizen campaigns continue to attract public participation. Schools, planners, religious institutions, and local administrations now face a larger responsibility than infrastructure development alone.

A society survives through human connection as much as roads, hospitals, and buildings. Kashmir's future depends heavily on whether its neighbourhoods become living communities again rather than clusters of isolated homes.



Dr. Harjeet Singh

Something is hollowed out in the homes of Kashmir. Parents know it before they name it. A son stops coming home for dinner, and a daughter borrows money she cannot explain. The furniture stays the same, the tea still brews at four, but the center of the house has gone missing.

This is the texture of Jammu and Kashmir's drug crisis, and it is far more intimate than any statistic can capture.

The numbers, however, demand attention.

Parliament was told this year that over thirteen lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir use addictive substances, with opioids leading every category. More than thirty-two thousand drug-related cases have been registered since 2022.

These figures show a social reality that has moved well beyond isolated pockets of misuse. The crisis now touches villages outside Srinagar, small towns in Jammu, and families who never imagined they would need to learn the vocabulary of addiction.

What makes this moment especially dangerous is the changing face of the user.

The age of first exposure is dropping. Injectable opioids are replacing milder substances, making dependence deeper and recovery harder.

At the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Srinagar, doctors see five to ten new cases every single day, many of them young people who started with prescription tablets and slid into heroin.

The shift is clinical and irreversible. Once a person moves to intravenous use, the body rewires itself around the needle. Hepatitis C rates among users have climbed past seventy percent. Over thirty-three thousand syringes change hands daily in the val-

ley. This is a public health emergency touted as a law-and-order problem.

The forces driving young Kashmiris toward drugs are layered and specific.

Economic stagnation sits at the core. Educated youth face a job market that offers little beyond despair. The pressure to earn is social as much as financial, tied to marriage prospects and household standing.

When aspiration meets a closed door, the psychological toll is real and measurable. Stress and uncertainty accumulate without outlets. Mental health services remain thin on the ground, and the stigma around seeking help remains thick.

Under these conditions, a substance that promises temporary relief can look like a rational choice.

It never is, but the logic is understandable.

Supply networks have grown sophisticated alongside this demand. Organized channels ensure a consistent flow of narcotics into both urban and rural areas, reducing the friction of experimentation and accelerating the path to addiction.

Drones now carry contraband across borders. Pharmaceutical drugs, harder to detect and easier to obtain, are flooding the market alongside heroin.

The government has acknowledged the scale of trafficking and installed surveillance grids with AI-based detection along border areas. Still, accessibility outpaces enforcement.

As long as the substance remains within arm's reach, awareness campaigns will fight an uphill battle.

The consequences spill outward with grim predictability.

Families drain savings, school dropout rates climb, and minor criminal activity rises as users scramble for cash. Trust inside households frays, sometimes permanently. The health system absorbs the damage through rising infections, overdose cases, and psychiatric emergencies.

What begins as a private struggle becomes a collective wound.

The administration has responded with the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, a nationwide campaign extended to ev-



The administration has responded with the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, a nationwide campaign extended to every district in Jammu and Kashmir. The program has reached over ninety lakh people in the region, including more than six lakh youth, through awareness drives and community events. De-addiction centers supported by the central government treated over thirty-five thousand beneficiaries in Jammu and Kashmir during the last fiscal year alone. These are serious investments, and the intent is visible.

ery district in Jammu and Kashmir. The program has reached over ninety lakh people in the region, including more than six lakh youth, through awareness drives and community events.

De-addiction centers supported by the central government treated over thirty-five thousand beneficiaries in Jammu and Kashmir during the last fiscal year alone.

These are serious investments, and the intent is visible.

But the persistence of the crisis raises a harder question: Why does the problem keep growing despite the spending?

One answer lies in the gap between demand reduction and supply control. Posters and school assemblies can shift attitudes, but they cannot remove the dealer from the street corner.

Another answer sits inside the rehabilitation system itself. Facilities have expanded, but many lack trained counsellors, long-term psychological support, and robust follow-up care.

Recovery is a years-long process of social reintegration. Without employment opportunities, family counselling, and community acceptance, relapse becomes the default outcome.

Johann Hari's observation holds here: the opposite of addiction is connection, and connection requires more than a thirty-day detox program.

Implementation gaps compound the problem. Well-designed policies lose force when monitoring is uneven and coordination between agencies falters. Social stigma remains perhaps the most stubborn barrier.

Addiction is still widely viewed as moral failure rather than a treatable health condition. This perception discourages families from seeking early help and isolates those suffering.

Experts like Vikram Patel have argued that mental health services must be embedded into community care rather than siloed in specialist hospitals. Bruce Alexander's research suggests that addiction recedes when people are placed in supportive, purposeful environments.

Both insights point toward the same conclusion: the response must be structural rather than symbolic.

Beyond campaigns, Kashmir needs mental health professionals in every district hospital, vocational training tied to actual jobs, and community networks that catch young people before they fall.

The valley needs supply chains dismantled through sustained enforcement and cross-border intelligence sharing. It needs families educated about early warning signs and rehabilitation pathways, so that shame gives way to action.

The drug crisis in Kashmir is complex, but it is solvable.

The foundation has been laid by programs like the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. What comes next must be deeper, sharper, and sustained.

This is about safeguarding a generation. The sooner the response matches the scale of the damage, the better the chance of turning back a trend that has already taken too much.

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

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

False Fortune

Kashmiri teenagers increasingly mistake risky trading apps for genuine careers and success.

Irshad Mushtaq

Parents in Kashmir worry about drugs, violence and unemployment. Another danger now shadow nearly every home. A smartphone screen glows past midnight while teenagers jump between online games, crypto charts and forex apps that promise quick money with almost no effort.

Social media feeds fuel the obsession. Influencers wave screenshots of profits and speak like financial experts after one lucky trade. Teenagers watch these videos and believe adulthood begins with a trading app instead of education or skill. A phone slowly becomes casino, classroom and companion all at once.

A 16-year-old boy in Srinagar begins with online battle games before moving into forex trading through a friend's account. He sleeps after 2 a.m., struggles through school hours and spends entire afternoons checking currency prices instead of opening textbooks. Similar stories now echo through Baramulla, Kupwara and Anantnag.

High-leverage trading creates the perfect trap for young minds. A child deposits 1,000 and suddenly controls huge sums through borrowed exposure. Small market swings wipe out savings within minutes. Global industry disclosures repeatedly show that most retail traders lose money in forex and CFD markets. Teenage users enter these apps with excitement and curiosity while the platforms operate with algorithms, psychological triggers and endless notifications designed to keep users clicking.

Offshore apps deepen the mess. Many sit outside Indian regulation and flood Instagram, Telegram and YouTube with fake success stories. Families who lose savings rarely find refunds or meaningful complaint systems.

Teachers now describe exhausted students struggling through basic lessons after nights spent tracking crypto prices. Parents often discover the problem after money disappears from bank accounts or trust collapses inside the home.

Kashmir's future depends on educated, skilled and focused young people. A society that hands its children glowing screens instead of direction should never feel surprised when confusion replaces ambition.

— The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir's Drug Crisis Is Now a Social Collapse

Kashmiri youth once dreamed of engineering degrees, government posts, and thriving orchards. Today, many chase heroin through alleyways and abandoned buildings.

The shift happened fast, and it happened in clear view. Roughly, 1.3 million people throughout Jammu and Kashmir now live inside the orbit of drug abuse. Among them, heroin grips between fifty-four thousand and seventy-one thousand users, each burning through more than eighty-eight thousand rupees monthly.

Parents sell land to feed addictions, and siblings leave school to watch brothers vanish.

This crisis drains family savings, fractures households, and empties futures that once seemed certain. The valley faces an emergency hiding in plain sight.

The youngest victims sting the hardest. Around 1.68 lakh addicts fall between

ten and seventeen years old. Studies show initiation begins at eleven, an age meant for cricket, mathematics, and mountain air. Children now learn to tie tourniquets and share needles.

Kashmir sees over thirty-three thousand syringes discarded daily, each one marking a young life diverted toward destruction.

The causes stack up relentlessly: stubborn unemployment, deep mental health wounds, and drug networks operating with brazen ease inside communities already scarred by strife. A generation grows up knowing trauma as a constant companion.

The government responded with scale and speed. Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan arrived as the nation's largest anti-drug mission, with Kashmir marked as a priority zone. A hundred-day "Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir" campaign launched this year, bringing mass marches, awareness drives, traf-

ficker crackdowns, and an aggressive rehab push.

Five districts now host de-addiction centers, alongside twenty addiction treatment facilities and one integrated rehabilitation hub. Doctors and social workers staff these rooms around the clock. Officials frame addiction as a public health emergency. Treatment, counseling, and mental health support take precedence over handcuffs.

The outreach numbers speak clearly. Over four lakh thirty-five thousand individuals engaged directly with the campaign. Awareness drives reached more than ninety lakh people. De-addiction centers admit new patients each morning. Schools have become the front-line, with teachers and counselors spotting danger before it hardens into dependence. Community leaders open mosques and town halls for honest discussion.

These steps mark a shift from whispered shame toward open confrontation.

Buildings and brochures only go so far. Every rupee spent on rehabilitation saves a family. Every teacher trained as a counselor reaches a child before a dealer does. Kashmir possesses the infrastructure now. It needs sustained political will, community vigilance, and economic opportunity to match it.

Jobs must follow treatment, and mental health care must reach village levels.

Young Kashmiris deserve futures framed in classrooms, offices, workshops, and orchards, rather than abandoned to needles and alleyways.

The syringes can disappear, and the children can return home, but that future will not arrive on its own. It begins with quick action now.

Sincerely,

Celine Kaya
celinek2621@gmail.com

Warehouses of Marks

Kashmiri children live under pressure that schools, parents, and society keep calling success.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

A few years ago, I travelled with a friend from Kashmir and his son, who had just finished his matriculation exams.

The boy sat silently in the back seat while the adults discussed his future with the seriousness usually reserved for state policy.

I offered the standard advice that educated adults pass down like family heirlooms: aim high, score above 90%, secure your future.

Before the boy could absorb the burden hidden inside those words, his father interrupted with a laugh. "We only need pass marks," he said. "Where will we keep so many marks?"

Everyone laughed, I did too.

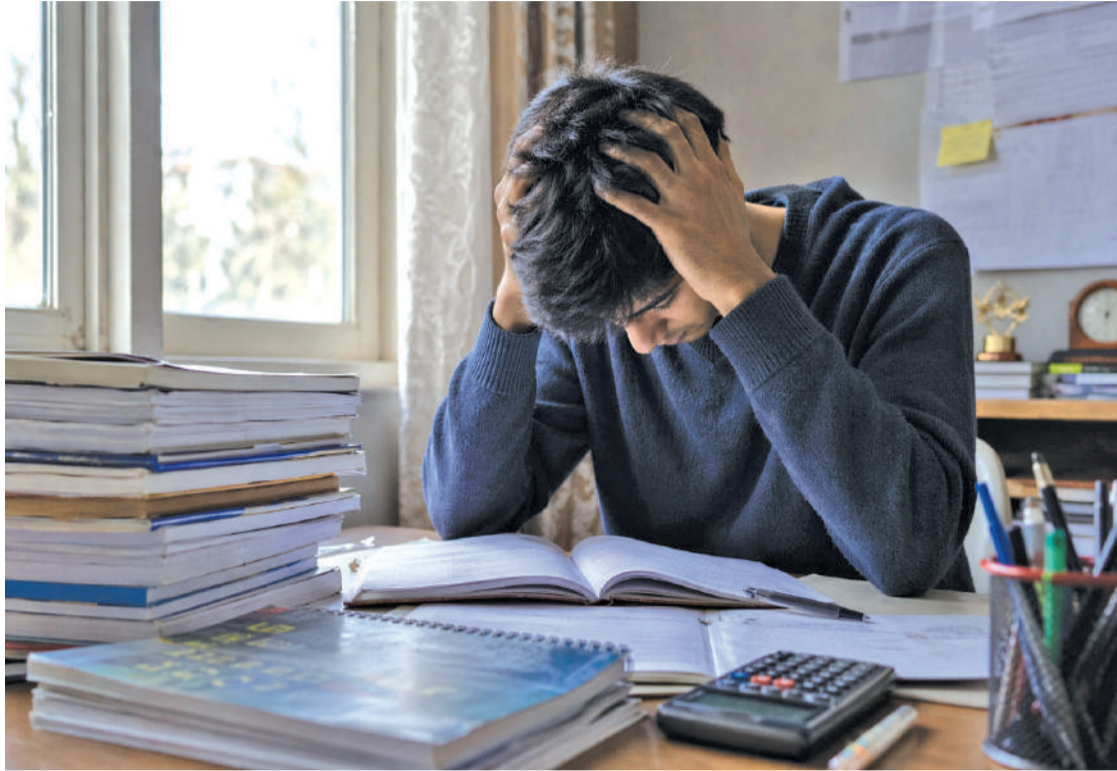
Years later, that sentence still resonates because it contained more wisdom than many education conferences and policy speeches.

My friend understood something that much of our society refuses to accept: Young minds need breathing space more than relentless measurement.

Kashmir today suffers from an obsession with marks that has grown into a social fever. Families discuss percentages with the intensity once reserved for harvests, weddings, or politics. Students walk into exam halls carrying expectations far heavier than schoolbags. Report cards decide family moods, neighbourly comparisons, and sometimes even a child's sense of worth.

This pressure enters homes early and settles deep.

Children learn very quickly that affection grows warmer with higher percentages. Discussions during result season sound like financial



audits. A difference of five marks acquires the emotional force of a public verdict.

During my years in agriculture college, I watched students break down over grades with frightening regularity. A score that failed to match expectations could reduce bright, capable young people to tears. Many believed a few missing marks had closed the doors to a meaningful future.

Such thinking thrives because society keeps repeating the same story: marks equal intelligence, security, and success.

Life tells a very different story. Kashmiri students belong to a generation raised under extraordinary strain. Floods disrupted childhoods, political unrest interrupted classrooms, and internet shutdowns fractured study routines.

The pandemic locked children indoors during crucial years of emotional growth. Violence continued to cast its shadow over ordinary life. Drug addiction entered neighbourhoods that once considered such stories distant and unimaginable.

Many children spent years without stable routines, playgrounds, social interaction, or emotional support. Several learned to live with uncertainty before they learned algebra. Schools reopened, examinations resumed, and society immediately demanded flawless performance, as though these children had travelled through ordinary times.

That disconnect reveals a deep failure in how we think about education.

Last year, a young neighbour passed away. During a talk filled with grief, his brother spoke about the constant tension inside the household. His children had scored around 70% in higher secondary examinations after securing above 95% in matriculation.

Those marks, respectable by any reasonable standard, became a source of anxiety and disappointment.

Imagine the emotional atmosphere inside a home where 70% produces fear instead of pride. Such pressure slowly drains confidence from children who already carry enough strain.

Schools rarely help ease this bur-

den. Many institutions function like factories producing examination results rather than places nurturing human beings. Teachers finish syllabi, tests measure memory, and administrators announce percentages like cricket scores. Emotional health rarely enters the discussion.

I once attended a meeting where a school analysed poor examination results with great seriousness. Teachers discussed student weakness, parental involvement, and study discipline. I asked a simple question: how often does the school evaluate its own teachers?

The answer arrived immediately that teachers faced evaluation during recruitment and little beyond that.

I suggested regular reviews, classroom observations, and occasional surprise evaluations. Silence followed. My question drifted through the room like an unwelcome guest.

This resistance exposes another uncomfortable truth.

Kashmir's education system demands constant accountability from children while offering very little accountability upward. Stu-

MANY CHILDREN SPENT YEARS WITHOUT STABLE ROUTINES, PLAYGROUNDS, SOCIAL INTERACTION, OR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT. Several learned to live with uncertainty before they learned algebra. Schools reopened, examinations resumed, and society immediately demanded flawless performance, as though these children had travelled through ordinary times.

den's face endless scrutiny, but teachers, administrators, coaching centres, and policymakers operate with far softer standards.

The consequences appear everywhere.

I have met toppers who struggle with practical tasks requiring basic reasoning and application. Their marks looked spectacular on paper. Their confidence collapsed outside structured examinations. Education had trained them to reproduce information rather than think independently.

Employers understand this reality very well. Degrees often impress during interviews and disappear afterward. Workplaces reward competence, curiosity, communication, and adaptability. Real life rarely asks anyone to reproduce textbook paragraphs within three hours.

Parents understand this privately, though many continue feeding the same destructive cycle publicly. Fear drives much of this behaviour.

Families worry about shrinking opportunities, unemployment, and competition. Marks appear safe because numbers give certainty in an uncertain world.

Children pay the emotional cost of that fear.

Kashmir needs a different engagement about education. Grand reforms sound impressive in speeches, though smaller corrections often produce deeper change. Schools could begin with weekly conversations focused entirely on student wellbeing. Teachers could receive training that helps them

recognise anxiety, burnout, and emotional exhaustion. Parents could stop treating report cards like final judgments on character and potential.

Children need encouragement that strengthens confidence rather than pressure that slowly crushes it.

Success deserves a broader definition too.

A successful student thinks clearly, adapts during difficulty, solves practical problems, communicates honestly, and keeps moving through disappointment without collapsing internally.

Such qualities build meaningful lives far more reliably than inflated percentages.

My friend understood this years ago inside a moving car with one perfectly timed joke: "Where will we keep so many marks?"

Kashmir now faces that question at a much larger scale.

We continue producing mountains of marks while young minds struggle for space to breathe. Schools keep filling warehouses with percentages while children search for confidence, stability, and purpose.

A society that measures children only through numbers eventually forgets how to recognise human beings.

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

The Woman Who Chased Kites

One mother spent a lifetime searching the sky for a vanished son.



SHE LIKED SITTING ON THE OLD STONE STEPS OVERLOOKING THE CITY. Smoke rose from the rooftops below while the river cut through the middle like dull silver. Kites nested along the broken walls of the old fort above the market. Mouji hated those birds more deeply than anything on earth.



Jamsheed Rasool

The graveyard sat on the edge of Haapatnagar where the earth sloped toward the fields. Men stood in small groups beneath the pale afternoon sun. Women gathered near the poplars, their shawls pulled close against the cold wind that drifted down from the hills.

People rested there in neat rows, each family near its own kind. Labourers slept beside labourers. Landowners lay under larger stones. Schoolteachers, shopkeepers, clerks, and old men who once settled village disputes all shared the same silent ground. A few graves belonged to boys who had vanished during troubled years and returned only as stories whispered in kitchens after dark.

Mouji was lowered into the earth before sunset.

The cleric spoke in a low voice. He praised her patience and spoke of mercy waiting in the next world. Men answered softly. Soil struck the wooden planks below with a dull sound.

Then the murmurs began. "She never recovered after the boy vanished in thin air."

"Mind went wandering after that."

"Poor soul spent her whole life waiting."

People spoke with the calm ease of villagers who had seen too much and learned to fold sorrow into daily talk.

Beyond the gathering stood a few spooks beside the gate. They watched the burial without expression and smoked in silence.

Mouji's house stood at the far end of the village behind a rusted gate that leaned sideways in the mud. Wild grass had swallowed the courtyard long ago. Nettles climbed through broken walls. A walnut tree bent low over the roofless rooms where rain gathered in shallow pools during spring.

One wall still stood. Against it she had built herself a narrow shelter from mud, scraps of tin, and torn plastic sheets. Newspapers lined the floor beneath an old tarpaulin darkened by smoke and years of weather.

She lived there alone. Children feared the place after dusk. Women crossed themselves softly whenever they passed by. Men lowered their voices near the gate.

Every afternoon Mouji watched the sky.

Black-eared kites drifted above the village in slow circles. Their wings barely moved. They floated over rooftops, fields, and the riverbank where rubbish collected after rain.

Whenever she saw them, she reached for the old axe beside her wall.

She would run into the courtyard and throw it upward with all the strength left in her thin arms. The axe spun once before falling back into the weeds. The birds always climbed higher.

After some years the village stopped asking why.

Three months after her son became a mystery, someone took her to a doctor in the city. She sat inside a white room with her shawl wrapped tightly around her shoulders.

"He still comes to me at night," she said. "Sometimes I hear him asking for water."

The doctor spoke gently and wrote things on a pad.

She never returned.

Years passed, and she visited every man who claimed he could speak to saints, spirits, or the dead. She carried eggs, rice, milk, and the last of her savings from one shrine to another. Some promised news, others told her to wait through one more winter.

She waited through many.

People grew used to seeing her walking barefoot along the roads with a framed



photograph hanging from her neck. The boy in the picture had thick curls and light eyes that startled strangers.

"See?" she would say, touching her own eyes. "Same colour."

Then she would smile for a moment before tears overtook her face.

Every year she made the same journey to the shrine above Shantnagar. She took a sheep with her each time, and washed the animal carefully before dawn and tied little bells around its neck.

The road climbed slowly toward the hill. Mouji stopped often to rest, though she always reached the shrine before evening prayers.

She liked sitting on the old stone steps overlooking the city. Smoke rose from the rooftops below while the river cut through the middle like dull silver. Kites nested along the broken walls of the old fort above the market.

Mouji hated those birds more deeply than anything on earth.

"You thieves," she shouted at the circling kites one evening while hurriedly shoeing chicks into their coops. "You always take the young first."

Her voice echoed against the stones while the birds lifted into the evening air.

Sometimes bodies surfaced in the river after heavy rain. Villagers gathered silently along the banks whenever word spread downstream.

vanished with terrible clarity. Men had entered the house after midnight. Boots struck the wooden stairs. Bright light moved wildly through the rooms. Her son had been dragged from the attic with rope around his wrists.

She remembered shouting his name while neighbours stayed hidden behind dark windows.

She remembered seeing him one last time beside a waiting wagon before the vehicle disappeared into the night road leading out of the village.

After that came years made of waiting. One morning near the end of autumn she ran from her shelter screaming at the sky.

"Too many of them," she cried. "They keep circling."

Villagers saw her stumbling toward the hills beyond the walnut groves. A shepherd later found her at the bottom of a narrow ravine where stones cut through dry grass.

He gave her water from a steel bottle and tried lifting her head.

Her lips moved once before the breath left her body.

"The kites are coming," she whispered. That evening the graveyard emptied slowly after prayers. Darkness spread through the meadow while cold wind stirred the grass between the stones.

Then the birds arrived.

A flock of black-eared kites dropped from the sky and settled near the fresh mound of earth. One larger bird stepped closer than the others. It stood beside her grave in silence while the last light faded from the hills.

For a long time the bird did not move.

Then it opened its wings and rose into the darkening sky, the others following behind it until they vanished over the sleeping village.

— The author is a senior scribe and short story writer from Srinagar with more than 15 years of experience in media, education, and corporate sectors. His work, published in various outlets, focuses on the human stories and changing dynamics of his homeland. He can be reached at jamsheed85@gmail.com.

12th Class Summer Zone Results Declared, 89.79% Students Declared Qualified

Agencies

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) today declared the results of Annual/Regular 12th Class (Summer Zone) areas of Jammu division.

As per the official statistics, a total of 39,309 students appeared in the examination (20,376 boys and 18,933 girls),

out of which 35,299 (18,117 boys and 17,182 girls) successfully qualified, registering an overall pass percentage of 89.79%, a notable improvement than the previous year pass percentage of 75.95.

The performance of girls has once again surpassed that of boys. The pass percentage among girls stands at 90.75%, compared to 88.91% among

boys. The examination had commenced on February 23, 2026 and the JKBOSE had established 336 examination centres in the Jammu Division for the smooth conduct of examination.

Interestingly, Government Schools have also performed well by showing a Pass percentage of 87.82%.

Congratulating students on

remarkable performance in 12th class examination, Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said that these remarkable results demonstrate a strong commitment to quality education and competitive performance. "The improved results compared to previous years, indicate the positive impact of ongoing educational reforms

initiated by the Government, enhanced teaching methodologies, and better student support systems", she stated.

The Minister also noted with appreciation that girls outperformed boys, achieving a pass percentage of 90.75% compared to 88.91% among boys.

Commending the efforts of the teaching community, she said that their dedication, especially

in ensuring continuity of learning, has played a crucial role in achieving these outcomes.

Encouraging students who could not qualify, the Minister urged them to remain determined and make use of continuing opportunities, assuring them of continued institutional support.

"The results are not just numbers but a testament to the hard work of our students and the

collective efforts of educators and families. We remain committed to further improving the quality of education and providing every student with the opportunity to succeed," she added.

The Minister extended her best wishes to all successful candidates for their future endeavours and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in their chosen fields.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Grief, Resolve

attack carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists led to an exodus of tourists from Jammu and Kashmir, prompting the authorities to shut nearly 50 tourist spots before reopening some of those in a phased manner after a security audit.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the country in remembrance, asserting that India would never bow to terrorism. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said the country would neither forget the victims nor forgive those responsible.

Operation Sindoore

assured. Justice will be served. Always. #SindooreAnniversary #JusticeEndures #NationFirst," the army posted on X.

The post also carried a digital poster bearing an image portraying three armed soldiers in uniform standing next to each other against a backdrop that depicted a large red circle, with the caption "OPERATION SINDOOR CONTINUES...".

The poster also carried a reference to Operation Mahadev that was launched soon after the attack to hunt and neutralise perpetrators.

The Indian Army on Tuesday had said, "When boundaries of humanity are crossed, the response is decisive."

After launching the decisive military operation, the Indian Army, in a post on X at 1:51 am on May 7, 2025, had said, "#PahalgamTerrorAttack Justice is Served. Jai Hind!" along with a digital poster that carried the name 'OPERATION SINDOOR'.

Pakistan later also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoore.

The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

Top Indian military leaders in the past year have asserted multiple times that Operation Sindoore "still continues", and the country's military preparedness must remain at a "very high" level, round-the-clock and throughout the year.

Pahalgam Draws

despite last year's incident.

Authorities have rolled out a series of new security measures aimed at strengthening tourist safety and restoring confidence. Among the key steps is the background verification of all service providers and vendors, including ponywallahs, before they are allowed to interact with tourists.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, officials have introduced a QR code-based identification system for tourism service providers in Pahalgam. The system enables tourists and authorities to easily verify the identity and credentials of registered operators.

"Each service provider has been properly vetted by police, registered by the authorities and issued a unique QR code carrying their details," an official said.

The QR codes include information such as name, parentage, address, mobile number, Aadhaar details, registration number, operational route, and police verification status. The move is aimed at ensuring transparency and preventing unauthorised individuals from engaging with visitors.

Notably, Tourist arrivals in Pahalgam have witnessed a steady revival over the past year, following the return of normalcy after last year's terror attack.

Official data indicates that nearly 10 lakh visitors have travelled to the scenic resort since April 2025.

According to figures from the J&K Tourism Department, a total of 9,93,596 tourists visited Pahalgam between April 2025 and April 2026. The tourist flow had sharply declined in the immediate aftermath of the 22 April attack, which claimed the lives of 25 tourists and a local youth, Adil Hussain Shah. In May 2025, only 15,302 tourists visited Pahalgam—the lowest monthly figure recorded during the period. However, arrivals picked up steadily in the following months.

Month-wise footfall (April 2025 – April 2026): April 2025: 2,04,289; May 2025: 15,302; June 2025: 1,08,117; July 2025: 32,163; August 2025: 93,366; September 2025: 48,919; October 2025: 50,777; November 2025: 35,263; December 2025: 68,919; January 2026: 80,421; February 2026: 67,471; March 2026: 85,741; and April 2026 (till date): 1,02,848.

As per official figures, 9,638 foreign tourists also visited Pahalgam following last year's terror attack. These visitors were from countries including the UAE, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia.

A total of 40,60,909 tourists visited Pahalgam from 2023 to April 2026. Of these, 14,54,269 visited in 2023, 12,65,925 in 2024, 10,04,234 in 2025, and 3,36,481 in 2026 (up to 20 April). Regarding foreign tourist arrivals, 15,061 visited in 2023, 14,483 in 2024, 9,090 in 2025, and 4,486 till April 2026.

Meanwhile, security has also been reviewed at the highest level. During a recent meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir, Inspector General of Police V K Birdi directed officials to further strengthen arrangements around vulnerable installations, including major tourist destinations.

The review meeting, attended by senior officers from the police, CRPF, BSF, Traffic Police, Railways, and SDRF, focused on finalising security plans for upcoming events and the ongoing tourist season in the Valley.

Officials say the combined measures are part of a broader effort to ensure a safe and secure environment for visitors while sustaining the revival of tourism in the region.

With improved safeguards in place and tourist confidence returning, Pahalgam appears to be steadily moving past the shadow of last year's attack.

India Won't Bow

to defeat terrorism everywhere in all its forms," she said in a post on X.

Prime Minister Modi also remembered the victims, saying they would never be forgotten. Extending his thoughts to the families, he said the nation stands united in grief and resolve. "India will never bow to any form of terror. The heinous designs of terrorists will never succeed," he said.

Rajnath Singh calls attack cowardly. Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid tribute to the victims, describing it as a "cowardly" act that claimed innocent lives.

In a post on social media, he said: "Remembering and paying my heartfelt tributes to the innocent people who lost their lives in the cowardly terror attack at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on 22 April 2025. We share the enduring pain of their loved ones and families. We will never forget those wounds inflicted on our nation."

Singh added that India has faced decades of cross-border terrorism, but its response has now become "firm, decisive and unwavering".

He said the country's actions have demonstrated that any attempt to harm citizens or disrupt national unity will be met with "strength and clarity".

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday remembered those killed in the attack, and said India will continue its zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and those who harbour it.

In a message posted on X, the home minister said, "The grief and pain of losing our people still remain in the heart of every Indian".

"Terrorism is the greatest enemy of humanity, against which we must stand united to fight and defeat. India will continue its zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and those who harbour it," he said.

On April 22 last year, terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba carried out a deadly attack in Pahalgam, killing 26 people, mostly tourists from across the country.

The perpetrators were later tracked down and eliminated in a July 28 encounter, code-named Operation Mahadev, in the Dachigam-Harwan forest belt on the outskirts of Srinagar.

In response to the attack, Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoore on May 7, carrying out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The operation targeted multiple sites, including headquarters and training centres linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

A year on, the anniversary was marked by remembrance and a reaffirmation of resolve, with the country's top leadership underlining a continued, uncompromising stance against terrorism.

Won't Forget,

terrorism. We pledge unwavering commitment and resolute determination to eradicate terrorism from the soil of Jammu and Kashmir," he said in a message.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to the victims, saying their memory continues to endure. "Humble tributes to the innocent souls who lost their lives in the gruesome terror attack in Pahalgam on this day in 2025. Their memory endures indelibly in our hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with their families," he added.

Committed To

to peace and security. "One year on, we remain united against terror and violence. We remain resolute in our desire to rid J&K of suffering and innocent deaths. We remain committed to doing everything to ensure it never happens again," he said in a post on X.

He also expressed solidarity with the families of the victims, saying their loss continues to be felt. "We remain in eternal solidarity with the families who lost their loved ones in that cowardly attack. May the souls of the victims rest in peace," he added.

On April 22 last year, terrorists linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba carried out a deadly attack in Pahalgam, killing 25 tourists and a local pony-ride operator.

The chief minister said preventing a repeat of such a tragedy remains a top priority, stressing the need for coordinated efforts between the elected government, the Centre and law enforcement agencies. "We must do everything possible to ensure such incidents never happen again," he said.

Responding to a question on Pakistan in the aftermath of Operation Sindoore, Omar said such assessments are best left to those with access to intelligence inputs. However, he asserted that all possible measures would be taken to prevent any such attempts. "Even if such intentions exist, we will not allow them

to succeed," he said.

Referring to the broader impact of the attack, Omar said it continues to weigh heavily on the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly due to its effect on tourism. While acknowledging some impact compared to last year, he expressed optimism about the current season.

"We expect a good number of visitors to come to Jammu and Kashmir, whether for Vaishno Devi, the Amarnath Yatra or general tourism," he said, urging pilgrims to participate in the upcoming annual yatra.

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to begin on July 3 and conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan, and will be conducted via both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes.

Kashmir Districts

NCC cadets and traffic police, will participate in the drill.

Officials said the exercises are aimed at familiarising residents with emergency response protocols and evaluating preparedness at both the administrative and public levels.

Authorities have advised residents to strictly adhere to guidelines during the blackout period. This includes switching off all lights and sources of illumination such as inverters, solar lights, mobile flashlights and vehicle lights immediately after the siren sounds. Residents have also been asked to draw curtains or cover windows to prevent any light from escaping.

Special care has been advised for elderly persons, children and those with health conditions to minimise distress during the exercise.

The administrations have clarified that essential and emergency services will remain operational throughout the drill. Reiterating that the exercise is purely a mock drill, officials urged the public not to panic and to cooperate for its smooth conduct.

Naming Leaders

delegates and bureaucrats to gain popularity and draw public sympathy.

The NIA stated that Malik cannot be permitted to "revisit" the matter when the charges against him have already culminated into his conviction and ample opportunity was given to him to raise objections.

A bench of justices Navin Chawla and Ravidner Dudgeja took the NIA's rejoinder on record and listed the agency's appeal for hearing on July 21.

The bench also told Malik, who was virtually appearing from Tihar jail, that a copy of the rejoinder would be supplied to him through the jail authorities.

In his reply filed to the NIA's appeal, Malik had earlier said that he spent nearly three decades as a key figure in a state-sanctioned "backchannel" mechanism, working with a succession of prime ministers, intelligence chiefs, and even business tycoons to foster peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

In an 85-page affidavit, Malik shared details about his journey – "from his school days to links with terrorists and meetings with political leaders.

"The convict himself has admitted that he was the commander-in-chief of JKLF. Rest of the matters (in the reply) related to taking names of senior politicians, media personnel, foreign delegates and bureaucrats is only for the sake of gaining popularity and to draw sympathy of the public and has no bearing with the merit of the instant case. It is most respectfully submitted that the mere mention of names of senior politicians and senior bureaucrats does not negate the fact that the convicted accused had linkages with militant Hafiz Saeed and other militants," the NIA said in its rejoinder.

"Yasin Malik has admitted that he was the commander-in-chief of JKLF and he has himself admitted the fact that he was having connection with Sayeed Salauddin, chief of Hizbul-Mujahideen," it added.

The NIA, in the rejoinder, also took exception to Malik calling himself a "good sacrificial goat", stating that such statements were unfair to the judicial process.

Asserting that the case against Malik was based on evidence and not hearsay or "emotional narrations", the NIA said there was material demonstrating that he was in "contact with the top leadership of Pakistan, including the Prime Minister, the President, senators of the Pakistani Senate, and the chief ministers of all provinces, and was using such contacts to propagate narratives against India and to further the secessionist agenda in Jammu & Kashmir".

The agency further said Malik's averments on the plight of Kashmiri Pandits during the 1990s and his sympathy towards them was entirely irrelevant to the instant case.

Similarly, his narratives concerning deceased militant Burhan Wani, his encounter by law enforcement agencies and the subsequent disturbances in law and order was also entirely immaterial, the agency added.

A trial court in Delhi awarded Malik life sentence on May 24, 2022, after holding him guilty of various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The NIA filed an appeal in 2023 in the high court seeking enhancement of his life term to the maximum punishment of death penalty.

In its plea before the high court for enhancement of sentence to death penalty, the NIA said if such "dreaded terrorists" are not given

capital punishment on account of pleading guilty, there would be complete erosion of the sentencing policy and the terrorists would have a way out to avoid capital punishment.

A life sentence, the NIA asserted, is not commensurate with the crime committed by terrorists when the nation and families of soldiers have suffered loss of lives and the trial court's conclusion that Malik's crimes did not fall within the category of the "rarest of the rare cases" for grant of death penalty is "ex-facie legally flawed and completely unsustainable".

In the reply, Malik said "being a scapegoat in politics isn't a new thing, it's a kind of a new normal but being a sacrificial goat is something which goes beyond the shard of high handedness of morality, if at all politics had one".

Industrial Growth

years, industrial development has gone beyond mere economic figures to become a key driver of structural change.

Sinha attributed the progress to the leadership of Narendra Modi, saying the changing investment climate reflects sustained efforts at the national level. "A new destiny has been written for Jammu and Kashmir, and the vision of a prosperous Union Territory is steadily becoming a reality," he said.

Sharing data on investment trends, the Lieutenant Governor said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a sharp rise in industrial investments since the launch of the new industrial policy in 2021. In the financial year 2025–26 alone, the Union Territory attracted investments worth Rs 5,824 crore, significantly higher than pre-2021 levels. He added that several large-scale units, including projects exceeding Rs 500 crore, are either operational or nearing completion.

He also highlighted the growth in the startup ecosystem, noting that the number of startups has risen sharply from 69 in 2020 to over 1,300 in 2025–26, creating new employment avenues for young people.

In a strong message, Sinha said the inauguration of industrial units sends a signal about the direction in which Jammu and Kashmir is moving. "While our neighbour continues to run factories of terror, India is building factories of progress and success. This is a clear declaration that we will continue to move forward on the path of development with renewed vigour," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to the victims of last year's Pahalgam terror attack, recalling the sacrifices and reaffirming the administration's commitment to peace and progress.

Officials said the Eveready facility will have an annual production capacity of hundreds of millions of batteries, strengthening domestic manufacturing and contributing to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

Senior officials, including representatives from the Industries and Commerce Department, district administration and company leadership, were present at the inauguration ceremony.

The project is expected to further accelerate industrial growth in the Jammu region, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging destination for investment and manufacturing.

Dry Spell To

rain towards late afternoon. On April 24–25, the weather is expected to turn partly to generally cloudy, with scattered to many areas likely to experience brief spells of light rain or thundershowers. These may be accompanied by gusty winds, particularly during late afternoon and evening hours.

The weather is expected to improve again on April 26, with mostly dry conditions prevailing, although isolated areas could see brief light rain in the afternoon. April 27–28 is likely to remain largely dry across the region.

Towards the end of the month, from April 29 to May 2, the MeT has forecast generally cloudy conditions with brief spells of light rain or thundershowers at a few places, mainly during late afternoon hours.

HC Sets Aside

B-4 land in the General Land Register (GLR), alleging that the petitioners were unauthorized occupants.

The Court noted that both sides had raised competing claims over the land, identified differently in revenue and defence records, thereby involving complex and bona fide disputes of title.

The Court held that summary eviction proceedings cannot be used where title is seriously disputed.

It also underscored that a registered sale deed carries a strong presumption of validity unless rebutted with cogent evidence, while entries in the GLR do not override revenue records prepared after due process.

"In respect of a registered sale deed the well settled proposition of law lays down that a registered sale deed carries a formidable presumption of validity and genuineness and that the burden of proof to displace this presumption rests heavily upon the challenger, requiring material particulars and cogent evidence to demonstrate that the deed was never intended to operate as a bona fide transfer of title."

"The General Land Register (GLR) is not prepared after issuing any notification calling for the objections from the interested persons, as

in a case relating to the provisions of the Land Revenue Act and the Record of Rights in Land Regulations," the court said, adding, "There is no wide publicity given and none is heard before making such entries in the General Land Register (GLR). Where a record is prepared by a public servant and such record affects the persons who have no opportunity to object to the same, such record does not carry any probative value."

The principles of natural justice, the court said, are required to be complied with by the public servants in the matter of preparation of any documents, which may have a tendency of adversely affecting the rights of the private citizens.

"Only such documents prepared after due notice and hearing of all the concerned shall be deemed to be made by a public servant in the discharge of his official duty within the meaning of Section 35 of the Indian Evidence Act." The General Land Register (GLR), the court said, as such, cannot be said to be prepared and maintained in respect of the rights in or over the land.

Ex-Lab Technician

in work and not desperation.

The development comes amid official data presented in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on March 31, which put the Union Territory's unemployment rate at 6.7 per cent, nearly double the national average of 3.5 per cent.

Trump Extends Iran

condemned as an "act of war".

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, said the blockade made meaningful negotiations impossible. "Iran knows how to resist bullying," he wrote, signalling that Tehran would not engage under coercion.

That stance casts doubt over whether renewed talks in Islamabad can proceed, even with the ceasefire extension.

Confusion and contradictions in Washington The extension also highlights growing questions about coherence within the Trump administration's Iran policy. Over recent days, the president has alternated between predicting an imminent agreement and threatening overwhelming force.

On Friday, Trump suggested a deal was likely within days. By Monday, he ruled out extending the ceasefire. By Tuesday morning, he warned of renewed bombing. By evening, he had reversed course.

Further uncertainty emerged with the cancellation of a planned visit by vice-president JD Vance to Islamabad, a move that had been seen as a sign of US commitment to the mediation effort.

Trump has claimed internal divisions within Iran are slowing progress, but that assertion has been disputed. Reporting from Tehran, Al Jazeera correspondent Ali Hashem said the leadership appeared "very unified", particularly since the assassination of former supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

Mounting military and political pressure Behind the diplomatic manoeuvring lies mounting strain on US military resources. According to a report by The Hill, citing analysis from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the scale of the campaign – dubbed "Operation Epic Fury" – has significantly depleted American missile stockpiles.

The report found that nearly half of Patriot interceptor reserves have been used, alongside more than half of THAAD systems and substantial portions of other precision munitions.

Such figures raise questions about Washington's capacity to sustain a prolonged conflict, potentially adding urgency to diplomatic efforts.

Tehran's scepticism

Iranian officials have reacted cautiously, if not outright sceptically, to the ceasefire extension. Senior figures have warned that the move could be a tactical ploy rather than a genuine step towards peace.

An adviser to parliamentary speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf told Reuters the announcement might be intended to mask preparations for a surprise attack, insisting that "the losing side cannot dictate terms".

Qalibaf himself has reiterated that Iran will not negotiate "under the shadow of threats", while lawmakers are reportedly advancing new measures concerning control of the Strait of Hormuz – a signal of Tehran's readiness to escalate if necessary.

Fragile prospects for talks

In Islamabad, authorities have taken extraordinary measures to facilitate negotiations. Government offices are closed, schools shut and security tightened across the capital's diplomatic district as mediators attempt to create conditions for dialogue.

Officials involved in the process say there are still areas of potential agreement, but acknowledge that the gap between US and Iranian positions remains wide. Washington has rejected Tehran's preconditions, while Iran refuses to engage amid ongoing military pressure.

Pakistan is now working to identify points of convergence, hoping that Trump's temporary softening might prompt reciprocal flexibility from Tehran.

Whether that hope materialises remains uncertain. With the blockade continuing and threats of renewed strikes still on the table, the extended ceasefire may offer time – but not yet a clear path – to de-escalation.

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK ANNIVERSARY

LoC Areas Witness Anti-Terror Protests

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Students and residents in several areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday held marches, protests and tribute events to mark the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack, expressing solidarity with the victims and calling for peace.

According to the details available with KNO, in North Kashmir's Karnah sub-division, more than 2,000 students from government and private schools participated in anti-terror marches at multiple locations, including Hajinar, Kandi and Tithwal. Students raised slogans against terrorism and carried placards expressing support for the victims and their families.

"Our youth stand firmly against violence and believe in a peaceful and progressive



future," an official said, adding that the marches reflected a growing resolve among the younger generation.

In the Gurez valley of Bandipora district, hundreds of students and local residents gathered in Dawar area to protest against the killing of civilians in

last year's attack.

Eyewitnesses said the march began from a school ground and passed through village lanes before culminating near the riverbank close to the LoC.

"We want peace and a future without fear. Children like us should not grow up hearing

about killings," said a Class 10 student holding a placard reading "Stop Killing Innocents".

Another student said the gathering was aimed at sending a message of unity. "We are from a border area and have grown up hearing about conflict, but we want to study and live a normal life," she said.

Local residents also joined the protest, lighting candles and offering prayers for the victims.

"Standing here today shows that people in border areas reject violence," said a local elder, describing the attack as a wound that still remains fresh.

Speakers at the gathering called for lasting peace and urged authorities to ensure stronger protection for civilians, particularly in tourist and remote areas.

In Poonch district, members of social and trade organisations

held a tribute programme at the main market to honour those killed in the attack.

Participants offered floral tributes and observed a moment of silence, while speakers condemned the incident and expressed solidarity with the bereaved families.

They said such attacks could not weaken the unity of the country and reiterated the need for firm action against terrorism.

The Pahalgam attack on April 22 last year, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, had triggered widespread outrage across the country.

Officials said the peaceful demonstrations and tribute events across LoC areas highlighted public rejection of violence and a collective call for peace.

Authorities said the situation across these areas remained peaceful during the events.

Kashmir is Safe, Very Peaceful, Says Tour Leader from Malaysia

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mohammad Fadli, an international tour leader from Malaysia, on Wednesday said the entire Kashmir region including Pahalgam is "safe, and very peaceful".

Fadli's arrival in Pahalgam on Wednesday with a group of 21 visitors, exactly one year after the terror attack of April 22, 2025 that left 26 people mainly tourists dead, serves as a powerful testament to the valley's resilience.

Despite the heavy presence of security forces acting as a sombre reminder of last year's tragedy, Fadli was among a growing number of international travellers helping to turn the tide for local tourism.

A self-proclaimed fan of Indian cinema, Fadli said that the towering pines and rushing Lidder river are iconic landmarks for fans back home. "In Malaysia, we always watch Hindi movies," he said, specifically mentioning the Salman Khan-starrer 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' which was filmed in these scenic heights.

Having already accompanied a group of 30 Malaysian tourists through the valley just last month, Fadli remains undeterred by the past.

As his current group snapped photos along the river's edge, he said that the peace of the landscape has remained intact for his travellers, offering a hopeful glimpse into a future where Pahalgam is defined by its

beauty rather than its scars.

Stakeholders feel that tourists like Fadli underscores efforts of recovery for a tourism industry that was nearly paralysed by last year's incident.

"We are safe. My group is really enjoying it and it is very peaceful here," Fadli told PTI Videos. While his wife had visited previously, this trip has allowed him to experience the landscape that has long captivated Malaysian audiences through the silver screen.

When asked what he would say to those hesitant to visit Jammu and Kashmir following the tragedy, Fadli was clear in his message: "All people around the world can come here. Don't worry about anything...the

river is beautiful, everything is good. It is safe and very peaceful."

Meanwhile, Managing Director of Ahad Hotels and Resorts Asif Iqbal Burza thanked the people from the rest of the country for coming back to their favourite destinations despite the inhuman attack last year.

"The people of the rest of the country are sending strong messages to enemies who want to disrupt the peace and create a communal divide," he said and thanked J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for initiating a campaign in favour of the people of Kashmir personally.

Abdullah had earlier camped in Pahalgam and held a cabinet meeting besides cycling on road.

Tourist footfall at Sonamarg Nears 2 Lakh in 2026

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The renowned health resort of Sonamarg recorded an impressive tourist influx during the first quarter of 2026, with a total of 1,98,425 domestic, foreign, and local visitors exploring the scenic destination from January to March.

According to official data accessed by KNO, January witnessed the highest footfall, with 98,216 tourists visiting Sonamarg between 1 and 31 January. Of these, 86,523 were domestic tourists from various states across India, 1,379 were foreign nationals, and 10,314 were local visitors.

In February, the resort attracted 61,128 tourists, including 48,594 domestic travellers, 1,633 foreign tourists, and 10,901 local visitors. In March, a total of 39,081 tourists visited Sonamarg. However, officials noted that the detailed category-wise breakdown for the month remains either incomplete or inconsistent.

Historic First: Special Amul Milk Freight Train Reaches J&K From Gujarat



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu division of Indian Railways has successfully facilitated the arrival of the first-ever special milk freight train from Gujarat, marking a significant milestone in ensuring seamless availability of dairy products in Jammu and Kashmir.

Describing the development as a "historic achievement," railway authorities said the initiative would significantly strengthen food security and ensure the uninterrupted availability of nutritious dairy products across the region.

It also highlights Indian Railways' commitment to enhancing supply chains to remote areas.

The special freight train, comprising 20 BCN wagons loaded with dairy products from Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), originated from Linch Goods Shed in Ahmedabad Division on April 20 and reached Bari Brahman and Anantnag goods sheds in Jammu Division.

Officials said 10 wagons were unloaded at Bari Brahman and the remaining 10 at Anantnag, with each set carrying approximately 500 tonnes of dairy products. "The consignment included toned milk, milk powder, buttermilk, lassi, and other essential dairy items".

"This is a proud and his-

toric moment for Jammu Division," said Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager.

"The arrival of the first special cargo train carrying Amul milk and dairy products has been planned keeping in mind the needs of citizens, traders, and families of Jammu and Kashmir. It will ensure round-the-clock availability of fresh dairy products across Jammu and adjoining areas," Singhal said.

He added that the direct rail linkage would substantially reduce transportation costs and time compared to road routes, thereby benefiting local markets and consumers.

Officials also recalled that in October 2025, the division had achieved another milestone when a 1,350-tonne consignment of industrial salt was transported by rail from Kharaghoda in Gujarat to Anantnag.

The latest initiative is expected to further strengthen commercial and economic ties between Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir, directly linking the dairy and industrial sectors with markets in the Kashmir Valley.

The Jammu division said such initiatives would continue to enhance logistical efficiency while contributing to regional economic growth and supply stability. (Agencies)

'2014 Floods Left Deep Silt Scars on Hygam Ramsar site'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) has flagged severe siltation at the Hygam wetland in Baramulla's Sopore, stating that the 2014 floods left deep scars on the Ramsar site, calling for a comprehensive plan for its revival.

During a joint visit with legislators and officials, EPG convenor Faiz Bakhshi told KNO that large-scale silt deposits have accumulated over the years, affecting the wetland's health. He said a time-bound desilting plan is needed, along with diversion of Bal Koul and Ningli Nallah to prevent further silt inflow.

Governing council member Er Ajaz Rasool said the group has been monitoring the wetland and noted improvement on the ground. He said illegal sand extraction reported earlier has been stopped after intervention by authorities and local representatives. He said

regular monitoring is needed to prevent any recurrence.

Ajaz said conservation efforts must cover the entire catchment area and called for a coordinated mechanism among departments. He suggested selective excavation in heavily silted patches, restoration of navigation channels, and better water management.

EPG member and activist Aijaz Dar said wetland protection is a shared responsibility. He said the lack of awareness has led to encroachments and degradation. Dar urged authorities to promote Hygam as an eco-tourism destination and to review the condition of other degraded water bodies in Kashmir.

The visiting team included MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone, and MLA Pattan, Javed Riyaz Bedar, along with officials from the wildlife, forest, and irrigation departments. The legislators were briefed about ongoing and proposed conservation measures.

MLA Lone termed wetlands integral to Kashmir's identity and said sustained efforts will be made to restore Hygam. He said plans are being worked out to divert Ningli Nallah and Bal Koul to reduce siltation while ensuring that local livelihoods are protected.

"People will be taken on board in conservation efforts," he said and assured support for eco-friendly beautification works through constituency funds. The MLA added that ecotourism initiatives will also be pushed to revive the wetland. Earlier, as reported by KNO, Kashmir's wetlands attracted over 15 lakh feathered visitors, with the Ramsar-designated Hygam wetland in Sopore hosting the lion's share of more than 4 lakh birds.

Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir, Tawheed Ahmed Deva, said they are taking sustained measures to conserve these habitats and ensure they continue to support biodiversity.

Earth Day: Experts Warn of Ecological Crisis as Wetlands Decline in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Earth Day, environmental experts and legal professionals in Jammu and Kashmir have sounded a strong alarm over the rapid degradation of wetlands and green spaces, warning that unchecked urban expansion is pushing the region toward an ecological crisis.

Prominent environmental lawyer Nadeem Qadri, speaking to KNO, said that the fast-paced growth in Srinagar and Jammu has come at a high environmental cost, with wetlands and natural green buffers being systematically destroyed. "Wetlands are not wastelands—they are vital ecological assets. They store excess water, regulate floods, and support biodiversity. Their loss directly translates into increased flood risks, rising pollution levels, extreme heat, and the disappearance of wildlife," he said.

Qadri said the consequences are already visible. "The highest cost we are paying is in the form of frequent flooding and deteriorating living conditions. If this trend continues, urban centres like

Srinagar could face severe environmental stress in the coming years," he warned. He called for strict enforcement against illegal constructions, restoration of degraded wetlands, large-scale plantation drives, and adherence to scientific urban planning.

Environmental expert and teacher Mudaris Ahmad highlighted the growing unpredictability of weather patterns in the Himalayan region. "Many of us can feel that something is changing. Winters are no longer the same, rainfall patterns have become erratic, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. These are clear indicators of a shifting climate," he said.

He said the fragile Himalayan ecosystem is particularly vulnerable to such changes. "Unpredictable weather impacts everything, from faster melting of glaciers and uncertain water sources to crop failures and increased risks of floods and landslides. For communities dependent on agriculture, this is not just an environmental issue but a livelihood crisis," Ahmad added. He said the pace of environmental change is accelerating, making immediate action crucial.

CM Omar Discusses Developmental Issues with Public Representatives

JAMMU: Several public representatives today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and discussed a range of developmental and governance-related matters.

Among those who called on the Chief Minister were Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sajad Ahmad Kichloo, MLA Inderwal Payare Lal Sharma and former Minister Abdul Ghani Kohli. During the interactions, the visiting public representatives apprised the Chief Minister of various issues and demands concerning their respective constituencies and areas of responsibility. Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoo also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Discussions largely focused on strengthening infrastructure, improving public service delivery, and addressing region-specific concerns. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that their genuine demands would be examined on priority. He reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive development and responsive governance, emphasizing that the concerns of people from all regions are being addressed in a systematic and time-bound manner. (Observer News Service)

J&K Resident Commission Observes Earth Day

SRINAGAR: The Resident Commission, Jammu & Kashmir government, New Delhi on Wednesday observed Earth Day 2026 with plantation drives conducted across its premises in Delhi and Amritsar, aligning with this year's global theme "Our Power, Our Planet."

Marking the occasion, Additional Resident Commissioner, Resident Commission, J&K, led the officers and staff in planting the saplings at J&K House, 5 Prithviraj Road, New Delhi.

The green initiative was carried out simultaneously at J&K House, Chanakypuri, New Delhi and J&K House, Amritsar, where the respective Manager-cum-Protocol Officers and staff undertook similar drives.

Addressing the staff, the Additional Resident Commissioner underscored the urgent need for environmental conservation. He urged all the employees to adopt plantation as a regular, sustained activity rather than a one-day observance. "Our collective action today determines the health of our planet tomorrow. Each sapling planted is a step towards a greener and healthier environment for the posterity," he said.

The Earth Day activities aimed to reinforce the Commission's commitment to ecological responsibility and encourage institutional participation in climate action. The officials said that regular plantation and upkeep of green cover at J&K Houses would be monitored to ensure long-term impact. Pertinently, the Earth Day, being observed globally on April 22, seeks to raise awareness and mobilise action for environmental protection. This year's theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," highlights the role of individual and collective power in driving sustainable change. (Observer News Service)

Police Arrests 4 Drug Peddlers

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained crackdown on drug trafficking under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Police have arrested four drug peddlers in Handwara, Kupwara and Budgam.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a Police team at a checkpoint established at Gundchobutra Crossing, arrested a drug peddler identified as Umar Hamid Malla son of Ab Hamid Malla resident of Malbagh Kralgund. During the search, a substantial quantity of charas-like substance was recovered from his possession.

Meanwhile in Kupwara, a police team of PS Kupwara at a checkpoint established at Wayen, Kupwara, apprehended two drug peddlers. They have been identified as Shaheed Ahmad Khan son of Mohd Ibrahim Khan and Mumtaz Ahmad Khan son of Ab Rashid Khan, both residents of Halmatpora, Kupwara. During the search, a substantial quantity of heroin-like substance was recovered from their possession. Preliminary enquiry revealed that the accused were engaged in illicit drug trafficking activities.

In Budgam, Police have apprehended a drug peddler in the Magam area of the district and recovered a charas-like contraband substance from his possession. The operation was carried out by a police party of Police Station Magam near Eidgah Road, Bachipora Mazhama. The accused has been identified as Nazir Ahmed Bhat son of Ghulam Ahmed Bhat resident of Hardusuresh Khag. During the search, approximately 155 grams of charas-like substance, concealed in corn husks, was recovered from his possession. The vehicle used in the commission of the crime, bearing registration number JK04H-5489, has also been seized.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER GUREZ

AUCTION NOTICE

In compliance with the order issued by the District Development Commissioner Bandipora vide No.: DDC/Bpr/Education/2025-26/6992-97 dated: 24-11-2025 and the communication of the Chief Education Officer Bandipora (Chairman Auction Committee) vide No.: CEO/Bpr/Plg/Auction/2025-26/2089-94 dated: 24-03-2026, sealed short-term tenders are hereby invited by and on behalf of the Chairman Auction Committee (Chief Education Officer Bandipora) from eligible agencies/tenderers for the auction of an old dilapidated school building of High School Buglinder Tulail, District Bandipora.

The minimum reserve price, as assessed by the Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Division Gurez of District Bandipora, is: ₹44,260/- (Rupees Forty-Four Thousand Two Hundred & Sixty Only)

Submission of Tenders

The CDR of ₹5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) pledged in favour of the Zonal Education Officer Gurez must reach the office of the undersigned by or before the due date. The standing auction shall be conducted as per details below.

- ✓ Auction Details
- Date of Auction: 30 / 04 / 2026
- Time: 11:00 AM
- Venue: High School Buglinder Tulail.
- Minimum Bid Amount: ₹44,260/-
- Mode of Auction: Open Bidding (On-the-spot Standing Auction)
- Dismantling Responsibility: Successful bidder

Terms & Conditions

1. Site Inspection: Interested bidders must inspect the site/material beforehand.
2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Bidders must carry valid ID proof and deposit an EMD of ₹5,000/- in the form of CDR on or before 28th of April 2026 in the office of Zonal Education Officer Gurez. No CDR shall be accepted after the last date.
3. Dismantling & Clearance: The successful bidder shall be responsible for dismantling, lifting, and clearing the site at their own cost and risk within the time specified by the Auction Committee.
4. Auction Committee Presence: The auction will be conducted in the presence of:
 - ▶ Chief Education Officer Bandipora - Chairman
 - ▶ Tehsildar Tulail - Member
 - ▶ Zonal Education Officer Gurez - Member
 - ▶ Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gurez - Member
 - ▶ Headmaster, HS Buglinder - Member
5. Payment Terms: The successful bidder must deposit the full bid amount immediately or within 24- hours of the conclusion of the auction.
6. Right of Authority: The auctioning authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Contact: For any queries, contact the undersigned during office hours.
No.: ZEO/G/PLG/2026-27/Auction/ _____
Dated: _____

DIPK-647-26
DT: 22/04/2026

Zonal Education Officer
Gurez

Iran Seizes 2 Vessels in Strait of Hormuz Amid US Blockade

Trans Asia News

TEHRAN — Iran's elite naval forces on Wednesday seized two vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, in an apparent escalation of a tit-for-tat maritime standoff with the US following the capture of an Iranian ship in the nearby Oman Sea, amid a fragile ceasefire, an ongoing naval blockade and heightened tensions over access to a key global oil route.

In a statement, the naval arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said it had intercepted the ships — identified as the MSC Francesca, which it claimed is linked to Israel, and the Epaminodes — for alleged violations of newly imposed Iranian transit regulations. The IRGC said the vessels were operating without authorisation, committing repeated violations, tampering with navigation systems and attempting to leave the strait covertly, actions it said endangered maritime security.

The forces transferred both ships into Iranian territorial waters for inspection of cargo and documentation. The IRGC framed the operation as part of

its "intelligence dominance" in the waterway and warned that any breach of Iran's maritime rules, or any attempt to disrupt newly announced transit laws, would be continuously monitored and met with "decisive and legal action".

Latest incident comes amid a broader confrontation following a US-led naval blockade of Iranian ports, which Tehran has condemned as an act of war and a violation of international law. Iranian forces have tightened control over the strait in recent days, rolling out a regulatory framework requiring all vessels to obtain prior clearance before transit.

A draft bill before parliament would formalise the measures requiring clearance for vessels from what Iran describes as "hostile countries" and impose transit fees.

The seizure unfolded just hours after US president Donald Trump announced an extension of a fragile ceasefire, even as he confirmed that US naval forces would continue enforcing the blockade. Tehran has rejected the move as a violation of the



truce and warned it could attempt to break the blockade by force if tensions escalate further. Iran has not formally requested an extension of the ceasefire. Despite the ceasefire exten-

sion, Iranian leadership has signalled readiness for renewed conflict. State media broadcast military parades, with long-range ballistic missiles on display, in Tehran overnight, under-

scoring a posture of defiance as negotiations faltered after talks expected to take place in Pakistan did not materialise.

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz — through which rough-

ly a fifth of the world's oil supply typically passes, about 20m barrels per day — has already caused severe disruption to global shipping and energy markets, with prices rising sharply.

US extends Iran oil waivers

In Washington, Treasury secretary Scott Bessent announced a temporary 30-day extension of sanctions waivers on Iranian and Russian seaborne oil, citing appeals from vulnerable economies facing acute supply shortages. The requests, he said, came from finance ministers of about 10 countries during recent International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings, reversing earlier indications that the waivers might not be renewed.

Meanwhile, evidence suggests the blockade is only partially effective. Shipping data cited by the Financial Times, based on tracking firm Vortexa, indicates that at least 34 tankers have managed to bypass US naval controls since mid-April. These include 19 vessels exiting the Persian Gulf and 15 entering it, with at

least six tankers carrying Iranian crude valued at more than \$900m.

One such vessel, the Iranian-flagged supertanker Dorena, reportedly left Iranian waters on 17 April and signalled its position off India's southern coast a day later.

Iranian political leaders have maintained a hard line. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, stated in a post on X that the United States failed to achieve its objectives through military aggression and will not do so through bullying.

"A complete ceasefire only holds meaning when it is not violated by a naval blockade," he said, adding: "The reopening of the strait is not possible while the ceasefire is being flagrantly violated."

As diplomatic efforts stall and military signalling intensifies, the confrontation risks deepening into a prolonged crisis with global repercussions for energy markets and international shipping lanes that depend on the narrow passage between the Gulf and the wider world.

PAHALGAM ATTACK

Govt Appoints Karambir Nalwa to Lead Trial

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre has appointed noted lawyer Karambir Singh Nalwa as Special Public Prosecutor to lead the trial in Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 25 tourists and a local pony operator last year.

In an order notified on Wednesday, the Union Home Ministry said it exercised the powers under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 to appoint senior advocate Nalwa as Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) for conducting trial and other matters related to the case on behalf of the agency in NIA special court, Jammu and the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



The appointment is for a period of three years or till the completion of trial of the case or till the satisfaction of NIA with the performance of the SPP, whichever is earlier, it said.

UK Clears Bill Banning Smoking for Future Generations

Press Trust of India

LONDON: The UK Parliament passed a bill on Wednesday that will effectively ban future generations from buying cigarettes.

Under the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, all those born after December 31, 2008, will be unable to buy cigarettes. The legislation still needs Royal Assent from King Charles before taking effect as law. It will also allow the government to regulate tobacco, vaping and nicotine products, including flavours and packaging.

Once it is law, the UK will have one of the toughest anti-smoking measures in the world. The law is similar to one New Zealand lawmakers



passed in 2022, but that was then repealed by a subsequent government.

"Prevention is better than cure — this reform will save lives, ease pressure on the NHS, and build a healthier Britain," said Wes Streeting, UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, who called it a historic moment for the nation's health.

Health minister Baroness Gillian Merron told the

House of Lords: "It is, in fact, the biggest public health intervention in a generation and I can assure all noble Lords it will save lives."

It is part of a series of measures aimed at tackling the health effects of smoking, one of the UK's leading causes of preventable death, disability and ill health.

Vaping will be banned in cars carrying children, in playgrounds, outside schools and at hospitals, expanding smoke-free laws. Vaping would still be allowed outside hospitals in a bid to support those trying to quit.

Outdoor hospitality venues like pub gardens and wider open spaces such as beaches and private outdoor spaces are not included in the plans.

I Have No Answers: Rishabh Pant On Batting Collapse

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: A distraught Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant did not have an answer for his team's defence after a morale-crushing 40-run defeat against Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL match, other than accepting the responsibility that his side didn't read the surface properly.

"I don't have answers. Batting has let us down. We are disappointed as a team, as a group," Pant said after his team were skittled out for 119 chasing a small 160-run target.

"You have to look for answers inside, not outside. We could have taken some time while batting. No excuses out there. Including myself, we could have taken it deeper. As a batting group, we have to put our hands up," Pant

offered a feeble explanation.

Mohammed Shami's bowling effort stood out and Pant found that to be a silver lining.

"We have to look at positives. We have to keep our head high and look for answers inside. We have the firepower to turn the season around." Rajasthan Royals skipper Riyan Parag knew that there was help off the surface.

"We knew it would swing, the lines and lengths they (Nandre Burger and Jofra Archer) bowled, impressive. The message on the groups have been very positive," Riyan said after the match.

On his own poor show, Riyan said that he has been going through some personal crisis and the team stands firmly behind him. "I had gone through something, even now I am going through something and everyone understands that," he said.

MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

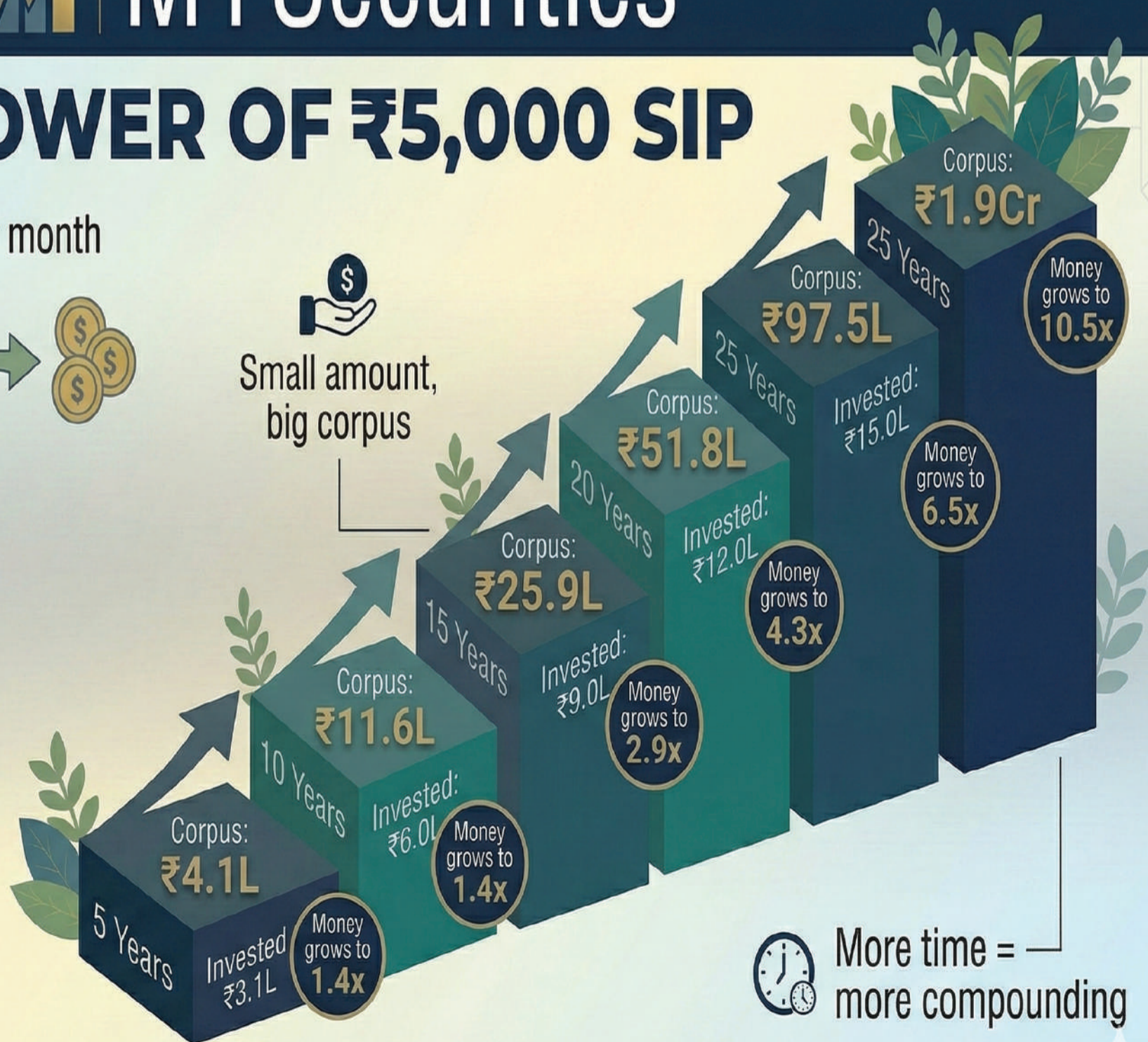
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



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.