

## LG Flags Urgent Climate Threat To Agriculture

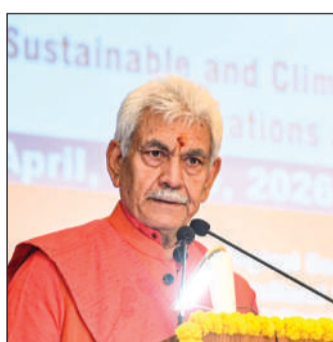
- Credits Record 357 MT Agri Output To Policies Under PM Modi
- Urge Shift To Bold, Science-led Farm Transformation

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday urged scientists, innovators and policymakers to move beyond incremental changes and adopt a bold, science-led approach to transform India's agro-ecosystems in the face of intensifying climate threats.

Addressing a national summit on sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture at SKUAST Jammu, Sinha said the urgency of the climate crisis leaves no room for delay, warning that its impact now extends far beyond farms to threaten the broader ecosystem dependent on agriculture and allied sectors.

"Our farms are the bedrock of civilization, the backbone of



economies, and the promise of tomorrow," he said, stressing that every policy and intervention must recognise the centrality of farmers who have sustained humanity through centuries of upheaval.

Calling for a decisive shift in approach, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised the need to promote climate-resilient crops and bridge the gap between laboratory research and field-level application. He asked researchers to prioritise the development of climate-adapted crop varieties and ensure that scientific innovations reach farmers in time.

Sinha said India has made significant strides | [More on P6](#)

## PMGSY-IV Push: Chouhan Rolls Out 330 Road Projects In J&K

1,600 Km Network At Rs 3,550 Cr | Says Rs 8,000 Cr Rural Projects Sanctioned In J&K Over Past Year | ₹4,000 Cr Push For Women SHGs, 5 Lakh Pucca Houses Planned

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday launched PMGSY-IV (Batch-II) at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here, announcing a wide-ranging rural development push for Jammu and Kashmir and asserting that connectivity remains central to inclusive growth.

Opening his address on a personal note, Chouhan greeted the audience warmly and



said he had come in the spirit of public service rather than protocol. Calling Jammu and Kashmir "duniya ka swarg," he said the region holds deep emotional and developmental

importance for him. "Without roads, development remains incomplete"

Stressing the critical role of infrastructure, the minister said development cannot be achieved without proper road connectivity, especially in remote areas where access challenges persist. He noted that in several far-flung regions, patients are still carried on shoulders due to lack of road access.

Under PMGSY-IV (Batch-II), Chouhan launched 330 road projects covering around 1,600 kilometres | [More on P6](#)

## Will Ensure Funds Are Used Judiciously: CM

Observer News Service

Asserting that the government is moving ahead with a large-scale expansion of rural road infrastructure, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday

said Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a major transformation in connectivity under successive phases of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Addressing the launch ceremony of PMGSY-IV (Batch-II) at SKICC here, Omar said | [More on P6](#)

## Rains To Lash J&K For 2 Days: IMD Agencies

Srinagar: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday forecast generally cloudy weather with spells of light rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days, accompanied by gusty winds and possible hailstorms at isolated places.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, many places are likely to witness intermittent rain and thundershowers on April 28-29, particularly during the afternoon and evening hours. Hailstorms are also expected at a few locations.

The weather is expected to improve slightly on April 30 with partly cloudy skies and brief spells of light rain at isolated places. From May 1-2, conditions are likely to remain largely dry, although brief showers cannot be ruled out.

However, another spell of generally cloudy weather with light rain and thundershowers is forecast between May 3 and 5 at scattered to many places. From May 6-9, | [More on P6](#)

## Pandits Carried Culture, Not Possessions: LG

Observer News Service

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said the Kashmiri Pandit community carried its cultural identity despite displacement, as he launched the book "The Waves of Resilience: Story of Radio Sharda" in Jammu. The book, edited by Ramesh Hangloo, documents the journey and impact of Radio Sharda through contributions from listeners, writers and prominent members of the Kashmiri Pandit community. | [More on P6](#)

## MLA Mehraj Malik Walks Free After 8 Months

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Mehraj Malik was released from Kathua jail on Tuesday after spending eight months in detention, following the quashing of his preventive detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) by the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

Setting aside the detention order issued by the Doda district magistrate, Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani held that the



order was legally unsustainable and suffered from "non-application of mind," directing authorities to release the

legislator. Malik had been detained in September last year under the PSA for allegedly disturbing public order and was lodged in Kathua jail. He had approached the High Court on September 24, 2025, through a habeas corpus petition challenging his detention and seeking compensation. Officials confirmed that Malik was released after completion of formalities on Tuesday morning. As he walked | [More on P6](#)

## PDP's 'No Agent' Move In RS Polls Helped BJP: NC

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The ruling Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Tuesday accused the opposition People's Democratic Party of enabling the Bharatiya Janata Party to secure a Rajya Sabha seat in last year's elections, citing disclosures made under the Right to Information Act.

In a statement posted on its official X handle, the NC said that an RTI reply had revealed that the PDP was the only political party in Jammu and Kashmir that did not appoint a

chief election agent to monitor voting during the Rajya Sabha polls held for four seats.

"RTI reveals that the only political party in Jammu and Kashmir that did not appoint a chief agent to monitor the vote in the recently held J&K Rajya Sabha elections was the PDP. In the final results, it was therefore no surprise that the BJP secured the Rajya Sabha seat, despite not having the authorised numbers to do so," the NC said.

The party noted that the PDP had publicly pledged support to NC candidates | [More on P6](#)

## No Decision To Drop Urdu from Tehsildar Exam: NC

Agencies

Srinagar: Senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Chief Minister's Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Tuesday dismissed claims regarding the removal of Urdu from the Tehsildar examination syllabus, asserting that no such decision has been taken by the government.

Responding to remarks by PDP leader Iltija Mufti, Wani told reporters here that the concerned department had merely issued a notification inviting public objections on the subject, describing it as part of a democratic process to gather feedback before any final decision.

Wani, who was flanked by Deputy Chief | [More on P6](#)

## Kashmir Launches A Classroom On Water

A new shikara in Srinagar turns tourism into environmental instruction, placing Kashmir's most famous lake at the center of a growing conservation effort.



Syed Sammar Mehdi

Srinagar: Morning light spread over the Zabarwan mountains on April 26, turning Dal Lake the colour of burnished copper. Vendors arranged flowers along the

boulevard near Ghat No. 16 while shikaras drifted through the early haze.

Near the dock, one boat drew unusual attention.

Its canopy held solar panels instead of decorative cloth. Walnut | [More on P6](#)

## Kanpur Bar Row

## HC Issues Decorum Advisory To Advocates

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has issued a circular emphasizing the need for maintaining professional decorum and ethical conduct among advocates.

The circular issued by Registrar General M K Sharma follows a controversial incident in Kanpur recently that has drawn nationwide criticism.

According to the circular, a video that recently went viral on social media showed an event organized under the aegis of the Kanpur Bar Association, where dancers in revealing attire were performing while certain members of the Bar present at the venue were not only encouraging such performances but were also recording the same on

their mobile devices. The Supreme Court Women Lawyers Association, in a press release dated March 1, 2026, strongly condemned the episode, describing it as "shameful, reprehensible, and utterly disgraceful," the circular noted. "Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India has also taken a serious view of the matter."

In the circular, the High Court underscored that the legal profession is a "noble and pious calling," entrusted with upholding the rule of law and preserving the dignity of the justice delivery system. Advocates, as officers of the court, have been reminded of their duty to maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct.

The circular | [More on P6](#)

## Lok Adalat Awards Final, Binding: HC

Cautions Against Deviations  
M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday upheld a Lok Adalat award in a cheque dishonour case, ruling that a party who voluntarily enters into a settlement cannot later challenge it merely due to non-compliance.

"...an award passed by a Lok Adalat on the basis of a settlement arrived at between the parties attains finality, is binding upon the parties, and is executable as a decree of a civil court," said a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal while dismissing a petition filed by one R A Wani, who had sought to quash a Lok Adalat award dated March 8, 2025, along with subsequent execution proceedings.

"No appeal lies against such an award. However, the same may be assailed before the High Court in exercise of its writ jurisdiction under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India on limited | [More on P6](#)



## NASHA MUKT JAMMU KASHMIR ABHIYAAN

Participate in

# REEL MAKING COMPETITION

on Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir

Starting From 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 | Last Date: 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

ELIGIBILITY	THEMES	DURATION & FORMAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>👤 14-18 years</li> <li>👤 Above 18 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🚫 Say No to Drugs</li> <li>🌿 Healthy Lifestyle</li> <li>👤 Youth Empowerment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>🕒 Reel duration must be 15-20 seconds only</li> <li>📹 Video must be in vertical format (9:16)</li> </ul>

Submit your entries by Scanning the QR code



Scan me

## PRIZES

(for each category)

₹10,000 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	₹7,500 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	₹5,000 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize
----------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------



### Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

[@informationprjk](#) | [Information & PR, J&K](#) | [@diprjk](#) | [@dipr\\_jk](#)

Dated: 28-04-2026  
DIPK-848/26



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

## Negative Effects Of Artificial Sweeteners May Pass On To Offsprings: Study

Press Trust Of India

Negative effects of artificial sweeteners, such as sucralose and stevia, on the gut microbiome and gene expression may pass on to the next generation, according to a study in mice. Studies have linked artificial sweeteners with gastrointestinal and neurological issues, including headache, and with metabolic conditions such as cardiovascular risk and diabetes.

"We found it intriguing that despite the growing consumption of these additives, the prevalence of obesity and metabolic disorders such as insulin resistance has not declined," lead author Francisca Concha Celume of the University of Chile said.

"This does not mean that sweeteners are responsible for these trends, but it raises the question of whether they influence metabolism in ways we do not yet fully understand," Concha said.

The study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Nutrition*, divided 47 male and female mice into three groups, each of which received either plain water or water with a dose of sucralose or stevia, comparable to the amount a human might consume as part of a normal diet.

The groups of mice were then bred for two consecutive generations, both of which received plain water.

Each generation received a test for glucose oral tolerance, which tests insulin resistance -- a warning sign for diabetes. The researchers also took faecal samples to look for changes in the gut microbiome and the concentration of short-chain fatty acids.

The authors wrote, "Sucralose consumption affects glucose tolerance, the expression of liver Srebp1 and intestinal Tnf and Tlr4, faecal microbiota composition and SCFA (short chain fatty acids) concentrations, and these changes are transmitted across generations. The effects of stevia are mainly



observed in the F1 (next) generation." "When we compared generations, these (negative) effects were generally strongest in the first generation and tended to decrease in the second generation. Overall, the effects linked to sucralose were more consistent and persistent across generations," Concha said.

In the first generation, only the male offspring of sucralose-consuming mice showed signs of an impaired glucose tolerance, but by the second generation, an elevated fasting blood sugar was detected in male descendants of sucralose-consuming mice and female descendants of stevia-consuming mice.

Both the groups of mice that consumed sweeteners were found to have more diverse faecal microbiomes but lower levels of short-chain fatty acids, suggesting that the bacteria were producing fewer beneficial metabolites.

Both the succeeding generations also had lower concentrations of short-chain fatty acids. Sucralose-consuming mice were seen

to be more seriously and more persistently affected by changes to the faecal microbiome, with more pathogenic species and fewer beneficial species of bacteria in the faeces.

Sucralose appeared to kick-start the expression of genes linked to inflammation and dampen the expression of those linked to metabolism for two generations after consumption. Stevia also impacts gene expression, but its effects are smaller and are not passed on for more than one generation.

Concha said that the observed changes in glucose tolerance and gene expression could be seen as "early biological signals related to metabolic or inflammatory processes." For example, the animals did not develop diabetes, but instead showed changes in glucose regulation and expression of genes associated with inflammation and metabolic regulation -- these can increase one's vulnerability to metabolic disturbances under conditions such as a high-fat diet, the author said.

### The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th, Junder Roll No: 112007496 Session BSE AP/BA Year 2021-22 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against My Name and Father's Name as Meer Shafakat Shahee S/o Meer Ghulam Rasool instead of Mir Shafiqat Shaheen S/o Ghulam Rasool Mir Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.



Name: Mir Shafiqat Shaheen  
 Father's name: Ghulam Rasool Mir  
 Mother's Name: Rashida Begum  
 DOB: 24-04-1980  
 Residence: Ward No 04 BANDIPORA  
 Mobile no:9419049133 fko

### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Ishan Salmani s/o Usman R/o Najab Abad Bijnoor UP with verified date of birth 07/06/2019 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if anybody having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) TALAT RASHID KIRMANI D/O PEERZADA ABDUL RASHID KIRMANI to (New name) TALAT RASHID D/O SHAH PEERZADA AB RAHID KIRMANI. In future i will be known as (new Name) TALAT RASHID D/O SHAH PEERZADA AB RAHID KIRMANI.

If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.  
 TALAT RASHID  
 D/O SHAH PEERZADA AB RAHID KIRMANI  
 R/O HAKEEM BAGH RAWALPORA, fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 213986946615 the name is entered as HAFIZA BEGUM while actual name is HASSINA BEGUM. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

HASSINA BEGUM  
 W/O MOHAMMAD SHAFI BHAT  
 R/O NADIR GUND PEERBAGH mcb

### The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th, Junder Roll No: 806246 Session: Oct Nov Year 1988 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my name Mehraj Din Matta instead of Mehraj-ud-din Bhat Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.



Name: Mehraj-ud-din Bhat  
 Father's name: Abdul Rehman Bhat  
 Mother's Name: Raja Begum  
 DOB: 25-11-1971  
 Residence: Zakura (Pathan Colony)  
 Mobile no:7006887627 jvd

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sarwer Hussain Bhat S/o: Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat R/o: Ichigam Budgam is applying for contractor card DEE Class in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Budgam. Any person having objection in this regard may please submit it in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Budgam within a period of three days , after that no objection shall be entertained. AB

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that the number plate of a motorcycle (Pulsar) bearing Registration No. JK05G-6720 has been lost/missing on 20 April 2026 at Kreeri. The said vehicle belongs to Bashir Ahmad Najar S/o Mohd Sultan Najar R/o Jahingirpora, Kreeri, District Baramulla. If anybody has any objection or finds the said number plate, he/she may contact RTO Baramulla or Police Station Kreeri within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the applicant shall proceed to obtain a duplicate number plate from the competent authority.

Sd/- Bashir Ahmad Najar  
 S/o Mohd Sultan Najar  
 R/o Jahingirpora, Kreeri  
 District Baramulla fko

F.No.35-4/2025-TS.III (Pt.)

Government of India  
 Ministry of Education  
 Department of Higher Education

Appointment of Director, one each, in National Institutes of Technology located at Calicut (Kerala) and Delhi

Applications are invited for filling up of upcoming vacancy to the post of Director, one each, in National Institutes of Technology (NITs) located at Calicut (Kerala) and Delhi in the scale of pay of Rs.2,10,000/- (fixed) plus Special Allowance of Rs.11,250/- p.m. and other admissible allowances as applicable to the Vice -Chancellor of the Central Universities and the Directors of other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs).

Director of an NIT being the academic as well as administrative head is expected to have proven administrative, teaching and research background (including significant experience in research guidance at the Ph.D. level) with leadership qualities. The appointment shall be made on contract basis for a term of five years or till attainment of the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

Eligible / interested persons may apply ONLINE at www.nitcouncil.org.in. Online application window shall be opened from 30.04.2026 to 29.05.2026 up to 12:00 midnight. Both dates are inclusive.

The detailed advertisement along with other necessary information are given in the website <http://education.gov.in> and [www.nitcouncil.org.in](http://www.nitcouncil.org.in).

cbc 21275/11/0002/2627

### The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 5210298  
 Class 10th  
 Year & Session 2018 Annual Regular  
 Registration: N17481620043  
 Name : Kamran Ashraf  
 Father's Name: Mohammad Ashraf Bhat  
 Mother's Name : Haseena Begum  
 Date of Birth:- 05-05-2004  
 Residence:- Wadoora Payeen



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 18ARKAM-1025012 be treated as "CANCELLED")  
 No: F/Cer is-I-DQC/B/KD/26  
 Dated 20-04-2026 Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

### The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th, 11th, 12th Junder Roll No: 112011054 Session: Annual Regular Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my name and mother's name as Jamsheeda Gul Sheikh and Mother's Name Zubaida Banoo instead of Jamsheed Gul Sheikh and Mother's Name Zahida Begum Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.



Name: Jamsheed Gul Sheikh  
 Father's name: Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh  
 Mother's Name: Zahida Begum  
 DOB: 15-03-2008  
 Residence: Watapora Bandipora  
 Mobile no: 7889788733 fko

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Roohi Manzoor D/o Manzoor Ahmad Mochi, R/o Renipora Khasipora, Tehsil & District Shopian, hereby notify that my caste has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Sheikh instead of the correct caste Mochi.

Further, my Date of Birth has been incorrectly mentioned as 05-05-2003 instead of the correct Date of Birth 15-03-2005. Now, I intend to correct the caste and Date of Birth in my Aadhaar records. If anybody has any objection, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/- Roohi Manzoor fko\_r

### OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR TILGAM

Sub: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Births.  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Registrar Births & deaths (BDO) Pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Bisma Khaliq D/o Abdul Khaliq Khan R/o Wanigam Bala Tehsil Pattan with verified the date of Birth event as 04/11/2001 occurred at home. In this connection if anybody having objections may contact this office within 03 days, after that no objections shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Tilgam fko

### OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR TILGAM

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS  
 SUBJECT: Application of Simran Pal Kour D/o Trilok Singh R/o Dardpora Verin Pattan regarding obtaining RBA certificate.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 This is to inform the general public that the applications of above mentioned applicants regarding obtaining RBA certificates are currently being processed in the office of undersigned. According to the field staff's report, the applicants are permanent residents of village Dardpora Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla, have been residing in the said village for more than 15 years and have not migrated. The total annual family income of the applicants is 148476. The family details of the applicants are as:

S. No.	Name	Parentage	Age	Occupation
01	Rambeer Kour	w/o Trilok Singh	55	Pensioner
02	Simran Pal Kour	d/o Trilok Singh	30	Student
03	Paramveer Singh	s/o Trilok Singh	28	" "
04	Jatinder Pal Singh	" "	25	" "

Any objections regarding this matter should be reported to this office within 07 days after the publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st class Naib Tehsildar Tilgam fko

### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Bashir Ahmad Malla s/o Ghulam Ahmad Malla R/o Mian mohalla pattan for issuance of legal heir certificate...

**PUBLIC NOTICE...**  
 IT is inform to general public that applicants father's legal heir certificate is under process in this office in this matter report was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants father namely Ghulam Ahmad Malla s/o Mohd Subhan Malla R/o Mian mohalla pattan died on 06/06/2021 and left following legal heirs...

Legal Heirs Details

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
ASHA BEGUM	72	WIFE	WIDOW
NISAR AHMAD MALLA	42	SON	MARRIED
BASHIR AHMAD MALLA	50	SON	MARRIED
MEHRAJ UD DIN MALLA	39	SON	MARRIED
SHABIR AHMAD MALLA	36	SON	UNMARRIED
ISHFAQ AHMAD MALLA	33	SON	UNMARRIED
ZAHIDA BANO	50	DAUGHTER	MARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Hadiya Hilal D/o Hilal Ahmad Lone R/o Buran pattan with verified date of birth 20/02/2014 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if anybody having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

### 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 Fareeda Begum w /o /D /o Gh Nabi Ganie R/o Yadipora Palhallan with Date of Birth 14-06-1975

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 FKO

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I, Ghulam Nabi Wani S/o Ghulam Ahmad Wani, R/o Kechmatipora, Kawarhama, have lost the rear number plate of my scooter bearing Registration No. JK05Q-2230 on 18-04-2026 while travelling from Chichlora to Kechmatipora. Despite my best efforts, the said number plate could not be traced. If anyone finds it, he/she is requested to return the same to the undersigned. Further, if anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of a duplicate number plate, he/she may raise the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.  
 Ghulam Nabi Wani  
 R/o Kechmatipora, Kawarhama FKO

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my scooty bearing regd no: JK05K 0904 from Malabuchan To Magam. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the ARTO office Sopore Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
 Ghulam Mustafa Sofi  
 S/o Ghulam Hassan Sofi  
 R/o Mallabuchn Magam bmg

### نمبر پلیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری گاڑی (NUMBER PLATE) JK01Q-2611 (MARUTI 800) زیڑنمبر گمشدگی ہوئی ہے۔ بہت محنت سے پولیس میں رپورٹ کروا کر اسے تلاش کیا گیا ہے۔ اس سے میں اس کی کوئی اعتراض ہونے کے اندر اندر RTO سرگرمی سے تلاش میں ہیں کریں۔ بعد ازین کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

گزارا احمد میر ولد محمد شعیان میر ساکن گی پورہ پوڈ گام فون۔ 9858900484

## 5 Arrested with Grenades, Ammunition

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Five persons were arrested with grenades, ammunition and other incriminating material in Srinagar, police said on Tuesday.

The arrests were made by a police party from PP Khanmoh during checking at Nard Sangri in the Khanmoh area.

A top Police officer told KNO that two hand gre-

nades, two magazines, some rounds of ammunition, posters and six mobile phones were recovered from their possession.

A case under relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Arms Act has been registered at Panthachowk police station.

Further investigation is underway, police added.

## SMC Organizes 'Drug-Free Society' March in Chanapora

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Tuesday organized an anti-drug awareness rally in the Chanapora area of the city, urging people to work collectively towards building a drug-free society.

The rally, held in Ward 31, was led by Ward Officer Mukhtar Khan and witnessed participation from corporation employees as well as local residents.

Carrying placards and raising slogans such as "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life," participants marched through the locality to spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the need for preventive action at the community level.

The program aimed to

sensitize people, particularly youth, about the social and health risks associated with drug use and to encourage public involvement in combating the menace.

Mukhtar Khan said such outreach initiatives are part of ongoing efforts by the civic body to address rising concerns over drug abuse and promote healthier lifestyles.

Participants emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in tackling the issue and called for sustained awareness campaigns to reach a wider section of society.

According to KNT, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation said it will continue to organize similar activities across different wards to strengthen awareness and community engagement against drug abuse.



A man pedals a heavily loaded cart along Boulevard Road as poplar pollen fills the air. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## Man Dies After Injuries in Bemina Clash, Probe Launched

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A violent altercation between two groups in the Bemina area of Srinagar turned fatal after a man was killed during the scuffle, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at Khumani

Chowk, where an initial dispute between two groups escalated after relatives of both sides joined in, leading to a physical confrontation.

An official said that during the clash, one individual sustained serious injuries. He was immediately shifted to JVC Bemina for treatment, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The deceased has been identified as Syed Adil, son of Syed Manzoor, a resident of Khumani Chowk Bemina.

According to KNT, Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) in connection with the incident and have initiated an investigation to ascertain the circumstances leading to the fatal clash.

## Div Com Interacts with Trade Bodies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg held an interaction with members of various trade bodies of Srinagar and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to appreciate their active role against drug menace and extended invitation for participation in the Nasha Mukht J&K Pad Yatra, a mass movement aimed at raising awareness against drug abuse and narcotics.

During the interaction, the Divisional Commissioner stressed on the collective efforts of traders, civil society

groups, NGOs and youth organizations for their enthusiastic involvement in the Pad Yatra, which will witness mass participation across the region.

He emphasized that such unified initiatives reflect the strong societal responsibility to combat the growing menace of substance abuse.

Anshul Garg stressed that the fight against drugs requires sustained community engagement and coordination among all stakeholders.

He urged trade associations and NGOs to mobilize their members for overwhelming participation in Pad Yatra on May 03 for spreading awareness about the harmful effects of nar-

cotics, particularly among the youth.

On the occasion, participants shared their suggestions to further strengthen anti-drug campaigns, organizing awareness drives, and community outreach programs at the grassroots level.

Meanwhile, participants assured to work in unison with the administration to eliminate the threat of narcotics from the region.

Besides, Director I&C and VC LCMA, the president of KCCL, Chairman of Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation, representatives of various trade associations were present during the interaction.

## OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR LAND ACQUISITION / SDM KHANSAHIB

Subject:- Notice under Section 21 of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 read with Rule 31 of S O 440 (The Jammu And Kashmir Right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent) Rules, 2013)

Whereas, on the basis of the indent placed by the requiring body (Director School Education Kashmir), a preliminary notification under section 11(1) of the Act was issued for acquisition of land for newly proposed public purpose i.e. construction of MMS Kachwari and development of playground at MMS Kachwari (Dragger), vide Notification No. 01 of 2025 dated 04-08-2025; and Whereas, the requisite report under sub-section (2) of section 15 of the Act was submitted to the Appropriate Government (District Collector Budgam) Vide No:- SDM/KHS/2025-2026/558-559 Dated 05/12/2025 for issuance of necessary declaration under relevant provisions of the Act/ Rules; and

Whereas, the Appropriate Government (District Collector Budgam) Vide Notification No: 02 of 2026 Dated 16-03-2026 under endorsement No:-DCB/LAS/2025-26/1791-1800 Dated 16-03-2026 issued declaration under section 19(1) of the Act read with Rule 30 of the Rules, declaring therein that the land, the particulars of which are given below, is required for newly proposed public purpose i.e. construction of MMS Kachwari and development of playground at MMS Kachwari (Dragger):

### Details of Land

S.No	Name Of School	Village	Survey No.	Area Under Acquisition	Type of title	Type of land	Trees
01	MMS School Kachwari	Kachwari	879 Min	K M Sft 17 156	Private	Rural	Nil
02	Play Ground Of MMS Kachwari (Dragger)	Kachwari (Dragger)	1438 min	K M Sf 01 1 11 3 0	Private	Rural	Nil

Now therefore, in terms of section 21 of the Act and rule 31 of the said Rules, notice is hereby given to all the persons interested in the land that Government intends to take possession of the land and therefore claims to compensation and rehabilitation and resettlement for all interests in such land be made before the undersigned.

It is further informed that all the interested persons shall appear before me personally or by an authorized agent in my office chamber at 11:00 AM within the stipulated period and state the nature of their respective interests in the land and the amount and particulars of their claims to compensation along with their objections, if any, to the measurements of the land.

No: SDM/KHS/2026-27/17-25

:DIPK-832/26

Dated:-28/04/2026

Collector Land Acquisition/SDM Khansahib

## Ujala Cygnus, Amandeep BR Medicity Mark J&K's First ESD



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ujala Cygnus, in partnership with Amandeep BR Medicity Tengpora Bypass, has marked a significant milestone in cancer care for Jammu & Kashmir with the successful completion of an Advanced Endoscopic Workshop—culminating in the region's first-ever Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) for gastric malignancy.

In a historic first, this also represents the introduction of "third space endoscopic surgery" in Jammu & Kashmir, marking its expansion from Punjab into the region, bringing a new era of ultra-advanced, organ-preserving interventions closer to patients.

In this landmark achievement, the Gastroenterology and Oncology teams successfully performed an

endoscopic removal of a stomach tumor in an elderly patient—eliminating the need for major gastrectomy and preserving the organ through this highly advanced, minimally invasive technique.

The procedure was led by Dr. Wahid Akbar Lone, with anaesthesia support from Dr. Faisal Bhat and expert guidance from visiting faculty Dr. Kapil Sharma, who brings experience of over 50 ESD procedures. The intervention was completed within one hour.

Post-procedure, the patient remained stable, resumed oral intake within 12 hours, and was discharged within 24 hours—demonstrating the effectiveness of scarless "third space" therapy in ensuring faster recovery, minimal complications, and improved comfort, particularly for elderly patients.

## GCW Nawakadal Organizes Awareness Rally

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the banner of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, an Awareness Rally and Marathon were organised by the College Wellbeing and Anti-Substance Cell (CWASC) in collaboration with the College Sports Committee and NCC Unit of Government Degree College for Women (GCW), Nawakadal, Srinagar.

The programme commenced with an awareness rally from the college campus to Safakadal Chowk, aiming to disseminate a strong message against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth.

This was followed by a marathon in which students and faculty members participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing their collective commitment to the cause.

The event was attended

by Nodal Officer CWASC, Dr. Nuzhat Jan; Convener College Sports Committee, Rukhsana Shawl; NCC Officer, Prof. Huameera Yousuf, along with faculty members from CWASC and the Sports Committee.

On the occasion, the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Huda Galzai, appreciated the efforts of the organisers and participants. In her message, she underscored the importance of collective responsibility in combating drug abuse and encouraged students to act as ambassadors of a drug-free society. She further highlighted that such initiatives play a vital role in building awareness and fostering a culture of health, discipline, and social responsibility among the youth.

The event concluded with participants taking a pledge to support and uphold the vision of a drug-free society.

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


**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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



**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
11 Zil-Qadah  
1447

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	4: 14
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5: 17
Magrib	7:16
ISHA	8: 44

### This Day In History

- 1429- Joan of Arc arrives at the siege of Orleans
- 1540- Emperor Charles declares all privileges of Ghent ended
- 1550- Emperor Charles V gives inquisitors additional authority
- 1553- Flemish woman introduces practice of starching linen into England
- 1587- English naval officer Francis Drake sails into Cadiz, Spain and sinks the Spanish fleet, thereby "Singeing the King of Spain's Beard" and delaying the Spanish invasion by a year
- 1628- Sweden & Denmark sign defense treaty against Duke of Wallenstein
- 1648- Beginning of the 18 day battle of Zhovti Vody in Ukraine - Polish King Casimir eventually defeated by Cossacks
- 1661-Chinese Ming dynasty occupies Taiwan
- 1670- Pope Clemens X elected
- 1672 -Franco-Dutch War: Louis XIV of France invades the Netherlands.
- 1707- English and Scottish parliaments accept Act of Union; creates the United Kingdom of Great Britain (comes into being 1st May)
- 1781- French fleet occupies Tobago during American War of Independence
- 1813- 1st US Rubber patent granted to Jacob F Hummel
- 1852- 1st edition of Peter Roget's Thesaurus published
- 1853- Comet C/1853 G1 (Schweizer) approaches within 0.0839 AU of Earth
- 1856 -Peace between Britain & Russia following the Crimean War

### 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 Aaqib Bashir S/O Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/O Rashidabad , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward namely Aaqib Bashir born on 05-02-2005 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.

fko Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Correction of Name in Admission Record  
This is to inform you that the name of Kousar Mehdi Wado has been recorded incorrectly in the admission record at the time of admission, as provided by the parents. The parents have now requested to correct the name in the admission record from Kousar Mehdi to Kounsar Mehdi Wado. If any body has any objection may contact the concerned authorities within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. You are kindly requested to make the necessary correction in the official records.  
School name:- Imamia public school meer behri dal  
Contact no:-9797283683 inf

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been incorrectly recorded in my driving licence bearing dl no JK01 0000015765 as Showkat Ali Jan, whereas my correct name is Showkat Ali John. That my Date of Birth has been wrongly entered as 03-04-1975, whereas my correct Date of Birth is 24-10-1965 as per authentic records. Now, I am applying for the necessary corrections in all my relevant documents. If any person has any objection to the same, they may file their representation before the concerned authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Showkat Ali John  
S/o Habibullah  
R/o Hafiz Bagh, Malla Bagh, Srinagar pd

## 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@kashmirobserver.net

# Kashmir's Drug Money Problem

A simple UPI feature gives Kashmiri families something speeches and rallies rarely provide: visibility into where children spend money and who profits from it.



Faisal Kawoosa



**“The Reserve Bank of India introduced UPI Circle in 2024, and the feature deserves far more public attention in Kashmir than it currently receives. The system allows one primary user, usually a parent, to supervise digital spending for up to five secondary users. Families can set monthly budgets, limit individual transactions, and choose whether payments require approval.**

first packet, and eventually the next dose that keeps dependency alive.

Parents often finance that path unknowingly through unrestricted cash. Digital supervision introduces friction into that cycle.

Questions emerge earlier, patterns become harder to hide, and families regain some measure of oversight in a crisis that often leaves them feeling powerless.

Implementation would require very little effort.

PhonePe, Google Pay, and Amazon Pay already support the feature. Jammu and Kashmir's administration could partner with these companies to spread awareness quickly. Schools could demonstrate the setup process during parent-teacher meetings. Banks could send informational SMS campaigns in Urdu and English. Community centers could host digital literacy workshops for parents unfamiliar with online payments.

Religious institutions could also play a constructive role. Mosques, temples, and local community groups already influence public opinion on social issues. A brief announcement during gatherings could push thousands of families toward practical action. Teachers, doctors, and local volunteers could explain how monitored digital spending strengthens communication inside homes.

This debate deserves attention because Kashmir's drug crisis has reached a deeply personal stage. Families no longer ask whether the threat exists. They ask how to protect children in an environment where harmful substances circulate with alarming ease.

Parents deserve tools that match the scale of the problem.

Having said that, digital supervision cannot replace trust between parent and child. That trust comes from conversation, attention, affection, and presence. Technology can still strengthen those bonds by improving visibility and accountability. It helps families intervene earlier, gives children clearer boundaries, and reduces the opacity that dealers rely on.

Kashmir's fight for its next generation will not be won by speeches alone. It will be won when everyday financial transparency replaces hidden cash.

That shift makes addiction harder to conceal and easier to interrupt early.

*The author is the chief analyst and co-founder of Techarc, and a leading voice on India's technology industry. He advises businesses and policymakers on emerging trends, and serves on the jury of the GLOMO Awards at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.*

## KO VIEW

### Kashmir's Misplaced Masculinity

A boy in Kashmir learns a hard social lesson very early in life. Tears stay hidden, fear stays private, and pain belongs inside the chest. A "strong" man speaks less, absorbs more, and reveals little.

That idea of masculinity now feeds one of Kashmir's most overlooked social problems.

Young men in the valley live under enormous emotional pressure. Unemployment remains high, while competition for jobs grows harsher every year. Financial pressure weighs heavily on families. Social media floods young minds with images of aggressive masculinity built around dominance, money, physical toughness, and emotional detachment.

Many boys grow into adulthood believing that vulnerability weakens their worth.

Doctors and mental health specialists in Jammu and Kashmir continue to report rising levels of anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and emotional distress among young people. Men form a major share of those struggling cases. De-addiction centers in Srinagar have repeatedly warned about growing drug use among young males, especially in urban areas. Many arrive with deep emotional isolation, fractured family communication, and years of suppressed grief.

Research strongly connects emotional suppression with destructive behaviour. Studies published by the American Psychological Association show that rigid masculine expectations increase the likelihood of depression, aggression, addiction, and social withdrawal. Men also seek professional psychological help far less frequently than women. Kashmir mirrors many of those patterns with alarming clarity.

Families often reinforce this culture without realizing the damage it causes. Sons frequently hear phrases about toughness and endurance during moments of sadness or fear. Daughters usually receive emotional comfort and conversation. Fathers rarely discuss emotional vulnerability because previous generations followed the same pattern. Silence passes from one generation to the next and gradually becomes tradition.

Schools add another gap. Students spend years studying science, mathematics, and exam preparation while emotional education remains almost absent. Many boys enter adulthood without the language to describe grief, anxiety, loneliness, or rejection. Anger then becomes the only socially acceptable emotion available to them.

That damage increasingly appears in public life. Small disagreements quickly escalate into confrontation. Online spaces reward hostility and ridicule sensitivity. Drug abuse continues spreading through sections of Kashmiri youth with devastating consequences for families. Emotional emptiness creates fertile ground for addiction and self-destructive behaviour.

Kashmir once possessed a richer understanding of masculinity. The valley's Sufi traditions celebrated compassion, introspection, poetry, humility, and emotional depth. Kashmiri literature valued tenderness alongside strength. Modern social expectations replaced much of that inheritance with performative hardness and emotional distance.

A healthier future demands cultural change inside homes, schools, colleges, mosques, and public institutions. Boys need emotional vocabulary early in life. Teachers need training in adolescent mental health. Parents must treat emotional exchange with sons as seriously as academic achievement. Community leaders should speak openly about psychological struggle without attaching shame to it.

Kashmir asks much of its young men every single day. Society cannot continue teaching them silence while expecting emotional stability in return. Buried pain eventually resurfaces through addiction, violence, despair, and alienation.

Strong men emerge through emotional awareness, honesty, self-control, empathy, and the courage to speak openly about their struggles before those struggles take over their lives.

## CASH COURSE

Road This Before You Buy Anything

### Human Economy

Technology succeeds when it strengthens workers, artisans, and communities instead of replacing them.

Irshad Mushtaq

Kashmir once built prosperity inside its homes. Downtown Srinagar functioned like a living workshop where copperware, shawls, carpets, walnut woodwork, and papier-mâché sustained entire neighbourhoods. Every lane held artisans, traders, polishers, weavers, and exporters connected through trust and skill. Families earned through craftsmanship, children learned through observation, and communities grew through shared work.

That economic culture weakened slowly, then collapsed under pressure. Artisans received tiny returns while middlemen captured larger profits. Political disruptions pushed buyers away. Design stagnated, branding stayed weak, and younger workers moved toward faster income streams. Workshops that once produced global exports now sit abandoned, while many skilled workers survive through casual labour with little stability or pride.

Industrial estates arrived with promises of modernization, though they never generated widespread employment. Kashmir now depends heavily on outside labour even for routine construction and services. Money earned inside the region increasingly flows outward through wages and contracts. Homes that once produced value now function mainly as places to sleep and consume.

Social damage followed economic decline. Productive neighborhoods gave way to isolation and frustration. Many young people spend hours consuming digital entertainment instead of building marketable skills. Computers and artificial intelligence entered daily life, though meaningful digital learning never kept pace.

Kashmir needs a different model rooted in production, skill, and responsibility. Cottage industries deserve modern design support, digital marketing, easy credit, and direct online access to buyers. Artificial intelligence can help artisans with pricing, branding, logistics, and global outreach. Schools should teach financial literacy, entrepreneurship, coding, repair work, and vocational skills alongside academics.

Economic revival also demands stronger social values. Honest business practices, respect for labour, commitment to long-term work, and cooperation between communities create the trust that every successful economy requires.

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

The drug crisis in Kashmir has moved far beyond police files and political speeches. It lives inside homes now.

Parents speak about it in hushed voices at wedding gatherings, outside tuition centers, and during late-night phone calls with relatives. Schoolteachers see it in falling attendance and fading concentration. Doctors see it in exhausted faces and damaged bodies.

Every family fears the same possibility: a child who drifts toward substances before anyone notices the signs.

Government campaigns have multiplied in recent years. Public rallies fill community halls. Awareness drives reach colleges and schools. Officials speak about rehabilitation, enforcement, and public cooperation.

Those efforts matter because the crisis has reached every district and class of society. But families still face the hardest part alone: addiction often begins through small, ordinary moments that escape attention completely.

A teenager asks for money to buy books, attend coaching, or pay for lunch. Parents hand over a few hundred rupees without suspicion because trust forms the foundation of family life. Cash then disappears into markets, alleys, coaching centers, and roadside shops without leaving a trace.

Dealers thrive in that invisible economy.

Currency notes move quickly through crowded places where nobody asks questions and nobody keeps records.

Kashmir's drug problem survives through secrecy as much as supply.

Parents usually discover the truth after visible damage appears. Grades collapse, sleep patterns change, friend circles shift, anger rises inside homes, and dinner-table talks shrink into silence. Families then scramble for answers while addiction tightens its grip.

A crisis that began with hidden transactions suddenly consumes an entire household.

Technology often receives blame for corrupting young minds. Parents worry about smartphones, social media, and unrestricted internet access. Those concerns are genuine because digital spaces expose children to harmful influences every day.

But at the same time, schools and colleges now depend heavily on online systems, digital notes, and app-based communication. Students require phones to function academically and socially.

That same technology can also become a tool for protection.

The Reserve Bank of India introduced UPI Circle in 2024, and the feature deserves far more public attention in Kashmir than it currently receives.

The system allows one primary user, usually a parent, to supervise digital spending for up to five secondary users. Families can set monthly budgets, limit individual transactions, and choose whether payments require approval. Most importantly, every rupee leaves a visible trail.

Parents gain the ability to see where money goes, when transactions occur, and which accounts receive repeated payments. Small daily transfers that once disappeared through cash now appear on a screen. Suspicious spending patterns become visible early, before serious damage enters a child's life.

This matters enormously in Kashmir's current climate.

Teenagers often spend large parts of their day

outside direct parental supervision. Coaching centers, private tuition classes, and crowded urban markets create spaces where harmful networks operate easily. Dealers depend on anonymity. Cash protects that anonymity perfectly. Digital payments weaken it.

Imagine a common situation. A teenager asks for pocket money before leaving for class. The parent sends funds digitally through UPI Circle. Payments for food, transport, or study material appear normally in the transaction history. Repeated transfers to unfamiliar accounts stand out quickly. Parents then gain an opening for conversation before addiction deepens.

Accountability changes behaviour. Young people make different choices when they know spending habits remain visible inside the family. Dealers also lose confidence when money flows through monitored systems rather than untraceable cash exchanges. Digital transparency disrupts the comfort that illegal networks currently enjoy.

But UPI Circle alone cannot solve Kashmir's drug crisis. Serious solutions require strong policing, tighter border monitoring, accessible rehabilitation centers, trained counsellors in schools, and sustained community involvement. Families also need honest discussions about peer pressure, mental health, and addiction. Every part of society holds responsibility here.

Financial visibility still fills a major gap that public debate rarely addresses.

Money fuels addiction at every stage. Someone pays for the first cigarette, the first pill, the

## Letter to Editor

### Why Kashmir Must Put Tribal Girls at the Center of Change

Kashmir's progressive movement depends heavily on what happens inside the homes of Gujjar and Bakarwal families living in mountain villages, forest settlements, and migratory routes that rarely enter political statement.

Real progress in Jammu and Kashmir will come when tribal girls gain stronger access to schools, digital learning, healthcare, transport, and employment.

That transformation has already started. Smartphones now reach villages that spent decades cut off from educational resources.

A tribal student sitting in Rajouri or Bandipora can watch science lectures on YouTube, learn spoken English through mobile applications, or prepare for government exams through online classes. Internet access has turned a phone into a classroom, a library, and a career guide.

Education gains real meaning when it leads to economic independence. Free education up to postgraduate level eases pressure on low-income families and encourages parents to keep girls in school longer.

Scholarships help further when they reach students consistently and without bureaucratic delay. Local Industrial Training Institutes and village skill centers also create direct pathways into technical work, healthcare support services, tourism, and small enterprise.

Seasonal migration still disrupts schooling for thousands of tribal children. Many Gujjar and Bakarwal families move between the Jammu plains and the Pir Panjal region with livestock during different seasons.

Children often lose months of classroom learning during that movement. Mobile education programs, seasonal hostels, and digital study systems can reduce those

interruptions and help students remain connected to formal education.

Healthcare access also determines whether girls continue their studies. Better maternal care, vaccination programs, and nearby primary health centers improve school attendance and family stability. Transport support matters equally in remote districts where long distances discourage regular attendance, especially during winter months.

Awareness remains another major challenge. Many families still lack clear information about welfare schemes, higher education support, legal rights, and recruitment opportunities. Community outreach programs led through schools, local administrations, and village networks can close that information gap quickly and effectively.

Gujjar and Bakarwal communities form nearly twelve percent of Jammu and Kashmir's population according to

the 2011 Census. Their contribution to Kashmir's cultural identity runs deep through language, pastoral traditions, food systems, and social life. Public policy should treat tribal advancement as central to Kashmir's growth rather than a peripheral welfare issue.

Political speeches often celebrate youth empowerment. Serious change begins when a tribal girl gains stable schooling, internet access, technical training, and the confidence to enter public life on equal terms.

Kashmir will move forward faster when those girls stand at the center of development instead of the edge of it.

Sincerely,

Sahil Manzoor Bhati  
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

# Kashmir's White Gold No Longer Pays

Milk remains central to daily life in the valley even as the farmers who produce it struggle to stay afloat.

Faisal Rashid Bhat

A pale bulb swings above a narrow shed on the edge of a village in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Steam rises from fresh dung on the floor. Metal buckets clatter against concrete as 42-year-old dairy farmer Ghulam Mohammad bends beside a brown Jersey cow and begins the morning milking.

Morning mist still grips the fields outside. His hands move quickly through work he learned as a child, work his father performed before him.

A tractor rattles somewhere in the dark, dogs bark near the road, and milk foams into the bucket in thick white streams.

"Every morning begins like this," he said, stopping to scatter hay before another cow. "The animals eat before anyone in my family does."

The shed holds seven cattle: two produce milk, one calf was born last winter, and another animal has stopped yielding after illness.

Each cow represents years of expense and constant attention. Veterinary visits, concentrated feed, fodder, medicines, shed repairs and winter heating absorb nearly every rupee that enters the household.

The dairy farmer's earnings remain painfully thin.

Five litres of milk require nearly ₹165 in daily input costs, according to estimates shared by several dairy farmers in Tral and neighbouring villages. Concentrated feed alone consumes around ₹100. Green fodder and dry hay add another ₹60. Calcium and mineral supplements push the figure higher. Local buyers pay ₹40 per litre on most days, sometimes ₹45 when demand rises during wedding season or winter shortages.

Five litres sold at ₹40 bring ₹200. The farmer keeps roughly ₹35 after expenses.

A half-litre plastic bottle of packaged water in Srinagar often sells for ₹20.

The comparison surfaces repeatedly in discussions with dairy farmers across the valley. Many describe it with a mixture of disbelief and exhaustion.

Milk demands years of investment before a cow produces a return. Water arrives packaged, transported and chilled. Consumers purchase both daily, but markets value them very differently.

"This work fills every hour of your day," said Abdul Rashid, a dairy farmer in nearby village who recently sold three cows after mounting debt. "People bargain over milk



like it has little worth."

Kashmir's dairy sector supports thousands of rural households, especially in Pulwama, Budgam, Baramulla and Anantnag districts, where small family-run operations dominate production. Government figures estimate that the region still imports substantial quantities of milk and dairy products from outside Jammu and Kashmir to meet local demand. Agricultural economists say declining local production could deepen that dependence in the coming years.

Signs of strain already appear in villages where cattle sheds once stood full.

Young men who grew up feeding livestock now search for government jobs, drive taxis or leave for Gulf countries. Dairy farming gives long hours and narrow returns. Families who once kept six or seven cows now manage one or two.

Several farmers interviewed in Pulwama described borrowing money during winter months when fodder prices rise sharply and milk yields decline.

"The younger generation watches the numbers," said Dr. Bashir Ah-



## GOVERNMENT-BACKED PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS COULD ESTABLISH MINIMUM SUPPORT

**PRICES FOR MILK DURING PERIODS OF MARKET INSTABILITY,"** says Niyaz Malik, an executive in Srinagar-based milk distribution firm. "Expanded cold storage infrastructure would reduce spoilage losses that hit small farmers hardest during summer months. Mobile-based platforms linking consumers directly with village producers could reduce dependence on intermediaries."

mad, a veterinary officer in South Kashmir. "They understand how much labour goes into one litre of milk. Many decide very early that they want another future."

That calculation threatens more than household incomes.

Milk collection centers depend on regular rural supply. Local processing plants require raw milk

from village producers to remain viable. Rural transport workers, fodder sellers, veterinary suppliers and seasonal labourers all rely on the dairy economy in varying degrees.

Agricultural researchers at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology have repeatedly pointed to dairy farming as a critical pillar of Kashmir's rural economy because it provides year-round income in areas where crop cultivation remains seasonal.

Villages in the valley still revolve around milk in countless ways. Morning tea simmers in nearly every home before sunrise. Wedding feasts depend heavily on curd, ghee and cottage cheese. Religious gatherings and shrines distribute milk-based offerings throughout the year. Families purchase dairy products daily even when other household expenses tighten.

Farmers say the cultural importance of milk rarely translates into fair prices.

"Middlemen often collect milk directly from villages and transport it to urban markets where retail prices rise significantly," says Khur-

shid Bhat, a dairy farmer from Tral. "Small producers possess little bargaining power because most operate independently and sell limited quantities."

Several farmers in Pulwama said cooperative systems remain weak or inconsistent compared with states such as Gujarat, where organized dairy networks transformed village economies over decades.

Economists and agricultural planners point toward several possible interventions.

"Government-backed procurement systems could establish minimum support prices for milk during periods of market instability," says Niyaz Malik, an executive in Srinagar-based milk distribution firm. "Expanded cold storage infrastructure would reduce spoilage losses that hit small farmers hardest during summer months. Mobile-based platforms linking consumers directly with village producers could reduce dependence on intermediaries."

Officials within Jammu and Kashmir's animal husbandry department have promoted breed improvement programs and fodder development schemes in recent years. Farmers acknowledge those efforts while describing a larger problem rooted in pricing.

"Production has improved," said Mushtaq Ahmad, who owns four cows near Tral town. "Income has not improved."

Morning light spreads slowly through the Pulwama village as schoolchildren begin walking along the road outside Ghulam Mohammad's home. A milk can waits near the gate for collection. His wife washes feeding troughs while he prepares fodder for the afternoon cycle that will begin within hours.

The work leaves little room for rest.

His father spent four decades tending cattle in the same shed. Family photographs hang inside the house nearby, faded by damp winters and wood smoke.

One image shows a younger version of him standing beside a cow decorated with garlands during a village fair long ago.

He studies the animals carefully before leaving for breakfast. One cow nudges his shoulder impatiently, another lowers its head into fresh hay.

"These animals feed families," he said. "People remember that only when the milk stops coming."

— The writer hails from Tral, and is a published author.

## Twenty Years of Candlelight

Twenty years after his death, a granddaughter remembers the kind of wisdom that once warmed Kashmiri homes through darkness and winter.

Noorain Fatima Ansari

Two decades have slipped through the hourglass since the world grew a little quieter on the 27th of April, 2006. Today marks twenty years without my Dadu, a man who was a scholar to the world, but a sanctuary to me.

I was only in the fourth grade when he left.

They say memories begin to drift like mist over the Dal Lake as we approach the milestone of thirty, the edges softening like old photographs left in the sun.

But the heart has its own way of keeping time.

I still feel the specific, heavy chill of those Kashmiri winters, where the power cuts would plunge the house into darkness, leaving us with nothing but the amber glow of a single candle.

In that flickering light, Dadu was our fire.

He didn't just recite tales, he created a world where my brother and I felt safe from the shadows.

To our society, he was an Aalim, a writer of deep intellect. But to me, he was the playful conspirator who became a child just to meet me where I was.

He taught me that true wisdom isn't just found in books, but in the lightness of a grandfather's laugh.

I still remember our last outings in Bangalore, the rhythm of the swings and the sharp, bright taste of cucumbers topped with red chili.

I can still see his wink, that silent, rebellious pact we shared when the adults scolded us.

He was my shield, a man who chose to be small when I was small, always coming to my rescue.

Dadu had battled cancer with the strength of a titan, yet his departure felt like a sudden sunset.

At ten years old, I understood the silence in the room, but I couldn't yet grasp the depth of the void he would leave behind.

Now, twenty years later, I realize that even a "brief" time with a soul like his is enough to last a lifetime.

I feel that loss today with a matured ache.

I wish there had been more time. I wish I could sit with the man I am now and talk to the scholar he was.

But looking back through the mist of two decades, I realize the time we did have was painted in the brightest colours.

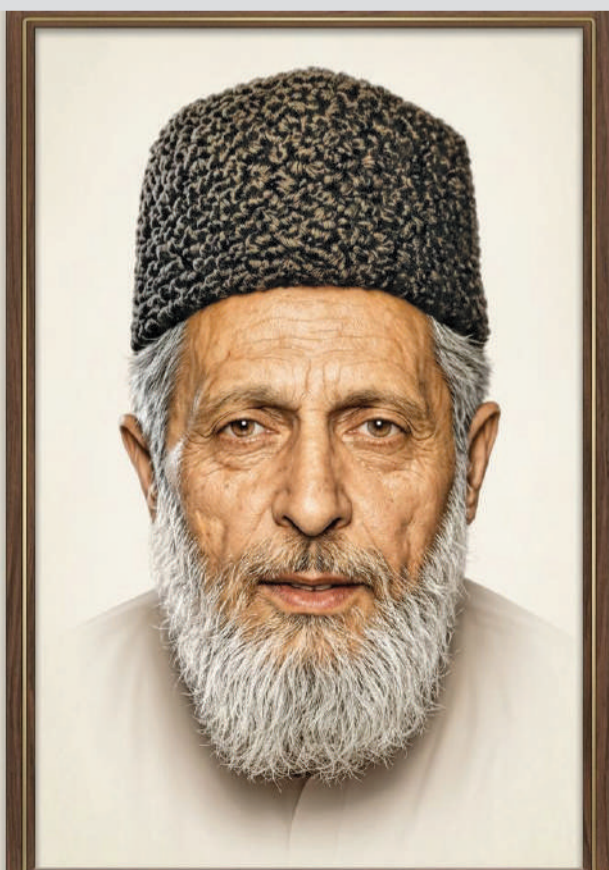
He is in a better place now, surely at peace. As for me, I still carry the candlelight of his memory.

It has been twenty years, but the warmth of his stories still keeps the winter at bay.

— The author is an accomplished educator and media professional.



**I STILL REMEMBER OUR LAST OUTINGS IN BANGALORE, THE RHYTHM OF THE SWINGS AND THE SHARP, BRIGHT TASTE OF CUCUMBERS TOPPED WITH RED CHILI.** I can still see his wink, that silent, rebellious pact we shared when the adults scolded us. He was my shield, a man who chose to be small when I was small, always coming to my rescue.



## 17 Alumni Joined Terrorist Ranks: Div Com On Shopian Seminary Ban

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Authorities declared Darul Uloom Jamia Sirajul Uloom an unlawful entity under the UAPA after its 17 alumni allegedly joined terrorist ranks and were later killed in separate encounters, a police official said on Tuesday.

"As many as 17 former students of the institution joined terrorist ranks and were later

killed in separate encounters, indicating a consistent pattern of indoctrination and recruitment," said the official, who wished to remain anonymous.

On April 24, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg, issued a two-page order based on a dossier presented by Senior Superintendent of Police, Shopian, pointing toward the alleged illegal activities at Darul Uloom Jamia Sirajul Uloom at

Imam Sahib in Shopian.

According to the Garg order, there was "credible input and evidence on record to indicated sustained and covert linkages of the institution with Jamaat-e-Islami", which the Centre banned in 2019.

The order stated that individuals affiliated with the banned outfit had de facto control of the institution, including their placement in key administrative

and academic positions.

It said the institution, over time, fostered an environment conducive to radicalisation, with many alumni involved in terror activities.

However, Mohammad Shafi Lone, chairman of the institute, said they had no links with Jamaat-e-Islami or any illegal outfit.

"We are a law-abiding institute and have nothing to do with

the banned Jamaat-e-Islami. There are 814 students currently enrolled in the school, which is affiliated with the Board of School Education and Kashmir School Federation," Lone told reporters.

He said the institution had received a show-cause notice from the authorities last month, and duly replied.

"If the authorities still have any doubts, they should constitute a committee and

investigate the allegations against our institution. If these allegations are found true, we will support the government in whatever action it decides to take," Lone said.

The official said security agencies have, over time, generated adverse reports suggesting the institution's involvement in activities prejudicial to the national security and integrity of the state.

"Input further indicated the existence of a support environment that enabled and encouraged unlawful and anti-national activities. Many close relatives of slain terrorists are holding key positions in the Jamia Sirajul Uloom," he added.

The official said to evade legal action, members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami were operating through proxies and covertly running their agenda.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### LG Flags Urgent

in the agriculture sector under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing record production figures and policy interventions aimed at boosting productivity.

According to him, the country's agricultural output reached 357 million tonnes in 2024-25, an increase of 25 million tonnes over the previous year, while horticulture production stood at 362 million tonnes, driven in part by diversification into high-value crops.

He highlighted key initiatives, including the nationwide soil testing programme that has led to the distribution of 25 crore Soil Health Cards to farmers. He also noted that the limit for agricultural credit has been enhanced from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, alongside a Rs 100 crore allocation for promoting high-productivity seeds under a national mission.

The Lieutenant Governor further pointed to a sharp increase in procurement of pulses and oilseeds at minimum support price (MSP), stating that pulses procurement has risen by 7,350 percent and oilseeds by 1,500 percent since 2013-14.

Despite these gains, Sinha cautioned that climate change is emerging as a major disruptor, with extreme weather events reported across several states over the past year.

"The moment has come to move beyond minor adjustments and embrace bold, science-led, farmer-focused transformation," he said, reiterating the need for coordinated efforts among stakeholders to build resilience and secure the future of agriculture.

#### Pandits Carried

It highlights the platform's role in sustaining socio-cultural engagement among the displaced population.

Addressing the gathering, Sinha said the Kashmiri Pandit community endured "genocide and uprooting" from their ancestral homeland, leaving behind material possessions but retaining their culture, traditions, faith, education and language.

He noted that more than two decades after the exodus, Hangloo transformed Radio Sharda into a "beacon of hope and unity" in 2011, connecting Kashmiri Pandits across the world with their roots.

The Lieutenant Governor said the radio platform has played a key role in preserving songs, stories and traditions while offering space to poets, scholars and artists. He added that such initiatives ensure that cultural expressions continue to inspire younger generations.

Calling Radio Sharda and similar efforts "pathways for youth," Sinha urged younger members of the community to take responsibility for safeguarding and expanding their cultural heritage. He said the youth must actively work to revive language, music, rituals and traditions so that the legacy evolves and endures meaningfully.

Sinha also remarked that successive generations of Kashmiri Pandits have endured deep hardships beyond displacement, describing it as a wound that "time cannot fully heal." He said initiatives like Radio Sharda have acted as a vital lifeline in maintaining community bonds during prolonged displacement.

The event also saw the Lieutenant Governor felicitating individuals from the Kashmiri Pandit community for their contributions across various fields.

#### PMGSY-IV Push:

at a cost of Rs 3,550 crore. The projects are expected to benefit 363 remote habitations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Rs 8,000 Cr rural projects sanctioned in one year He said that projects worth nearly Rs 8,000 crore have been sanctioned in the past year under various rural development initiatives in the Union Territory, describing it as a major achievement in bridging infrastructure gaps.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chouhan said Jammu and Kashmir has been accorded top priority in development planning. He added that the Union Territory was among the first to receive approvals under successive phases of PMGSY-IV.

"I have come with the prime minister's message of development and message of love. The doors of Delhi and our hearts are open for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding that the Centre will leave no stone unturned to ensure development of the region.

5 lakh families to get pucca houses after verification

In a major welfare announcement, the Union Minister said that around five lakh families in Jammu and Kashmir living in 'kuchha' houses will be provided permanent homes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana after physical verification.

Assuring full coverage, he said no eligible household will be left without a permanent house.

Rs 4,000 Cr push for women self-help groups Highlighting women empowerment, Chouhan said self-help groups will be further strengthened, with Rs 4,000 crore being disbursed to promote women's self-reliance and rural entrepreneurship.

He noted that around two lakh "Lakhpati Didis" are already present in Jammu and Kashmir and said the government aims to expand such initiatives so that poverty is eliminated.

"My sisters should live with dignity and pride," he said.

Integrated farming model to boost farmer incomes

Turning to agriculture, the minister said Jammu and Kashmir's small and fragmented landholdings require a tailored and scientific approach. He announced that the government will promote integrated farming systems combining agriculture,

horticulture, fisheries, livestock and beekeeping to generate multiple income streams.

He said the Centre is introducing new measures and schemes to ensure that farmers' incomes increase sustainably.

Clean Plant Programme to improve horticulture output

Chouhan flagged concerns over horticulture productivity, particularly in apple and walnut cultivation, attributing past challenges to poor-quality planting material.

He announced a Clean Plant Programme in collaboration with local institutions to produce certified, disease-free planting material and develop modern nurseries to supply quality saplings within the region.

ICAR team to prepare scientific roadmap

The minister said a team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research will be deputed to Jammu and Kashmir to assess agro-climatic conditions, soil health, water resources and crop suitability.

The team will prepare a scientific roadmap for agriculture and horticulture development aimed at long-term productivity enhancement and crop diversification.

He said the Centre and the Union Territory administration will work in close coordination to implement the rural transformation agenda.

Youth potential and development push

Chouhan also highlighted the potential of Jammu and Kashmir's youth, stating that with the right opportunities, they can perform at the global level.

"We are not outsiders. We are your family. Do not call us chief guest—we are part of your home," he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, senior officials and public representatives were present on the occasion.

#### Will Ensure

the latest phase of the programme is aimed at connecting remaining unserved habitations across the Union Territory.

"PMGSY-IV will link unconnected habitations across Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding that expansion of the road network is steadily bridging long-standing accessibility gaps in remote and hilly regions.

330 roads to link 363 habitations across J&K

During the event, Union Minister for Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan formally handed over a sanction letter worth Rs 3,566 crore to the Chief Minister.

The package under PMGSY-IV (Batch-II) includes 330 roads spanning around 1,600 kilometres, which are set to connect 363 habitations, significantly improving last-mile connectivity across rural Jammu and Kashmir.

Centre-UT coordination strengthens development push

Welcoming the Union Minister, Omar described Chouhan as a friend and well-wisher of Jammu and Kashmir, noting his continued support for the Union Territory's development agenda.

He said coordination between the Centre and the UT administration has strengthened over the past one and a half years, with sustained engagement on key development initiatives.

"Whatever sanctions have been given, we will ensure work starts on the ground. In the coming months, implementation will begin and remaining requirements will also be taken forward," he said.

From hours of walking to motorable roads

Highlighting the impact of earlier PMGSY phases, the Chief Minister said rural connectivity has already transformed daily life in far-flung areas.

"People who once had to walk four to five hours to reach a road now have access to motorable connectivity. Due to Phase II, Phase III and now Phase IV, access to hospitals, schools and markets has improved," he said.

He reiterated that roads remain the lifeline of development, particularly in geographically challenging regions like Jammu and Kashmir.

Villages at core of development strategy

Omar said the government's focus remains on connecting every remaining habitation, especially in scattered and mountainous areas.

"Our real strength lies in villages. Our heritage and economy are rooted in rural areas, and our effort is to strengthen the rural economy in every possible way," he said.

Focus on women, livelihoods and crop protection

The Chief Minister also highlighted ongoing initiatives under rural development and livelihood missions, particularly the role of Self-Help Groups under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in expanding opportunities for women-led enterprises.

He expressed optimism about scaling up women's economic empowerment, stating that "Lakhpati Didis" could progress towards becoming "Crorepati Didis" with sustained support and capacity building.

Omar also stressed the need to strengthen crop insurance mechanisms to safeguard farmers against weather-related risks affecting agriculture and horticulture.

Meanwhile, during the event, the Union Minister also released a Rs 4,568 crore Mother Sanction under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-NRLM for women Self-Help Groups across 24 states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir.

#### Rains To Lash

the region is expected to remain mostly dry, with chances of brief showers at isolated locations.

The MeT department has issued an advisory asking farmers to suspend agricultural operations on April 28-29 in view of expected rainfall, gusty

winds and possible hailstorms.

Meanwhile, daytime temperatures across the Valley remained below normal. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 21.2°C, which is 1.9 degrees below normal, while the minimum settled at 12.6°C, 3.1 degrees above normal.

Qazigund registered a high of 20.0°C, while Pahalgam recorded 18.2°C. Kupwara saw a maximum of 21.0°C and Kokernag 20.2°C. Gulmarg, the coldest among the recorded stations, registered a maximum of 15.0°C.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 32.6°C, 3.1 degrees below normal, and a minimum of 25.1°C. Banihal and Batote recorded 21.6°C and 20.1°C, respectively, while Katra registered 30.0°C.

Light rainfall was recorded at several stations during the day, including Pahalgam (7.2 mm), Kupwara (2.0 mm), and Kokernag (1.8 mm), while Srinagar recorded 0.1 mm.

The department said the weather conditions may lead to temporary disruptions and advised people to remain cautious during the afternoon and evening hours.(KNO)

#### PDP's 'No Agent'

in the elections, with the stated aim of keeping the BJP out. However, despite lacking the required numerical strength, the BJP managed to win one of the seats.

"It is now clear—not through statements by our party or political commentary, but through the Right to Information Act—that the source of the BJP's votes has been revealed," the NC said.

Escalating its attack, the NC accused the PDP of maintaining a "tacit alliance" with the BJP, alleging a disconnect between its public rhetoric and electoral conduct.

"So much for the pretentious anti-BJP rhetoric in rallies, while voting for them and ensuring they are strengthened in Parliament and the Assembly. This is a continuation of the 2014 PDP-BJP alliance," the NC added.

#### MLA Mehraj Malik

out of the jail, Malik was greeted by supporters who garlanded him with flowers and raised slogans. On reaching his residence in Jammu, he received an emotional welcome from family members, with his parents embracing him amid celebrations marked by drum beats and distribution of sweets.

Calling his release a "victory of truth," Malik said his imprisonment was not just personal but an attempt to silence public voice.

"It is not that they had jailed me, they had jailed the voice of the people, their aspirations and their strength," he told supporters.

The MLA asserted that his political struggle would continue, stressing that it is driven by public welfare rather than political ambition. "Our struggle will continue. It will not change," he said, urging youth to participate in politics, which he described as the only means to bring meaningful change.

Malik also expressed concern over what he termed shrinking political space, alleging that those raising public issues are often entangled in legal cases. He maintained that his detention was part of such a pattern.

Highlighting broader concerns, he said unemployment remains a key issue affecting youth despite various campaigns, and called for policy-driven governance. "If those making policies themselves lack vision, how will society progress?" he asked.

Emphasising unity, Malik urged people to rise above religious divisions and focus on humanity, stating that governance should be judged on performance rather than identity.

Referring to his jail term, he said that while a person can be imprisoned, "thoughts cannot be confined," adding that democratic processes would ultimately allow people to judge what is right.

Family members and party leaders also termed his release a "victory of truth." His father, Shammam Din, said Malik has always worked for the people and expressed confidence that truth ultimately prevails.

Delhi-based AAP leader Imran Hussain thanked the judiciary for quashing what he described as an unjust case and alleged that voices raising public issues were being targeted.

Reaffirming his commitment, Malik said he would soon resume public outreach after consultations with his team, maintaining that his focus remains on welfare-oriented change through democratic means.

#### Kashmir Launches

woodwork framed the cabin interior. Symbols of Kashmir's heritage ran along the painted sides.

Officials, conservationists and boatmen gathered around it as cameras clicked and school representatives leaned forward to listen.

The vessel arrived with a purpose larger than sightseeing.

Organizers called it The Nature Shikara, a floating classroom designed to teach visitors how Dal Lake survives, and what threatens its future.

Environmental lawyer Nadeem Qadri moved through the crowd greeting guests before the launch ceremony began. Through his organization, The Nature University, Qadri has pushed environmental education into schools, public campaigns and civic discussions. Dal Lake, he said, offered the clearest place to begin.

"The vessel would give lessons on the lake's living systems," Qadri said. "Every voyage can become an environmental learning experience."

That idea has gained support well beyond environmental circles.

Syed Farooq Ahmad Gillani, advisor to The Nature University, inaugurated the vessel

alongside S.D. Choudhary, SSP Enforcement with the Tourist Police. Farooq Ashai, convenor of the Private Schools' Association and advisor to the initiative, attended with educators preparing student visits for the coming months.

"We often teach children about the environment inside classrooms," Ashai said. "This initiative places that lesson directly on the water."

Members of Jammu and Kashmir Eco-Watch filled the front rows during the ceremony. Their presence reflected a larger concern surrounding Dal Lake, whose waters support tourism, transport and entire neighbourhoods built along its edges.

Restoration projects have expanded during recent years as pollution, unchecked construction and declining water quality place mounting pressure on the ecosystem.

The Nature Shikara attempts to answer that crisis through the tourism economy itself.

Visitors aboard the vessel pass floating gardens and Char Chinari while guides explain aquatic life, biodiversity and water conservation. Solar-powered displays line the cabin, and biodegradable materials cover the passenger spaces. Local artisans crafted the walnut interiors, linking Kashmiri design traditions with the boat's environmental mission.

"Every design choice amplifies ecological harmony while deepening visitor connection to the water," Qadri said.

Near the rear of the boat, Javeed Ahmad Sofi rested one hand on an oar as guests boarded. Residents around Dal Lake know him simply as Michael. His family has lived beside the lake for generations, and he learned its waterways during childhood.

"This is a dream come true," Sofi said before pushing the vessel gently away from the dock.

His role highlights the project's central philosophy: people living on the lake hold knowledge that conservation campaigns need. Organizers want boatmen and residents to guide the environmental conversation rather than remain at its margins.

Tourists have long arrived at Dal Lake seeking photographs of carved shikaras, floating markets and the Zabarwan mountains mirrored in the water. The Nature Shikara adds another layer to that journey.

Guides explain how lake vegetation filters impurities, waste affects water systems and restoration efforts depend upon public participation.

Representatives from Sanctuary Nature Foundation joined the launch ceremony and donated copies of Sanctuary magazine to support the educational program. Organizers viewed the contribution as evidence that local conservation efforts in Kashmir now command national attention.

The project also arrives as Kashmir's tourism industry enters a new phase. Visitors increasingly seek experiences tied to ecology, local culture and community engagement. Organizers believe Dal Lake provides an ideal setting for that shift because every aspect of life around the water remains connected to its survival.

Schoolchildren from private institutions linked through Ashai's network will soon begin regular excursions aboard the vessel. Teachers plan to use the tours as field lessons on ecology, conservation and civic responsibility.

By afternoon, sunlight settled warmly over the lake as the shikara glided deeper into the channels. Michael steered past floating gardens and lively banks with the ease of long familiarity. Ripples spread outward behind the oars while tourists watched the mountains shimmer in the distance.

Dal Lake has long stood as Kashmir's defining image. Now, one shikara moves through its waters with a new purpose: teaching the valley that the lake's future rests on what its people choose to protect today.

#### No Decision To

Minister Surinder Choudhary, underlined the continued importance of Urdu in revenue administration. "The language remains integral to official functioning, particularly for revenue officers who are required to read and interpret documents in Urdu," he added.

Wani clarified that no notification has been issued to remove Urdu from the syllabus or recruitment process and challenged critics to produce any such document if it exists. "Such claims only create confusion among the public," he said.

Wani maintained that while opposition parties have the right to question the government, they should refrain from misleading people. He reiterated the government's commitment to retaining Urdu within the administrative system.

Questioning the urgency of the issue being raised, Wani said attempts to turn it into a controversy were unwarranted and urged the media to present the government's position while reporting.

He added that the government, still early in its tenure, requires time to implement its agenda and said its performance would ultimately be judged by the people during elections.

Referring to past decisions, Wani remarked that earlier approaches had long-term implications for the region and urged opposition leaders to adopt a more constructive stance while raising public issues.

Earlier in the day PDP leader Iltija Mufti staged a sit-in protest along with party workers in Srinagar against the government's decision to remove Urdu as a mandatory qualification for the Tehsildar examination and revenue services recruitment rules.

Addressing media persons during the protest, Iltija Mufti, as strongly criticised the National Conference (NC)-led government, accusing it of attacking language, identity and cultural heritage by removing Urdu from official recruitment criteria.

She said Urdu is deeply embedded in the region's social and administrative framework and

cannot be separated from its cultural existence.

"We have come here because Urdu is being removed. The National Conference has attacked Urdu language. Urdu is a part of our faith and culture. Urdu is a part of our civilisation," she said.

She alleged that the ruling party was failing on governance and public representation, claiming that elected representatives were not addressing ground issues.

Iltija Mufti said Urdu serves as a unifying language across diverse communities in Jammu and Kashmir, including Kashmiri, Gujri, Pahari and Punjabi speakers and warned that removing it from administrative requirements would weaken institutional continuity and cultural cohesion.

She alleged that the government's decision aligns with broader political designs and demanded immediate rollback of the order.

#### HC Issues Decorum

specifically advised advocates to uphold dignity, sobriety, and propriety in all professional and social engagements, especially at events organized by Bar Associations.

It also called upon them to refrain from participating in or promoting any activity deemed unethical, vulgar, or culturally inappropriate, which could undermine the dignity of the legal profession.

Additionally, all Bar Associations within the jurisdiction of the High Court have been directed to ensure that events conducted under their banner reflect the decorum and prestige associated with the legal fraternity.

The court warned that any non-compliance with these directives may invite appropriate legal action.

"All Bar Associations within the jurisdiction of this High Court are also requested to ensure that events conducted under their banner uphold the decorum and prestige of the institution and the profession at all times," the circular reads, adding, "Non-compliance with the above may invite appropriate action in accordance with law. This Circular is brought to the notice of all concerned for strict compliance."

#### Lok Adalat Awards

grounds, inter alia, absence of free consent, jurisdictional error, or fraud."

As per Wani's plea, the dispute arose from a complaint filed under Section 138 NI Act before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sopore. The complaint pertained to two dishonoured cheques each issued by Wani in favour of one A H Dar.

Wani had acknowledged the liability during proceedings and later agreed to settle the matter before a Lok Adalat. As per the settlement, he undertook to pay Rs 3.8 lakh in full and final settlement by March 2025.

However, after failing to honour the agreement, execution proceedings were initiated, including coercive steps such as issuance of arrest warrants. This led Wani to approach the High Court under Article 227 of the Constitution of India.

"...it is evident that the impugned Lok Adalat Award dated 08.03.2025 has been passed on the basis of a settlement arrived at between the parties and duly recorded by the Lok Adalat," the court said, adding, "The award clearly reflects that the petitioner/accused undertook to pay an amount of Rs 3,80,000/- to the respondent/complainant in full and final settlement of the dispute within a stipulated time frame."

The Court observed that the petitioner had consciously participated in the settlement process and derived the benefit of avoiding criminal prosecution. Therefore, he could not later "approbate and reprobate" by challenging the same settlement.

Addressing the argument that the award imposed penal consequences including imprisonment and payment of double the amount, the Court said, statutory limitation of civil decree status does not imply that parties are precluded from incorporating deterrent or default clauses within the terms of their settlement. "A compromise may validly include stipulations providing for enhanced liability upon breach, so as to secure performance. Such clauses are neither uncommon nor impermissible; rather, they are recognised incidents of a binding settlement, unless they are shown to be opposed to law."

The court also underscored the foundational principles governing Lok Adalats, cautioning against deviations that undermine their purpose as alternative dispute resolution forums.

The mechanism, the Court observed, was designed to provide a speedy, cost-effective, and amicable resolution of disputes through mutual settlement rather than adjudication.

Referring to the National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009, particularly Rule 13, the Court clarified that members of Lok Adalats function only as facilitators and have no adjudicatory powers. Any award passed must be based solely on voluntary compromise between parties, free from coercion or undue influence.

The Court expressed concern over the growing trend of parties challenging Lok Adalat awards, noting that such practices defeat the very purpose of the system and burden higher courts with avoidable litigation.

Highlighting the reasons behind such failures, the Court pointed to lapses on both sides. Parties, it said, must approach Lok Adalats with bona fide intent and cannot be allowed to resile from settlements after consenting to them. Simultaneously, members of Lok Adalats must ensure that settlements are voluntary, informed, lawful, and free from coercion.

The court further stressed that awards must be clear, practical, and enforceable. Inclusion of vague, onerous, or impracticable terms, the Court noted, often leads to fresh disputes at the enforcement stage, thereby defeating the purpose of settlement.

## 4-Year-Old Pulwama Boy Feared Drowned In Shopian

Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** A four-year-old boy from Pulwama is feared to have drowned after slipping into a fast-flowing stream near Dubjan Bridge in south Kashmir's Shopian district, with an extensive search operation entering its third day on Tuesday. The child, identified as Mohammad Hanzala, a resident of Tiken area in Pulwama, reportedly fell into the Rambiar stream on Sunday and was swept away by strong currents, triggering panic and grief among locals. Officials said multiple agencies, including the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), launched a coordinated rescue operation soon after the incident. Search Intensified Across Stream Stretch. Rescue teams have been combing the stream and adjoining areas continuously, navigating difficult terrain and strong water flow. Despite sustained efforts over the past two days, the child remains untraced. An SDRF official said specialised equipment and additional man-

power have been deployed to scan deeper sections of the nallah in a bid to locate the body. Officials, Leaders Visit Site. Senior officials, including the Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shopian, visited Dubjan to review the ongoing operation. Several political leaders, including MLA Pulwama Waheed Para, also reached the site and urged authorities to expedite the search. Para appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to extend support to the grieving family, describing the incident as deeply distressing. Expert Divers, Locals Join Efforts. To strengthen the operation, experienced civilian body retrievers, including experts from outside districts, have been roped in to assist in the search. Local residents have also joined teams, combing riverbanks and nearby areas. Authorities said the operation will continue until the child is located, while urging the public to cooperate as teams work under challenging conditions. The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the region, with widespread prayers for the recovery of the minor.

## Budgam Police Seal Five Pharmacies in Narbal

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Police in central Kashmir's Budgam district have sealed five medical shops in the Narbal area during a joint inspection drive aimed at curbing the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs and ensuring compliance with regulatory norms. The action was carried out as part of an ongoing anti-drug enforcement campaign, with joint teams comprising officers from multiple police units and officials from the Drug Control Department conducting inspections across various locations, including remote areas of the district. During the drive, officials scrutinized stock registers, sale and purchase records, valid licenses, and other man-

datory documentation maintained by pharmacy owners. Authorities said five medical shops in Narbal were sealed by the Drug Inspector in the presence of the Incharge Police Post Narbal for alleged violations, including failure to install CCTV cameras and non-compliance with other regulatory requirements. The inspections were aimed at identifying irregularities and preventing the illegal sale and misuse of medicines, particularly controlled and prescription drugs, which are often linked to substance abuse among youth. Officials directed all pharmacy operators to strictly adhere to prescribed norms and maintain proper documentation in line with legal requirements.

## Authorities Review Amarnath Yatra Arrangements

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Authorities on Tuesday reviewed arrangements for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra at a high-level meeting and set June 10 as the deadline for completion of all works, including the facelift of the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu. The 57-day pilgrimage will commence on July 3 from the twin routes -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district -- and conclude on August 28 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti chaired the meeting and reviewed preparations, including the action plan for setting up registration counters in Jammu and RFID centres at Lakhapur, Bhagwati Nagar and other lodgement centres, officials said. Officials informed the meeting that token centres for on-the-spot and Tatal registration would be set up at the Tawi riverfront to ease congestion and traffic issues near the railway station. The Divisional Commissioner directed that all works be completed by June 10, including whitewashing, setting up stalls for bus ticket booking, langars, cloakroom facilities, and arrangements for accommodation, washrooms, power supply and lighting inside and outside the Bhagwati Nagar camp, they said. He also asked departments to en-



sure proper drinking water supply, sanitation and langar facilities at the token centre venue. Officials said tenders had been floated for repair and renovation works at Bhagwati Nagar, the base camp from where Yatra convoys leave under security escort for Pahalgam and Baltal. Directions were also issued for setting up a convenience store by the Cooperative Department, provision of prepaid SIM cards and installation of German hangars for pilgrims at the camp, they added. The Divisional Commissioner directed the Fire and Emergency Services Department to conduct a thorough fire safety audit, while the Public Works Department was asked to undertake blacktopping of roads inside and around the camp. The Power Development Department was instructed to ensure proper illumination and backup generator sets for an uninterrupted power supply, they said. He also reviewed arrangements at the lodgement centres in Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Ramban districts. Deputy commissioners were asked to ensure civic amenities such as power, water, langars and CCTV cameras at the centres. The IGP Jammu reviewed the deployment plan for security forces and stressed proper lighting at each lodgement centre and adherence to Yatra cut-off timings. All departments were also asked to appoint nodal officers to remain available in the control room to be set up at Bhagwati Nagar for smooth coordination during the Yatra, officials added.

## Delhi HC Grants One-Week Interim Bail to Engineer Rashid to Visit Ailing Father

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted one-week interim bail to jailed Lok Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, to enable him to visit his ailing father. A bench comprising Justices Pratibha M Singh and Madhu Jain directed that during the interim bail period, Rashid may either stay at his residence or visit the hospital where his father is undergoing treatment. The court, however, imposed strict conditions, stating that two police personnel in plain clothes will accompany him at all times. It further clarified that Rashid will not bear the ex-



penses of the accompanying officers. The bench also directed that no "undue visitors" shall be allowed during the interim bail period, restricting interactions to immediate family members only. The relief came while the court was hearing Rashid's appeal challenging an April 24 order of a trial court which had declined to grant him interim bail for the same purpose. Rashid, the Member of Parliament from Baramulla who defeated Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, is currently facing trial in a terror funding case. Investigating agencies have alleged that he funded separatist activities and militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir. He has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 following his arrest by the National Investigation Agency in connection with a 2017 terror-funding case. Earlier, a Delhi court had dismissed his plea seeking interim bail to visit his father. However, Rashid was allowed to attend the Budget Session of Parliament from January 28 this year after being granted custody parole.

## RTI Says PDP Appointed No Authorized Agents in Rajya Sabha Polls in J&K

**SRINAGAR:** An RTI reply citing information from the Election Commission of India has stated that the Peoples Democratic Party did not appoint any authorized agents during the Rajya Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir to verify or confirm whom its MLAs voted for. The response was provided to a query seeking details on whether the party had deputed authorized representatives to monitor and confirm voting by its legislators during the election process. According to the reply, no such agents were appointed by the PDP, and consequently, no verification or confirmation was carried out regarding the voting pattern of its MLAs in the Rajya Sabha elections. The RTI response further clarified that the information was based on inputs provided by the Election Commission of India. According to KNT, the disclosure assumes significance amid ongoing political debate in Jammu and Kashmir over alleged cross-voting during the Rajya Sabha polls, with parties trading claims over which legislators supported candidates across party lines. (Observer News Service)

## Doda MLA Urges Educated Citizens to Join Politics

**DODA:** Mehraj Malik, MLA Doda East, released after spending eight months in jail, on Tuesday, called upon educated citizens to step out of their homes and actively participate in the electoral process, asserting that their involvement is crucial to shaping the future of the region's youth. Addressing reporters, the legislator said that the participation of the "intelligentsia" in politics is essential, as they possess the capacity to influence meaningful change. He linked the growing issue of drug addiction among youth to rising unemployment, arguing that a lack of job opportunities has created conditions that push young people toward substance abuse. The MLA criticized the functioning of the elected government, stating that it lacks a clear policy direction. He expressed dissatisfaction with the legislative assembly, saying the current system discourages individuals who enter politics with the intention of serving the public. Highlighting concerns over the justice system, the legislator said that thousands of individuals are languishing in jails without adequate awareness of their court hearing dates. He added that in several cases, family members are unable to meet detainees, raising questions about access and transparency. Mehraj Malik further said that common people who attempt to enter politics encounter a vastly different environment, where efforts to bring change are often resisted or obstructed. He urged citizens to stand up and collectively fight for the rights of the people. (Observer News Service)

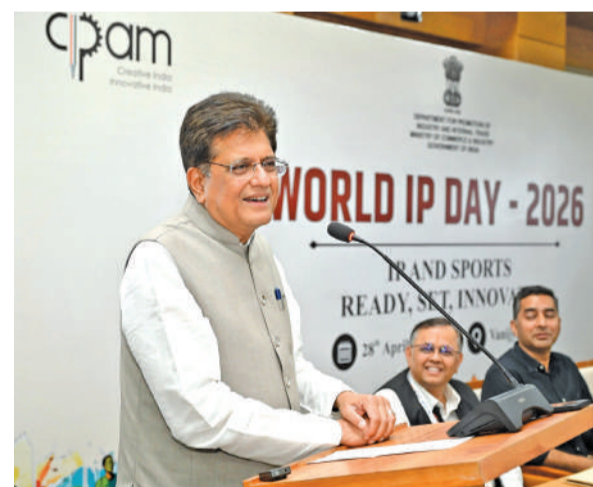
## Kulgam Road Accident: Schoolgirl Dies at SKIMS

**QAZIGUND:** A minor girl injured in a road accident in the Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district has succumbed to her injuries at SKIMS Soura, officials said on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Fatima Jan, daughter of Mohammad Altaf Parry, a resident of Shampora Qazigund. She was critically injured after an i20 car hit three school students on the Kulbagh-Qazi Mohalla Link Road on Monday afternoon. The incident, which initially left three girls injured, turned fatal after Fatima Jan failed to recover from her injuries at the Srinagar-based tertiary care hospital. The two other injured students, Tahmeena Jan and Aliya Jan, are undergoing treatment and have sustained minor injuries.

## Union Minister Goyal Dedicates Intellectual Property Day to Sports Innovation

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Dedicating World Intellectual Property Day to the intersection of sports, innovation and youth opportunity, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Tuesday announced a major policy push aimed at strengthening India's sports innovation ecosystem, while placing special emphasis on Jammu and Kashmir's emerging sporting and craftsmanship identity. Addressing the event themed IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate! in New Delhi, Goyal, as reported by KNO announced that all intellectual property registrations related to sports, including trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, traditional knowledge and geographical indications will be exempt from fees for three years with immediate effect. He said the move is a "special drive" to accelerate innovation in the sports sector and directed that an official notification be issued without delay. The minister also said the government will extend facilitation support under existing schemes to assist innovators, students, artisans and stakeholders in securing IP rights and easing their entry into the IP ecosystem. J&K Ranji Team Felicitated; Historic Win Highlighted. In the valedictory session, Goyal felicitated the Jammu and Kashmir Ranji Trophy team for their breakthrough performance, particularly their landmark victory over eight-time



champions Karnataka. The achievement, he said, came after a long gap of 67 years and stands as a "moment of pride" for J&K cricket and an inspiration for young athletes across the region. He noted that the development reflects sustained government efforts to expand sports infrastructure, tourism and industrial opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir, enabling greater youth participation in diverse fields, including professional sports. GI Willow Bat Called Symbol of J&K Craftsmanship. During the programme, the minister received a GI-tagged Kashmir willow cricket bat as a warm gesture from the J&K team, which he later acknowledged on social media. Goyal described the bat as a powerful symbol of India's craftsmanship and intellectual property strength, stating that it is among the most prominent sports-related products to receive a Geographical Indication tag. He urged its

innovators and students to convert ideas into intellectual property at an early stage, stressing the importance of ownership and value creation. He reiterated the government's guiding vision of innovate, patent, produce and prosper, noting that India's expanding free trade network is opening new opportunities for creators and manufacturers. The minister also mentioned the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and recalled 100 years of sporting ties between the two countries. He highlighted the growing economic scale of sports, including rising valuations of franchise cricket teams and expanding sports viewership in India. Goyal also referred to India's ambitions to host the 2036 Olympic Games and the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics, urging greater participation of youth from Jammu and Kashmir in global sporting platforms. Referring to Sports Policy 2025, he emphasised strengthening school-level sports, expanding infrastructure, and ensuring equal opportunities nationwide. He cited initiatives such as sports academies for tribal talent and urged greater use of CSR funds for sports infrastructure, including open gyms and rural outreach. Notably, the event also saw the launch of the Viksit Bharat Digital Matrix 2026, Design Hackathon, organised by DPIIT in collaboration with IIT Delhi, focusing on smart wearable technology and IP-driven innovation. Goyal further urged in-

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER LIDDER FOREST DIVISION BIJBEHARA.**  
Office Address: Forest Complex Near Padshahibagh Bijbehara | Tele/fax: 01932-234287 | email-id: dfolidderbij@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
e - NIT No: - 01 of 2025-27 DATE: 25-04-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders in two cover system are hereby invited from contractors registered with J&K Forest Department/FDC for extraction/supply of firewood for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 as detailed below:-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADVT. COST (RS. IN LACS)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	EARNMENT- EY DEPOSIT	COST OF TENDER DOCUMENT	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Extraction / conversion of firewood from various compartments of Lidder Forest Division Bijbehara and Carriage/ transportation of splitted firewood from P.L.P of compartments to base camp Chandanwari/ Pahalgam through trucks/ ponies including loading at P.L.P and un-loading at Pahalgam / Chandanwari, weighing at Chandanwari and also chopping of kharies at base camp into small pieces of 2' length including staking and weighing for further supply to hill stations viz: Pissu top, Zajipal, Sheshnag, M.G.Top and Poshpathri.	44.62	"A" & "B" Class Deptt./ FDC Contractor	Rs. 89240/-	Rs. 1100/-	90 Days

**Note:- Time of completion is very essential in view of National importance of the religious pilgrimage.**  
The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities (B.O.Q), (Tender documents) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

**Position of Funds: Demanded.**  
**Position of AA/TS: Accorded.**  
**Receiving / Opening Authority: Tender Opening Committee**

Publishing Date	28-04-2026 2:00 PM
Download Start Date	28-04-2026 from 02:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date	28-04-2026 from 02:00 PM
Bid submission End Date	11-05-2026 Up to 06:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online	12-05-2026 at 12:00 PM in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Kashmir South Circle Bijbehara Anantnag.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online	To be opened (Online) at any convenient date & time after complete Evaluation of Technical Bids Received.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406010000000000-Forestry and Bid Security Deposit in shape of CDR pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Lidder Forest Division. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder in accordance to the circular No. FD.Code/441/2021-22-158 dated 08/08/2025.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [jktenders.gov.in](https://jktenders.gov.in)
- To participate in bidding process bidders, have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bidders must ensure to upload attested copies of all valid necessary documents, viz Registration Card issued by Forest department, income tax return for last 03 years, Latest GST return, PAN No. /GST/TIN No, NOC from Divisional Forest Officer Lidder Forest Division Bijbehara, Divisional Forest Officer Anantnag Forest Division Anantnag that the Contractor is not defaulter/Blacklisted, Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Deposit in shape of CDR. No affidavit will be entertained for requisite documents. All the tender documents shall be uploaded in PDF format at a resolution of not less than 300 DPI, in case the documents uploaded by the bidder are not legible, his/her bid shall stand cancelled ab-initio.
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.
- Other conditions as envisaged under manual for procurement of work-2025 shall apply Mutatis Mutandis.

No: DFO/Lidder/2026-27/Acts/01-08  
Dated:- 25/04/2026

DPK-846-26  
Dt: 28/04/2026

Sd/-  
DFO, Lidder Forest Division

# UAE Says It Will Leave OPEC In Blow To Oil Cartel

AP

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates said Tuesday it will leave OPEC effective May 1, stripping the oil cartel of one of its largest producers and further weakening its leverage over global oil supplies and prices.

The UAE's decision had been rumoured as a possibility for some time, as it pushed back in recent years against OPEC production quotas it felt had been too low — meaning it wasn't able to sell as much oil to the world as it had wanted.

"Having invested heavily in expanding energy production capacity in recent years, the bigger picture is that the UAE has been itching to pump more oil," Capital Economics wrote in an analysis. "The ties binding OPEC members together have loosened," it said, particularly after Qatar withdrew from the cartel in 2019.

Regional politics are also likely at play. The UAE has had increasingly frosty relations with Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, over political and economic matters in the Mideast, even after both came under attack by fellow OPEC member Iran during the war.

The UAE's withdrawal from OPEC won't necessarily have any immediate effects in markets. That's because world oil supplies are sharply constrained by the war in Iran, which has closed off the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which one-fifth of global oil supplies — including much of the UAE's — is transported.

On Tuesday, Brent crude, the international benchmark, traded above \$111 a barrel, or more than 50% above its prewar price.

OPEC's market power had already been waning in recent years as the United States ramped up its production of crude oil. Saudi



Arabia had been pumping over 10 million barrels of oil a day before the war. The US pumps more than 13 million barrels a day. US President Donald Trump has been a steady critic of the cartel during his two terms in the White House.

The UAE, which joined OPEC through its emirate of Abu Dhabi in 1967, had been producing around 3.4 million barrels of crude a day just before the US-Israeli war with Iran began on Feb 28. Analysts say it has capacity to produce roughly 5 million barrels a day.

In its announcement on Tuesday, made via its state-run WAM news agency, the UAE said it also would leave the wider OPEC+ group, which Russia had led to try to stabilise oil prices.

"This decision reflects the UAE's long-term strategic and economic vision and evolving energy profile, including accelerated investment in domestic energy production," the UAE said, adding that it would bring "additional production to market in a gradual and measured manner, aligned with demand and market conditions."

The UAE's withdrawal removes one of OPEC's few members with the ability to quickly increase production, said Jorge Leon, head of geopolitical analysis at Rystad Energy.

"A structurally weaker OPEC, with less spare capacity concentrated within the group, will find it increas-

ingly difficult to calibrate supply and stabilise prices," he said.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE increasingly have competed over economic issues and regional politics, particularly in the Red Sea area.

The two countries had jointly fought against Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels in 2015. However, that coalition broke down into recriminations in late December, when Saudi Arabia bombed what it described as a weapons shipment bound for Yemeni separatists backed by the UAE.

As tensions rose in recent months, Saudi broadcasters long based in Dubai, the economic hub of the UAE, have pulled back to the kingdom.

"This exit of OPEC fits into the UAE need for flexibility with key energy consumers as well — including a future relationship with China and a more competitive relationship with Saudi Arabia," said Karen Young, a senior research scholar at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy.

The UAE hosted the United Nations COP28 climate talks in 2023, a conference that ended for the first time with a pledge by nearly 200 countries to move away from planet-warming fossil fuels. But the UAE still plans to increase its production capacity in the coming years, even as it pursues more clean energy at home, a move decried by climate activists.

# India Brings Int'l Drug Trafficker Salim Dola From Turkiye

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: In a major breakthrough, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday secured the return of notorious international drug trafficker Mohammad Salim Dola from Turkiye, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced here.

Dola (59), a "close aide" of international terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, was arrested in Turkiye on the basis of an Interpol Red Notice issued on India's request in March 2024, officials said.

He was wanted in multiple narcotics trafficking cases in India and had been absconding from the law enforcement agencies. Over the years, Dola had allegedly established a major transnational drug trafficking syndicate across a number of countries in the Middle East, Africa and Europe, they said.

Stressing on zero tolerance against the narco syndicate, the Union home minister said on X, "Under Modi government's mission to ruthlessly smash drug cartels, our anti-narcotics agencies have extended their



claws across borders through a robust network of global agencies."

"Now, no matter where they hide, no place is safe for drug kingpins," Shah said.

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said Dola was brought from Turkiye under "Operation Global-Hunt".

He was taken into custody on his arrival at IGI Airport, New Delhi, early this morning by the NCB. The federal anti-narcotics agency briefly questioned him too, it said.

"Fugitive Salim Dola had been hiding in Turkiye for the last two years. The NCB had issued an

Interpol Red Notice against him in 2024.

"We will produce him before a Delhi court seeking his transit remand for Mumbai where he will again be produced before a competent court for custody," Niraj Kumar Gupta, NCB Deputy Director General (operations), told reporters here.

The officer said Dola had created a drug network over the last 20 years in the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

Gupta said he was wanted by the NCB, Maharashtra Police, Gujarat ATS and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

Dola, born on December 31, 1966, speaks Hindi and Marathi. He faces multiple charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, according to the Interpol Red Notice database.

A Red Notice is Interpol's request to law enforcement agencies worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

"The successful return of Salim Dola, under the leadership of the

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, reflects the firm resolve of the Government to bring all narcotics fugitives and members of organised crime syndicates to justice, by pursuing them relentlessly across the globe," the home ministry said.

His two-decade-long criminal antecedents include direct involvement in cases involving multiple high-value seizures of heroin, charas, mephedrone, mandrax and methamphetamine in Maharashtra and Gujarat, it said.

Earlier, his son Tahil Salim Dola and other associates were arrested by Mumbai police after deportation/extradition from the UAE in 2025.

Dola's role consistently emerged as that of a bulk supplier to downstream distribution networks in India, and it was also sought by ATS Gujarat and the Mumbai Police.

This effort exemplifies close co-operation and coordinated action between the authorities in Turkiye, Interpol and Indian agencies, the ministry said.

# Pak Army Targets Afghan Taliban Posts

Press Trust of India

Islamabad: Pakistan on Tuesday responded to alleged unprovoked aggression by the Afghan Taliban and attacks by the TTP along the border, according to a media report.

The reported clashes came after a pause in Operation Ghazab Lil Haq, launched by Pakistan on Feb 26 in response to attacks on border posts by the Afghan Taliban.

Citing security sources, The Express Tribune newspaper reported that Afghan Taliban and "Fitna al-Khawarij" were targeted in the retaliatory fire by the Pakistan Army.

The term "Fitna al-Khawarij" is used by the state for militants belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

"The Pakistan Army, in the Chaman sector, effectively targeted and destroyed multiple Afghan Taliban posts," the sources said.

"Afghan Taliban positions at Sarshan, Al-Marjan, Edhi Post, a vehicle and other installations were also successfully targeted,"

they added.

The sources said Operation Ghazab Lil Haq would continue until all assigned objectives are achieved.

On April 15, three civilians, including two children, were killed and three others injured in alleged shelling by Afghan Taliban forces in a border area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur district, according to state media. The incident marked a renewed episode of cross-border tensions after a gap of over a month following the launch of Operation Ghazab Lil Haq.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have witnessed intermittent hostilities along the frontier, which intensified after reported Afghan action in response to Pakistani airstrikes targeting militant positions.

The tensions briefly eased during a ceasefire on Eid-ul-Fitr on March 21.

The escalation follows a series of tit-for-tat actions over the past year. Pakistan has maintained that TTP leaders operate from Afghan territory, an allegation denied by Kabul.

# Petrol, Diesel To Get Expensive After April 29: Rahul

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday warned that the prices of petrol and diesel will be increased after the assembly elections conclude on April 29.

He also attacked the government for allegedly profiteering from low global crude oil prices and said it will now put burden on the public as the prices are rising.

"Election relief over, inflation's heat is on its way! After April 29th, watch out - petrol, diesel, everything will get expensive."

"When (crude) oil was cheap, the Modi government pocketed the profits. Now that it's expensive, it'll dump the burden on you," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

"A government that loots when it's cheap - leaving the public to bear the brunt of inflation," he alleged. The second phase of polling in West Bengal will be held on April 29.

Assembly polls in Kerala, Assam, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu are already over and the results will be out on May 4.

Global oil prices are on the rise due to the West Asia war. Israel and the United States attacked Iran on February 28 and since then the global oil supply chain has been disrupted due to the closure of Strait of Hormuz.

The government has no plans to raise petrol and diesel prices, a senior official said on Tuesday, dismissing speculation of a hike after polling in West Bengal ends on April 29.

Retail petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged for a record fourth year, even as conflict in West Asia has pushed crude oil costs up more than 50 per cent over the past two months.

The widening gap between input costs and pump prices has left state-run fuel retailers incurring heavy losses - with some estimates pegging daily loss at about Rs 2,400 crore - fuelling speculation of an imminent price hike after politically charged assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry conclude on Wednesday.

# 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

5 Years	Corpus: ₹4.1L	Invested: ₹3.1L	Money grows to 1.4x
10 Years	Corpus: ₹11.6L	Invested: ₹6.0L	Money grows to 1.9x
15 Years	Corpus: ₹25.9L	Invested: ₹9.0L	Money grows to 2.9x
20 Years	Corpus: ₹51.8L	Invested: ₹12.0L	Money grows to 4.3x
25 Years	Corpus: ₹97.5L	Invested: ₹15.0L	Money grows to 6.5x
30 Years	Corpus: ₹1.9Cr	Invested: ₹18.0L	Money grows to 10.5x

**More time = more compounding**

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

MI Securities - AMFI Registered Mutual Fund Distributor | ARN: 47504 | Contact: 9419006271