

## J&K Braces For Erratic Weather Till May 5

MeT Warns Of Rain, Hail & Gusty Winds

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is set to witness a spell of erratic weather over the next few days, with the Meteorological Department (MeT) forecasting rain, thunderstorms, hailstorms and strong gusty winds across several parts of the Union Territory.

MeT Director said that the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy on Sunday and Monday, with intermittent rainfall and the possibility of hailstorms at isolated places.

Similar conditions are likely to persist on May 5, while an improvement is expected between May 6 and May 9. From May 10 onwards, the | [More on P6](#)

## Slow Traffic, Breakdowns Disrupt NH-44

Traffic movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained sluggish on Saturday, with breakdowns, heavy vehicular load and ongoing road work causing significant delays, officials said. According to the Traffic Police, slow movement | [More on P6](#)

# Narco Money Ends Up Fuelling Terror, Radicalisation: LG Sinha

Sinha To Lead 'Nasha Mukht J&K' Padyatra In Srinagar Today

Plans 3-Year Rehab Tracking; Says Licences & Passports At Risk For Peddlers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said drug trafficking in Jammu and Kashmir has a direct link with terrorism, asserting that money generated through the illegal trade ultimately fuels radicalisation.

"Some drug traffickers might be building narco palaces, becoming economically prosperous. But ultimately, most of the money ends up fuelling terrorism and radicalisation," Sinha said during an informal chat with journalists at the Raj Bhavan here on Saturday.

Ahead of a 'Nasha Mukht J&K' padyatra scheduled in Srinagar on Sunday, the LG said he will lead the march from the TRC astro turf football ground to Lal Chowk as part of a wider campaign against drug abuse.

He said the administration is working on a comprehensive three-year monitoring programme to rehabilitate



drug abuse victims. "We are creating a detailed rehabilitation plan so that if someone comes out of addiction, they can be tracked for three years and provided full support for reintegration," he said.

While acknowledging the need for more de-addiction centres, Sinha said immediate focus is on strengthening existing facilities. The Health Department has been directed to ensure adequate OPD and IPD services for

those undergoing treatment in hospitals.

On enforcement, the LG outlined a series of stringent measures aimed at drug peddlers under a newly issued SOP. He said those found involved in trafficking would face criminal prosecution along with administrative penalties, including cancellation of driving licences and vehicle registrations.

"If they have passports, we will recommend their cancellation." | [More on P6](#)

## Nasha Mukht Drive Gains Pace In J&K 431 Peddlers Booked, Drugs Worth ₹7 Cr Seized

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir Police have intensified its multi-pronged crackdown on drug trafficking and substance abuse under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, registering significant achievements across the Union Territory.

Pertinently, the ongoing campaign launched and spearheaded by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to target drug peddlers, dismantle financial networks linked to narcotics, and strengthen public awareness is going on in

full vigour.

Sources said that the accelerated action under the abhiyaan is on the top of agenda of the Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat who chaired a number of review meetings and made visits to districts for achieving maximum results.

The campaign, started on April 11, 2026, and up to April 26, 2026, 378 cases were registered under the NDPS Act and related laws, with 431 drug peddlers booked.

"Police seized 478 kg of narcotic drugs, 13,427 tables, capsules and bottles | [More on P6](#)

## NDPS Case: HC Rejects Convict's Bail Plea

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has rejected a plea seeking suspension of sentence and bail by a man convicted in a drug trafficking case involving commercial quantity of contraband.

A Bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar dismissed the application filed by Bashir Ahmad Bhat, who was sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 1 lakh under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

The case arises from an FIR registered in 2021, in which police recovered 70 kilograms of poppy straw from a vehicle at Dhonipora along the Anantnag-Sangam highway. The trial court had convicted Bhat in October last year.

While seeking bail, Bhat argued that he had already spent over four years in custody and that there were inconsistencies in the prosecution's case. However, the court held that in offences involving commercial quantities under the NDPS Act, stringent conditions for bail apply.

"...while long incarceration of a convict may be a factor for considering the issue as to whether constitutional right guaranteed under Article 21 of the convict stands violated but in a case where the accused has been convicted of an offence under NDPS Act which | [More on P6](#)

## Hormuz Crisis Hits J&K Industry, 350+ Units Affected

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The ongoing crisis in West Asia and the disruption of supplies through the Strait of Hormuz have begun to severely impact industrial activity in Jammu and Kashmir, with over 350 units reporting sharp declines in production.

A large number of petrochemical-based units, along with industries linked to food processing and plastic manufacturing, have been hit due to their heavy dependence on raw materials and LPG supplies from Gulf countries. With supply chains disrupted for several weeks, production in many of these units has dropped to below 50 percent, Daily Excelsior reported.

Official sources said that industrial units reliant on imports from Gulf nations are now attempting to source raw materials from alternative markets. However, the sudden disruption has created shortages and significantly



increased input costs, affecting operational stability.

The worst-affected clusters include Bari Brahmana Industrial Complex in Samba district, Gangyal Industrial Estate in Jammu, SIDCO Industrial Complex in Samba, and Kathua Industrial Estate. Several units, particularly those dependent on daily LPG tanker supplies, are struggling to maintain operations amid reduced fuel availability.

Recognising the emerging crisis, the Union Ministry of Industries and Commerce has initiated a survey through its MSME Development and Facilitation Office in Jammu. The exercise aims to assess the extent of production losses, identify supply sources, and quantify the financial impact on affected units.

Amit Tamarla, Head of the MSME Development and Facilitation Office in Jammu, confirmed | [More on P6](#)

## Emergency Alert Test Startles J&K Mobile Users

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mobile phone users across Jammu and Kashmir were taken by surprise on Saturday morning after their devices emitted loud alert tones accompanied by a flash message, as part of a nationwide test of India's emergency alert system.

The alert, received around 11:42 am, was issued under a trial run of the government's Cell Broadcast-based emergency warning mechanism aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness. Officials said the exercise was conducted to ensure that critical information can be disseminated swiftly to citizens during emergencies.

The message, marked as an "Extremely Severe Alert," clarified that it was only a test and required no action from the public.

"India launches Cell Broadcast using indigenous technology, for instant disaster alerting service for its citizens. Alert citizens, safe nation. No action is required... This is a test message," it read.

Many users reported being startled by the sudden loud beep. | [More on P6](#)

## Bridge Collapse In Jammu 3 Bodies, 1 Injured Pulled Out From Rubble

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Rescue workers pulled out three bodies and an injured person from the debris of a partially collapsed old bridge during a 12-hour search operation on

the outskirts of Jammu, officials said on Saturday.

One injured worker was rescued on Friday, shortly after a portion of the bridge collapsed in the Thuthera area of Bantala. Deputy | [More on P6](#)

## RET SELECTEES GET RELIEF

## SC Orders J&K Govt to Issue Appointments in 8 Weeks

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India has directed the Jammu and Kashmir administration to issue engagement orders to candidates selected under the Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) scheme, holding that the scheme's closure cannot retrospectively deny appointments to those already placed in select panels.

The order came while disposing of a batch of petitions, including the case involving the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir versus Saba Wani, with the court modifying earlier High Court directions.

The court ruled that candidates included in the select panels must be appointed based on available vacancies and their merit position. It directed the administration to issue formal engagement orders within eight weeks.

However, the court imposed conditions regarding qualifications. It said that candidates appointed under the scheme must acquire

'Idle Assets, Cost Irregularities'

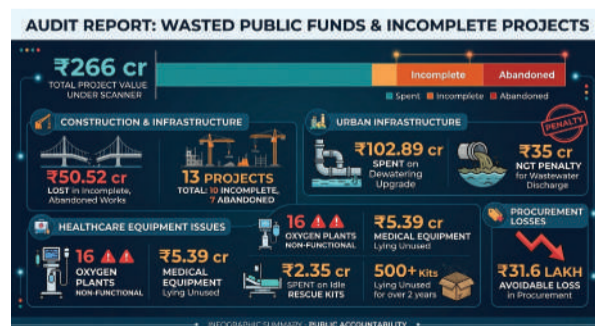
## CAG Flags Major Lapses In J&K Flood Recovery Project

Agencies

Srinagar: The World Bank-aided Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JFRP) in Jammu & Kashmir has come under scrutiny, with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagging "unfruitful expenditure," idle infrastructure worth crores, and violations of contractual provisions in its report for the period ending March 2023.

The audit noted that several key assets—including flood rescue boats, oxygen generator plants and search and rescue kits—have remained unused for years, raising concerns over preparedness in a disaster-prone Union Territory still vulnerable to floods like the 2014 deluge.

It further pointed to procurement irregularities, stating that the Project Management Unit (PMU) in August 2017 procured 30 emergency fibre and rubber boats from M/s Gee Pee Reinforced Products Pvt Ltd at inflated rates, despite a clause mandating refund of



excess amount if subsequent tenders were finalised at lower rates.

However, the audit noted that when tenders for 28 additional boats were opened in 2018—with the same firm emerging as L1—the Project CEO in August 2025 termed the earlier contract as "expired." The auditors rejected the claim, observing that the agreement carried no expiry clause and the firm remained liable to refund the excess amount.

It also flagged that over 500 high-value Search and Rescue kits, procured at a cost of 2.35 crore, have been lying unused for more

than two years in government stores in Kathua and Anantnag, defeating the objective of strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for disaster response.

The report further revealed that out of 530 kits supplied between October 2021 and June 2022, as many as 505 were not distributed, citing a lack of SDRF training. It added that key safety components, such as Karabiners in 230 kits, were found defective and remained unreplaced as of January 2024, while no provision existed in the contract for replenishment of perishable items.

A joint | [More on P6](#)



### JKPC JAMMU KASHMIR PRESS CORPS

WELCOMES

# Shri Manoj Sinha

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K

ON THE OCCASION OF

# SRINAGAR PADYATRA

Walk for Change, for a Drug Free J&K

SUNDAY MAY 3, 2026 | TIME 8:00 AM | Starting Point: TRC Football Ground, Polo-view, Srinagar

JKPC is proud to support this noble initiative for a healthier, stronger and drug-free Jammu & Kashmir.

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

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 113006096 Session: Oct-Nov (a/r) Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my Mother's Name as Zytoona Begum instead of Dilshada Begum



**Name: Muzamil Hussain Dar**  
Father's name: Ghulam Rasool Dar  
Mother's Name: Dilshada Begum  
DOB: 10-05-2011  
Residence: Rakhi Shilvat  
Mobile no:

fko

**Scholarships This Week**

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

**Scholarship Name 1: IET India Scholarship Award 2026**

**Description:** The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) invites undergraduate engineering students to demonstrate their creativity, innovation, and leadership. This scholarship aims to recognise and support emerging engineering talent in India, enabling them to achieve excellence.

**Eligibility:** Open to full-time UG engineering students in any year from AICTE/UGC-approved institutions across all branches. Applicants must have cleared all credit courses in a single attempt with a minimum of 60% marks in aggregate (or 6.0 CGPA on a 10-point scale). There is no age limit.

**Prizes & Rewards:** Scholarship worth INR 20,00,000  
**Last Date to Apply:** 15-06-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only

**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/IET6  
**QR Code:** https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/iet-india-scholarship-award-20261777350174.png

**Scholarship Name 2:** NIT Delhi Summer Internship Programme 2026  
**Description:** NIT Delhi Summer Internship Programme 2026 is being offered currently by the Intelligent Systems & Hardware Security Lab, National Institute of Technology Delhi to students pursuing their higher studies.

**Eligibility:** Application is open to students currently enrolled in a specified undergraduate or postgraduate program. Applicants must possess a No Objection Certificate (NOC) obtained from the parent institute and guardians, and remain available full-time for the entire duration of the internship.

**Prizes & Rewards:** An internship opportunity under the guidance of faculty, NIT Delhi.

**Last Date to Apply:** 10-05-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/SIND2  
**QR Code:** https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/nit-delhi-summer-internship-programme-20261777293850.png

**Scholarship Name 3: Delhi State Legal Services Authority Internship Program 2026-27**

**Description:** The Delhi State Legal Services Authority Internship Program 2026-27 is being offered by the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) to students currently pursuing their law courses. It aims to support students working actively towards the betterment of marginalised

individuals.  
**Eligibility:** Application is open to students enrolled in any of the Indian law universities/colleges and are pursuing either a 5-year course or a 3-year course in law. Applicants must be efficient in written communication (English), legal writing, basic legal knowledge, and computer operation in Word/Excel/PPT. They must be motivated, socially active, and possess empathy to work for the marginalised sections of society.

**Prizes & Rewards:** An internship certificate.  
**Last Date to Apply:** 15-05-2026  
**Application mode:** Online applications only  
**Short Url:** www.b4s.in/observer/DSLISA2  
**QR Code:** https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/delhi-state-legal-services-authority-internship-program-2026-271777293762.png

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My daughter's name has been wrongly written as HOORAB BINTI ISHFAQ in her Date of Birth certificate bearing Registration no. B202501004310000270 while her correct name is ABEEHA FATIMA BINTI ISHFAQ which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO office kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....ISHFAQ AHMAD DAR  
F/O ...ABEEHA FATIMA BINTI ISHFAQ  
R/O...DOLIPORA KREERI

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The name of my daughter has been wrongly written in her school records as Aniya Mohi Ud Din D/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Yatoo while her correct name is Aaniya mohi Ud Din D/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Yatoo. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Darul Madinah Gousal Azam Secondary School Sherabad Khore within seven days. After That No objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohiuddin Yatoo  
F/o Aaniya mohi Ud Din

FKO

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information of the general public that I, Ashaq Ahmad Shah, S/o Gh. Nabi Shah, R/o Takia Batpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, intend to register my Date of Birth as 25/04/1980 in the records of Block Kunzer. The said date of birth could not be registered at the time of my birth due to unavoidable circumstances.

I have applied for the issuance of a Date of Birth Certificate from the concerned authorities for official purposes. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned registration, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Ashaq Ahmad Shah

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information of the general public that I, Rafiqah Begum, W/o Habibullah Mir, R/o Katbigh, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, intend to correct my name in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4306 9283 0410. My name has been wrongly recorded as Rafeeqa Begum instead of the correct Rafiqah Begum as per my official records.

I have applied for the necessary correction with the concerned Aadhaar authorities. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Rafiqah Begum

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information of the general public that I, Assadullah Pandith, S/o Late Abdul Rahman Pandith, R/o Aatipora Zehkar, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, intend to correct my particulars in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 5375 7509 4260. My name and my father's name have been wrongly recorded as Mohd Assadullah Pandit S/o Abdul Rehman Pandit instead of the correct Assadullah Pandith C/o Abdul Rahman Pandith as per my domicile certificate.

I have applied for the necessary correction with the concerned Aadhaar authorities. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Assadullah Pandith

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My name has been wrongly entered as Lubna Jan instead of Lubna Bano, and my Date of Birth has been incorrectly recorded as 01.09.2000 instead of the correct 04.01.2000. I have applied for the necessary correction with the concerned Aadhaar authorities. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned corrections, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Lubna Bano

fko

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM**

**Subject:-** Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420130019973 issued in favour of MUZAFAR AHMAD DAR Parentage GH QADIR DAR

Whereas an application has been received by one MUZAFAR AHMAD DAR Parentage GH QADIR DAR wherein he claimed that the fathers Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as GULAM QADIR DAR Which needs to be changed as GH QADIR DAR Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer  
Budgam Kashmir

MCB

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information of the general public that I, Mohamad Shamim Khanday, S/o Abdul Samad Khanday, R/o Hardu Bani, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, intend to correct the names of my children in the school records of Mohammadiya High School Kunzer. The name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded as Shujan Shameem instead of the correct Shujan Shamim, and the name of my son has been wrongly recorded as Asrar Shameem Khanday instead of the correct Asrar Shamim Khanday.

I have applied for the necessary corrections with the concerned school authorities. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned corrections, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mohamad Shamim Khanday

fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for the information of the general public that I, Mushtaq Ahmad Parray, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Parray, R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer/Pattan, District Baramulla, intend to register the date of birth of my son namely Mohammad Uzair Parray, whose date of birth is 04-03-2018, in the records of BDO Lalpora Kunzer. The birth could not be registered within the prescribed time due to some unavoidable domestic circumstances.

If any person has any objection regarding the registration of the said date of birth, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mushtaq Ahmad Parray

fko

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, ANANTNAG**

District Magistrate Complex, Anantnag -1212101,  
**NOTICE**

Registered Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) working for the welfare of weaker and vulnerable sections in Anantnag District are invited to apply for Grant-in-Aid for the year 2026-27. NGOs must be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and listed on the NITI Aayog Darpan Portal. Applications must be submitted in the prescribed format as per Govt. Order No. 207-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated 21-11-2022 to the office of the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Anantnag by 17-06-2026.

**Required Documents:**

- Filled application form (as per scheme)
- Registration certificate, Bye-laws, and constitution
- Audited balance sheet (last year)
- Activity report (last 3 years / 1 year for ongoing projects)
- List of office bearers with photos, Aadhaar, PAN, and contact details
- Utilization Certificate (UC) of previous grant
- Affidavit stating no funding from other government sources for the same activity
- Beneficiary details with photos of activities
- Separate audited accounts of previous grants
- Current CID verification
- Proof of biometric attendance and CCTV system

Submit three copies of the proposal before the deadline. Late submissions will not be accepted. Government-managed organizations are not eligible.

Note: Grant-in-Aid will be released only after approval by the UT Level Screening Committee and subject to availability of funds.

(District Social Welfare Officer)  
Anantnag

No: DSWO/Ang./Estt./2026/  
DIPK-976/26  
Dated: 02 -05-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER**  
POSHAN PROJECT SINGHPORA

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE**

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-I) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the Panch Wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas, for the engagement of Sahayikas (AWHs) "Preferably married" for the Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Singhpura on "Honorarium basis". The applications along with required documents shall be deposited in the Office of the undersigned i.e Child Development Project Officer Singhpura by or before 10-05-2026 upto 4.00pm against proper receipt.

S.NO	NAME OF THE DISTRICT	NAME OF THE PROJECT	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUNICIPALWARD	VACANCY OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS) NO. OF PANCH WARD/ MC WARD	NAME OF AWC
1	BARAMULLA	SINGHPORA	Goom Ahmedpora	07	Bunpora Ahmedpora
2			Hanjiwera Payeen A	04	Rather Mohalla

Criteria for Selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) shall remain as envisaged in the Govt. Order No: 103 JK (SWD) OF 2023 Dated 28.4.2023 i.e.

- Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years as on 01-01-2026 shall be considered for the post.
- The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K.
- The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
- Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be Matriculation.
- In case no matriculate candidate is available in the Panch Ward/MC Ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
- In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate can also be considered.
- In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
- Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form: -

**Panch Ward /MC Ward Certificate/Electoral Card/Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by the concerned BDO.**

- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
- Ration card/ e ticket.
- Marital status certificate.
- In case the applicant is unmarried certificate from the concerned Tehsildar certifying the same
- Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.

**Affidavit from first class magistrate stating following facts.**

- All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
- The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sahayika (AWH)
- Incomplete form submitted any respect shall be cancelled without any further correspondence/notice.

Note: Prescribed Application Proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "Free of Cost".

No:CDPO/ICDS/Sing/Estt/2026/  
:DIPK-951/26 Dated: 02-05-2026

Child Dev. Project Officer  
POSHAN SINGHPORA

**(ANNEXURE-I)**

**APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SAHAYIKA (ANGANWADI HELPER)**

S.NO: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name of the District: - **Baramulla**
2. Name of the ICDS Project: - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
4. Panch Ward/MC Ward..... Panchayat Halqa.....
5. Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters) .....
6. Fathers Name (In Block Letters) .....
7. Marital Status: - Married /Un Married
8. Husbands Name (if married) .....
9. Place of Permanent Residence.....
  - a. Mohalla.....Village.....
  - b. Panch Ward Constituency.....
  - c. Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....
  - d. House No..... (As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral)
  - e. Block:.....
10. Address for Correspondence.....Mobile No:.....
11. Date of Birth.....

Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

12. Age as on 01-01-2026.....

13. Academic Qualification

S.No	Examination passed	Board/School	Year of passing	Marks Obt.	Max. Marks	%age
1	Matric					
2	Middle					

14. Do candidate belong to family of retired AWH (Yes/No).
15. Documents attached.
- Panch Ward Certificate/ Present /continuous, Ward residence certificate issued by BDO duly countersigned by ACR/SDM.
  - Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
  - Date of Birth Certificate.
  - Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10th.
  - If candidate belong to family of retired AWH then copy of the e-ration card/any other proof.
  - Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.
  - Copy of Ration card/ e ticket.
  - Marital status certificate issued by the competent authority.

Signature of Candidate

**UNDERTAKING**

I.....D/o,W/o.....R/o..... do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

Signature of Candidate

## Legacy of Healing Meets Pain of Exile as 'Healer in Exile' Is Launched

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In a rare coming together of voices from across the social, political, administrative and religious spectrum, the launch of "Healer in Exile: The Untold Story of Dr Sushil Razdan"

we pray for their return with dignity and honour."

In a moment that blended spirituality with memory, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq used the occasion to pay rich tributes to Kashmiri Pandit teachers, acknowledging their enduring intellectual



on Saturday turned into a deeply reflective and emotionally resonant occasion, celebrating both the extraordinary life of a pioneering neurologist and the shared histories of a fractured yet enduring Kashmir.

Authored by his son Sachin Razdan, the book was unveiled in the presence of a distinguished gathering that included National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Prof Saifuddin Soz, Naem Akhtar, Iltija Mufti, noted hotelier Mushtaq Chaya, Dr Saleem Wani besides leading academicians and members of civil society.

Speaker after speaker described Dr Sushil Razdan as one of India's foremost neurologists whose contributions to medicine, particularly in the field of neurology, remain unparalleled. Many recalled not only his clinical brilliance but also his humane approach to healing, which, they said, transcended barriers of identity and circumstance.

Addressing the gathering, Farooq Abdullah described the migration of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley as a "big loss" that continues to weigh on Kashmir's collective conscience. "Kashmir does not belong to Muslims alone," he said. "It belongs to all—Hindus, Sikhs and others—who have lived here, contributed here, and shaped its soul. Their absence is deeply felt, and

and moral imprint on generations of Kashmiris. Quoting Imam Ali (a.s), he said, "If someone has taught you even one word, he is your 'sardar'. He added, "We take this opportunity to honour all Kashmiri Pandits who share a deep and inseparable bond with this land."

The Mirwaiz also lauded Dr Razdan's exemplary service in the medical field, particularly his compassionate treatment of patients. "His work reflects not just professional excellence but a rare humanity that defines a true healer," he said.

At the heart of the evening was Dr Sushil Razdan himself, who appeared visibly moved by the outpouring of affection and respect. "I am overwhelmed by the love shown here today," he said. "This book is about my life, but it is my son's labour of love."

He shared that Sachin Razdan spent nearly three-and-a-half to four years working on the book, speaking to numerous people and piecing together a narrative that captures both personal and professional milestones. "I had told him to keep it brief," he said with a gentle smile.

Reflecting on generational shifts, Dr Razdan noted that young people today have far more opportunities and choices than those of earlier times. "Our generation had limited avenues. Today's youth can choose from a wide range of professions and paths, which is a positive change," he remarked.



## Srinagar Decked Up, Security Beefed for LG-Led Mega Anti-Drug Padyatra

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With the Padyatra led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha set to take place today, Srinagar has been fully decked up, while security has been significantly beefed up, with a coordinated effort ensuring foolproof arrangements across the city.

The march, part of the nationwide 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan', is expected to witness unprecedented participation, particularly from youth, students, civil society groups, and government officials.

Officials told KNO that a comprehensive security grid has been activated by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in coordination with paramilitary forces. Anti-sabotage checks, area domination, frisking, and heightened surveillance have been put in place, especially along vulnerable stretches and gathering points.

Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) and emergency units have been deployed strategically to respond to any contingency. The entire route has undergone sanitisation and security clearance.

The traffic department has rolled out a detailed mobility plan, including diversions, designated parking zones, and restricted entry for heavy vehicles in certain areas. Commuters have been advised to plan their travel in advance and adhere to official advisories to avoid inconvenience.

Health services have been put on high alert, with ambulances, mobile medical units, and healthcare personnel stationed at regular intervals. Fire and emergency services, along with disaster response teams, will remain on standby throughout the duration of the march.

Municipal teams have carried out extensive cleanliness drives, road repairs, and installation of public facilities such as drinking water stations

and mobile toilets. Volunteers and local organisations have been engaged to assist authorities in crowd facilitation and awareness efforts.

Prominent locations, including Lal Chowk and adjoining routes, have been adorned with banners and hoardings carrying anti-drug messages, giving the city a campaign-like atmosphere ahead of the event.

Officials added that educational institutions, sports bodies, and youth clubs have been mobilised to ensure wide participation, turning the Padyatra into a people's movement against the drug menace.

"The administration has urged citizens to actively take part in the march and contribute towards building a drug-free society. Come, join and walk with us in tomorrow's Padyatra," an official appealed, describing the initiative as a united step towards safeguarding the future of Kashmir's youth.

## No Fresh Hepatitis Cases in Khimber: ZMO

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Health authorities in Srinagar on Saturday said all children affected in the recent hepatitis cluster in the Reshipora locality of Khimber in Zadibal zone are steadily recovering, with no fresh cases reported since the initial detection.

Speaking to KNO, Zonal Medical Officer (ZMO) Dr Rubina Aziz said the situation is firmly under control, attributing the improvement to swift intervention, coordinated efforts by multiple departments, and sustained ground-level surveillance. "All affected individuals are recovering well, and importantly, no new cases have emerged after the initial cluster," she said.

The health scare surfaced on April 30 when around 18 cases—mostly among

school-going children—were reported with symptoms suggestive of acute viral hepatitis, including jaundice, fever, fatigue, and vomiting. The cluster had initially triggered concern among residents, with suspicion pointing towards a possible waterborne source.

Acting promptly, authorities sealed a suspected community spring in coordination with the local Masjid Committee to prevent further consumption. Water samples from multiple sites, including households and a local school, were collected for laboratory testing, while blood samples of affected patients were sent for serological analysis to determine the exact viral strain, likely Hepatitis A or E.

However, officials said that preliminary water quality monitoring has

brought relief. According to a report issued under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), the tested water samples from Khimber—including those from a school and nearby households—were found to be within "satisfactory" limits based on the Most Probable Number (MPN) coliform count. The samples were classified as fit for human consumption as per bacteriological standards, ruling out any major contamination in the tested supply.

Health officials said that continuous field monitoring, door-to-door surveys, and early case identification played a decisive role in containing the spread. "Our teams remain on the ground, actively monitoring the situation while also educating residents about preventive measures," Dr Aziz said.

## Khyber Cement Drives the Return of 'Run for Shahrekhaas' 2026

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a move that reinforces its deep connection to the heart of the valley, Khyber Cement has stepped forward as the title sponsor for the 'Run for Shahrekhaas' 2026. Organized by Fucan Sports in collaboration with KSW, this 10K challenge brings a prestigious sporting tradition back to Srinagar after a ten-year hiatus.

By backing this initiative, Khyber Cement is once again leading from the front not just as a business, but as

a cultural custodian of the Shahrekhaas legacy. The run is designed to showcase the architectural and historical significance of Shahrekhaas, mapping a route that celebrates the soul of Srinagar.

Scheduled for May 17, the run will take athletes through the most iconic landmarks of the valley. The journey begins at the Badamwari Garden Gate (Kathidarwaza) and concludes at Islamia College, Hawal, passing through historic sites such as Khanqah-e-Moula, the Budshah Tomb, and Jamia Masjid.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender Notice No: 433\_TELE\_JAT\_36\_25-26 Closing Date/Time: 25.05.2026, 15:00  
Date: 01.05.2026  
Sr. DSTE/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433\_TELE\_JAT\_36\_25-26 Closing Date/Time 25.05.2026, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Provision of Passenger Amenities at JAT station over Jammu Division at PF number 4,5,6 and 7.		
Tender Closing Date/Time	25.05.2026, 15:00	Date/Time of Uploading Tender	01.05.2026, 12:52
Advertised Value (Rs.)	57,95,502.76	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	11.05.2026
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1,15,900.00	Period of Completion	4 Months

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1471/2026

مہلذات صحت سہولتوں و کیمبر  
از فتر اگزیکٹو آفیسر میونسپل کینی ماہن  
اشتمار پاجت بولی پچا نمک بزنس آگاہی ہر خاص و عام  
برناس عام کربذ یو اشتمار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے۔ کربذ میونسپل کینی ماہن کو پچا نمک کی بولی پاجت سال ۲۰۲۶-۲۰۲۷ (2026-27) کرنائی مطلوب ہے۔ جو  
ذختر حد میں تاریخ ۰۶ مئی (May 6) ۲۰۲۶ (2026) بوت دن کے ۱۱ بجے سے ۳ بجے تک پکاری جائے گی۔  
شرائط و ضوابط حسب ذیل ہیں:  
۱۔ بولی ۵۰ ہزار روپے (50,000/-) سے شروع ہوگی۔  
۲۔ کامیاب بولی دہندہ کو پچا نمک مندرجہ ذیل شیڈول کے تحت وصول کرنے کا پابند ہوگا۔

نمبر شمار	جنس	شیڈول
۱۔	کھوڑا	300
۲۔	تیل۔ گائے	150
۳۔	بھیر	50
۴۔	کبری	50
۵۔	بلی	20

۳۔ سکورشہد نمس شیڈول سے زیادہ وصول بائی پر بولی دہندہ کے خلاف کارروائی کی جائے گی۔ تیز الاٹمنٹ بھی منسوخ کی جائے گی۔  
۴۔ خواہشمند بولی دہندہ کو مبلغ ایک ہزار روپے (10000/-) ذریعہ ضمانت سی۔ ڈی کار (CDR) پانڈھی اگزیکٹو آفیسر میونسپل کینی ماہن کے نام  
رکنا لازمی ہوگا۔ جس کے بغیر کوئی بولی تسلیم نہیں کی جائے گی۔  
۵۔ کامیاب بولی دہندہ کو بولی کا سارا رقم سوتھ پر ہی ادا کرنا لازمی ہوگا۔  
۶۔ کامیاب بولی دہندہ کو پچا نمک کا انتظام از خود کرنا ہوگا۔ تاکہ جانوروں کو پچا نمک میں رکھنے سے کوئی تکلیف نہ پہنچے۔  
۷۔ کینی کچا داریوں میں نہیں ٹھہرنے لے سکتا ہے۔

No: MC/H/G/2026-27/  
Dated: ۰۳ مئی ۲۰۲۶  
DIPK-NB-342/26  
dated: 02-05-2026  
ایگزیکٹو آفیسر میونسپل کینی ماہن

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)

**PRAYERS**  
FAJR 4: 08  
ZUHR 12:28  
ASR 5: 18  
Magrib 7:18  
ISHA 8: 49

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
15 Zil-Qadah  
1447

### This Day In History

- 1515- Persian Gulf: Portugese fleet occupies Ormuz
- 1660- Sweden, Poland, Brandenburg & Austria sign Peace of Oliva
- 1678- French conquering fleet at Curacao, 1200 die
- 1715- Edmund Halley observes total eclipse phenomenon "Baily's Beads"
- 1830- 1st regular steam train passenger service starts
- 1919- Afghanistan Emir Amanollah begins war against Great Britain
- 1928- Japanese atrocities in Jinan, China.
- 1938- Vatican recognizes Franco-Spain
- 1939- The All India Forward Bloc is formed by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- 1941- German air raid on Liverpool
- 1942- Japanese troop attack Tulagi, Gavutu & Tanamongo, Solomon Islands during WWII
- 1945- Allies arrests German nuclear physics Werner Heisenberg
- 1945- British troop join in Rangoon
- 1945- WWII: German ship "Cap Arcona" laden with prisoners sunk by Royal Air Force in East Sea, 5,800 killed - one of largest maritime losses of life
- 1946- International military tribunal in Tokyo begins
- 1947- New post-war Japanese constitution goes into effect.
- 1952- 1st landing by an airplane at geographic North Pole
- 1962- Express train crashed into wreckage of a commuter train & a freight, killing 163, injuring 400 (Tokyo, Japan)
- 1965- 1st use of satellite TV, Today Show on Early Bird Satellite
- 1965- Cambodia drops diplomatic relations with the US

### From KO Archives

## Tsunami Theory Has 'Support' In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The report on April 17 that a retired Atomic Energy Department scientist had attributed the Asian tsunami to planetary alignment has come as a boost for those who believe that cosmic changes influence events on earth.

A Kashmiri Naqash Ghulam Jeelani who says he has written about the phenomenon of interplanetary and cosmic forces having a bearing on what happens on earth as far back as 1W1, feels vindicated by the report. Also, he takes issue with the view by some scientists

I hat (he earthquake which caused the Asian tsunami might have changed the earth's spin, Naqash says: "My point is that if at all there is a connect ion between earth's spin, wobble, axial tilt and the tsunami, then the wobble, or change in spin or axial tilt must have occurred first, causing the Asian tsunami."

"Because, primarily my opinion is based on the observation that cosmic changes or forces, and interplanetary changes affect intra-planetary activities and phenomena." Naqash says that he has neither the resources nor the equipment to collect data about natural disasters but his opinion stems, among other things, from "observations" about the varying frequency of incidence of events such as earthquakes, appearance of comets, cyclones and formation and extinction of geographical features, "which have sometimes occurred at a high rate of movement and sometimes at a comparatively low rate."

Paramahatna Tewari, the retired Atomic Energy Department scientist, had said that his conclusion about the causes of the tsunami stems from his theory that all spinning cosmic objects including the sun develop electric fields that repel each other.

According to Tewari on December 26, 2004 when the Saturn, Moon, Earth and the Sun were perfectly aligned, there was an imbalance of these electrical forces on Earth, because the repulsive force due to Sal urn was reduced as it as shielded by the Moon which does not spin, while the Sun, which was on the other side exerted its force on Earth.

Tewari had said that the imbalance pushed solid earth away from the sun causing sc water to overflow due to its fluidity, causing the tsunami.

(Kashmir Observer, 03 May, 2005)

# Siyasat-e-Urdu

As Kashmir debates language and betrayal, political parties keep rewriting facts to protect their own failures.



Raqif Makhdoomi

By the time Jammu and Kashmir's ruling party began attacking Iltija Mufti over her protests on Urdu, the real issue had already started fading from public discussion.

Questions about the removal of Urdu as a mandatory language for revenue officials slowly gave way to television debates, political accusations and carefully staged outrage.

That shift served a purpose.

The ruling Jammu & Kashmir National Conference understood that public anger over Urdu held emotional and political impact. Urdu remains tied to Kashmir's administrative history, literary culture and everyday identity. Public protests around language draw attention quickly, especially when young Kashmiris already feel disconnected from institutions that claim to speak for them.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah entered the debate late, after days spent projecting himself through marathon events and public appearances that looked closer to image management than governance. Once criticism intensified, he returned with a familiar political argument. He accused the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party of helping the Bharatiya Janata Party secure a Rajya Sabha seat and claimed the Urdu controversy existed merely to distract the public.

That explanation collapses under basic scrutiny.

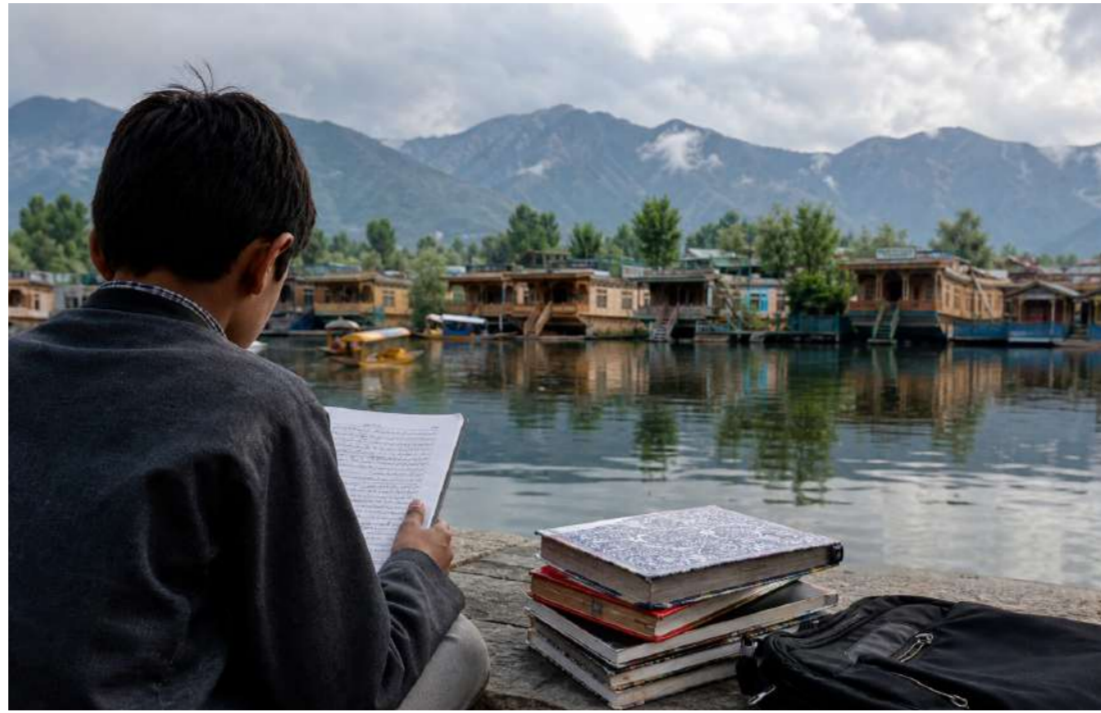
The accusation gained momentum after a journalist used a Right to Information request to determine how many extra votes the BJP candidate received during the Rajya Sabha election.

The RTI reportedly showed that eight additional votes helped the BJP candidate win. Political messaging quickly filled the gaps left by the document itself. Public statements from National Conference leaders pointed directly toward the PDP even though the RTI never identified which party supplied those votes.

Facts matter here.

One MLA publicly admitted casting a mistaken vote for BJP candidate Shammi Oberoi instead of Imran Nabi Dar. That immediately places one vote within the ruling alliance's own camp.

Congress, an ally of the National Conference, reportedly appointed only one polling agent, which created an-



**“Kashmir's political culture now depends heavily on narrative management. Parties frame events in ways that protect their image, preserve vote banks and redirect public anger. Social media accelerates that cycle. Television debates amplify it further. Ordinary people absorb claims quickly and verify facts later, if verification happens at all.**

other counting issue linked to their side.

Two votes therefore already sit inside the alliance now accusing everyone else of betrayal.

The arithmetic becomes even harder to explain when the PDP holds only four seats in the Assembly. Even if every PDP MLA voted for the BJP, four additional votes still require an explanation. Independent legislators remain free from public disclosure requirements regarding their ballots.

Logic therefore points toward multiple possible sources. Political convenience points only toward the PDP.

That difference explains the entire controversy. A factual discussion would force the National Conference to admit that its own electoral calculations failed.

Political messaging allows it to turn that failure into a morality play centered on the PDP.

People also forget an important detail from the Rajya Sabha election itself.

Before voting began, Mehbooba Mufti publicly stated

that her party would support the third preference candidate rather than the fourth. She explained that the PDP refused to become the scapegoat for a seat the National Conference already lacked the numbers to secure.

That position came before the election, before the accusations and before the current outrage.

The National Conference still proceeded with a flawed strategy.

BJP fielded only three candidates. The ruling alliance already possessed enough support for its safer seats. Better vote management could have strengthened the fourth contest. Instead, the party distributed votes in a way that opened space for BJP gains.

Political miscalculation produced the outcome, but public blame then shifted toward the PDP.

Kashmiri politics survives on selective memory.

The same pattern appears whenever the debate turns toward pellets, PSA, UAPA or Article 370. Every party highlights another party's sins while treating its own re-

cord as untouchable history.

National Conference leaders regularly invoke the PDP-BJP alliance while discussing the violence of 2016. Those questions deserve scrutiny. Every government action deserves scrutiny.

Honest politics, however, also requires people to remember who introduced pellet guns into Kashmir during Omar Abdullah's earlier tenure as chief minister. Government officials defended pellet guns at the time as "non-lethal" crowd-control weapons even though hospitals soon filled with civilians suffering eye injuries and permanent blindness. Reports from the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences documented widespread pellet injuries during the unrest years. Children appeared among the victims as well.

Public debate loses meaning when political parties erase their own history while reciting someone else's mistakes every election season.

The same selective storytelling surrounds Article 370.

During the 2024 election campaign, National Conference leaders repeatedly argued that the PDP alliance with BJP created the conditions for abrogation. Kashmiris deserve a fuller account than campaign slogans.

Article 370 disappeared through decisions taken by the Union government under BJP leadership. Constitutional processes, parliamentary numbers and political agreements inside New Delhi drove that outcome.

Serious discussion needs more than emotional accusations shouted at rallies.

Kashmir's political culture now depends heavily on narrative management. Parties frame events in ways that protect their image, preserve vote banks and redirect public anger. Social media accelerates that cycle. Television debates amplify it further. Ordinary people absorb claims quickly and verify facts later, if verification happens at all.

That habit weakens democracy more than any single election result.

Citizens deserve politics built on evidence rather than emotional manipulation. Kashmir especially requires a public culture where facts survive beyond party loyalties.

Every claim about Rajya Sabha votes, Urdu, pellets, PSA or Article 370 deserves careful examination instead of instant applause for whichever leader speaks loudest.

Kashmir's future cannot rest on selective outrage and manufactured memory.

A society that stops asking difficult questions eventually hands power to those most skilled at avoiding answers.

*The author is a law student and a human rights activist. He can be reached at raqifmakhdoomi818@gmail.com.*



Tajamul Farooqi

## Kashmir's Crisis of Credibility

Kashmiris hear endless political promises while public faith in leadership sinks deeper into exhaustion and disbelief.

Kashmir's political class speaks constantly about public welfare, democratic restoration, and people's rights. Press conferences fill television screens, party leaders accuse rivals of betrayal, and social media amplifies dramatic statements within minutes.

Then public attention moves on, while ordinary Kashmiris continue living with the same frustrations that existed before the headlines appeared.

Recent political exchanges have followed this familiar script.

Omar Abdullah has pressed New Delhi over the restoration of statehood. The Peoples Democratic Party has attacked the National Conference over promises that failed to produce visible results. The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party has projected itself as the practical alternative capable of solving governance problems. The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference has accused rivals of political "match-fixing."

These arguments dominate news cycles and political discussions. They also expose a deeper crisis inside Kashmir's public life: people struggle to believe anyone anymore.

Kashmiris want stable governance, functioning institutions, employment opportunities, reliable public services, and leadership that speaks with honesty during both elections and difficult moments.

Political incentives, however, reward visibility far more than consistency.

A dramatic statement attracts attention faster than policy work. A temporary alliance creates stronger headlines than long-term planning. Public communication increasingly revolves around spectacle instead of governance.

Years of this pattern have produced something far more damaging than frustration. Public disbelief has hardened into political exhaustion.

Large sections of society now view political parties through the same lens. Genuine

public service becomes difficult to recognize inside a system flooded with competing narratives and selective outrage.

Once citizens lose faith in accountability, political culture changes rapidly.

Leaders focus more heavily on perception management because public expectations weaken. Cynicism then spreads through daily discourses, social media debates, and private discussions inside homes and workplaces.

Corruption allegations deepen that distrust.

Kashmiris frequently speak about politically connected networks that maintain influence regardless of which party enters government. Administrations change, though familiar power circles continue receiving access, contracts, and institutional protection.

Public perception matters enormously in a place where trust already stands on weak ground. Rumours gain traction easily because many people believe political privilege operates through hidden relationships rather than transparent systems.

Younger Kashmiris increasingly reject loud, performative politics. Many members of Gen Z show greater interest in authenticity, consistency, and personal integrity than emotional speeches or dramatic rhetoric.

Digital platforms have intensified public scrutiny. Old statements resurface instantly, contradictions spread rapidly, and selective outrage becomes easier to identify.

That generational shift could have strengthened democratic culture. Instead, it has also produced deep detachment from formal politics.

Young people discuss public affairs with intelligence and awareness, though many see little reason to invest emotionally in political structures that appear disconnected from or-



**“Young people discuss public affairs with intelligence and awareness, though many see little reason to invest emotionally in political structures that appear disconnected from ordinary life. Kashmir therefore faces a leadership vacuum rooted less in talent and more in credibility. Capable individuals exist, though no single figure inspires broad trust across political and regional divisions.**

inary life.

Kashmir therefore faces a leadership vacuum rooted mainly in credibility. Capable individuals exist, though no single figure inspires broad trust across political and regional divisions.

Kashmir's governance structure also complicates accountability.

Regional parties function within overlapping systems involving the central gov-

ernment, bureaucracy, courts, and security institutions. Decision-making rarely passes through one clear authority. Citizens therefore struggle to determine responsibility when promises collapse or policies fail to produce results.

The issue of detainees demonstrates this inconsistency clearly.

Political leaders raise the matter during selective moments, particularly when public

pressure intensifies or political competition sharpens. Sustained advocacy rarely survives beyond strategic timing. Families affected by detention experience this reality directly because their concerns enter political debate intermittently instead of remaining central questions of justice and constitutional rights.

Many residents now describe politics as a transactional system driven by influence, access, and money. Serious controversies generate brief outrage before disappearing beneath the next political controversy. Issues that once produced sustained public anger now feel routine. Constant disappointment has lowered expectations throughout society.

Meaningful political reform therefore requires more than new leadership slogans.

Weak institutions survive when public disengagement deepens. Citizens cannot withdraw from accountability while expecting governance to improve through political goodwill alone. Strong democratic culture depends upon sustained public pressure, sharper civic awareness, and consistent demands for transparency.

Questions surrounding identity and autonomy intensify these frustrations further.

Many Kashmiris believe major decisions affecting Jammu and Kashmir emerge without meaningful local consultation. That perception has strengthened demands for political structures that respond more honestly to regional concerns and public sentiment.

Regional political parties now face a defining moment. Kashmir's fractured political environment rewards rivalry, tactical positioning, and short-term advantage. A coordinated regional front grounded in serious public commitment could alter that trajectory.

Such cooperation would need political maturity, discipline, and willingness to place public interest above personal ambition.

Kashmir's central political question has changed fundamentally. People no longer search for the loudest speech or the most dramatic announcement. They search for leadership that speaks consistently, governs honestly, and remains accountable after cameras disappear.

Kashmir does not suffer from a shortage of political voices. It majorly suffers from a collapse of public trust.

*The author is an alumnus of JNU and University of Northern Virginia and is an entrepreneur. He can be reached at tajamulf@gmail.com.*

# Empire on Dal Lake

The rise and decay of Maharaja Ranbir Singh's steam boat reflects Kashmir's uneasy relationship with its princely and colonial past.

Vikas Thakur

I stepped out of the Shri Pratap Singh Museum on Srinagar's Jhelum riverfront and stopped in my tracks at the sight of a large iron object resting on a rusted trolley.

The metal was pitted and corroded, almost like bones, and bits of trash had collected inside, as if the city had simply thrown it aside.

At first, it looked like an old, forgotten barge left to rot. Then a tarnished plaque caught my eye. I had to lean in to read it: "Presented by H.M. Queen Victoria to H.H. Shree Maharaja Ranbir Singh Ji Bahadar."

I could hardly believe it. Back home, I scoured archives and sources online. It was indeed the royal steam boat, a gift from Queen Victoria to Maharaja Ranbir Singh, who ruled Jammu and Kashmir from 1857 to 1885.

The Maharaja had earned it for aiding the British Empire, a token of imperial favour.

Kashmir had always been a riverine land, but until then, boats had relied entirely on human strength. This mechanical marvel promised something new: a vessel that could glide across Dal Lake and the Jhelum without oars or manpower.

The inauguration drew thousands to Dal Lake banks. Locals murmured in wonder and skepticism. How would this affect their livelihoods? Boatmen feared the novelty would make their shikaras obsolete. British engineers had arrived to demonstrate the technology, though the boat refused to start that day.

Over time, however, Maharaja Ranbir Singh took to it with relish. The steam boat appeared in Daryavi Julooos, the flotilla parades on Jhelum, riding waves of ceremonial



grandeur. It symbolized a blend of Dogra pride, imperial recognition, and technological innovation that the valley had never seen.

But today, it sits abandoned. Attempts by historians, activists, and locals to press the museum for restoration have failed. Rust deepens in the corners. Trash spills across its deck.

The sight makes me wonder whether the neglect is accidental or a subtle judgment.

The Dogras, like many rulers of their era, exercised power in ways



**KASHMIR HAD ALWAYS BEEN A RIVERINE LAND, BUT UNTIL THEN, BOATS HAD RELIED ENTIRELY ON HUMAN STRENGTH.** This mechanical marvel promised something new: a vessel that could glide across Dal Lake and the Jhelum without oars or manpower.

that left scars: land acquisitions, taxation, control of lakes and forests, and episodes of harsh enforcement.

Seventy-five years after the end of Dogra rule, those memories linger in Kashmir's collective consciousness. Could this latent resentment be preventing a restoration of the Maharaja's boat, leaving it to decay rather than be celebrated?

The story reminds me of Maharaja Jai Singh of Alwar, whose mechanical indulgences had a different trajectory.

In 1920, he wandered into a

Rolls Royce showroom in London, dressed plainly and unaccompanied, only to be dismissed by a salesman.

Insulted, he returned in full regalia, purchased all six cars on display, and upon returning to India, handed them to Delhi's municipal corporation to ferry garbage. The Rolls Royce company, humiliated, gifted him six more vehicles.

The Maharaja's lesson in humility and revenge became legend.

Both the steam boat and the Rolls Royces share an unlikely parallel: symbols of luxury and modernity deployed in ways that confound expectations.

The boat's decay, however, carries a heavier, more complicated weight. It is a tale of memory, politics, and unresolved historical grief.

Walking past it again, I imagine Dal Lake in its heyday: the steam hissing, the Maharaja aboard in flowing robes, the flotilla gliding past, and oarsmen's calls mingling with mechanical pulses.

Today, the boat sits in silence, almost as if judging us, reminding us that the past is never simple. It stands between grandeur and neglect, imperial legacy and local memory, fascination and resentment.

Perhaps one day someone will restore it, polish its metal, keep its engine silent, and bring its story to life, teaching Kashmiris and visitors about a time when the river carried both innovation and authority.

For now, the steam boat waits in the sun, rusting, and still tells the story of a Maharaja's pride, a queen's gift, and the valley's complicated past.

— The author recently published his Kashmir memoir, *Pax Kashmir*.

# French Tale Repeats

Kashmiri may be fading among younger generations, but new forms of cultural revival are emerging in homes, friendships, and digital spaces.

Tabassum Haroon

While teaching a class thousands of kilometres from Kashmir, I often find myself speaking with emotion about Alphonse Daudet's short story *The Last Lesson*.

It tells of a small French village, Alsace and Lorraine, where people wake up one morning to learn that they can no longer study their language.

The occupying power has banned French, replacing it with German. That final day, their teacher, M. Hamel, gives his last lesson in French. The children, who once skipped his class, now listen with tears in their eyes. The villagers, too, crowd into the room, wishing they had valued their language more when they had the chance.

Each time I discuss this story, I look at my students and ask, "How would you feel if one morning you were told that you could no longer speak your mother tongue?" The room goes still. After a long pause, one student whispers, "Detached." Another says, "Uprooted."

Those two words always stay with me. They describe not only the grief of Daudet's villagers but also something I feel about Kashmir today.

In many ways, we are living our own version of *The Last Lesson*: slowly, silently, forgetting our mother tongue.

Over the years, I've watched Kashmiri slip away from daily life. English and Urdu are celebrated, while Kashmiri is dismissed as old-fashioned, even embarrassing.

I still remember speaking to a shopkeeper in Kashmiri and hearing him respond in Urdu, as if my words carried some social shame. That small moment said everything about the shift we're living through, a silent (and dangerous) loss of linguistic confidence.

I have always felt blessed to know many languages, but Kashmiri is the one that feels like home. It is how my grandmother told stories, my parents scolded and comforted me, and my friends teased me growing up.

English connects me to the world, but Kashmiri connects me to myself.



Yet, I see a strange pride growing among some Kashmiri parents who boast that their children "don't understand a word of Kashmiri." They say it with a smile, as if their child's inability to speak their mother tongue is a sign of progress. I often wonder what progress means if it comes at the cost of our roots.

When parents do that, they plant an invisible seed of shame. They make their children believe that their mother tongue is something to hide. That seed grows into a kind of lifelong detachment. You can teach a child every global skill, but if you disconnect them from their language, you take away their confidence in who they are.

A child fluent in Kashmiri can learn any language easily because they already have a foundation of expression

and eloquence. A child who loses their first language loses the instinct to belong.

As I tell my students, language is essentially about worldview than words. It carries our humour, silences, and the way of seeing life.

The irony is that we, as Kashmiris, have one of the most lyrical and ancient languages in South Asia, but we treat it as disposable.

According to the 2011 Census, around 6.7 million people identified Kashmiri as their mother tongue. But experts warn that among younger generations, active fluency is rapidly falling. The language now faces what UNESCO once called a "definitely endangered" status, spoken by elders, but fading among children.

The decline is visible everywhere: in

classrooms, where English dominates; in homes, where parents mix Urdu or Hindi; in cities, where Kashmiri words sound out of place. But, all is not lost.

Language has a way of surviving through the smallest acts of love.

A few months ago, my daughter spent time with a group of young Kashmiri Pandit girls. All of them were born far from the valley, carrying Kashmiri names but not quite the language. Still, the moment they met, something magical happened.

Between bursts of laughter, they began tossing half-remembered phrases at each other: "Trath pae," "Phat wag-on," "Akaeli-tawan," and the ever-dramatic "kale kharab."

These phrases, picked up from their mothers, sounded like echoes of a shared past, remixed for a new genera-

tion. I stood there smiling, hearing in their laughter the faint rhythm of old Srinagar.

Now my daughter follows Kashmiri Instagram pages and learns idioms and slang through reels and memes. She often surprises me with words I've never heard before.

Who would have thought social media could become a classroom for cultural revival?

In her hands, my mother tongue is returning: digitally alive, freshly spoken, and delightfully reshaped.

Moments like these give me hope. Maybe the story of *The Last Lesson* doesn't have to repeat itself in Kashmir.

Maybe, if each of us takes one small step, like speaking, teaching, and celebrating our language, we can turn the tide.

Sadly, we don't need a decree to ban our language. Our silence is doing that already.

I've begun to make it a daily ritual to speak to my daughter in Kashmiri, even if only for a few minutes a day. We stumble, laugh, and invent.

Language, after all, grows through use, not perfection. It carries life only when it is spoken.

If every Kashmiri home speak the language with pride instead of pity, we can still save what's fading. Our children would see that speaking Kashmiri is belonging.

After all, a tree can only grow tall if it isn't ashamed of its roots.

So let us water those roots, with words, songs, and stories. Let us speak to our children in the language that once shaped our lullabies and our prayers.

As an old saying goes, "Naav chhi naav, zaban chhi pechaan". Your name is your name, but your language is your identity.

If we forget that, we risk forgetting who we are.

— The author is a Kashmiri-origin, Dehradun-based, freelancer with a decade of experience as an academician and editor, contributing to various publications.



**A FEW MONTHS AGO, MY DAUGHTER SPENT TIME WITH A GROUP OF YOUNG KASHMIRI PANDIT GIRLS.** All of them were born far from the valley, carrying Kashmiri names but not quite the language. Still, the moment they met, something magical happened.

## NEET-UG 2026: Over 22 Lakh Candidates To Compete Nationwide

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced that NEET-UG 2026 for undergraduate medical admissions will be conducted on May 3, 2026 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

The examination is set to take place in 552 cities across India, including major centres nationwide.

More than 22.80 lakh candidates have registered this year, competing for nearly two lakh medical seats in government and private institutions. Of the total applicants, around 9.47 lakh are male and 13.33 lakh are female, underlining the scale of NEET as one of the country's largest competitive entrance examinations.

The test serves as the primary gateway for admission to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH courses, BSc Nursing (Armed Forces Medical Colleges) and veterinary programmes, making it a crucial step for aspiring medical students across India.

Apart from domestic centres, NEET-UG 2026 will also be conducted in 14 international cities, including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, Muscat, Riyadh and Singapore, extending access to overseas candidates. The NTA has issued strict guidelines, instructing candidates to carry only a transparent water bottle, wear simple attire and avoid heavy accessories. Entry to examination centres will be permitted between 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM, with no entry allowed after the specified cut-off time.

Candidates have been advised to arrive well in advance, carry their admit cards along with valid identification, and adhere to all security protocols to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination.

Meanwhile, in Jammu and Kashmir, the NEET-UG 2026 examination will be a key opportunity for aspirants vying for approximately 1,526 MBBS seats across 11 government medical colleges, including AIIMS Jammu.

## SKUAST-K launches Student Rural Exploration In 300 Villages Across Kashmir

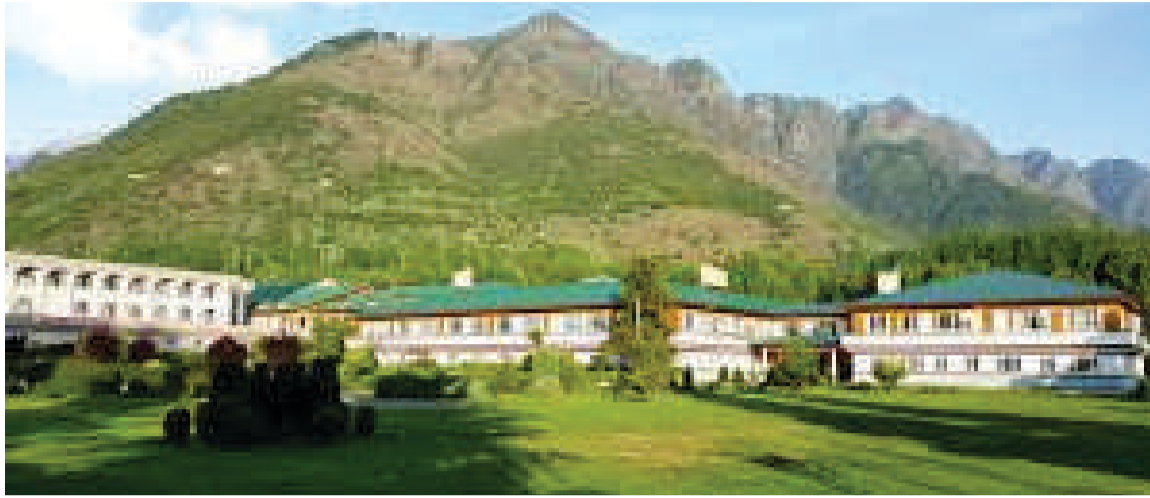
Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a landmark move to redefine the landscape of agricultural education and extension in India, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir today launched the Student Rural Exploration Program (SREP) under the framework of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP-20).

This pioneering initiative, launched under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, saw a massive grassroots outreach this weekend as more than 3000 students ventured into more than 300 university adopted villages across the Kashmir Valley. By transitioning from the traditional classroom setting to immersive field experiences, the university is bridging the critical gap between advanced scientific techniques and traditional indigenous practices, ensuring that the next generation of agricultural professionals is deeply rooted in the realities of rural livelihoods.

Speaking at the occasion, Prof Ganai said: "The Student Rural Exploration Program is not just an academic initiative—it is a transformational movement. By placing our students directly in villages for sustained engagement, we are creating a living bridge between science and society. This program will generate real-time rural intelligence, empower communities with knowledge, and shape a new generation of socially committed professionals."

The program is structured as a sophisticated, multidisciplinary engagement where students from various faculties, including Agriculture,



Horticulture, Veterinary Sciences, Fisheries, Sericulture, Forestry, and Agriculture Engineering, work in specialized cohorts. Each group typically consists of four undergraduate students, two postgraduate students, and one PhD scholar, all operating under the direct guidance of a scientist mentor. This collaborative model allows for a tiered level of learning and field execution, marking a historic first in the country as a university-led effort to engage with the farming community at the panchayat level on such a significant scale. These teams are conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)-cum-survey exercises, providing students with hands-on exposure to the complexities of the rural economy in diverse terrains.

The impact of the initiative is designed to be mutually beneficial for both the academic and farming communities. While students collect vital data and gain a firsthand understanding of grassroots challenges,

farmers receive expert technical advisories, diagnostic services, and updated information regarding various government schemes and agricultural interventions. With this program, SKUAST-K shall strengthen the bonds with the farming community by gaining their trust and enlightening them with the latest technologies, whether in the form of high-quality seeds, improved varieties, resilient rootstocks, or superior breeds. Furthermore, the initiative acts as a catalyst for entrepreneurship, startups, and innovation within the rural sector. The Vice Chancellor, alongside the university's Deans, Directors, and Associate Deans, actively monitored the rollout across multiple districts, interacting with students to ensure the internship provides real-time field exposure that translates academic theory into practical solutions.

Hailed as a game-changer for the national agricultural landscape, the Student Rural Exploration Program

is now set to become a permanent fixture of the university's academic calendar, with exploration visits scheduled to take place every fortnight. This strategic outreach transforms students into empathetic innovators who can advocate for sustainable and climate-resilient practices. By documenting local issues and assessing needs as they arise, SKUAST-K is creating a robust feedback loop that ensures university research remains relevant and impactful for the people it serves. By fostering a profound sense of responsibility toward the farming community, SKUAST-K is not only empowering local growers but also equipping its graduates with the practical skills and field exposure necessary to lead the global shift toward sustainable rural development. The initiative underscores a future where scientific intervention meets the wisdom of the land, ultimately strengthening the bond between the laboratory and the farm.

## MP Rashid's Ailing Father Airlifted To AIIMS Delhi

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The ailing father of Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid was airlifted to New Delhi on Saturday for advanced medical treatment at the AIIMS.

"The father of Member of Parliament from Baramulla Rashid, also known as Engineer Rashid, has been shifted to AIIMS Delhi for advanced medical care," said Inam Un Nabi, chief spokesperson of Rashid's Awami Itihaad Party (AIP).

He said Rashid's father, Khazir Mohammad Sheikh, who has been undergoing treatment at SMHS hospital here for several days, was moved to Delhi following medical advice due to the seriousness of his condition.

Nabi said the family is hopeful that the specialised treatment at AIIMS will aid his recovery and requested people to pray for his speedy recovery during this critical time.

Rashid, who has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him in the 2017 terror-funding case, got a one-week interim bail from the Delhi High Court on Tuesday to visit his ailing father.

He arrived here on Wednesday.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Narco Money Ends

Their bank accounts will be frozen, Aadhaar-linked actions will be taken, and in case of absconding, lookout notices will be issued," he said, adding that properties of offenders would also be attached under provisions of the NDPS Act.

Sinha said the administration is also engaging religious leaders and civil society to build awareness and strengthen the social response to drug abuse. "This fight cannot be won by the government alone. When the police's baton, the fear of law and the power of society come together, success becomes easier," he said.

The LG had launched a 100-day anti-drug campaign on April 11 from MA Stadium in Jammu. According to him, padyatras have already been conducted in eight districts of the Jammu division, with significant public participation.

"In just 21 days, the impact is visible. Around 50 to 60 lakh people have taken part in various awareness campaigns so far," he said, noting an increase in registration of cases and intensified enforcement across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The Srinagar padyatra on Sunday is expected to mark a key phase of the campaign, with the administration aiming to sustain momentum through a combination of rehabilitation, awareness and strict legal action against drug networks.

### 431 Peddlers

of psychotropic substances, with a total estimated value about Rs. seven crore. The authorities disposed of 4,776 kg of narcotic drugs and 6,493 tablets, capsules and bottles of psychotropic substances.

Efforts to curb illicit cultivation leading to the destruction of poppy crops is also in full swing.

Financial investigations resulted in the attachment of 16 movable properties worth 78,32,736 and 17 immovable properties valued at 9,13,83,039. Surveillance remains active on 52 kingpins and 2,898 drug peddlers across the UT," sources said.

"Public outreach has been a key pillar of the campaign, with 994 awareness programmes conducted, reaching thousands of participants. Under the capacity-building initiatives police has trained about 1500 Investigating Officers and 15 Prosecutors to strengthen enforcement and prosecution.

Regulatory enforcement included inspections of 2,274 establishments, leading to corrective actions. 88 driving licences of those involved in drug trade were cancelled, while 19 vehicle registrations were also cancelled. Legal actions included challenging 21 bail orders and 1 acquitted order," sources added.(KNO)

### NDPS Case: HC

attracts stringent conditions laid down in Section 37 of the said Act, the Court has to be satisfied that such conditions are fulfilled before enlarging the convict on bail."

Citing multiple Supreme Court rulings, the High Court observed that bail in such cases can only be granted if the court is satisfied that the accused is not guilty and is unlikely to commit any offence while on bail, the conditions that were not met in the present case.

The court also rejected arguments regarding procedural lapses, noting prima facie that the recovery was a "chance recovery" from a vehicle, making provisions related to prior information and personal search inapplicable.

Accordingly, the bail application was dismissed. However, the court granted liberty to the appellant to renew his plea if the appeal is not heard within six months for reasons not

attributable to him.

The court clarified that its observations would not affect the final adjudication of the pending appeal.

### J&K Braces For

weather is likely to remain largely dry, with brief spells of light rain at isolated locations during afternoon hours, he added.

Authorities have issued advisories urging people to avoid weak structures, electric poles and overhead wires during periods of strong winds. Farmers have also been advised to suspend agricultural activities between May 3 and May 5 in view of the expected adverse conditions.

According to MeT data, most places in the Kashmir Valley recorded above-normal maximum temperatures. Srinagar registered a maximum of 26.0°C, which is 3.3°C above normal, while Qazigund recorded 25.2°C, 3.5°C above normal. Kupwara and Kokernag also witnessed higher-than-usual temperatures at 24.6°C and 24.8°C respectively. Gulmarg, however, recorded a lower maximum of 17.2°C.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 36.0°C, close to normal, while Katra registered 33.0°C and Banihal 25.8°C. Minimum temperatures across most stations also remained slightly above normal.

Meanwhile, traffic on the Doda-Kishtwar road was suspended following a landslide at Gatsoo near Pul Doda early Saturday morning, completely blocking the route, officials said.

Officials said such weather fluctuations are not unusual during this period, but stressed that timely advisories and preparedness remain crucial to minimise disruption and ensure public safety.

Notably, The India Meteorological Department has forecast above-normal rainfall and below-normal temperatures for Jammu and Kashmir in May, indicating a cooler and wetter start to the summer season.

According to the latest outlook, most parts of the Union Territory, including the Kashmir Valley, are likely to receive higher-than-usual precipitation, with frequent spells of rain and increased cloud cover expected through the month.

Maximum temperatures are projected to remain below the seasonal average, suggesting relatively mild daytime conditions compared to typical May patterns.

The forecast marks a clear deviation from the region's usual early summer trend, which is generally characterised by rising heat and drier conditions.

Officials said the outlook is based on probabilistic seasonal models and may vary at the local level.

### Slow Traffic

was recorded on NH-44, particularly along the Marog-Kishtwar Pather stretch, where single-lane conditions and the breakdown of a heavy motor vehicle disrupted traffic flow.

The situation was further aggravated by the movement of nomadic herds between Nagrota and Banihal, adding to congestion on the highway.

Officials said no fresh vehicles were allowed to ply on the highway during the day. However, stranded vehicles were cleared towards Ramban and Banihal. Regulated traffic was later allowed from Qazigund towards Banihal, Ramban and Udhampur, while movement from Jammu towards Srinagar was also permitted in phases.

The highway had remained closed for most of Friday due to landslides and shooting stones,

while ongoing construction work between Ramban and Banihal continued to hamper smooth movement.

Traffic authorities said movement is likely to remain slow on Sunday as well, advising commuters to maintain lane discipline and avoid overtaking.

Subject to improvement in weather and road conditions, passenger vehicles and light motor vehicles are expected to ply from both sides of the highway today. However, the movement of heavy motor vehicles will be allowed only after a fresh assessment.

Meanwhile, the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road remains closed due to snow accumulation and damage to the road.

On the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road, light motor vehicles followed by heavy vehicles will be allowed from Srinagar towards Gargil, subject to safety clearance.

Traffic on the Mughal Road will continue on a regulated basis, with light motor vehicles permitted from Shopian towards Poonch between 5 am and 10 am, depending on weather conditions.

Authorities have advised commuters to check road status before travel and strictly follow advisory notices to avoid inconvenience.

### Hormuz Crisis Hits

that a standardised format has been circulated among industrial associations to collect data on production declines and losses. He said responses are still being compiled and will be forwarded to the central office in Delhi.

According to Varindra Jain, Chairman of the Federation of Industries Jammu, nearly 350 to 400 units in the region have been directly or indirectly affected by the crisis. He noted that a dozen bitumen-related units have seen operations nearly come to a halt, disrupting road construction works due to shortages in supply, much of which earlier came from Iran and Iraq.

Plastic manufacturing units have also been hit hard, with over 50 to 60 units witnessing production levels fall below half capacity. Many of these units depend on imported plastic granules from Gulf countries. Rising raw material costs, in some cases doubling or tripling, have pushed several units toward the brink of closure while workers remain underutilised.

Industries linked to resins, paints, and food processing are similarly facing severe disruptions. Reduced LPG supply has further compounded the crisis. While oil companies had earlier cut supply to 30 percent, it was later increased to around 50 percent following protests by industry bodies, though many units still report shortages.

Industrialists have warned of mounting financial stress due to declining production, rising input costs, and delayed payments in the market. With both imports and exports affected over the past two months, uncertainty continues to loom over the sector.

Lalit Mahajan, President of the Bari Brahmana Industries Association, said the body has approached the Reserve Bank of India's regional office in Jammu, seeking relief measures for affected units. These include a 20 percent enhancement in working capital limits for one year and waiver of interest on term loans and working capital facilities until December 31, 2026.

He also pointed to a decline in demand for finished goods and delays in payment cycles, warning that prolonged disruption could lead to closures of several units across the region.

### Emergency Alert

Mehraj Ahmad, a resident, said the unexpected alert initially caused concern. "I was

surprised when the message came. I did not know about it. The sound was loud, but once I read the message, I understood," he said, adding that the system could prove useful during real emergencies.

The nationwide rollout of the Cell Broadcast Alert System was formally launched by Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority, the system operates under the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Authorities had earlier informed citizens about the trial run on April 29, urging them not to panic upon receiving such alerts. The system leverages Cell Broadcast technology alongside SMS to deliver real-time, geo-targeted warnings directly to mobile devices.

Based on the Common Alerting Protocol recommended by the International Telecommunication Union, the system is now operational across all States and Union Territories. It is designed to provide timely alerts related to natural disasters, emergencies, and public safety situations.

Officials said such periodic tests are essential to ensure system readiness and public familiarity, particularly in disaster-prone regions.)

### 3 Bodies, 1 Injured

Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary rushed to the spot at midnight and ordered the suspension of two engineers. The government has also constituted a committee to probe the incident.

According to the officials, labourers were carrying out retaining wall and foundation-laying work on the bridge, which was damaged in flash floods last year, when a portion of it gave way, trapping four of them.

Police, Army, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, and fire and emergency department immediately launched a rescue operation. The rescue teams first pulled out a labourer, who was identified as Tarsem Lal, the officials said.

"The search and rescue operation concluded this morning. Three bodies have been recovered from the spot. Two others have been rescued in injured condition," a senior officer told PTI.

The bodies were recovered during the 12-hour search operation, which went on through the night under floodlights, the officials said.

Among the two injured was Divisional Fire Officer, Fire and Emergency Services Department, Mohammad Jaffar, who was hit by a boulder during the rescue operation. The injured have been hospitalised.

Deputy Chief Minister Choudhary was briefed about the incident after he reached the spot at midnight.

"I have ordered the suspension of the assistant executive engineer and the junior engineer. I have also issued directions to the engineer-in-charge for attachment of the executive engineer," he told reporters at the spot.

Choudhary ordered a probe into the incident and directed the authorities to complete it in five days.

Following his order, Assistant Executive Engineer Sahil Verma and Junior Engineer Sajad Mir were placed under suspension, pending inquiry into their conduct, the officials said.

The government has also constituted a three-member inquiry committee headed by Purshotam Kumar, Secretary Technical (Engineer-in-Chief), Public Works (R&B) Department, they said.

Superintendent Engineer, Public Works (R&B), Circle Jammu South, Arit Gupta, and

Executive Engineer, Public Works (R&B) Satwari division, Rajan Mengi are members of the panel, they said.

### CAG Flags Major

physical inspection of 16 Oxygen Generator Plants (OGPs) pointed to systemic lapses, with the audit noting that no manpower was provided by the Health Department for their operation. At CHC Akhnoor, the plant was handed over only after the withdrawal of contractor staff, leaving it non-functional.

At CHC Hiranagar, defects such as burnt circuit breakers and leaking valves remained unattended for months, while a plant at PHC Zakura was found inaccessible due to the occupation of the premises by security forces. In the absence of any maintenance provision, the audit termed the COVID-era assets a "dead loss."

The report also flagged the state-owned JKPC, stating that out of 13 sub-projects worth 266 crore, 10 remain incomplete and seven have been abandoned since 2020-21, resulting in unfruitful expenditure of 50.52 crore.

It further noted that bridges at Wagooora, Trenz Sheikhpura and Rohmoor are delayed by over four years. In violation of contract terms, JKPC sub-contracted two major bridge projects worth 55.75 crore up to 61 per cent, exceeding the permissible limit of 25 per cent, while work was also halted over the use of sub-standard E-250 grade steel.

The audit also pulled up the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation (JKMSC) for procuring 500 modular monitors at inflated rates, leading to an avoidable expenditure of 31.6 lakh. It added that medical equipment worth 5.39 crore remains idle in hospitals across Poonch, Samba and Baramulla due to a lack of supporting infrastructure.

Besides, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was flagged for spending 102.89 crore on the upgradation of dewatering stations handling mixed discharge. The audit noted that despite World Bank directions, the corporation pumped large quantities of household wastewater into the Jhelum and Dhooth Ganga, attracting a penalty of 35 crore from the National Green Tribunal.(KNO)

### SC Orders J&K

the minimum qualifications prescribed by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), including qualifying the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), within three years and up to three attempts.

The judgment further stated that after acquiring the required qualifications and clearing TET, such appointees would be eligible for regularization after completing two years of service.

The court clarified that these conditions would also apply to similarly placed candidates who have already been appointed under the ReT scheme but do not meet the required qualifications.

It also directed that seniority among such candidates be determined based on their position in the original select panels, rather than the date of appointment or regularization.

The court warned that candidates who fail to acquire the required qualifications or clear TET within the stipulated period may face termination of services.

At the same time, the court made it clear that the ruling does not revive the ReT scheme or create rights for those who were not part of the select panels or had not approached courts earlier.

The judgment, issued under Article 142 of the Constitution, was described as specific to the facts of the case and not to be treated as a precedent. (KNT)

## Drug Smuggling Attempts in Baramulla, Handwara Foiled

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking, police in Baramulla achieved success during naka checking operations, leading to the arrest of three drug peddlers and recovery of contraband substances. Besides, police in Anantnag achieved a major breakthrough by arresting a second accused in case FIR No. 39/2026.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, police station Sheeri during naka checking at Nowpora intercepted an auto-rickshaw bearing registration No. JK05P-4047. During the search, approximately 42 grams of charas-like substance was recovered from the driver's possession. He has been identified as Nasir Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Amin Dar resident of Shalteng Sheeri. Similarly, during naka checking at Nowpora, a vehicle (Mahindra Thar) bearing registration No. JK01AX-2828 was intercepted by Police post Wagoora, with two persons on board. During the search, approximately 56 grams of charas-like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Faizan Farooq Rather son of Farooq Ahmad Rather resident of Wagoora and Mohd Yaseen Khanday son of Ali Mohammad Khanday resident of Warpora Tangmar.

In Handwara, a police team from Police Post Zachaldara intercepted a suspicious person at Sultanpora Crossing, Zachaldara. During the search, officers re-



covered Spasmo-Proxyvon Plus capsules from his possession. He has been identified as Mudasir Ahmad Dar son of Ab Majeed Dar resident of Badkoot.

All the accused have been arrested and, accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated.

Moreover, during investigation of case FIR No. 39/2026 registered under relevant sections of the NDPS Act at Police Station Srigufwara, Police in Anantnag has achieved another significant breakthrough by apprehending the second accused identified as Abdul Rashid Bhat son of Asadullah Bhat resident of Shitipura, involved in the transportation of a huge quantity of narcotic substance. It is pertinent to mention that during naka checking at Shalgam Crossing, police party arrested second absconding accused in 110 Kg Ganja haul case and further investigation to establish forward linkages continues.

J&K Police remains committed to eradicating the menace of drugs from society and urges the public to cooperate and share any information related to drug trafficking.

## Hailstorm Spell Damages Orchards, Crops in Several Kashmir Areas

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A severe hailstorm accompanied by heavy rainfall damaged orchards and standing crops across several parts of Kashmir, including southern Kulgam and northern Kupwara and Baramulla districts, on Saturday, officials and locals said.

Farmers told KNO that the sudden spell, marked by large hailstones and intense showers, struck during the afternoon, damaging apple blossoms and tender fruit at a crucial stage of the growing season. The losses are feared to impact overall yield this year, they said.

Residents have urged the administration to carry out an immediate assessment and provide compensation to affected growers.

Meanwhile, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) issued a detailed advisory to help farmers minimise losses and pre-



vent secondary infections in orchards and crops following the hailstorm.

The advisory, issued by its Directorate of Extension, stressed the need for immediate drainage of excess water to prevent waterlogging, which can cause root suffocation and increase the risk of fungal diseases.

Farmers have been asked to gently remove hail deposits and debris from trees to avoid bark injury and branch breakage. It also recommended pruning of damaged branches using clean tools, followed by application of

protective pastes on cut surfaces to prevent pathogen entry. Partially uprooted trees should be repositioned and supported, it said.

Highlighting the risk of disease after hail injury, SKUAST-Kashmir advised growers to apply protective fungicide sprays once weather conditions improve. Specific formulations were suggested for apple at the fruitlet stage, as well as for other fruit crops such as cherry, peach, plum, apricot, grapes and pear, and for vegetables.

The advisory also recommended a follow-up nutritional spray, including urea solution after a few days, to promote recovery and new growth, along with micronutrient sprays later to aid tissue repair.

Farmers were advised to carry out spraying during cool and dry periods, avoid water stagnation, and maintain orchard sanitation by removing fallen leaves, fruits and twigs to reduce disease spread.

## Tral Veterinary Hospital Project Remains Unfinished

**Srinagar:** More than 15 years after it was approved, the construction of a dedicated veterinary hospital in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district continues to remain incomplete, forcing locals and livestock owners to manage with inadequate and unsafe facilities.

The project was sanctioned around 15 years ago with an estimated cost of Rs 28 lakh. While construction work had initially commenced, it was discontinued midway under unclear circumstances, locals told KNO. Since then, the project has seen no revival, with the half-built structure now standing as a stark reminder of official indifference, they added.

An official aware of the matter said, "People had high expectations when the project was approved. There was visible progress in the beginning, but suddenly the work stopped and never resumed."

In the absence of a proper hospital building, veterinary services in Tral are currently being provided from an old and deteriorating structure, which residents say lacks even the most basic facilities. (Observer News Service)

## Eminent Scholar Late Abu Tariq Gh. Nabi Mir Honoured Posthumously

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Renowned Kashmiri scholar and writer Late Abu Tariq Gh. Nabi Mir of Dooru Shahabad, Anantnag, has been posthumously conferred the prestigious Rabindranath Tagore Hall of Fame Award by the Welred Foundation in recognition of his lifelong contributions to literature, spirituality, and social service.

A distinguished author, Islamic scholar, publisher, and Naat Khasan, Mir was widely respected for his scholarly works on Islamic history, spiritual traditions, and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage. His writings continue to inspire scholars and readers across the region.

He also founded the Institute of



Research and Writers Academy in Dooru, Anantnag, and remained actively associated with several religious and intellectual organisations, playing an important role in promoting knowledge and community development.

Late Mir passed away in December 2024 and is remembered as a respected intellectual figure whose literary and spiritual legacy continues to guide future generations.

## HM Discussed Key Development Issues with Political Leaders:LG Ladakh

Observer News Service

**LEH:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his recent visit to Leh assured the key political leaders that the Centre is working hard to ensure equitable development of the region.

LG Saxena, according to KNO, said that Amit Shah chaired a meeting with key political leaders of Ladakh on April 30, stressing sustainable development and environmental resilience in the region.

According to Saxena, the Home Minister, while highlighting the spiritual significance of his visit to Leh on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, called for a focused approach towards large-scale plantation and strengthening water security as core pillars of Ladakh's development.

The Lieutenant Governor said the ongoing efforts under Project Him Sarovar, including the creation of 50 water bodies across villages, along with recent plantation drives, were shared with the Home Minister, who appreciated the initiatives as positive steps.

During the meeting, Thupstan Chewang emphasized the need to harness water from the Shyok river for drinking and irrigation purposes, while Sonam Wangchuk pointed out that only a fraction of glacial melt in Ladakh is currently being utilized, underscoring the need for innovative conservation measures.

Saxena said the UT administration has launched a massive programme to boost plantation and water conservation, aiming to ensure climate-resilient development in Ladakh.

He said that over 4,500 native trees have been planted across Leh and Kargil in the past 40 days.

Additionally, around 500 saplings, including Bamboo, Amaltas, Gulmohar, Jacaranda, Bougainvillea, Bargad, Pipal and Imlil, have been planted in Leh on an experimental basis.

He stated that, as directed by the Home Minister, these efforts will be intensified, with a target to create at least 100 large water bodies in the next year and increase forest cover in Ladakh from less than 1 percent to 5 percent within two years.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Muskaan ur Rehman, want to change my son's name from Mohammad Zaid bin Yasir to Mohammad Zaid & Mother's Name from Muskaan Yasir to Muskaan Ur Rehman, and address from Noor Ul Baka Colony Pantha Chowk to Gulberg Colony Zakura Srinagar. If any person have any objection in this regard he/she may contact to Principal Legends School of Education, Kanitar Naseemabad Sadrabal within 7 days. After that no objection will be entertained.

**GOVERNMENT OF U.T. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BANDIPORA**

**PH-NO:01957225532**

**Subject: Auction of Adda Entry / Terminal Tax of Municipal Council Bandipora for the year 2026-27 & 2027-28 (w.e.f 15.05.2026 to 14.05.2028)**

**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
**E - NIT No: MC/ Bpr/2026-27/51**  
**Dated: 29 /04/2026**

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons /parties /firms/ Companies for the auction of Adda Entry/ Terminal Tax of Municipal Council Bandipora for the year 2026-27 & 2027-28 (w.e.f 15.05.2026 TO 14-05-2028) The Minimum reserved bid is fixed as Rs. 78.50 lacs (Rupees=Seventy=Eight=Lac=Fifty=Thousand=only) for One year, and for the next 2027-28, subsequently, 10% shall be increased to the highest bid amount approved for the year 2026-27. The successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fee/ Terminal Tax as per the tax schedule of the vehicles mentioned below:

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

- The aspiring/ interested bidder must be Bonafide person/party with sound financial back ground holding PAN and Income Tax returns and should submit bids in two covers. The first cover should contain the following documents as qualifying criteria.
  - Audited balance sheet dully authenticated by a Chartered Accountant for the last three Years with minimum turnover of Rs. 40.00 Lacs in any one year.
  - Income Tax returns of the last two years.
  - Copy of PAN Card.
  - Latest GST Clearance Certificate.
  - An Affidavit dully registered before the Court /Public Notary certifying that there is nothing outstanding on account of the Adda Entry Fee/ Terminal Tax of any Municipal Body of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir.
  - The second cover should contain financial bid dully offered in a neat and clean manner recorded in both words and figures.
  - While opening the bids the Auction Committee will in the first step open the cover of qualifying criteria bid. Once the qualifying criteria cover is found upto level then the financial bid will be opened.
- The Contract of collection of Adda Entry Fee / Terminal Tax shall be w. e. f 15.05.2026 To 14-05-2028 commencing from the very date of handing over of possession of Tool Posts.
- The minimum reserve bid of above auction period has been fixed Rs. Rs.78.50 lacs (Rupees=Seventy=Eight=Lac=Fifty=Thousand=only) The intending bidder shall be bound to accompany Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) for an amount of Rs; 1,60,000/- (Rupees One Lac Sixty Thousand only) from any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank pledged to Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Bandipora without which no bid document can be issued.
- After finalization of auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall have to deposit 10% of the total bid amount as Bid Acceptance Token on spot and 90% of the balance bid amount shall have to be deposited by the successful bidder in 03 instalments.
  - 50% before taking over the possession for the year 2026-27
  - 20% within (3) months after taking over possession ( for the year 2026-27 )
  - 20% to be deposited in the month of November 2026 for year 2026-27 (2027-28) as:-
  - 50% of the approved auction amount of the year 2026-27 to be deposited in the Month of May 2027 for year 2027-28
  - 25% to be deposited in the Month of August 2027 for year 2027-28
  - 25% to be deposited in the Month of November 2027 for year 2027-28

However, the contractor has to produce an irrevocable Bank guarantee from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank to be submitted within one month after taking over the possession of entry posts.

Furthermore, the contractor shall deposit post-dated cheque for the year 2027-28 in the month of February 2027 from his own bank account which will be confirmed from the bank and later the cheque will be returned back after receiving of bank guarantee of the said amount. The post-dated cheque from any other person cannot be accepted.

- In case the successful bidder fails to deposit the token amount of (10%), the CDR of the earnest money deposited by the aspirant shall be forfeited.
- The persons/parties against whom any outstanding amount exists on the records of this department on account of contracts of Adda Entry Fee/ Terminal Tax cannot participate in the bid. If any such person who participated in the bid and later on the outstanding surfaced before the department/ Municipality, his contract shall cease along with all deposits.
- The interested bidder shall have to present earnest money in the shape of Call Deposit Receipt.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to execute an agreement dully registered in the Court of Law with the undersigned after receipt of the allotment and before taking over the possession of the collection posts for the contract.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to collect entry fee from the check posts of this Municipality viz 01.Papchan 02. Watpora 03. Mader 04. Rangerkhan & 05. Onagam Road strictly as per previous rates which are re-casted in the last Para :  
In the event of violation, noticed or reported the same shall invite legal course of action against contractor, including cancellation of the contract.
- The bids offered by the bidders shall be inclusive of all applicable taxes.
- The successful bidder shall have to provide/arrange manpower, furniture, toilet, stationery, electricity charges and drinking water & toilets and also beautify the tool post at his own level and at his own expenses without claiming any compensation thereof from this institution.
- The interested bidder shall have the experience (at least one year) in the contract of Adda Entry Fee/ Terminal Tax (experience certificate be uploaded) which should be issued by any Municipal Council/Committee.
- The interested bidder shall upload his Character Certificate from the local Police Station.
- The contractor while offering the bids shall be responsible to visualize all conditions/ circumstances like Hartals, un-favourable circumstances, unrest, Pandemic etc. well in advance. Later on, no claim for relaxation/ relief in the contract shall be entertained at any stage.
- After expiry of the contract period the successful bidder shall handover the possession of entry fee collection posts to the Municipality in its original position without any damage.
- The authorized contractor is bound to engage well versed persons who are not involved in any kind of criminal activities for collection and must be with proper uniform during collection of Entry Fee/ Terminal Tax at the entry posts and the realization of the entry fee/ terminal tax shall be collected in a public friendly manners without causing any inconvenience to the public.
- The contractor is bound not to charge any entry fee from the VIPs/ Government Vehicle/ Vehicles of Security Forces.
- In-case of any dispute arising between the parties with respect of any of the conditions as laid down here in above or any ambiguity, the same will be referred to the arbitrator (i.e) Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir and the decision of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding upon both the parties.
- The successful bidder shall be bound not to sublet contract to any other person/ parties/ firm.
- The contractor is bound to collect revenue with friendly attitude. In case of any confrontation by the driver, the contractor shall not take law in

his hands. However he will report to the Municipality for taking the cognizance.

In the event of violation, noticed or reported the same shall invite legal course of action against contractor, including cancellation of the contract.

21. The document fee of Rs. 2000/- is compulsory for the bidders who are interested for bidding of the above noted NIT/Auction notice. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in, as per the schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	02/05/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03/05/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	03/05/2026 from 10:00 AM
4	Bid submission End Date	11/05/2026 up to 3:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	12/05/2026 at 01:00 PM in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora .
6	Submission of CDR.	01. The bidder shall be bound to accompany his bids offers with Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of 1,60,000/- (Rupees One Lac Sixty Thousand only) from any Nationalized bank, pledged to the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal council Bandipora, (without which offers shall be liable for rejection). 02. The original CDR be submitted before the office on 11/05/2026 up to 2:00 PM.
7	Mode of Payment	03. 10 % of the total bid amount as Bid Acceptance Token on spot and 90% of the balance bid amount shall have to be deposited in 03 instalments for the year 2026-27 04. 50 % before taking over the possession for the year 2026-27 05. 20% within (3) months after taking over possession ( for the year 2026-27 ) 06. 20% to be deposited in the month of November 2026 for the year 2026-27 07. enhancement of 10% shall be calculated to the approved amount of the auction of the year 2026-27, 50% of which shall have to be deposited in the month of May 2027 for year 2027-28 08. 25% to be deposited in the Month of August 2027 for year 2027-28 09. 25% to be deposited in the November 2027 for year 2027-28

**Instructions to the Bidders regarding E- Tendering process:**  
Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov into acquaint bid submission process.

- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Note :- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document of Rs:- 2000/- in shape of Bank Receipt/challan in favour of Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora maintained at J&K Bank Branch Bandipora Account No:-0061040500015480 and bid securing declaration must be uploaded with the bid.
- The Bidder must have to upload (soft copies) of the following documents (Photostat/Original should be clearly seen in all respect with Ink Signed and Seal):-  
Valid original Bank Challan/Receipt  
Call Deposit Receipt (CDR)  
BID Securing Declaration on stamp paper duly attested by Notary.
- Valid GSTIN/ PAN Card No.
- The Bidder should upload the Tender Document form attached below (Not Mandatory).
- Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including  
BID Securing Declaration and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document(s) which has/ have not been uploaded will not be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
- The Highest Bidder will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tending portal before issuance of Allotment.

RATED SCHEDULE		
S No	Particulars	Scheduled Rate
1	Matador 407 LP Mazda	Rs. 20/- Per Day
2	Service Bus	Rs. 20/- Per Day
3	Government Bus	Rs. 20/- Per Day
4	Load Carrie Auto/Passenger Auto 3 wheeler	Rs. 20/- Per Day
5	Sumo/Tavera	Rs. 20/- Per Day
6	Empty Truck	Rs. 20/- Per Day
7	Empty Tipper, Tractor	Rs. 20/- Per Day
8	JCB	Rs. 30/- Per Day
9	Loaded Truck/709	Rs. 50/- Per Day
10	Loaded Tipper	Rs. 50/- Per Day
11	Loaded Tanker	Rs. 50/- Per Day
12	Loaded Platform	Rs. 50/- Per Day
13	Tourist Bus	Rs. 50/- Per Day
14	Full Booking all commercial vehicles	Rs. 30/- Per Day
15	School Bus Vans (Private)	Rs. 600/- Per Month
16	Truck Tollen 10 Tyre & 12 Tyre	Rs. 100/- Per Trip
17	Tata Mobile	Rs. 30/- Per Trip
Part B Terminal Tax		
S.No	Type of Vehicle	Rate
01	Loaded Trucks/Tipper with sand, Bajree, bolder, stone, Quarry stone /Soiling Metallng /HCC Muck etc. from Nalla Arin	Rs. 50/- Per Trip
02	Loaded tractor/Oneton with sand, Bajree, Bolder stone, Quarry stone/Soiling Metallng /HCC Muck etc.	Rs. 30/- Per Trip
03	Loaded trucks with willow /popular Mochas etc	Rs. 50/- Per Trip
04	Loaded tractor /trolley with willow /popular mochas etc	Rs. 40/- Per Trip

Further details can be had from the office of undersigned on any working day during office hours.  
No: MC/Bpr/G/26/1118-25  
Dated: 29 /04/2026

**DIPK-NB-347-26**  
**DT: 02/05/2026**

Chief Executive Officer  
Municipal Council  
Bandipora

**Israeli Strikes Kill 7 in Lebanon; Catholic Convent Bulldozed**



AP

**BEIRUT:** Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon killed at least seven people and wounded others on Saturday while the Israeli military demolished parts of a Catholic convent in a border village, officials said.

Israel's military on Saturday issued a new warning for residents of nine southern villages to evacuate. Israel and Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group have kept up their attacks despite a ceasefire in place since April 17.

In the border village of Yaroun, Israel's military used bulldozers to destroy parts of a Catholic convent that had been empty as a result of the latest fighting.

"What we heard is that it was destroyed with bulldozers," said Gladys Sabagh, the superior general of the Basilian Salvatorian Sisters.

Sabbagh told The Associated Press that the convent included a school that had been closed since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, as well as a clinic that was recently moved to the nearby village of Rmeich.

She described the convent as a small compound housing just two nuns, who left because of the war. Sabagh did not have further details as Yaroun's residents have been displaced.

**Catholic Church disputes Israeli military's version**

The Israeli military issued a statement saying that as the army was destroying Hezbollah infrastructure in Yaroun, a house that had no religious signs was damaged.

It added that as soon as the military knew it was linked to a church, soldiers "prevented any further damage from being done."

The military added that Hezbollah used the compound in the past to fire rockets toward Israel on several occasions. It added that the military does not strike religious institutions intentionally.

The Catholic Church in Lebanon rejected claims that the compound was used for military purposes.

"We are against all practices against places of worship and churches. These are places to spread peace, love and education," said Rev. Abdo Abou Kassm, director of the Catholic Center for Information. "These are not military bases."

The demolition at the convent came days after images of an Israeli soldier wielding an ax against the fallen statue of Jesus on the cross in the southern Lebanese village of Debel had sparked widespread condemnation, in Lebanon and internationally.

**After Iran Stalemate, Trump Turns His Sights on Cuba**

KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR** - Donald Trump has sparked fresh controversy after joking that the United States could "take over" Cuba almost immediately - using a returning aircraft carrier from the Middle East as a show of force.

Speaking at an event in Florida, Trump quipped that a US warship—possibly the USS Abraham Lincoln—could simply pull up close to Cuba's coast and force its leaders to surrender.

"We'll stop about 100 yards offshore, and they'll say, 'Thank you very much, we give up,'" he said, drawing attention with his off-the-cuff remarks. The comment came as Trump spoke about wider US military moves following the US-Israeli war on Iran, suggesting Cuba could be "next" after Iran.

**But it wasn't just talk.**

Trump also signed fresh sanctions targeting Cuban-linked individuals and entities, ramping up pressure on the island that has been under a decades-long US embargo.

The remarks also echo his earlier



posture at the start of the Iran conflict, when he issued stark calls for capitulation - warnings that have so far failed to produce any outcome, with tensions dragging on.

While aides described the Cuba comment as a joke, critics say it reflects a familiar pattern of coercive

rhetoric - and comes at a moment when Washington may be seeking an off-ramp from a prolonged and uncertain confrontation with Iran.

With tensions already high globally, observers warn even "jokes" like these can send shockwaves far beyond the stage.

**Trump Admits Us Navy Acting Like 'Pirates' Against Iranian Ships**

Agencies

**US** President Donald Trump has unabashedly admitted that the US Navy is acting "like pirates" in carrying out Washington's naval blockade of Iranian ports.

Trump made the comments on Friday while describing the seizure of an Iranian ship by US naval forces a few days ago.

"We took over the ship, we took over the cargo, we took over the oil. It is a very profitable business... We are like pirates. We are sort of like pirates but we are not playing games," he said.

Iran has already condemned US actions as outright "legalization of piracy" and armed robbery on the high seas, following the interception of Iranian oil tankers by US forces under the pretext of so-called "seizure warrants."

It came after announcements by US authorities claiming the interdiction of vessels such as the M/T Majestic

(formerly M/T Phoenix) and M/T Tifani in the Indian Ocean.

These ships were reportedly carrying approximately 1.9 million barrels of Iranian oil each, seized under so-called federal warrants issued by US courts as part of Washington's unilateral sanctions regime.

"This is the outright legalization of piracy and armed robbery on the high seas," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Monday.

"The United States must be held fully accountable for this brazenly lawless behavior, which strikes at the heart of international law and international free trade, and threatens the basic principles of maritime security," he added.

The US-Israeli aggression against Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders, including Leader of the Islamic Republic

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The Iranian armed forces responded by launching daily missile and drone operations targeting locations in the Israeli-occupied territories as well as US military bases and assets across the region.

Furthermore, Iran retaliated against the strikes by closing the Strait of Hormuz, which resulted in a significant increase in oil prices and its by-products.

On April 8, forty days into the war, a Pakistan-brokered temporary ceasefire between Iran and the US took effect.

Negotiations ensued in Islamabad but stopped short of an agreement amid Washington's maximalist demands and insistence on unreasonable positions.

Since then, Trump has offered shifting timelines and goals for the war, which remains extremely unpopular in the US.

**Spirit Airlines Shuts Down, Cancels All Flights Over Fuel Crisis**

Agencies

**L**ow-cost US carrier Spirit Airlines has decided to cancel all of its flights as it purportedly started an "orderly wind-down of operations," after a potential White House bailout fell through and rescue talks collapsed.

"Spirit Aviation Holdings, Inc., parent company of Spirit Airlines... today regretfully announced that the Company has started an orderly wind-down of op-

Spirit's cost projections and complicating its bankruptcy exit.

"Unfortunately, despite the Company's efforts, the recent material increase in oil prices and other pressures on the business have significantly impacted Spirit's financial outlook," Spirit said in a statement announcing its "orderly wind-down".

Trump on Friday said the White House had given Spirit and its creditors a final rescue proposal, after



erations, effective immediately. All Spirit flights have been cancelled, and Spirit Guests should not go to the airport," the airline said in a statement in the early hours of Saturday.

Spirit had 4,119 domestic flights scheduled between May 1 and May 15, offering 809,638 seats, according to the latest data from Cirium.

The collapse of the carrier due to a doubling in jet fuel prices during the two-month-long US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran will cost thousands of jobs.

It also marks a major blow to US President Donald Trump, who had proposed \$500 million to save Spirit despite opposition from some of his closest advisers and many Republicans in Congress.

Spirit had struck a deal with its lenders that would have helped it emerge from its second bankruptcy by late spring or early summer. But those plans hit a snag after the US-Israeli onslaught on Iran triggered a spike in jet fuel prices, upending

talks hit an impasse over a \$500-million financing package that would have helped the airline keep operating through bankruptcy.

"If we can help them, we will, but we have to come first," Trump told reporters. "If we could do it, we'd do it, but only if it's a good deal."

Spirit's restructuring plan assumed jet fuel costs of about \$2.24 a gallon in 2026 and \$2.14 in 2027, but prices had climbed to about \$4.51 a gallon by the end of April, leaving the carrier unable to survive without new financing.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy asserted he had tried to get many airlines to buy Spirit but found no takers.

"What would someone buy?" Duffy asked. "If no one else wants to buy them, why would we buy them?"

The report comes as no US carrier of Spirit's size, which once accounted for 5 percent of US flights, has liquidated in two decades. Spirit helped keep fares lower in markets where it competed against major carriers.

# MI Securities

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30	18.0L

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**Corpus: ₹11.6L** (10 Years)  
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