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Athletes Must Lead Nasha Mukta J&K Campaign: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called upon young athletes to act as ambassadors of the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan and inspire their peers to reject substance abuse.

Sinha inaugurated the All India Inter-University Wushu Championship at the University of Kashmir. Addressing the ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor said athletes hold significant influence among youth and must use their voice to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. He urged participants to leverage social media platforms to amplify awareness against drug abuse and encourage greater participation in sports and creative pursuits.

"You are the role models for India's new generation. Your appeal can guide many onto the right path," he said.

Highlighting the government's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and culture, Sinha said efforts are underway to ensure



that students across higher educational institutions have equal opportunities to engage in physical activity and lead healthier lives.

Describing the championship as more than a competitive event, he said it reflects the spirit of unity and national integration. "This platform celebrates discipline, excellence and the idea of one nation bound by shared values. Let this championship be remembered not only for competition, but for the friendships | [More in P6](#)

BJP's Bengal Breakthrough, Assam Sweep; Kerala Goes To UDF

TVK Vijay Debuts In Tamil Nadu

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The 2026 Assembly election results delivered a decisive mandate across key states, with the BJP scripting a major breakthrough in West Bengal, retaining Assam with a landslide, while the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) secured a clear victory in Kerala. In Tamil Nadu, debutant TVK emerged as a significant player, unsettling the state's traditional Dravidian political landscape.

Didi Unseated: Mamata loses Bengal

In West Bengal, the BJP swept aside the incumbent Trinamool Congress government, winning 130 seats and leading in 76 more at the time of reporting. The



Mamata Banerjee-led party lagged behind with 49 wins and leads in 30 seats. The Congress, which had failed to open its account in the previous Assembly polls, secured two seats.

Mamata Banerjee's defeat in the 2026 West Bengal elections marks a decisive political rupture, not just a

routine loss. The BJP's two-thirds majority has ended the TMC's 15-year rule, but the bigger blow is personal and symbolic, her defeat in Bhabanipur, her political stronghold, by Suwendu Adhikari.

For a leader who built a highly centralised political structure | [More in P6](#)

Talk Change, Not Revenge: PM After Poll Wins

Press Trust Of India

As the BJP swept the assembly elections in West Bengal for the first time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the state has been finally freed from fear and that it is a time for change, not revenge, as he appealed to all parties to shun the culture of political violence and focus on the future of the state. Addressing the jubilant party workers at the BJP headquarters after the win in assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry, Modi said the Congress, TMC and others have been punished severely for opposing the recent women's reservation bill. He asserted | [More in P6](#)

Census 2027 Online Self-Entry From May 17 In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People in Jammu & Kashmir will be able to submit their household details online from May 17 to May 31 before enumerators arrive at their homes as part of the Census-2027.

Director of Census Operations and Chief Principal Census Officer, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma said that residents can fill in their household details online themselves during this period for Phase I of the Census.

"The people can fill in these details themselves before the arrival of enumerators," he said, adding that enumerators will still visit every household.

As part of Census 2027, the houselisting operations will be carried out in Jammu & Kashmir between June 1 and June 30.

The second phase of the Census—population enumeration—will be conducted in snow-bound areas of the Union Territory in September 2026 and in non-snow areas in February 2027. | [More in P6](#)

Wildlife Board Meet

LG Clears Road Project Inside Gulmarg Sanctuary

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday chaired the 7th meeting of the Wildlife Board for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar. The Board deliberated on key conservation and development matters and accorded approval for the construction of the Asha-Cheema | [More in P6](#)

NDPS Crackdown Intensifies

Properties Of Drug Peddlers Razed Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities on Monday escalated their anti-narcotics drive across Kashmir, demolishing multiple properties linked to alleged drug peddlers in Bandipora and Srinagar as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan.

In north Kashmir's Bandipora district, police and civil administration carried out demolition drives in Hajin and Sumbal areas, targeting structures allegedly built through proceeds of drug trafficking.

In Hajin, two shops belonging to Lal Din Sheikh, a resident of Pehlipora Hakbara, were demolished following earlier action under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Officials said a double-storey residential house worth around 55 lakh linked to the accused had already been attached on April 25 under provisions of the law.

Police said Sheikh is involved in multiple cases, including FIR No. 33/2015 involving recovery of 102 kg charas powder and FIR No. 47/2023 involving 2.7 kg | [More in P6](#)



Durbar Move: Civil Secretariat Reopens In Srinagar

CM Omar Takes Charge; Sets 6-Month Governance Agenda

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Civil Secretariat, the seat of the Jammu and Kashmir government, reopened here on Monday

as part of the bi-annual 150-year-old 'Durbar Move' practice, officials said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour

as offices reopened in the summer capital a week after closing in Jammu, and he outlined priorities for the next six months. He was received by Deputy | [More in P6](#)

Op Sindoor Showed World Indian Military's Capabilities: DM

Press Trust Of India

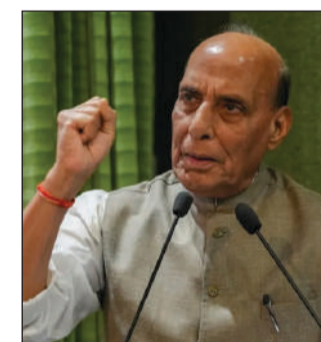
Prayagraj: Days ahead of the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday described it as a "unique" example of how the Indian military utilised advanced technology to deliver a decisive blow to terror groups and their "patrons".

Addressing the inauguration event of North Tech symposium, Singh emphasised that while the armed forces "showed patience", they were clinical in destroying terrorist infrastructure.

He added that the operation served as a global reminder of the Indian military's capabilities.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The operation targeted terror infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military



actions on May 10.

"The decisive response our soldiers gave to the terrorists and their patrons made the entire nation proud. It was a good thing that we showed patience and destroyed only the terrorists; otherwise, the whole world knows what our armed forces are capable of," Singh said.

He described the operation as a unique example of technology use.

"Advanced missile systems like Akash and BrahMos, along with a host of latest equipment, were used in this operation," Singh said.

"This proved | [More in P6](#)

Rs 55 Lakh Fraud Case

Victims Protest, Urge High Court to Deny Bail

Agencies

Srinagar: Victims of an alleged multi-lakh fraud staged a protest at Pratap Park in Srinagar on Monday, urging the High Court not to grant bail to the accused involved in the case.

The protesters, comprising residents from different parts of Anantnag district, alleged that the accused had devastated several families through fraudulent activities before being arrested by the police.

"We appeal to the High Court not to entertain the bail of these impostors. They have ruined many households," the protesting victims said. | [More in P6](#)

Pahalgam Pony Riders Oppose 'One Horse' Policy

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Pony riders in Pahalgam have raised strong objections to a new "one license, one horse" policy introduced by the Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA), saying the move threatens their livelihoods and limits their earning capacity during the peak tourism season.

The decision, announced by the PDA's Chief Executive Officer, is part of a broader effort to regulate tourist movement, reduce environmental pressure, and curb pollution in the popular tourist destination.

However, pony riders argue that the restriction fails

to account for the economic realities of their work. Many operators depend on multiple horses to sustain their families, particularly during the short summer window when tourism is at its peak.

"This is unjust and tantamount to depriving us of our right to earn a living," several pony riders said, expressing resentment over the policy and urging authorities to reconsider the decision.

They also called for alternative measures, including opening additional trekking routes and expanding operational spaces, instead of imposing what they described as blanket restrictions.

In addition | [More in P6](#)

Fresh Rainfall, Snow Disrupt Life Across Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fresh snowfall in the upper reaches, coupled with rain and gusty winds in the plains, led to a drop in temperatures across Kashmir on Monday and disrupted traffic on several key routes.

Upper reaches including Gurez Valley, Gulmarg and Sonamarg received light to moderate snowfall, resulting in a noticeable dip in temperatures.

The Gurez-Bandipora road was closed due to snow accumulation, while the Mughal Road was shut following fresh snowfall at Peer Ki Gali,



leaving around 200 vehicles stranded at various locations. Officials said stranded

passengers, including women, children and some patients, sought assistance. | [More in P6](#)

HC Orders Minor Reshuffle Of Judicial Officers

KO Correspondent

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Monday ordered a minor reshuffle of judicial officers across Jammu and Kashmir in the interest of administration.

As per an order issued by the Registrar General M K Sharma, eleven judges have been transferred and assigned new postings across courts in Jammu, Srinagar, Poonch, and Bandipora.

Ms. Renu Dogra, Principal Judge, Family Court, Srinagar, has been transferred as Presiding Officer of the Fast Track POCSO Court in Jammu.

Sandeep Gandotra has been posted as Presiding Officer of the Labour and Industrial Tribunal on deputation. | [More in P6](#)

Yoga Awareness Event under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Held

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A Yoga Awareness Event was organized at Polo Ground Srinagar under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, aiming to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle among youth.

The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education Kashmir under the directions of District Administration Srinagar and was coordinated by the District AYUSH Office Srinagar.

On the occasion, speakers emphasized the importance of yoga as a holistic discipline that significantly contributes to physical and mental well-being. They highlighted its role as an effective tool in preventing substance abuse and fostering a balanced lifestyle.

The event was organized with the objective of raising awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging the adoption of healthy and disciplined living through yoga practices.

Participants were sensitized about preventive approaches to addiction and the importance of building a drug-free society.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff of various government schools, along with officials from the AYUSH and Education Departments.

Among those present were Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din; District AYUSH Officer Srinagar, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Payer; Nodal Officer (Yoga & Naturopathy), Dr. Seema Mustafa; and District Coordinator (CEO Srinagar), Hina Amin.

A mass yoga demonstration by participating students, an awareness session on drug abuse prevention, and interactive engagements promoting healthy lifestyle practices were key highlights of the event.

Participants actively performed yoga exercises and reinforced the message: "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life."



Rain-soaked streets of Srinagar come alive as shoppers brave the downpour, weaving through bustling Goni Khan market. KO Photo Abid Bhat

ACB Charge-Sheets 11, Including SMC Officials, in Illegal Construction Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday filed a charge-sheet against 11 accused, including four Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) officials and seven beneficiaries for alleged violations in a building permission case involving illegal constructions in Srinagar.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau presented a Charge sheet against 04 accused persons of Srinagar Municipal Committee (SMC) and 07 beneficiaries in case FIR No. "2A/2020 for the commission of

offences U/S 5(1)(d) r/w5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act. Svt. 2006, 120-B RPC of Police Station ACB Srinagar before Hon'ble Court of Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption Srinagar for judicial determination," said the spokesperson.

He said the instant case was registered for raising construction of Six illegal Structures erected at Jawhar Nagar, Gonikhan, Hari Singh High Street and Wazir Bagh Srinagar without obtaining any valid & proper Building Permission from the competent authority in connivance with the officers/ officials of SMC Srinagar.

The spokesperson said the investigation conducted by Police Station

ACB Srinagar, on the basis of oral and documentary evidence, has fully substantiated the charges levelled against the accused officers/officials and private beneficiaries. The conspiracy between the accused government functionaries and the beneficiaries was proved beyond doubt.

He said, after obtaining the requisite sanction for prosecution of public servants from the Govt. The charge sheet against 04 accused public servants and 07 private beneficiaries has been presented before the Hon'ble Court of Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption Srinagar for Judicial determination. The next date of hearing has been fixed on 16 June, 2026.

PARAS Health Srinagar Launches Advanced ER Services

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major push to strengthen emergency healthcare delivery in the Valley, Paras Health Srinagar has launched its advanced Emergency Response (ER) services, integrating rapid-response systems, cutting-edge medical technology, and highly trained clinical teams.

The initiative is aimed at elevating the standard of critical care and aligning the hospital's emergency services with international benchmarks. A key focus of the upgrade is ensuring faster medical intervention during the critical "golden hour" — the immediate period following a medical emergency when timely care can significantly improve survival outcomes.

Speaking on the development, Facility Director Dr Murtuza Habib emphasized the importance of robust emergency infrastructure, stating that the move reflects the hospital's commitment to delivering prompt and high-quality care to critically ill patients.

Senior Consultant and Head of Emergency Response, Dr Wasil Rasool Sheikh, highlighted the clinical significance of the upgrade. "With the introduction of advanced ER services, we are better equipped to



manage complex emergencies with speed and precision, ensuring patients receive the right care at the right time," he said.

Dr. Sheikh, who holds an MBBS and MEM from Northwell Health and the Global Academy of Emergency Medicine, underscored the importance of timely intervention during the "golden hour," noting that it requires a highly responsive and coordinated emergency team to save lives.

Medical Superintendent Dr Shafat Ahmad Kennu said the enhanced services would have a broader impact on healthcare delivery in the region. "A strong and efficient ER system is crucial for improving patient outcomes

and ensuring timely care," he noted.

Echoing similar views, Consultant in the Department of Emergency, Dr Yasir Allaqaband, stressed the importance of preparedness and coordination. "The strengthened ER system ensures seamless collaboration across specialties, enabling faster and more effective responses to critical cases," he said.

The launch marks a significant milestone for Paras Health Srinagar, reinforcing its position as a leading healthcare provider in the region. By prioritizing rapid response, clinical excellence, and patient-centric care, the hospital aims to set a new benchmark in emergency medical services.

Toddler Rescued After Drowning in Jhelum

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-year-old child was rescued alive after drowning in the Jhelum River near a footbridge in the Parimpora area of Srinagar on Monday, officials said.

The child, identified as Abdullah, son of Showkat Ahmed Waza, a resident of Fruit Mandi Parimpora, was brought to the Children Hospital Bemina after the incident.

According to the atten-

dant's statement, the child had fallen into the river near a footbridge in Parimpora. He was subsequently pulled out of the water by a local resident, identified as Ajaz Ahmed Sheikh.

The child was alive at the time of rescue but was reported to be in a serious condition when shifted to the hospital for treatment.

According to KNT, authorities said that the Police Control Room Srinagar had been informed about the incident.

NOTICE

I hereby inform that I have lost my 10th Class DOB Certificate bearing No. 132018093 (Date of Birth: 25.08.2010). I am applying for duplicate of the same. If anyone has any objection in this regard, He/She may convey the same to the Principal office of IMI Ratnipora within a period of seven days from the date of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

Name: Shakeebat-ul-Kubra
Father's Name: Fayaz Ahmad Dar
Mother's Name: Mahjabeena Akhter
Date of Birth: 25.08.2010

AB

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Father's Name: Fayaz Ahmad Dar
Mother's Name: Mahjabeena Akhter
Date of Birth: 25.08.2010

AB

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shaista Nabi D/o Gulam Nabi Wani R/o Treran, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, hereby inform that my name and my father's name have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2640 9202 3820 as Shaista Akhter D/o Ghulam Nabi Wani.

The correct name is Shaista Nabi C/o Gulam Nabi Wani as per School Certificate record. Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Hajro Bano W/o Late Mohd Akbar Khan R/o Treran, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8406 2233 2215 as Hajira Begum.

The correct name is Hajro Bano as per Domicile Certificate record. Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

FKO

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:- suresh05.gupta@jk.gov.in Tel./Fax No:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 2nd

Subject: Construction of 01 No. 250 mm Nominal Dia Casing Gravel Packed Production Tube Well for WSS Venkara Under U.T Capex District Baramulla.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 02/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27, issued vide endorsement No. JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp./50-63, dated: 03-04-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_307506_1.

Due to "Poor Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 04-05-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below:-

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	11-05-2026 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	12-05-2026 11.00 AM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endst: nos.

Sd/= Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK-993/26 dated: 04-05-2026

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


AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
17 Zil-Qadah
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4: 06
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5: 19
Magrib	7:20
ISHA	8: 51

This Day In History

- 1260 - Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire
- 1494 - On 2nd voyage to New World Christopher Columbus sights Jamaica, landing at Discovery Bay
- 1640 - English Short Parliament rises
- 1646 - King Charles I surrenders in Scotland
- 1762 - Russia & Prussia sign Treaty of Saint Petersburg ending the Seven Years War
- 1789 - French Estates-General meets for the first time since 1614 at Versailles, summoned King Louis XVI
- 1862 - French army intervenes in Puebla, Mexico: Cinco de Mayo
- 1864 - Battle between Confederate & Union ships at mouth of Roanoke
- 1864 - Battle of Wilderness, Virginia (Germanna Ford, Wilderness Tavern)
- 1877 - Indian Wars: Sitting Bull leads his band of Lakota into Canada to avoid harassment by the United States Army under Colonel Nelson Miles
- 1920 - German-Latvian peace treaty signed
- 1920 - Polish troops occupy Kiev
- 1921 - Miniature newspaper published (Brighton Gazette 10 x 13 cm)
- 1932 - Japan & China sign a peace treaty
- 1936 - Italian troops occupy Addis Ababa
- 1942 - British assault on Diego Suarez, Madagascar
- 1942 - US begins rationing sugar during WW II
- 1943 - Postmaster General Frank C Walker invents Postal Zone System
- 1944 - Mahatma Gandhi freed from prison
- 1944 - Soviet offensive against Sebastopol, Crimea
- 1945 - Netherlands & Denmark liberated from Nazi control
- 1945 - Uprising against occupying SS troops in Prague
- 1945 - World War II: Admiral Karl Dönitz, leader of Germany after Hitler's death, orders all U-boats to cease offensive operations and return to their bases
- 1948 - 1st squadron of jet aircraft aboard a carrier
- 1955 - Indian parliament accepts Hindu divorce
- 1955 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada test Site
- 1955 - West Germany is granted full sovereignty by its three occupying powers
- 1956 - World championships of judo are 1st held in Tokyo
- 1957 - Adolf Scharf elected president of Austria
- 1964 - Separatists riot in Quebec
- 1965 - 1st large-scale US Army ground units arrive in South Vietnam
- 1972 - Alitalia DC-8 crashes west of Palermo Sicily; killing 115
- 1976 - Train collision at Schiedam, Netherlands, kills 24

From KO Archives

KU Controller Exams Dies After Fall

Srinagar: Controller of Examinations in Kashmir University Dr. Abrar Hussain Khan today reportedly fell to his death from third floor of a building during an inspection on the campus at Hazratbal here, official sources said.

Khan was inspecting the third floor of a building, under construction and to be used as a store for examination material when he walked over a fragile fibre glass which broke down, the sources said.

They said Khan hit the cupboards before hitting the concrete floor and died on the spot. Police has taken cognizance of the incident and investigation has been initiated in this regard, a senior-police official said.

Kashmir University will remain closed for the day on Thursday to mourn the death of Dr Abrar.

Dr Abrar Hussain who was professor of law had acted earlier in the capacity of Dean Faculty of Law.

He had also served the university in various other capacities including as its Registrar and Chairman Distance Education.

(Kashmir Observer, 05 May, 2005)

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KO VIEW

Powering Kashmir's Future

Early this spring, the administration moved ahead with the long-delayed revival of the Mohra Hydroelectric Power Project, a century-old facility that once powered large parts of the valley before falling into disuse.

Officials framed the decision as part of a broader push to expand local generation and reduce dependence on power imports during peak winter months, when demand spikes and supply gaps widen.

Energy data explains this need of the hour.

Jammu and Kashmir records a winter power deficit that often crosses 30 percent, according to the Central Electricity Authority. Hydropower contributes the bulk of local generation, though much of it flows out under long-term agreements signed decades ago. Reports from the NITI Aayog estimate that the region holds more than 20,000 megawatts of untapped hydropower potential. Current installed capacity remains far below that figure, leaving the system reliant on expensive imports from the national grid.

Policy has begun to shift, as new and revived projects, including expansions along the Jhelum River basin, aim to keep a larger share of generated electricity within the Union Territory. Officials have also pushed for renegotiation of older power-sharing arrangements. The logic appears straightforward: local generation can cut transmission losses, stabilize supply, and support industrial growth that remains constrained by erratic electricity.

Climate data complicates that optimism. Studies published by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development show that Himalayan glaciers have thinned at an accelerating pace over the past two decades. Research linked to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlights increasing variability in river flows fed by snow and ice. Seasonal discharge patterns have begun to shift, with more water flowing earlier in the year and reduced availability during late summer and winter. Hydropower systems designed around older flow assumptions face growing uncertainty under these conditions.

Local environmental assessments point to additional concerns. River diversion, tunneling, and dam construction alter sediment flows and aquatic habitats. Studies conducted by the University of Kashmir have flagged the cumulative ecological stress along heavily engineered stretches of the Jhelum and its tributaries. Farmers in downstream districts report changes in irrigation timing, while fisheries experts note declining native species in modified channels.

Economic trade-offs remain central to the debate. Hydropower offers a low-carbon energy source at a time when India aims to expand renewable capacity. Government projections suggest that increased local generation could reduce annual power purchase costs and improve fiscal balance.

At the same time, project delays, cost overruns, and environmental compliance challenges continue to stretch timelines. Large infrastructure in mountainous terrain brings high upfront costs and long gestation periods, which complicates quick gains.

Energy planners now face a narrower path. Smaller run-of-the-river projects, improved grid management, and investments in solar generation during summer months have entered policy discussions. Experts argue that diversification can reduce pressure on river systems while maintaining energy security. Storage solutions, including pumped hydro, have also gained attention as a way to balance seasonal fluctuations.

Kashmir's energy future rests on how these choices unfold in the coming years. Hydropower will remain central to the region's strategy, though its expansion now sits alongside climate constraints and ecological limits that demand careful planning.

Decisions taken today will determine whether the valley builds a system that meets demand without deepening environmental strain.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Cash Control

Budgeting and awareness can turn fragile incomes into lasting resilience.

Irshad Mushtaq

Money often slips through fingers faster than it's earned in Kashmir. A paycheck comes in, and soon it's gone, to flashy purchases, sudden expenses, or social pressure. Then comes the struggle: a medical bill, a school fee, a family emergency. And no savings to fall back on.

Financial literacy changes that. It's not complex math. It's knowing how to track your spending, plan your budget, and avoid traps like debt and impulse buying. In a place where incomes are unstable and inflation bites hard, this knowledge is essential.

Kashmir's economy runs on small businesses, government jobs, and seasonal work. Yet many families don't make budgets. They don't compare needs against wants. They spend without a plan, often to keep up appearances. This mindset drains savings and builds stress.

Being money smart means buying what you need, not what looks good on sale. It means planting vegetables at home, cutting down on utility bills, and fixing what you can instead of replacing it. These choices add up, and they build independence.

Many don't use government schemes that offer real help. Programs like Ayushman Bharat can cover major health costs. Yet few families know how to access them. That gap in awareness is costly.

Financial education must start early. Schools should teach kids how to save, spend, and invest. Communities should talk openly about money. Financial wisdom isn't about being rich. It's about staying ready, and steady. A financially literate Kashmir is a stronger Kashmir.

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

Kashmir's Silence Problem

A culture that celebrates loudness often fails to understand those who engage with the world differently.



Musaib Bilal

A familiar scene plays out in classrooms, offices, and family gatherings in Kashmir. Someone sits silently, speaks when needed, and listens more than they talk. People glance at each other and reach a quick conclusion: something must be wrong.

A louder voice, full of jokes and easy talk, earns instant approval and gets labelled happy and confident.

That instinct feels natural, though it misses a basic truth about human behaviour: silence does not signal distress.

In fact, a calm presence does not point to a problem. Many people simply prefer a different way of engaging with the world, one that values depth over constant interaction.

Confusion between introversion and social anxiety fuels this misunderstanding.

Both can appear similar on the surface, though they arise from very different places. One describes a personality style, the other points to a mental health condition that can disrupt daily life.

Introversion often gets reduced to a stereotype. People define it as the opposite of extroversion, as if human personalities fit into two rigid boxes. That narrow view creates real consequences.

Young people begin to label themselves too quickly. A student who struggles with conversation may assume an identity as an introvert, even when the real issue involves undeveloped social skills or limited exposure.

Clear understanding begins with a better definition. Introversion describes how a person manages energy. Social interaction can feel stimulating and meaningful, though it also consumes energy. Time alone restores that energy. An introvert may speak on stage, lead a team, or host an event with ease. Later, that same person seeks solitude to recharge.

Personal experience makes this distinction clear. Public speaking, organizing events, and engaging in group discussions can feel natural after years of practice. Social competence grows through effort and repetition.

At the same time, long hours of interaction drain energy, especially in demanding

“ Kashmir holds a long tradition of thoughtfulness, reflection, and intellectual depth. Many of its strongest voices emerged from moments of silent study and introspection. That cultural strength aligns closely with the qualities often found in introverted individuals.

settings. A silent evening afterward restores balance and focus.

Social anxiety tells a different story.

A person facing this condition may feel intense fear before or during social situations. Thoughts of judgment, embarrassment, or rejection dominate the mind. Important events get avoided, opportunities slip away, and daily functioning suffers as a result.

This difference matters because it determines how people respond to others. An introvert chooses solitude as a way to restore energy. A person with social anxiety withdraws due to distress and fear.

One reflects preference, the other signals impairment.

Research supports this distinction. Studies link introversion with traits such as creativity, deep thinking, and strong focus. Many introverts spend time reading, reflecting, and building ideas. Their inner world provides satisfaction and clarity. Social anxiety, on the other hand, connects with persistent worry about evaluation and self-worth.

Psychologists describe introversion as a temperament, a stable pattern rooted in personality. Some researchers identify several forms, including social, thinking, anxious, and restrained introversion. Anxious introversion often gets mistaken for the entire category.

That confusion blurs the line between a natural disposition and a condition that calls for support.

Cultural expectations make this issue more complex in Kashmir. Social life often rewards visibility and vocal presence. A person who commands attention earns admiration. A silent individual may get labeled distant or unskilled.

That bias pushes many people to act against their natural tendencies.

Pressure to perform socially can create strain, especially for those who thrive in calm environments. Constant interaction becomes exhausting, expectations feel heavy, and over time, this mismatch between personality and social demand can lead to frustration and self-doubt.

Extroversion, often seen as the ideal, does not guarantee emotional ease. Many outgoing individuals experience anxiety about social perception. They seek connection and engagement, though worry about judgment can intensify their stress.

The pandemic highlighted this reality, as isolation disrupted routines for many who relied on frequent interaction.

Understanding these nuances changes how society responds. A quiet person does not need fixing. An introvert does not require transformation into a louder version of themselves. Growth involves building skills and confidence, while still honouring personal energy patterns.

Better awareness also helps identify genuine cases of social anxiety. People facing that condition benefit from empathy, professional support, and practical tools. Clear distinction ensures that those who need help receive it, while others gain acceptance for who they are.

Families, schools, and workplaces play a key role in shaping this shift. Encouraging participation without forcing conformity creates healthier environments. Listening gains value alongside speaking. Observation earns respect alongside expression.

Kashmir holds a long tradition of thoughtfulness, reflection, and intellectual depth. Many of its strongest voices emerged from moments of silent study and introspection. That cultural strength aligns closely with the qualities often found in introverted individuals.

A society that values only one style of expression limits its own potential. Diverse personalities bring diverse strengths. Some lead through words, others lead through ideas, insight, and careful listening.

Clarity about introversion and social anxiety opens the door to that diversity. It replaces quick judgment with informed understanding, and allows people to engage in ways that suit their nature while still growing and contributing.

Every voice matters, whether it fills a room or chooses its moment with care. Kashmir gains when it learns to hear both.

The author is a columnist and mental health advocate pursuing a bachelor's degree at Amir Singh College. He can be reached at musaib.bilal.216061@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

When Connections Matter More Than Competence

One of the most troubling realities inside our universities today is the rise of student favouritism.

In institutions built to celebrate equality and learning, it's painful to see some students enjoy special treatment for their closeness to teachers or administrators.

This growing habit of rewarding connections over competence eats away at the very foundation of education: fairness.

The signs are easy to spot in Kashmir campuses. Certain students receive relaxed attendance rules, extra attention, or higher marks. They are chosen to represent their universities at conferences and competitions. Meanwhile, others with equal or greater talent are sidelined, their efforts ignored.

The message is clear: it's not always what you do, but who you know. And that is dangerous for any academic community.

This kind of bias breeds frustration. Students begin to feel that hard work has little value if influence

speaks louder. It damages morale and makes learning feel transactional rather than transformative. Those favoured by teachers may not even realize how this privilege harms their growth.

Over time, they learn to rely on proximity instead of performance. For those left out, disappointment turns into distrust toward teachers, peers, and sometimes the entire idea of education itself.

Inside classrooms, this behaviour reshapes the dynamics. Instead of curiosity and dialogue, there's a sense of competition for approval. Teachers, often without realizing it, let personal preference guide decisions. Sometimes it's about personality, social background, or a student's ability to flatter authority. Whatever the reason, the result is the same: it poisons the trust that keeps a classroom healthy.

The impact goes deeper than marks or opportunities. Many students facing bias experience anxiety and self-doubt. When effort doesn't translate into fairness, they stop participating in class, trying, and even believing. This mental toll is often invisible, but it's real. And

once such a culture takes root, it spreads fast, making fairness feel like a forgotten word.

Kashmir universities need to reclaim that fairness. Transparent evaluation, objective grading, and open access to academic opportunities must be non-negotiable. Teachers should undergo regular ethics and sensitivity training to ensure that personal bias never clouds professional judgment. Students should have the confidence to speak up without fear.

Every student arrives with a dream, to learn, build, and rise. When those dreams are dimmed by favouritism, education loses its meaning. It's time our universities restore the value of integrity, equality, and effort.

After all, learning grows only in the light of fairness, and when that light fades, everyone loses.

Sincerely,

Suhaib Bashir
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Inside the Mind of the Novelist

Orhan Pamuk's meditation on fiction reveals how great novels live in the tension between instinct and design.



Naveed Qazi

There is a particular pleasure in watching a novelist turn inward and examine his own craft. The Naive and Sentimental Novelist by Orhan Pamuk takes up that task with unusual clarity and restraint.

Drawn from a series of lectures delivered at Harvard, the book reads like an extended conversation. Pamuk writes as a practitioner thinking aloud, someone who understands that fiction resists neat formulas even as it invites careful thought.

Pamuk builds his argument around a distinction borrowed from Friedrich Schiller: the "naive" and the "sentimental." He adapts these terms to describe two states of mind that govern both writing and reading.

The naive novelist moves through the story as if it unfolds on its own, immersed in characters and scenes. The sentimental novelist stands at a slight distance, attentive to structure, language, and effect.

Great fiction, Pamuk argues, emerges from the interplay between these two impulses rather than the dominance of one.

That idea gains force through Pamuk's insistence on movement.

Writers shift between immersion and awareness, often within the same page. A scene may begin in deep absorption and then pivot

toward careful adjustment of tone or detail.

This constant motion gives fiction its dual nature. It feels alive while remaining deliberately made. Pamuk captures that tension with precision, showing how instinct and calculation coexist within the same creative act.

One of the book's most striking ideas centers on what Pamuk calls the "centre" of the novel. He describes it as an invisible core, an idea or image or question that binds the narrative together.

This centre does not announce itself openly. Writers search for it during the act of composition, often discovering it gradually.

Once it comes into focus, it exerts pressure on every element of the story. Characters, scenes, and details begin to align around it, giving the novel coherence and depth.

That insight holds particular meaning for new writers.

Many approach fiction through plot alone, stacking events in the hope of sustaining interest. Pamuk makes a compelling case for a deeper foundation.

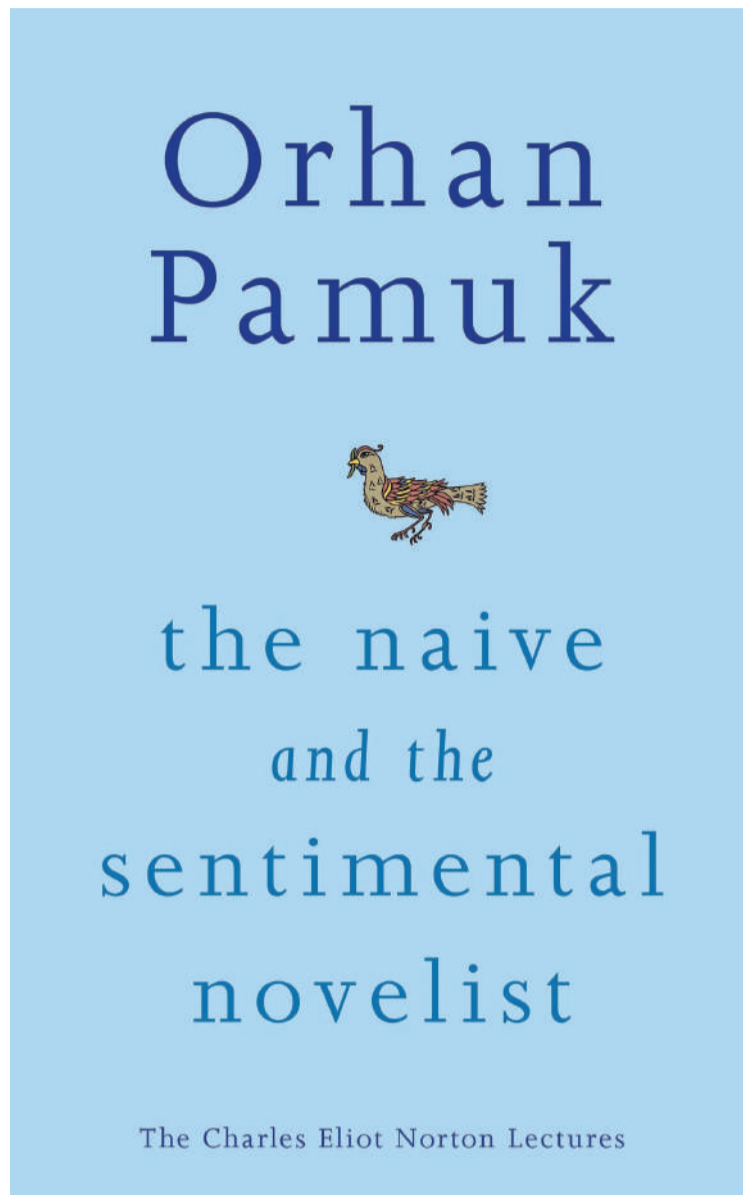
A narrative without a centre may move quickly while feeling hollow. A narrative anchored in a strong centre gains emotional force even in still moments.

He reframes storytelling as an act of discovery rather than assembly, urging writers to look beyond surface movement.

Pamuk extends the same framework to reading. The naive reader enters the fictional world fully, accepting its reality and investing in its characters. The sentimental reader observes the construction, noticing patterns, symbols, and choices.

A rich reading experience draws on both modes. Engagement with characters deepens the emotional pull, while attention to craft sharpens appreciation.

Pamuk presents reading as an



active exchange, one that asks for both surrender and scrutiny.

His discussion of visually adds another layer to the argument. Pamuk often compares the novelist to a painter, someone who builds

images through language.

That comparison carries personal resonance, given his early ambition to become an artist. He writes with a painter's eye, attentive to texture and detail. Words become tools for



constructing scenes that feel vivid and immediate.

At the same time, he warns against excess, noting that detail without direction can weaken a narrative's focus.

Time, in Pamuk's view, serves as another crucial instrument. Fiction rarely follows a straight path. Writers compress years into a sentence or expand a moment into pages. Memory, emotion, and perception guide these choices.

Pamuk shows how control over time derives meaning itself. A brief halt can hold more weight than an extended sequence, depending on how it is rendered.

Throughout the book, Pamuk maintains a measured, reflective tone. He avoids rigid prescriptions and leaves space for interpretation. Some readers may look for step-by-step guidance and find the approach demanding, others will recognize its strength.

Pamuk trusts his audience to think, to question, and to engage with complexity rather than settle for easy answers.

He situates his ideas within a broader literary tradition, drawing on figures like Leo Tolstoy and Marcel Proust. Their work embodies the balance he describes, blending im-

mersive storytelling with intricate design.

These examples ground his reflections in lived literary practice, giving them weight and credibility.

What emerges from The Naive and Sentimental Novelist is a vision of fiction as a living form, sustained by tension rather than certainty.

Pamuk presents the novel as a space where imagination and discipline meet, where feeling and thought remain in constant dialogue.

His book does more than explain how novels work. It changes the way one sees them.

That shift in perspective becomes the book's lasting achievement.

Pamuk reminds us that great fiction depends on balance, on the ability to hold opposing impulses in productive tension.

Such balance gives novels their depth and their staying power. It keeps the form alive, capable of surprise and meaning in equal measure.

—The writer is an author of fifteen books. He can be reached at naveedqazi@live.com.

The Problem With Ghamidi's Reading of Iran

A popular voice of moderation trims away empire and calls it realism, leaving a distorted account of the Middle East.



Tufail Shah

Javed Ahmad Ghamidi commands a wide audience as a calm and articulate advocate of religious moderation.

His measured tone and selective liberal positions have built a reputation that travels well in pro-Western circles.

That reputation, however, cannot stand in place of rigorous history or careful geopolitical analysis.

A soothing style can coexist with serious gaps, and recent remarks on Iran reveal exactly that.

Ghamidi's comments on Middle Eastern politics lean on a narrow reading of history that strips away context and flattens complex events.

In a conversation with Shehzad Ghias Shaikh, he argued that Iran drives instability in the region and suggested that the country enjoyed peaceful relations before 1979.

That claim reads as tidy and appealing, though it leaves out decisive chapters that define modern Iran.

Any serious account of Iran must begin with the long shadow of foreign intervention. Decades before the revolution, Iran functioned under a tight circle of power sustained by Western backing.

Public frustration grew through the mid-twentieth century, reaching a turning point in 1951 when Mohammad Mosaddegh rose to office on a platform of national control over resources. His decision to nationalize Iran's oil industry aimed to redirect

wealth toward Iranian citizens rather than foreign corporations. Western powers answered that move with covert action rather than dialogue.

The 1953 coup, backed by the United States and the United Kingdom, removed a democratically elected leader and restored monarchical rule. That episode stands as a defining rupture in Iran's political development. It also forms part of a broader pattern of interventions designed to secure strategic and economic interests.

Any narrative that omits this moment leaves readers with a version of history that lacks causation and consequence.

The years under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi brought a different kind of order, one enforced through surveillance and repression.

The Shah's regime relied on SAVAK, a security apparatus known for systematic coercion. Public life operated under strict control, and dissent met harsh punishment.

Describing this era as peaceful confuses the absence of open conflict with the presence of justice. A society can appear calm while deep grievances grow beneath the surface.

Foreign policy during this period also aligned closely with Western priorities. Iran maintained ties with Israel, supported authoritarian allies, and took part in regional conflicts such as Oman and Yemen in ways that advanced American objectives.

These actions rarely attract the label of destabilization, largely because they fit within dominant power structures. Language shifts depending on who acts and whose interests those actions serve.

The 1979 revolution marked a decisive break from that order. Iran reoriented its foreign policy toward resistance against external influence and support for allied movements in the region. Relationships in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen grew from this shift.

Critics raise valid concerns about methods and outcomes tied to these policies. Those critiques gain strength



when grounded in full historical context rather than selective memory.

Ghamidi's interpretation extends beyond a single interview. Voices within his intellectual circle repeat similar arguments with striking consistency.

A recent column by Muhammad Hassan Ilyas framed Iran's regional approach as a strategic failure and urged Pakistan to adopt a posture described as realism. The language differs in tone, though the core assumptions remain the same.

Resistance appears as the central source of disorder, while alignment with dominant powers receives the label of pragmatism.

This pattern reveals more than coincidence. It shows a framework that highlights the actions of regional actors while minimizing the influence of global powers.

Such an approach narrows the field of vision and produces conclusions that feel incomplete. Realism, in its fuller sense, demands attention to all forms of power, especially the asym-

metries that define relations between strong and weak states.

A broader historical record supports this wider lens.

Interventions in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Cuba, and Venezuela illustrate how external forces have shaped political outcomes throughout the Global South. These cases share common features: pressure on governments that challenge established interests and support for arrangements that align with them.

Ignoring this pattern while isolating Iran as a primary driver of instability creates an uneven account.

Criticism of Iran remains essential. Its domestic governance and regional actions deserve scrutiny and debate. That scrutiny creates impact when paired with context that explains how current policies evolved.

Analysis that removes that context risks echoing familiar narratives that center blame on visible actors while leaving deeper structures unexamined.

Ghamidi's argument ultimately



GHAMIDI'S ARGUMENT ULTIMATELY RESTS ON A VERSION OF HISTORY WHERE EMPIRE FADES FROM VIEW AND RESISTANCE TAKES CENTER STAGE AS THE SOURCE OF TURMOIL. THAT VERSION APPEALS THROUGH CLARITY AND SIMPLICITY, THOUGH IT STRUGGLES UNDER THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE.

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Fake MBBS Admissions Racket Busted

18 NEET Aspirants Rescued; 4 Fraudsters Held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Delhi Police busted an organised racket that allegedly duped NEET aspirants and their families by promising guaranteed MBBS admissions and arrested four people, including the suspected mastermind and a doctor, an official said on Monday. Eighteen students, which included minors, were rescued from the alleged fraudsters, who had taken them to undisclosed locations on the pretext of

providing "exam questions" — ahead of the NEET (UG) 2026 examination on May 3, police said.

The "fake" question papers were allegedly created using previous years' material and coaching institute content.

They allegedly demanded Rs 20 to 30 lakh from families of the students and took a token payment, claiming to get them guaranteed seats in medical colleges.

The action was initiated following specific input received on May 2 from

Surat Police about a suspect operating from Delhi and claiming to facilitate medical admissions through NEET. Technical surveillance led investigators to Mahipalpur Extension, where multiple hotels were searched.

The police eventually zeroed in on four accused persons staying at a hotel, including Vinod Bhai Bhikha Bhai Patel, who had allegedly lured aspirants from Gujarat.

During questioning, it emerged that the accused had collected large sums

of money, original class 10 and 12 mark sheets, and blank signed cheques from parents in exchange for false assurances of securing MBBS seats.

Investigators said the accused had taken some students away from their guardians. Police laid a trap near a hospital in Ghaziabad and rescued three students while apprehending the alleged mastermind, Santosh Kumar Jaiswal. Subsequent raids at a flat in Ghaziabad led to the rescue of 15 more students, some of whom were minors

scheduled to appear in the NEET exam on May 3.

They were counselled and allowed to sit for the examination, police said. Two more accused — Sant Pratap Singh and Dr Akhlaq Alam alias Golden Alam — were arrested from the flat.

Police said the gang had devised a well-planned modus operandi to exploit the aspirations of medical aspirants. Jaiswal allegedly conceptualised the scheme, while Alam prepared fake question papers using previous

years' material and coaching institute content. Singh arranged logistics and accommodation, and Patel acted as a broker to approach families.

The accused allegedly demanded Rs 20 to 30 lakh from each applicant and collected token payments, documents and cheques as part of the fraud.

During the operation, police recovered 149 pages of purported question-answer material, three blank signed cheques belonging to victims, and other incriminating documents.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Athletes Must

it builds and barriers it breaks," he added. He noted that the discipline inherent in Wushu mirrors the resilience of India's youth and said such platforms also foster cultural exchange, where participants from diverse backgrounds come together.

The championship has attracted participation from over 150 universities and more than 1,000 athletes from across the country. Competitions are being held in both men's and women's categories, underscoring the growing inclusivity and reach of Wushu at the university level.

Organised under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities, the six-day event will feature multiple bouts and categories in the martial art, known for its emphasis on agility, strength and precision.

Among those present on the occasion were Vice Chancellor Prof. Nilofar Khan, Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary Higher Education Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Shri Akshay Labroo, Registrar Prof. Naseer Iqbal, along with senior university officials, sports personalities, coaches and students.

LG Clears Road

—Gurdaligali—Aphrawat—Sarson—Anita Road at the Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Baramulla. The proposal will now be recommended to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) for grant of wildlife clearance.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor underscored the importance of balancing developmental needs with ecological sustainability. He emphasized the need to safeguard and strengthen the unique biodiversity of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Board was also apprised of various initiatives undertaken by the Department for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Javed Ahmed Rana; Members of the Legislative Assembly Devinder Kumar Manyal and Mian Mehar Ali; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor Mandeep K. Bhandari; Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department Sheetal Nanda; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force Sarvesh Rai; PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden Chaturbhujia Behera, along with conservationists, ecologists, environmentalists, representatives of the Army, NGOs working in the wildlife sector, and other members of the Board.

BJP's Bengal

charas powder. He has previously been lodged in Baramulla and Srinagar jails and was later released on bail. The property attachment was carried out under Section 68 of the NDPS Act to target assets allegedly acquired through illicit trade.

In a separate action in Sumbal, three shops belonging to Abid Ahmad Reshi of Naninara Nesbal were demolished. Police said he is involved in multiple cases registered at Police Station Sumbal, which are currently sub judice before the Judicial Magistrate First Class.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar, police demolished an illegal residential structure in the Palpora Noorbagh area belonging to Mohammad Irfan Sheikh alias Iff, a resident of Pamposh Colony. Officials said the structure had been raised on land acquired using proceeds from drug trafficking and constructed in violation of revenue laws.

The accused is involved in multiple NDPS cases, including FIR No. 134/2024 under sections 8/21, 29 at Police Station Safakadal and FIR No. 48/2025 under section 8/21 at Police Station Sangam. Police also indicated that his close associates and family members are linked to several narcotics cases, pointing to a wider network.

Officials said all demolitions were carried out after completing due legal procedures and in coordination with relevant authorities.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance policy, police said properties and assets generated through the narcotics trade would continue to be identified and acted against. Further actions are expected as part of the ongoing crackdown.

BJP's Bengal

where party and power revolved around her, the loss exposes deep vulnerabilities. Allegations of corruption, governance fatigue and a stronger opposition narrative had been building, and this time, they proved decisive.

The result leaves the TMC facing an existential challenge, holding the party together without the glue of power. The risk of internal fragmentation and defections now looms large.

For Banerjee, the path ahead shifts from governance to survival and possible reinvention. While her political career has been defined by comebacks, this is her toughest test yet, combining age, organisational strain and a resurgent BJP.

The verdict weakens her national leverage but may also push her back into a combative opposition role, a space where she has historically thrived.

NDA Secures Two-Thirds Majority in Assam The ruling NDA is set to form the government in Assam for the third time in a row after securing a two-thirds majority, with the alliance winning 101 seats in the 126-member assembly on Monday.

While the BJP won 81 seats till 8.30 pm, its allies -- the Bodo Peoples' Front (BPF) and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) -- bagged 10 constituencies each. The BJP was leading in one seat.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma won the Jalukbari constituency for the sixth consecutive term, defeating Congress candidate Bidisha Neog by 89,434 votes.

In the opposition camp, the Congress won 15 seats and was leading in four, while the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF and Akhil Gogoi-led Rajor Dal secured two seats each, and the Trinamool Congress bagged one constituency.

In a major blow to the Congress, its state president Gaurav Gogoi lost in Jorhat to veteran politician and sitting BJP MLA Hitendranath Goswami by 23,181 votes.

UDF Sweeps Kerala With 102 Seats, LDF Wins 35

In Kerala, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) secured a clear majority, winning over 90 seats in the 140-member Assembly, comfortably above the halfway mark of 71. The Congress itself won 63 seats, while key ally IUML added 22, anchoring the alliance's return to power after a decade. Congress-led UDF in Kerala is a coalition of several centrist and centre-right parties, primarily including the Indian National Congress (INC), Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), and various Kerala Congress factions. The UDF acts as the main opposition alliance to the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala.

The scale of the win put the UDF far ahead of the Left Democratic Front led by Pinarayi Vijayan, with the CPI(M) restricted to 26 seats and its allies trailing behind. The margin, roughly 20 seats above majority and over 40 seats ahead of the principal rival, marks one of the Congress alliance's strongest recent performances.

Senior leaders including Shashi Tharoor and K. C. Venugopal described the result as a mandate for change, with celebrations breaking out at the party's state headquarters.

At the national level, however, the party acknowledged setbacks. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh thanked Kerala voters for a "resounding majority" but admitted that "with the exception of Kerala, the election results elsewhere have fallen short of our expectations."

In Tamil Nadu, debutant TVK made a notable entry, delivering a surprise performance and challenging the dominance of established Dravidian parties.

The results underline a mixed electoral verdict across regions, with the BJP expanding its footprint in the east and northeast, the Congress-led alliance reclaiming ground in Kerala, and new political formations making their presence felt in the south.

Talk Change,

that the Samajwadi Party will also face the wrath of women very soon, in an apparent reference to the 2027 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

In his nearly 50-minute speech, the prime minister said the elections in West Bengal have been special this year, as earlier they were marred by violence, fear and the death of innocent people.

But this time the news was different as peaceful voting took place in West Bengal and for the first time, no one lost their life during voting, he said.

"As Bengal enters a new phase of change, I also want to make an earnest appeal to every political party in Bengal. Over the past decades in Bengal, countless lives have been ruined due to political violence. I firmly believe that this election culture of Bengal must change from today onwards.

"Aaj jab BJP jeeti hai, toh badla nahi, badlav ki baat honi chahiye; bhay nahi, 'bhavishya' ki baat honi chahiye (Today, when the BJP has won, the talk should not be of revenge, but of change; not of fear, but of the future)," he said and urged the parties to end the vicious circle of violence.

Modi said it was a special day in many ways as it heralds a bright future for the country.

"It is a day of trust in the great democracy of India, trust in the politics of performance, trust in the resolve of stability, trust in the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat.

"I bow before the people of West Bengal, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala," he said at the victory celebration event where BJP President Nitin Nabin, Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, among others, were present.

Modi said on November 14 last year, when the Bihar election results came in, he told the BJP workers from this very spot that the Ganga flows onward from Bihar all the way to Ganga Sagar (in West Bengal).

"And today, with victory in West Bengal, from Gangotri (Uttarakhand) to Ganga Sagar (West Bengal), it is nothing but the lotus in full bloom. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and

West Bengal today, in these states surrounding Mother Ganga, there are BJP-NDA governments," he said.

The prime minister said winning and losing are a natural part of democracy and politics, but the people of the five states have shown the world why the country is the mother of democracy.

He said women's participation in this election has been exceptionally high and this is emerging as the brightest picture of Indian democracy.

"Women power is now rapidly progressing towards building a developed India. However, a few days ago, the Congress and its allies blocked this momentum of women's power.

"These anti-women parties prevented the amendment to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyayam from being passed in Parliament. That is why I said a few days ago that parties opposing the women's reservation bill will have to face the wrath of women. Today, sisters and daughters have punished the Congress, TMC, and DMK," he said.

Modi said the Congress has certainly benefited from the 10 years of misrule by the Left in Kerala, but expressed confidence that the "mothers and sisters of Kerala will also definitely teach the Congress a lesson in the next elections".

"The Samajwadi Party, which has blocked women's reservation in Parliament, will also have to face the opposition of the women of Uttar Pradesh. No matter what the anti-women Samajwadi Party does, it will never be able to wash away its sins," he said.

Referring to Assam, the prime minister said that along with the river Ganga, the Brahmaputra has also showered immense blessings upon the BJP, and the blessings of Maa Kamakhya have been with the party.

"The people of Assam have trusted the BJP-NDA for the third consecutive time," he said.

Modi said that in 2021, the NDA put forward the vision of BEST Puducherry. The people of Puducherry trusted in the vision and blessed the alliance.

"I want to assure the youth and fishermen of Puducherry that we will keep working for your bright future. The prosperity of Puducherry is our resolve," he said.

The prime minister said the BJP-NDA governments are in power in more than 20 states of the country.

"Our mantra is 'citizen is god'. We are dedicated to serving the people; therefore, the people are placing more and more trust in the BJP. The people are clearly seeing that where there is BJP, there is good governance. Where there is BJP, there is development," he said.

PM Modi said that with the BJP's victory in West Bengal, the soul of Jan Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee must be at peace now.

"I respectfully bow to the people of Bengal, the people of Assam, the people of Puducherry, and the people of Tamil Nadu and Kerala today; I salute them all. Today, I also heartily congratulate the countless workers of the BJP.

"Every small and big worker of the BJP has once again performed a miracle, has made the lotus bloom. You have created a new history," he said.

After his speech, the prime minister held a meeting at the BJP headquarters with Nabin,

Shah, Singh and former party chief JP Nadda.

Op Sindoor Showed

that our forces both understand changes and use them with confidence," he said.

Singh said that technology is evolving at an extraordinary pace in the present time, and perhaps never in human history has it changed so explosively.

"We have seen how drones and sensors have emerged as game-changing factors." He added, "Today, it is impossible to predict what can be turned into a weapon. If even a pager can be weaponized, then there is no limit to what might become a weapon in the future."

Singh said that India must develop capabilities to deliver strikes in ways that adversary nations could never have imagined.

Citing the current geopolitical environment, he underlined the need for the military to remain alert and adapt to the changing environment.

"In today's complex and rapidly changing environment, there is only one mantra to move forward: adaptability. Changing ourselves according to changing circumstances should be our priority," he said.

Explaining this, Singh called for "pro-active preparations" for any possible national security challenge.

"When I'm talking about proactive preparation, there's another important aspect to it -- the surprise element. We also need to develop such capabilities so that when the need arises, we can take action that the opponent never even thought of," he said.

"Let them get surprised. History bears witness that in war, the decisive edge has always been with the one who has the surprise element. I know that our armed forces are working in this direction."

"But we need to be even more proactive and continue working in this direction," he said.

Singh also emphasized that there is no alternative to research in today's world.

The nature of future warfare is being decided in laboratories today. Therefore, the government has placed research at the centre of its priorities, he said.

Durbar Move:

Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, cabinet colleagues, and senior civil and police officials.

With the conclusion of the winter session in Jammu, government offices have shifted to Srinagar, the summer capital, where administrative functioning officially resumed on Monday.

The Chief Minister later inspected various sections of the Civil Secretariat, including ministerial chambers, administrative offices, clerical halls, and the renovated public waiting area. He also interacted with officers, staff and visiting citizens, assuring improved facilities and enhanced public service delivery.

The reopening marks the first full-fledged return of the Durbar Move to Srinagar after several years, restoring a key administrative practice aimed at ensuring governance across regions.

Governance roadmap set

On the first day of functioning, the Chief Minister chaired a high-level meeting of ministers and administrative secretaries to set priorities for the coming months.

Calling it the "most productive working season," he stressed early execution of development works, better inter-departmental coordination, and timely implementation of Budget announcements.

"Now it is our responsibility to deliver. We have a shared mandate to meet the expectations of the people," he said, urging officers to work collectively and efficiently.

He said the coming months coincide with major engagements, including the annual Amarnath Yatra and the peak tourism season, requiring coordinated efforts beyond security arrangements.

"This period will define our governance outcomes. From tourism to pilgrimage management, we must put our best foot forward," he added.

Focus on delivery, coordination

The Chief Minister stressed optimum use of resources, time-bound execution of projects, and minimizing lapses in fund utilisation. He also appreciated departments for ensuring a smooth transition ahead of the move.

During the meeting, key issues including New Industrial and Mining Policies were discussed, and departments were directed to ensure swift implementation of decisions taken over the past year.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo briefed the meeting on administrative preparedness, including accommodation for move employees, essential services, and arrangements in both Jammu and Srinagar.

He also highlighted flood preparedness ahead of the monsoon, stressing vigilance in vulnerable districts, and called for accelerated infrastructure restoration, uninterrupted power and water supply.

Additionally, he informed that the Census process will begin with self-enumeration from May 17, urging full administrative support. Digitisation of land records and other governance reforms were also flagged as priority areas.

Offices functional in Srinagar

As per official orders, five-day offices in Jammu closed on April 30, while six-day offices shut on May 2. Around 38 departments have fully relocated to Srinagar, while some continue to function on a camp basis.

Working hours in Srinagar have been fixed from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm for Secretariat departments and 10:00 am to 4:30 pm for other offices. A summer secretariat will continue to operate in Jammu as well.

MLAs welcome move

Meanwhile, several Srinagar-based MLAs, including Mubarak Gul, Shamim Firdous, Salman Sagar, Tanvir Sadiq, Sheikh Ahsan Pardesi and Mushtaq Guru, called on the Chief Minister and welcomed the revival of the Durbar Move.

They said the move would boost economic activity, particularly in the hospitality sector, and bring renewed vibrancy to local markets.

The Durbar Move, a long-standing administrative practice in Jammu and Kashmir, facilitates the seasonal shifting of the government between Jammu and Srinagar to ensure governance remains accessible across both regions.

Fresh Rainfall,

while the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) mobilised men and machinery to clear the road and initiate rescue operations.

Meanwhile, BRO rescued around 20 vehicles at Razdan Pass and moved them to safer locations, officials said.

Traffic authorities said the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road has also been closed due to fresh snowfall, while only one-way traffic is being allowed on the Srinagar-Leh highway between Sonamarg and Kargil, subject to weather conditions and clearance.

They added that the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road remains closed due to snow

accumulation.

Intermittent rain lashed plains including Srinagar and other districts, while gusty winds were reported from Bandipora and adjoining areas of Sumbal and Hajin.

Man injured in Sumbal

A man was injured after a tree fell on him along the Sumbal-Bandipora road amid strong winds. He was shifted to a hospital in Sumbal for treatment, officials said.

According to the Meteorological Department, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.5 degrees Celsius, 2.2 degrees below normal, while the minimum settled at 10.2 degrees Celsius. Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 11.0 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.0 degrees Celsius.

The MeT office said rainfall activity is expected to remain fairly widespread over the next 36 hours with intermittent breaks.

"Generally cloudy conditions with spells of light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at most places on May 3 and 4, with possibility of thunder, hailstorm and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph at a few locations," an official said.

An advisory has been issued warning of thunder, lightning and gusty winds, with people advised to avoid travel on vulnerable routes and stay away from weak structures and power lines. Farmers have also been advised to suspend agricultural operations till May 5, officials added.

HC Orders Minor

while Manoj Parihar has been posted as One Man Forest Authority.

Ahsan Ullah Parvez Malik, Principal District and Sessions Judge Poonch, has been posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora. Sushil Singh has been posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Poonch. Mir Wajahat (Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora) has been posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Poonch.

Further, Ms. Tabasum, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, has been transferred as Sub Judge LRP, in the High Court Wing, Srinagar, and Touseef Ahmad Magrey has been posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar.

The order also directs a swap in postings between Shafeeq Ahmad, Special Mobile Magistrate, Poonch, and Ms. Asma Chowdhary, Secretary DLSA, Samba.

Additionally, changes have been made in juvenile justice assignments, with Raja Arshad Hamid entrusted with additional charge of Principal Magistrate, JJB Bandipora.

The High Court has instructed all transferred officers to complete pending judgments and hand over charge before assuming new roles.

Pahalgam Pony Riders

to the licensing cap, the administration has issued fresh guidelines making uniforms mandatory for pony riders. Authorities have also barred the movement of horses on footpaths, along the banks of Lidder Nallah, and within designated garden areas.

Officials said these measures are aimed at improving tourist management, ensuring cleanliness, and protecting the fragile ecology of Pahalgam, which witnesses a surge in visitor numbers during the summer months. (inputs from KNT)

Victims Protest,

They further said that a lower court has already rejected the bail of the accused, adding that the matter has now been taken to the High Court.

The demonstrators demanded strict legal action and justice for all those affected by what they described as a large-scale fraud operation.

Notably, last year, Police in Anantnag had dismantled an organized fraud racket and arrested three accused identified as Tasaduq Hussain Dar alias Haji Tasaduq of Sadoora, Mohd Iqbal Wani alias Iqbal Bumdori of Bumdoora Kokernag, and Muejeb Ahmad Koka of Shankerpora Dooru.

A case under FIR No. 126/2025 has been registered at Police Station Anantnag under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. According to police, the accused allegedly cheated victims of large sums, including

55 lakh from a complainant in Kishtwar, by posing as traders in wild garlic, locally known as "Jangli Lahsun," and promising high returns.

Investigators said the accused defaulted on payments after collecting money and allegedly used intimidation when confronted. The racket is believed to have targeted multiple victims across Anantnag and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir. [KNT]

Op Sindoor Showed

The 2027 Census assumes significance for Jammu & Kashmir for both political and quota-related reasons. It will form the basis for the next electoral delimitation and will also reveal the population of reserved categories for the first time in the Union Territory.

The development comes amid ongoing debates around reservation in Kashmir, with sections of the non-reserved population raising concerns over the extent of quotas for reserved groups.

Dr Darakhshan Addresses Social Awareness Programme "Asluk Aalav"

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today participated in the social awareness programme Asluk Aalav at Srinagar organised by Al Rahim Trust at Govt Girls Higher Secondary School Sonwar. The programme was aimed at social harmony, awakening swadeshi sentiment, civic duties, family entitlement, environmental conversation and strengthening moral values among the new generation. "The programme aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote moral and ethical values, social

responsibility and a healthy lifestyle among youth. Such programmes are the need of the hour as we have to reach to the grassroots within our society to create a healthy future through our brilliant youth", said Dr Andrabi. Praising the mega anti-drugs initiative by the LG of J&K Manoj Sinha throughout the Union Territory, Dr Andrabi said that we have to collectively end narcoterror from our society. BJP J&K General Secretary Ashok Koul, Ex DG CRPF SS Sandhu, Vice Chairman Minto Circle Altaf Hussain, Religious Preacher Molvi Owais Qadri, CMO Srinagar Dr Tahir, BJP leaders Arif Raja, Bilal Parray, Arsheed Bhat.

Youth at Core of J&K's Future: Shahid Choudhary

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary/Commissioner Youth Services and Sports, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary on Monday said that youth remain the "soul and central force" of Jammu & Kashmir's development, asserting that sports is emerging as a powerful tool to counter the growing drug menace in the Union Territory. Addressing a gathering at University of Kashmir, where over 190 students from different states participated in a Wushu

event, Choudhary, as reported by KNO said the past five to six years have seen a clear shift towards youth-centric policies, particularly in sports and entrepreneurship. He said a "mission mode" campaign for a drug-free Jammu & Kashmir, launched on April 11, is being strengthened through sports initiatives. "Drug addiction traps individuals in chains and takes away their freedom. There can be no better alternative than sports to break this cycle," he said.

Railway Push Set to Boost Kashmir Cherry Trade

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With the cherry harvest season around the corner, fruit growers across Kashmir are looking forward to a significant shift in how their produce reaches markets outside the Valley. Improved railway logistics and expanded parcel services are expected to enable the transportation of an estimated 10,000 metric tonnes of cherries this year—marking a notable rise compared to previous seasons. Officials associated with the horticulture and railway sectors told KNO that the enhanced availability of parcel trains, along with plans to introduce air-conditioned cargo facilities, could streamline the supply chain for one of Kashmir's most delicate and high-value fruits.



The initiative is aimed at ensuring faster delivery while minimising spoilage during transit. A railway official involved in freight operations said that last year's response to cherry transport by train was encouraging, prompting authorities to scale up services this season. "With increased frequency of parcel trains and improved handling systems, we expect a substantial rise in the volume of cherries being transported by rail," the official said. Kashmir is known for producing premium-quality cherries, particularly in districts such as Srinagar, Ganderbal, Shopian, and Baramulla. However, due to their short shelf life, cherries have long posed logistical challenges for growers, who traditionally relied on road transport to send their produce to markets in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Chandigarh. Farmers often faced issues such as delays, high transportation costs,

and losses due to spoilage during long journeys. The shift towards rail transport is now being seen as a potential turning point. Local growers expressed optimism about the development, saying that faster and more reliable transport could help them fetch better prices. "Cherries are extremely sensitive, and even slight delays affect quality. If trains ensure quicker delivery, it will directly benefit us," said a grower from Shopian. Another orchardist from Ganderbal noted that reduced transportation costs could also improve profit margins. "Road transport is expensive and unpredictable. Railways can offer a more stable alternative, especially during peak harvest," he said. The proposed introduction of temperature-controlled cargo trains is

also being welcomed, as it would help preserve the freshness and quality of cherries over longer distances. Experts believe this could open up new markets and enhance the competitiveness of Kashmiri cherries at the national level. Officials said coordination between the horticulture department, railway authorities, and fruit traders is being strengthened to ensure smooth operations throughout the season. Loading points, packaging standards, and scheduling are being fine-tuned to handle the anticipated surge in shipments. If successful, the expanded rail network could not only reduce post-harvest losses but also mark a major step forward in modernising Kashmir's fruit supply chain—bringing tangible benefits to thousands of growers dependent on the cherry trade.

NGOs Call for Awareness Drive on Drug Abuse

SRINAGAR: A coalition of civil society groups in Kashmir on Monday held a public awareness programme on drug abuse, child safety and social reform, urging coordinated action by families, communities and authorities to tackle what speakers described as a growing crisis. The event, organised by the Shehlat Foundation in collaboration with the Mool Mouj Foundation, brought together educators, officials, artists and activists in Srinagar to discuss prevention, rehabilitation and social responsibility. Ghulam Abbas, a former director of the government's Central Bureau of Communication, said collective responsibility was essential to address drug abuse, which he described as an urgent social concern. Chief guest Khurshid Ahmad Ganie, chairman of the Group of Concerned Citizens, called drug abuse a "grave social crisis" and stressed the role of families, political leadership and grassroots institutions. He said village-level systems must be strengthened with adequate resources and "clear roadmaps" to combat the problem effectively. Former vice chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology, Mushtaq Ahmed Siddiqui, pointed to weakening family structures, erosion of moral leadership and rising materialism as key drivers of substance abuse. He advocated stronger joint family systems and highlighted the role of grandparents in child upbringing. Singer Waheed Jeelani, attending as a special guest, said art and cultural platforms could play a critical role in shaping public awareness, urging artists and media to contribute to social reform. Zubair Saleem, chairman of the Mool Mouj Foundation, described drug addiction as a "disease" that is preventable and treatable, calling for alignment between government policy, awareness campaigns and rehabilitation efforts. He also urged participation in the "Nasha Mukht J&K" campaign. Poets including Zareef Ahmad Zareef, Zahoor Hygami and G. M. Dilshad delivered recitations highlighting the social and familial toll of addiction, while stressing the role of parents, teachers and moral education. Organisers said the programme also featured a theatrical performance by Firdous Dramatic Club depicting the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of parental guidance. Dr. Irtiga, a speaker at the event, emphasised child safety and warned that lack of awareness among caregivers can lead to "irreversible consequences," advocating prevention as the most effective strategy. Mohammad Rafiq Lone said the foundation would continue working as a bridge between government agencies, civil society and the public to address social issues. The event concluded with a call for sustained, multi-sector efforts to build a drug-free society, organisers said. (Observer News Service)

Kashmir's Lakes, Rivers to See Structured Cruise Operations: Minister Sharma

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma on Monday said Kashmir's major lakes and river stretches will soon witness structured cruise and steamer operations under a Rs 900 crore project aimed at easing congestion and boosting employment. Speaking to reporters in Sopore, the minister, as reported by KNO said the proposed network will cover Wular Lake, Dal Lake, Nigeen Lake and around 62 kilometres of the Jhelum River. He said the initiative, backed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is expected to reduce pressure along riverbanks while opening



new avenues for tourism and jobs. The minister said the past year remained challenging due to incidents in Pahalgam, conflict situations and heavy rains, but asserted that 2026 will mark a "180 degree turnaround" in Jammu and Kashmir's development trajectory. He said the government is working to take J&K sports to new

heights by expanding infrastructure and introducing new disciplines. Highlighting sports achievements, Sharma said Jammu and Kashmir recently clinched the Ranji Trophy for the first time, marking a historic achievement, while activities such as water sports and downhill motor biking are being promoted. He added that preparations are underway for a Commonwealth-level Kho Kho event. The minister said winter sports duration will be extended from a few days to around 15 days to increase tourist inflow and ensure higher hotel occupancy. He announced plans to organise major leagues in every district and develop indoor stadiums in each block constituency, with Sopore identified for early facility expansion. Stressing the social impact of sports, Sharma said increased participation can play a key role in addressing drug abuse among youth by providing constructive engagement and opportunities.

Traffic Restrictions, Diversions Announced for Budgam Padyatra

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Traffic Police Rural Kashmir has issued a detailed advisory announcing traffic restrictions and diversions in Budgam town on May 5 in view of a mega rally (Padyatra) being organised under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, officials said. According to the advisory accessed by KNO, the movement of vehicular traffic through Budgam town shall remain affected from 0700 hours to 1400 hours, with the town declared a no-traffic zone during the specified time. Motorists have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel through Budgam to prevent inconvenience. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to inaugurate the mega padyatra at the New Bus Stand, Budgam, which is expected to witness a significant public gathering and movement. The event is part of a public outreach initiative aimed at spreading awareness under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. To ensure smooth traffic flow, authorities have devised a re-routing and diversion plan. Traffic from Beerwah and Magam towards Srinagar will be diverted at Mirgund via Khumani Chowk to Bemina. Similarly, vehicles from Humhama heading towards Budgam will be rerouted via Ompora-Narkara-Gangbugh towards Srinagar.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION
Ph. No. 0194-2458118

EXTENSION NOTICE

The Critical Dates for the NIT No. 04 & 05 are extended and further rescheduled as under:-

1. Date & Time for end submission of Bids online	25-05-2026	04:00 PM
2. Technical Bid Opening Date	26-05-2026	11:00 AM

NO: SMC/EELRWD/238-245
Dated: 04/05/2026.
DIPK-NB-364-26
DT: 04/05/2026

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION,
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in

NO: T-1/EEA/859-63
Dated: 04/05/2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: - 1. Repairment for DYS Toilet at High School Doodimarg (S.No 1372).

Reference: -1. This office e-NIT No. 06/EEA/RNB of 2026-27/456-66 Dated 20-04-2026.

The critical dates for the above noted Work is hereby extended as under:

1	Bid Submission End Date	11-05-2026 up to 4. 00 P.M
2	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-05-2026 up to 12.00 P.M

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/-
Technical officer
DIPK-1005-26
DT: 04/05/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION
Ph. No. 0194-2458118

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET NO:04 e-Tendering/2026-27
For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Time of Completion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
01.	Construction of Semi Deep Drain from H/o Firdous Ahmad Mir and others at Mustafa Colony Bemina Srinagar	Rs. 3.53/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 7060/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	NGT
02.	Construction of R wall near masjid Alnoor at Channa Mohalla Alluchi-Bagh	Rs. 4.59/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 9180/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	CDF
03.	Construction of path at Alamdaar Colony Bemina	Rs. 1.96	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3920/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	CDF
04.	Construction of drain from House of Abdul Rahman up to outfall drain at Diyarwani Kashi Mohalla Batamalo Sgr	Rs. 1.92/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3840/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	CDF
05.	Construction of drain from House of Abdul Rahman up to outfall drain at Diyarwani Kashi Mohalla Batamalo Sgr	Rs. 1.70/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 3400/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	MPLAD
06.	Development of lane near Masjid Qarai at Sir Syed Abad Bemina	Rs. 1.00/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 2000/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	CDF
07.	Construction of lane from House of Mohd Sultan Bhat & Ghulam Hassan Bhat to main road at Salfia Mohalla Mujgund	Rs. 2.98/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 5960/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	MPLAD
08.	Construction of RCC pipe drain including manholes from H/o Nasir Khan Sohail Khan via H/o Ismail Dar upto main road at Mahrajpora Batamalo Sgr	Rs. 6.12/-	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 12240/-	16 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	NGT
09.	Construction of surface drain from Pampori Shop to the end Corner of 2nd Petrol Pump at Nursing Grah Balgarden	Rs. 4.47/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 8940/-	12 Days Strictly	DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	NGT
10.	Construction of Ration Ghat at Saribal in Lal Chowk Constituency	Rs. 6.43/-	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 12860/-	16 Days Strictly	CEE/ DEE	Dated: 29-04-2026	CDF

● Accord of Administrative Approval: -Available

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Publish date	30-04-2026
2	Document download date	30-04-2026 04:00 PM To 18-05-2026 04:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	30-04-2026 06:00 PM To 18-05-2026 04:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	19-05-2026 11:00 AM
5	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	20-05-2026 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC. EMD2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security
- The Contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @5% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security @5% for the works within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk, cost and responsibility of L1.
- In Case of abnormally low bids: the successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer Left River Works Division SMC Sgr (Tender receiving authority) as per circular issued by J&K Finance department (Codes Division) under No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08-08-2025. Moreover, the additional performance security percentage shall be rounded off the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

S.No.	Percentage of unbalanced bid via advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional Performance Security
1.	Upto and including 10% below	NIL
2.	>10% upto and including 20% < below project cost Example: If the bid is 12% below project cost, that's 2% below the 10% limit Additional security = [0.1% * (12-10)] = 0.2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of the bid below 10% of project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
3.	>20% or more below project cost. Example: If the bid is 25% less than project cost, that's 5% below the 20% limit Additional Security = [1%*(0.2% * (25-20))] = 2% of bid price.	Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price

- In Case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The intending tenderer /bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 19-05-2026 at 11:00 AM.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ e- Challan pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC in the Municipal Account No: 021601020000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents. The bidder shall be barred / black list as per law for tender fee in form of Bank Receipt, tender fee receipt and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/FDR/BG) duly filled up, if found with any ambiguity or unattested, correction / overwriting for any work, such tender / bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action U/R shall be initiated. The Bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the Bid due date.
- Name of the Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: Balgarden, Srinagar
Bank Account No: 0216010200000007
IFSC Code: JAKA0GARDEN
MICR Code: 190051008
- Any payment for Tenders fees through online mode shall necessarily mention the following information. (Sender Name, Account No of Sender/Beneficiary, Transaction ID, Reference ID, Transaction date and time, The Remarks should necessarily mention NIT NO, SNO and LRWD). Further use of pencil in writing (NIT No and S. No) on tender fees and EMD must be avoided.

No. SMC/EELRWD/197-206
Dated: 30-April-2026.
DIPK-NB-370-26
DT: 04/05/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Iran Flexes Power in Hormuz, Reports Clash With US Navy

Trans Asia News

TEHRAN – Iran has signalled an expansion of its naval reach in the Strait of Hormuz, publishing a map that outlines areas it claims to control across the strategic waterway, in a move that underscores its growing assertiveness amid heightened tensions with the US.

The area begins in the west, along a line between the westernmost tip of Iran's Qeshm Island and the United Arab Emirates' emirate of Umm al-Qaiwain. In the east, the area stops at a line between Iran's Mount Mobarak and the UAE's Emirate of Fujairah.

The development comes as Washington steps up its rhetoric following the latest escalation in the region. US President Donald Trump said the US would "guide" commercial vessels stranded in the Gulf.

Iran responded with a warning that reinforces its claim to authority over the waterway. Ali Abdollahi, head of Iran's Khatam-al-Ambiya unified military command, said all maritime movement must be coordinated with Iranian forces and cautioned that any foreign military presence would face retaliation.

"We have repeatedly said the security of the Strait of Hormuz is in our hands," Abdollahi said, warning that "aggressive" US forces would be targeted if they entered the area.

Hours later Iranian media reported that two missiles struck a US Navy vessel near the Strait after it allegedly ignored warnings from Iranian forces. According to Fars, the warship was operating near Jask port with the intention of



transiting the strait without authorisation. The vessel was said to have suffered damage and retreated, though there was no immediate comment from the US military.

Iran has effectively tightened control over shipping flows through the strait since the onset of the conflict, allowing passage largely for its own vessels and those of its allies. The restrictions have disrupted one of the world's most critical energy corridors – through which roughly a fifth of global oil and gas supplies transit – contributing to a sharp rise in crude prices and renewed volatility in global markets.

It was not immediately clear if and to what extent Iran's claimed area of control has changed.

Hundreds of commercial vessels and up to 20,000 seafarers have been unable to transit the waterway as a result of the Iran war, the International Maritime Organization said.

Reports said there were no signs of increased vessel traffic through the Strait on Monday, a day after Trump said the country would begin

efforts to free up shipping.

No tankers or other commercial vessels were seen lining up to transit, and German shipping group Hapag-Lloyd said transit for its vessels remained impossible due to a lack of clarity over secure passage procedures.

BIMCO: Security situation unchanged

The shipping industry has received no guidance regarding the US operation and its intent, while the overall security situation remained unchanged, the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) said.

"Without consent from Iran to let commercial ships transit safely through the Strait of Hormuz, it is currently not clear whether the Iranian threat to ships can be degraded or suppressed," its chief safety and security officer, Jakob Larsen, said. BIMCO provides security alerts for the industry.

The competing signals from Washington and Tehran highlight the risk of further escalation in the Gulf, where control over maritime access has become a central lever of geopolitical power.

Fall of Red Fortress: What Loss of Kerala Means for Left

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The imminent defeat of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala has Left parties without a single state government for the first time in nearly five decades, underscoring a broader national decline.

By Monday evening trends, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) had opened a decisive lead, while the LDF trailed in its last remaining bastion.

The Left will be without any state government for the first time since 1977, marking a significant shift from its earlier position as both a governing force in states and an influential bloc in national politics.

By 6 pm on Monday, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) had won 58 seats and was leading in 5 more, while the LDF managed 24 seats and was leading in 2. In a limited sign of presence elsewhere, a lone Left candidate was leading from Domkal in West Bengal.

Kerala, governed by the LDF since 2016, has been the last remaining state where Left parties exercised executive authority. Earlier strongholds slipped away over the past decade, with the Left Front losing power in West Bengal in 2011 after 34 uninterrupted years, followed by the fall of its government in Tripura in 2018.

Since then, Kerala has served as the only base of state power for Communist parties.

The state occupies a distinct place in political history. In 1957, it elected the world's first democratically chosen Communist government under EMS Namboodiripad, lending global visibility to parliamentary communism.

Over the decades, Kerala evolved into a key centre of Left politics, with power alternating between the LDF and the UDF in a largely stable bipolar system. Even during periods out of office, the Left retained a strong cadre network and consistent electoral presence.

While Left governments appeared intermittently in the decades following Independence, their presence was not continuous. The turning point came in

Vijay Replicates Kejriwal Playbook in Tamil Nadu

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In a political déjà vu, the TVK led by South superstar Vijay was on Monday poised to win its debut Assembly polls and form a government in Tamil Nadu under circumstances resonating closely with the rise of Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi over a decade ago.

In a trail-blazing performance, Vijay and his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) ended decades-long DMK-AIADMK sway over the state politics, as Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) did to the BJP and Congress in Delhi. AAP had formed a minority government in Delhi after its maiden election in December 2013, a year after the party was founded, and then went on to win the 2015 Assembly polls with a brute majority.

In the triangular fight, AAP had won 67 of the 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi, reducing the BJP to a meagre tally of three seats and the Congress to zero. Kejriwal became the chief minister of Delhi, a post he held till September 2024.

As the counting of votes pro-

gressed in Tamil Nadu, the TVK, pitted against the ruling DMK and AIADMK, was leading in more than 100 assembly constituencies out of 234 and was heading to form a government two years after it came into being.

Kejriwal's rise was rooted in an intense anti-corruption movement that swept India around 2010, giving birth to AAP as a party founded on the promises of alternative politics and giving primacy to the cause of aam aadmi (common man).

Like Kejriwal, Vijay too vowed to fight against corruption and dynastic politics, more specifically traditional politics, and took the deep plunge by announcing to go solo in the Assembly polls.

While claiming a clean break from traditional politics, the two leaders and parties have also comfortably used freebies as their poll strategy. Vijay has promised Rs 2,500 monthly assistance to women, six free LPG cylinders for every household, 8 grams of gold and silk saree for brides from low-income families, Rs 4,000 monthly support for unemployed graduates and various other facilities.

Sabha, often playing a key role in coalition politics.

In the 1990s, the combined strength of Left parties in the Lok Sabha generally ranged between 40 and 50 members, giving them a visible role in national debates. Their influence peaked in 2004, when they won 61 seats and extended outside support to the Congress-led UPA government, exercising considerable leverage over policy decisions, particularly on welfare and economic issues.

Between the 1970s and early 2000s, Left parties played a key role in coalition formations at the Centre and influenced debates on labour, land reforms and welfare. Its strength was rooted in trade unions, peasant organisations and a disciplined cadre structure.

Nepal Renews Lipulekh Claim, Seeks Talks with India

Press Trust of India

KATHMANDU: Nepal on Monday renewed its territorial claim over Lipulekh while advocating dialogue with India to resolve the issue, a day after New Delhi firmly dismissed Kathmandu's stance on the region.

India on Sunday firmly rejected Nepal's objection to the upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the long-established Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand, dismissing Kathmandu's territorial claims over the region as an "unilateral artificial enlargement" that New Delhi finds "untenable".

New Delhi's sharp reaction came hours after the Nepal foreign ministry issued a statement, objecting to preparations by India and China for the annual pilgrimage via Lipulekh Pass, claiming the region belongs to it.

"Nepal doesn't intend to enlarge its boundary; the territory belongs to Nepal, and the government has a clear view about this and is committed to its stance," the Nepal government spokesperson, Sasmit Pokharel, said while talking to the media.

"The issue needs to be resolved through collaboration and diplomatic dialogue between the two countries," said Pokharel, who is also the Minister for Education, Science and Technology.

He said that the Foreign Ministry has already notified India regarding the matter through a formal letter.

The pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Mansarovar Lake in China's Tibet Autonomous Region holds religious significance for Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists.

The yatra resumed last year after a gap of nearly five years as part of efforts to normalise relations between India and China.

On April 30, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi announced that the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is set to take place from June to August this year via two routes -- Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La in Sikkim.

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