

Vande Bharat Sees Strong Uptake In J&K

16,349 Passengers, 82% Average Occupancy In 4 Days | Modern Amenities, Smooth Ride Draw Positive Feedback



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The valley's rail story has entered a new chapter, and passengers are stepping in with visible enthusiasm. In just four days of its debut run between Jammu and Srinagar, the Vande Bharat Express has not only filled seats but also signalled

a shift in how people choose to travel across Jammu and Kashmir.

Launched on May 2, the semi-high-speed train has carried 16,349 passengers till May 5, recording an average occupancy of around 82 per cent, according to railway officials. The early response, they | **More in P10**

India Describes Attack On Fujairah 'Unacceptable'

Observer News Service

New Delhi: India on Tuesday termed the wounding of three of its nationals in a drone attack on Fujairah as "unacceptable" and called for an immediate halt to hostilities targeting civilians and critical

infrastructure.

The response came a day after a drone strike triggered a fire in a key oil facility zone in Fujairah, injuring three Indians. The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Defence has accused Iran of carrying out the attack. | **More in P10**

Silence Won't Defeat Drug Crisis: LG; Announces 'Parents Brigade'

Leads Padyatra In Budgam; Says Drug Addicts Are Victims, Not Criminals

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Stepping up the government's anti-drug campaign, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday joined a massive padyatra in Budgam and pledged sweeping action against drug smugglers, while calling for a united societal response to curb the growing menace.

Addressing participants, the Lieutenant Governor said the fight against drugs cannot be won by law enforcement alone and urged families, community leaders and youth to become active stakeholders in the campaign for a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

In a key announcement,



he introduced the concept of an informal 'Parents Brigade' in every village and urban locality, wherever feasible. The initiative, he said, aims

to create a voluntary network of parents, women and young people who will be trained to identify early signs of substance | **More in P10**

542 NDPS Cases, ₹18.49 Cr Drugs Seized In 2026 So Far

Observer News Service

As many as 542 NDPS cases have been registered across Jammu and Kashmir so far in 2026, with 640 kilograms of narcotics worth ₹18.49 crore seized and 716 persons arrested, officials said on Tuesday. The figures were shared during the 17th Union Territory-level meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCC), chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, who reviewed enforcement, prosecution | **More in P10**

J&K Bank Posts Record Profit Of ₹2363 Cr

Well-Positioned For Next Growth Phase: MD & CEO



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Continuing its stellar streak of record profits for the fourth consecutive financial year, J&K Bank has posted its highest ever annual profit of Rs 2363.47 Cr for the FY 2025-26. The Bank registered a year-on-year growth of over 13% in its annual profit when compared to Rs 2082.46 Cr reported for FY 2024-25, despite a one-time impairment provision of Rs 179 Cr on its investment in J&K Grameen Bank during the first half of the financial year.

The Bank also ended the financial year on a high with a record quarterly performance, posting a net profit of almost Rs.800 crores when compared to Rs 584.54 Cr recorded for the corresponding period last year. The Bank declared its annual and Q4 results today after its Board of Directors approved the figures at a meeting held here at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters.

Operating Highlights
The Bank's net interest margin (NIM) for the financial year stood at 3.60%. The Return on Assets (RoA) witnessed increase of 34 bps YoY to 1.78% for the quarter as against 1.44% recorded last year with RoA for the year recorded at | **More in P10**

Unexplained Delay in Representation HC Quashes PSA

Detention Of 35 Year Old

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Underscoring that any inordinate and unexplained delay on the part of the authorities in considering a detainee's representation renders the detention illegal, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday quashed the preventive detention of a 35-year-old Bijnbehara resident under the

Public Safety Act (PSA).

"Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India casts legal obligation on the Government to consider the detainee's representation as early as possible. It is obligatory for the detaining Authority or the Government, as the case may be, to consider the representation of the detainee and pass | **More in P10**

Translate Announcements Into Action: CM To Officials

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Calling for swift and outcome-oriented governance, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday directed officials to ensure time-bound implementation of Budget announcements for 2026-27, stressing that policy commitments must translate into tangible benefits on the ground.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, the Chief Minister



assessed the status of various Budget proposals across departments and underlined the need for | **More in P10**



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FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2026

KEY RATIOS (YOY)

Net Profit Growth **36.48%**

Return on Assets **1.78%**

Gross NPA **2.50%**

Net NPA **0.64%**

Capital Adequacy Ratio **16.55%**

Provision Coverage Ratio **90.33%**

(₹ in Lakh)

S.No	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED			QUARTER ENDED		YEAR ENDED		
		31.03.2026	31.12.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.12.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
1	Total income from operations (net)	3,53,106	3,59,135	3,61,353	14,08,505	13,66,622	3,53,579	3,59,532	3,61,659	14,10,138	13,68,157
2	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	86,052	80,606	80,918	2,95,788	2,93,370	86,233	80,720	80,967	2,96,358	2,93,868
3	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	86,052	80,606	80,918	2,95,788	2,93,370	86,233	80,720	80,967	2,96,358	2,93,868
4	Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	79,780	58,673	58,454	2,36,348	2,08,246	79,856	58,149	58,191	2,35,951	2,08,179
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period {Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)}	Refer Note No. 2					Refer Note No. 2				
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013	11,013
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year					12,90,312					12,85,949
8	Securities Premium Account	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950	2,91,950
9	Net Worth (excl. intangible assets, revaluation reserve & DTA*)	1504586*	14,52,547	13,01,326	1504586*	13,01,326	1479550*	14,27,462	12,96,962	1479550*	12,96,962
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	2,38,100	2,38,100	2,38,100	2,38,100	2,38,100					
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-					
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.16	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18					
13	Total Debts to total assets	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01					
14	Operating Margin (%)	25.79%	21.73%	22.14%	21.20%	21.44%					
15	Net Profit Margin (%)	22.59%	16.34%	16.18%	16.78%	15.24%					
16	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (₹ 1/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations										
	Basic : (* not annualized)	7.24*	5.33*	5.31*	21.46	18.91	7.25*	5.28*	5.28*	21.42	18.91
	Diluted : (* not annualized)	7.24*	5.33*	5.31*	21.46	18.91	7.25*	5.28*	5.28*	21.42	18.91
17	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-					
18	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-					

Note:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter and year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on Bank's website https://jkb.bank.in/Investor/financial-information/financial-results
2. Information relating to Total comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to Banks.

Place : Srinagar
Dated : 5th May, 2026

DIPK-NB-388/26

Dated:

For and on behalf of the Board

AMITAVA CHATTERJEE
Managing Director & CEO
DIN : 07082989



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Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.

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FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 TWO COVER SYSTEM
 (Above Rs. 2.50 crores)

E-NIT No. 08 of R&B/Div/Raj/ of 2026-2027 issued under endorsement No. 1011-21 Dsated: 05.05.2026.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt Governor of J&K UT, e-tenders are invited on %age basis (as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs)	In Cost of T/D/Co. (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security Dection	T.O.C	Class of Contractor
1.	Balance Construction Work of Science Centre (Category-II) Including Innovation Hub at Lal Mandi Srinagar, J&K.	299.50	5500/-	5,99,000/-	18 Months	AAY

Project Authority: = Ministry of Culture Govt. Of India NCSM.
 Major Head of Account = Relevant Head Of Accounts.
 Position of AAA = Accorded vide 1-15014/67 Dated: 06.11.2025.
 Position of T/S = Accorded vide No: CE(R&B) CK/TS/85 of 2026 Dated: 27.02.2026.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05.05.2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05.05.2026 from 03:00 PM
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	09.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PW(R&B)Circle Srinagar South.
4.	Bid submission Start Date	06.05.2026 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	18.05.2026 up to 4.00 P.M
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	19.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M in of the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PW(R&B) Circle Srinagar South.
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:
 1.1 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury challan Receipt (under M.H-0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh, Srinagar. (The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
 1.2 At the time of tendering all bidders must upload earnest money / bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Office of the Superintending Engineer, PW(R&B)Circle Srinagar South. The Date of Earnest money must be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 3% of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG before the contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security / Additional Performance Security of the allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.
 2. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
 3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PW(R&B)Circle Srinagar South. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
 4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
 14. Defect Liability Period:
 The DLP shall be 36 Months and shall be calculated from date of certified completion of work.
 15. All key construction material (i.e. cement, steel, bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 R&B Division Rajbagh
 Srinagar (NM)

No. 1011-21
 DIPK-1036/26
 Dated: 05.05.2026.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, Invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Catalogue No. : EAFZR-SLR26-21
 Auction Start: 20/05/26 at 11:00 Hrs.

Name of work: Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 19614/R1.
 For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in
 1497/2026

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 8th pass certificate at somewhere bearing Dob 06/04/1992 . Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he /may file his/her objection in the office of GREEN LAND HIGH SCHOOL KREERI / ZEO office within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
 Name....MOHD AMEEN WAZA
 S/O... GH QADIR WAZA
 R/O ...FRASTHAR TILAGAM
 SESSION.... 2006

FKO

Office Of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool & Associates

In the case of
 1. Noor din Allai
 2. Bashir Ahmad Allai
 3. Mohammad Ramzan Allai
 Sons of Late Mohammad Sultan Allai
 4. Fata Begum D/O Late Mohammad Sultan Allai
 W/o Abdul Jabbar Sofi
 All Residents of Chakloo Tehsil and District Baramulla
 (Caveator)

Vs
 Public at large
 (Non-Caveator)

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A
 The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate
 fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Asma Bashir, D/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Saloosa, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded as Asmath Bashir in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8013-6000-1547. My correct and actual name is Asma Bashir.
 If any person has any objection to this name correction, he/ she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the name correction shall be deemed accepted and processed accordingly.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Syed Hussain to (New Name) Syed Hussain Razvi. In future i will be known as (New Name) Syed Hussain Rizvi . If anybody is having any objection he / she may contact passport office Srinagar within period of 7 days. after that no objection will be accepted.
 Syed Hussain Razvi
 R/o Goom Ahmad Pora Magam P/o Magam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Muzafar Ahmad Ganie F/o Saadat Muzafar, R/o Reshinagri, District Shopian, hereby notify that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded as Saadat Muzafar Ganie in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9992-6551-9349, whereas his correct and actual name is Saadat Muzafar. The name Saadat Muzafar is correctly recorded in all other personal and official documents. If any person has any objection to this correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the name correction shall be deemed accepted.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 121025048 Session: Reg year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my father's name as Vikaar Younis Lone Instead of Vikaar Younis Lone
 Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Sub Office Budgam , if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Sub Office Magam within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Lone Mehwish
 Father's name: Vikaar Younis Lone
 Mother's Name: Arifa Begum
DOB: 11-06-2009
Residence: Kawarhama
Mobile no:7006288781

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sakinah Akhter W/o Shabir Ahmad Wagay, R/o Reban Gund Behram, Tehsil Zainapora, District Shopian, hereby notify that my name has been wrongly recorded as Sakeena in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8256 9141 3756, whereas my correct and actual name is Sakinah Akhter as per my Domicile Certificate, Birth Certificate, and Passport.
 I intend to correct my name through Gazette Notification. If any person has any objection to this change, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice; failing which, the name correction shall be deemed accepted.

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth BDO Sherabad Khore has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Manzoor Ahmad Wani s/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/o Shirpora bangil with verified date of birth 20/02/1974 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 fko

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF MUNISFF AT MAGAM.

In the case of:
 Jamia Masjid Rawathpora Khag.
 Through its executive body.
 1. Peer Bilal Ahmad Shah (Chairman)
 S/o Peer Hafizullah Shah.
 2. Waseem Ahmad Thokar. (Treasurer)
 S/o Gh Nabi Thokar.
 3. Adil Hassan Thokar. S/o Gh Hassan Thokar.
 4. Peer Younis Rashid. S/o peer AB Rashid.
 All Residents of Rawathpora.
 Tehsil Khag District Budgam.

Caveator
 Vs
 Public At Large.
 Non Caveators

In the matter of:
 Caveat under sec 148-A pc.
 May it please your honour,
 The caveator humbly submits as under:
 1. That the caveators are the executive members of Jamia Masjid Rawathpora and intends to renovate the said masjid and the caveators apprehends that the non-caveators may file a suit or other proceedings against the said masjid/caveators and alongside they may file an application for grant of interim relief in exparte which if granted would put the caveators in utmost difficulty and hardship.
 2. That the caveators through the instant motion enter their appearance and prays for an opportunity of being heard before passing any order in exparte, in the event any suit or other proceeding is instituted by non-caveators against the caveator.
 3. That as a part of procedural requirement the copy of the caveat has been dispatched to the non caveators through registered post.
 In the premises, it is therefore humbly prayed that this caveat may be registered and the caveators may be provided an opportunity of being heard, before passing any order in exparte, in the event any suit or other proceedings is instituted against them by the non caveators.
 Dt: 05/05/2026.

Caveators through counsel
 Adv Shaista Wani & Lone Ishfaq
 fko

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

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 107014098 Session: Annual/Regular Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned institution against my father's , Mother's & DOB as Mohammad ASHRAF Bhat, Shameema Begam & 09-06-2009 Instead of Mohd Ashraf Bhat, Shamima Begum & 28-03-2009
 Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Ayshiya Ashraf
 Father's name: Mohd Ashraf Bhat
 Mother's Name: Shamima Begum
DOB: 28-03-2009
Residence: Kreeri -193108
Mobile no: 9697107515

fko

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR. PUBLIC NOTICE.

This is an information for general public that i have passed my BA Examination, Bearing Registration Number: 1156-62-2018. In my University records my Caste has been Mistakenly Mentioned as "Ganie" while as my Actual and correct Caste as per my School Record is "Lone". Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Concern Authorities of University of Kashmir, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.
 Saima Akhtar.
 D/O Manzoor Ahmad Lone.
 R/O Gulshanpora Gurez, District Bandipora.

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mahira Aashiq D/o Aashiq Hussain Mir R/o Check Jamal Mir Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 23/02/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 fko

ازنیابت بومی زینگیگر

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب رضوان احمد اولدراد احمد ساکن زینگیگر بمراد اجرائی ڈیپنڈنٹ / سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود

اشہدار ہرخاص وعام

معاملمندرچ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن / اساتذہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیرسٹریٹیکیشن پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن / اساتذہ کا والد مومذ 20-07-2020 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائز بذیل ہے

رضوان احمد اولدراد احمد سرکاری ملازم 30 سال پرستونی
 افرقہ بیگم دختر شراجم گھریلو کام 35 سال دختر شادی شدہ ازخانہ بیرون
 سرہ بیگم دختر - - -
 شبنم دختر - - دختر متوفی

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار ساسات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حذا کو دفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکونائب تحصیلدار

ازنیابت بومی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب مشتاق احمد موچی ولد حبیب اللہ موچی ساکن زوالودہ بمراد عطا لگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق اطر مشرق و فیضان مشتاق پیران مشتاق احمد موچی

اشہدار ہرخاص وعام

معاملمندرچ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن / اساتذہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن / اساتذہ واقعی مومذ ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکن / اساتذہ زوالودہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن / اساتذہ کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

مشتاق احمد موچی ولد حبیب اللہ موچی مزدوری 55 سال
 رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ مشتاق احمد گھریلو کام 52 سال
 اطر مشتاق پسر - - زیر تعلیم 25 سال
 فیضان مشتاق پسر - - - 14 سال

ساکن مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی 4,000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار ساسات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حذا کو دفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکونائب تحصیلدار

ازنیابت بومی زینگیگر

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب عبدالحمید ریثی ولد عبدالعزیز ساکن البمبر زوالواری بمراد اجرائی لیگل ہیرسٹریٹیکیشن بحق خود

اشہدار ہرخاص وعام

معاملمندرچ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن / اساتذہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیرسٹریٹیکیشن پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن / اساتذہ کا والد مومذ فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائز بذیل ہے

عبدالحمید ریثی ولد عبدالعزیز سرکاری ملازم 36 سال سربرہ
 حبیبہ بیگم زوجہ عبدالحمید گھریلو کام 42 سال زوجہ
 خانانہ بیگم پسر - - شیرخوار 05 پسر

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار ساسات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حذا کو دفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکونائب تحصیلدار

ازنیابت بومی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب زبیر احمد دانی ولد غلام احمد دانی ساکن البمبر زوالواری بمراد عطا لگی RBA تحت 176 SRO بحق اطر مشرق و فیضان مشتاق پیران مشتاق احمد موچی

اشہدار ہرخاص وعام

معاملمندرچ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن / اساتذہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض RB سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن / اساتذہ واقعی البمبر زوالواری میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن / اساتذہ کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

غلام احمد دانی ولد غلام قادر مزدوری 48 سال
 جوہرہ بیگم زوجہ غلام احمد دانی گھریلو کام 46 سال
 زبیر احمد دانی پسر غلام احمد زیر تعلیم 21 سال
 سفینہ اختر دختر - - - 18 سال
 فیروزہ اختر دختر - - - 13 سال

ساکن مذکورہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی 7,000 روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار ساسات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت حذا کو دفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعا کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

فکونائب تحصیلدار

Man Held in 2017 Fraud Case Involving Fake Transfer Orders, Salary Drawal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir has arrested a Health Department employee in connection with a long-pending fraud case involving alleged forgery and illegal appointment, officials said on Tuesday.

The arrest was made in FIR No. 19/2017 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, and 471 of the Ranbir Penal Code at Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir, now designated as EOW Kashmir. The accused has been identified as Shahnawaz Ahmad Mir, a Senior Assistant in the Health Department and a resident of Tankipora Shaheed Gunj in Srinagar.

The case stems from a communication received from the Deputy Director Health Services Kashmir, which flagged that Bashir Ahmad Sofi, a resident of Mazhama Budgam, had fraudulently secured his appointment as a Health Educator. The communication alleged that the

appointment was obtained by producing forged transfer orders along with a fabricated Last Pay Certificate.

According to KNT, investigations revealed that the accused had illegally entered government service at Block Sheeri in Baramulla and subsequently drew salary, resulting in wrongful loss to the state exchequer.

Officials said that during the course of investigation, Shahnawaz Ahmad Mir's role surfaced in facilitating or being linked to the fraudulent process. He has been described as a habitual offender, with involvement in multiple similar cases that are either under investigation or have already been charge-sheeted.

The case highlights alleged irregularities in appointment procedures and document verification within the department, prompting further scrutiny by investigative agencies.

Officials said further investigation in the present case is ongoing to establish the full extent of the fraud and identify other possible links.



AMID URBAN SPRAWL, traditional cultivation of Kawdari Haak continues in Srinagar. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Khayam Food Street Turns into Symbol of Dust & Dysfunction

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: What was promised as a model "food street" under the Smart City project has instead turned into a symbol of failure, dust and dysfunction.

The famed Khayam food street road, an important commercial stretch in Downtown Srinagar, today presents a tale of realities like patchy stone paving on the sides and broken, dug-up surfaces, leaving commuters, shopkeepers and pedestrians struggling daily.

Ground visuals reveal that sections with lastly laid stone paving are interspersed with broken stretches, exposed cuts and unfinished patches, raising serious concerns over the quality of work.

Locals told KNO that the project, instead of easing movement

and boosting business, has severely disrupted daily life in one of the city's busiest market corridors.

"This road was supposed to become a food street attracting visitors, but today it is a mess. Customers avoid coming here because of torn-out roads and inconvenience," said a local trader.

The Khayam stretch was earlier executed as part of a broader Downtown redevelopment package involving road resurfacing, drainage upgrades and streetscape improvements. However, stakeholders now allege that the execution lacks proper supervision, with signs of damage already visible on completed portions within a year.

"If such huge public funds are being spent, why is the work breaking, barely a year after completion? It raises serious ques-

tions about quality control and monitoring," said another shopkeeper.

Residents pointed to uneven surfaces and poorly aligned paving blocks and said they now reflect the road's poor durability.

The incomplete state of the road has triggered multiple public concerns, including persistent traffic congestion due to a narrowed carriageway and heightened safety risks for pedestrians and two-wheelers.

Commuters said navigating the stretch, especially during peak hours, has become increasingly chaotic.

Residents and traders have urged the authorities to immediately intervene, expedite repairs and fix accountability by taking strict action against the contractors and officials involved in the project's execution.

Srinagar Police Attach Property Worth Rs 1.20 Crore of Drug Peddler

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of a major crackdown under the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, Srinagar police on Tuesday said they attached immovable property worth Rs 1.20 crore belonging to a notorious drug peddler, while simultaneously intensifying inspections of medical shops across the district to curb misuse of pharmaceutical drugs.

A police spokesperson informed KNO that Police Station Nowhatta, acting under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, attached immovable property linked to an accused involved in FIR No. 61/2019 under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act.

The attached property comprises a fully renovated three-storey residential house, a separate single-storey concrete kitchen block with three washrooms and land measuring 9 marlas, he said, adding that the property belongs to Nisar Ahmad Sheikh, son of Habibullah Sheikh, a resident of Kani Dewar, Sheikh Mohallah, Hawal Srinagar.

"Investigations revealed the property was acquired through proceeds of illicit drug trafficking and has accordingly been identified and attached as illegally acquired assets under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act," the spokesperson said. "This action reflects the firm commitment of Srinagar Police to dismantle the financial networks of drug traffickers and curb the menace of

narcotics in society."

He said strict action against drug peddlers will continue.

Meanwhile, Srinagar Police have further intensified inspection drives of medical shops across all areas of the district as part of sustained efforts to combat drug abuse.

The spokesperson said that jurisdictional police teams, in coordination with relevant authorities, conducted inspections to ensure strict adherence to laws governing the sale and distribution of pharmaceutical drugs.

During the drives, medical shops were thoroughly checked for compliance with provisions of the NDPS Act. "Particular stress was laid on verifying sale records, stock registers and ensuring that medicines, especially those prone to misuse, are dispensed strictly against valid prescriptions," he said. "Shopkeepers and pharmacists were sensitised about their legal responsibilities and advised to maintain proper documentation, avoid over-the-counter sale of restricted drugs and remain vigilant against suspicious transactions."

They were urged to extend full cooperation to law enforcement agencies and promptly report any misuse or illegal sale of pharmaceutical substances.

Srinagar Police said they remain committed to eradicating the drug menace and safeguarding public health. They have urged the general public to support the initiative by sharing information about drug-related activities with the nearest police establishment.

KU Appoints Prof Bashir Ahmad Ganai as Dean Research

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir has appointed Prof Bashir Ahmad Ganai as Dean Research following the superannuation of Prof Mohd Sultan Bhat, with the order taking immediate effect.

According to an official order issued by the Administration Teaching Section, Prof Mohd Sultan Bhat of the Department of

Geography and Disaster Management retired on April 30, 2026, after serving as Dean Research at the university.

Consequent to his retirement, Prof Bashir Ahmad Ganai, associated with the Centre of Research for Development (CORD), has been assigned the charge of Dean Research for a period of three years or until he attains the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier.

The order further states that Prof Ganai will also function as In-charge Dean of the College Development Council (CDC) in addition to his existing responsibilities. This arrangement will continue until Prof Aneesa Shafi resumes her duties after availing leave.

According to KNT, the directive has been issued with the approval of the competent authority and has come into effect immediately.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
18 Zil-Qadah
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:06
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:23
Magrib	7:21
ISHA	8:50

From KO Archives

- 1933- Mohandas Gandhi begins a 21-day fast in protest against British oppression in India.
- 1945- V-E Day; WWII ends in Europe after Germany signs an unconditional surrender
- 1960- USSR & Cuba resume diplomatic relations
- 1961- 1st practical sea water conversion plant-Freeport, Texas
- 1967- Muhammad Ali is indicted for refusing induction in US Army
- 1980- World Health Organization announced smallpox had been eradicated
- 1989- US space shuttle STS-30 lands
- 2008- Dmitry Medvedev appoints Vladimir Putin as Russian Prime Minister
- 2013- 33 people are killed after an overloaded bus falls into a river in Himachal Pradesh, India
- 2013- Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi receives a four year prison sentence for fraud

This Day In History

Patient Stable As Controversy About 'Needless' Surgery Lingers On

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Even as the patient who was operated upon at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) for removal of suspected stones is stable, the controversy surrounding the surgery lingers on. While the doctors are almost unanimous there was no negligence in the matter, the patient's relatives are sore at the way an un-necessary surgery was forced on her.

According to reports, Aaliya Liaqat w/o Liaqat Hussein of Court road here was operated upon Saturday for suspected stones in her kidneys though repeated X-rays taken on the fateful day did not show any definite presence of the calculus. Her relatives alleged the surgery was not warranted after the X-rays were negative.

The surgery evoked instant protest from the relatives of patient, mother of an 8-month old baby. They alleged the head of concerned department, Dr Baldev Singh, had insisted to have the surgery performed. They accused the doctor of having threatened them following a tiff a few days earlier.

In a communication to Kashmir Observer, Dr Singh denied he had conducted the operation and described the report, circulated by CNS news agency, as baseless and aimed at maligning his image. He said, "The fact is that I had advised an X-ray for the patient before any surgical intervention but a consultant urologist conducted the said surgery with my knowledge". Later on, he said, "on the request of Director SKIMS I helped the concerned urologist in closing the patient and stent was put for effective drainage".

Talking to Observer News Service, Dr Singh denied there was any negligence on the part of doctors. "These things can happen in the medical profession", he said, adding the surgery was done with the written consent of a close relative of the Patient. He said the patient was admitted by Dr Tajamul the consultant who was not required to seek any directive from him. Denying that he has threatened the patients' relative, Dr Singh said he might have told them to leave the ward during the morning round.

When contacted Dr Tajamul Fazili told Observer News Service that patients was admitted by Dr. Singh. The X-rays of the obese patient had shown stones at the OPD stage and admitted accordingly. On Saturday he said the first two X-rays revealed there were no stones. A third one was taken with double exposure which showed a shadow coinciding with the X-ray taken at the 'OPD stage'. Dr Fazili said, "Most probably it was a friable (soft) stone which got crushed and passed down the ureter during the surgical manipulation." He said a small stent was kept inside to ensure safe passage of any small bit.

Dr Fazili said 'Saturday was utilised as an additional theatre day to make good for the hartal days. "We were convinced the patient did have stones. But when I could not locate it, I sought help from Dr Singh", he said.

The director of the Institute, Prof Me'raj-ud-din, said there was nothing abnormal about the surgery nor was there any negligence on the part of doctors. "The stone must have been friable going down the ureter and the gravel coming out of its own", he said. He ruled out any enquiry into the episode.

Joining the issue, a close relative of the patient, pleading anonymity, told Observer News Service the surgery was absolutely uncalculated for the moment the doctors knew there was no stone. The written consent had been given when she was brought to operation theatre in the morning. However, she was turned back from there and asked to get in her X-ray done. After that an anaesthesia was given to her for the second time and the surgery conducted despite the relatives' pleas against it and without seeking a fresh consent from them. The relative said the patient had suffered heavy blood loss which could have proved fatal. The relative alleged Dr Singh had visited the ward against asking them to return the X-rays which were lying with them. Meanwhile, according to Dr Singh the patient was stable.

Kashmir Observer, May 6, 2000

J&K ACCOUNTS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION MOURNS DEATH OF BELOVED SON OF MR ZAHOOR SAHIB, DF, PDD.

J&K Accounts Employees Association expresses grief on untimely & sad demise of Mohammad Aaman S/o Zahoor Ahmad Wani, Director Finance, Power Development Department. Association extends its sympathies with the bereaved family & pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.



May Allah grant him choicest place in Jannah & bless the bereaved family with utmost patience to bear this shock. Pertinent to mention that the deceased suffered from a massive heart attack while doing evening walk at Delhi on 3rd May, 2026. His body was received today early morning and funeral ceremony held at 7:45 am at his locality Akad nearly 12 Kms away from Anantnag on K.P road. Almost all senior officers including DGA&T, DG Resource/ Funds, DG Budget, DATK, Principal ATI, Sgr and various other officers and officials of J&K Accounts Fraternity attended the family in this shock. His rasm-e-Chahrum will be held on Friday i.e 8th of May.

DPHQ SOPORE

Phone: (o)- 01954-222313
(R):-01954-222333

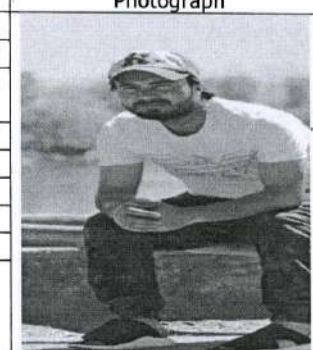
CRB/Look-Out-99/2026 -2037-90
Dated:- 04 /05/2026
email:sspsopore@jkpolice.gov.in
office:-01954-225511

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Whereas, it has been intimated by SDPO Sopore vide communication No. SDPO/LOC/26/4016-18 dated 04.05.2026 that accused namely Mohammad Ashraf Mir @ Ashu S/O Farooq Ahmad Mir R/O Jamia Qadeem A/P Krankshivan Colony Sopore is involved in Case FIR No. 23/2026 under Sections 8/22, 29 of the NDPS Act of Police Station Sopore and has been absconding since the commission of the offence, evading arrest despite strenuous efforts by the police.

The photograph with descriptive roll of absconding accused is as under:-

Description	Photograph
Name	Mohammad Ashraf Mir @ Ashu
Parentage	Farooq Ahmad Mir
Residence	Jamia Qadeem A/P Krankshivan Colony Sopore
Age	32 yrs
Complexion	Fair
Body Built	Strong
Height	5'.6"
Hair	Black
Language Known	Urdu/ Kashmiri



Now, therefore, a Look Out Notice is hereby issued against the absconding accused with the request to keep close surveillance for his identification and apprehension. His photograph shall be circulated among all Police Stations and Police Posts. Any information regarding his whereabouts shall be communicated immediately to SDPO Sopore/PS Sopore/PP Bus Stand Sopore for necessary legal action.

✦ **Email:-** sspsoopore@jkpolice.gov.in
✦ **Phone:-** 01954-222313.
✦ **PCR Sopore:-** 9596773024, 9596773025.
✦ **SHO PS Sopore:-** 9596773100.

Iftkhar Talib-JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
PD. Sopore.
DIPK-1037-26
DT: 05/05/2026

West Bengal Results Minority Vote Split Cracks TMC, Boosts BJP

Press Trust Of India

Kolkata, May 5 : In an election that has upended West Bengal's entrenched political arithmetic, the BJP's sweeping victory has drawn its decisive momentum not merely from traditional strongholds but from unexpected gains in Muslim-dominated districts, where a fractured minority vote quietly rewrote the script that had long favoured the TMC.

For over a decade, the TMC's dominance in districts such as Murshidabad, Malda and Uttar Dinajpur rested on a near-complete consolidation of Muslim votes, a bloc that accounts for 50 per cent or more of the population in large parts of this belt.

That group, forged in the aftermath of the Left Front's decline in 2011 and reinforced during the polarised 2021 election, appears to have splintered this time with far-reaching consequences.

The numbers tell a stark story. Of the 43 assembly seats spread across these three districts, the BJP has surged from just eight seats in 2021 to 19 now. The TMC, which

had dominated with 35 seats, has been reduced to 22. The remaining seats have gone to a mix of Congress, CPI(M) and smaller players, including Humayun Kabir's Aam Janna Party (AJJP), signalling a diffusion of minority votes that proved costly for the ruling party.

Contrary to widespread pre-poll assessments that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls—marked by large-scale deletions—would trigger consolidation of Muslim voters behind the TMC, the outcome suggests the opposite. Instead of tactical unity, the minority vote fractured across multiple opposition formations, blunting the TMC's edge in closely fought constituencies.

In Murshidabad, the epicentre of this churn, the shift is particularly dramatic. With Muslims constituting over 66 per cent of the population, the district had been a TMC fortress. In 2021, the party won 20 of the 22 seats here. This time, it has been cut down to nine, with the BJP matching that tally—an extraordinary leap from its two seats in the previous election.

Owaisi: Secular Parties Can't Stop BJP; Muslims Need Leadership

Press Trust Of India

Hyderabad: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday accused political parties, including the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC of playing "soft Hindutva" and wanted Muslims to create an independent political leadership.

Secular parties will not be able to stop the BJP's expansion, he said and claimed that the Trinamool Congress lost the West Bengal elections due to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral votes and "exploitation of Muslims."

The Hyderabad MP's remarks came a day after the BJP ended Banerjee's 15-year stint in power in West Bengal, winning 207 of the 293 Assembly seats in the two-phased elections held last month.

Owaisi claimed that the Aam Admi Party (AAP), Shiv Sena (UBT), the erstwhile NCP in Maharashtra and the TMC in West Bengal tried to "play soft Hindutva" in the past and that Muslims should try to "create independent political leadership".

"It is high time that Muslims must get united and create their own political leadership to at least have a voice to raise their marginalisation," and to have elected representatives who can work for development, the AIMIM leader claimed.

There were many reasons for TMC's loss in West Bengal and SIR was one of them, he told reporters here.

However, there was "huge" anti-incumbency, corruption and "exploitation" of Muslim community during the TMC regime, he alleged. Attacking TMC, he said there would have been development in West Bengal had the party treated "Muslims as citizens and not as a vote bank".

He said the West Bengal voters' verdict in favour of BJP must be respected and the so-called "secular parties" will not be able to stop the saffron party's expansion, he said. Votes cast for such parties were going "waste," he added.

Owaisi, who responded to the assembly election results, thanked voters who cast their



votes in favour of AIMIM in West Bengal though all the 11 candidates fielded by the party lost.

"The people of West Bengal have given power to the BJP. We have to respect that decision. It is the people's decision. Thirdly, I am of the opinion that I have been consistently saying that these so-called secular parties will not be able to stop BJP," he added.

Why did the TMC and the government led by it did not help those whose names were removed from electoral rolls during SIR, he asked.

The TMC approached the Supreme Court against SIR but it was symbolism, he alleged.

The AIMIM was helping people in its headquarters in Hyderabad vis-a-vis SIR, he said. "It is wrong to link SIR with citizenship."

Owaisi thanked the Almighty as the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) won 22 seats in Kerala. IUML is part of the Congress-led UDF that clinched the Assembly polls held in Kerala



Araqchi in Beijing as Hormuz Tensions Reshape diplomacy

Trans Asia News

London - Foreign minister Abbas Araqchi is set to travel to Beijing on Tuesday for high-level talks with his Chinese counterpart as Tehran intensifies a diplomatic push to shore up support among key partners amid a deepening confrontation with Washington.

The visit, confirmed by Iran's foreign ministry, will focus on bilateral ties as well as regional and international developments and comes at a moment of acute tension in the Gulf and a fragile diplomatic impasse over the ongoing war involving Iran, the United States and Israel.

Araqchi's trip to China follows a broader regional tour that has already taken him to Moscow, Islamabad and Muscat. In Russia, he held talks with President Vladimir Putin and met his counterpart, underscoring Tehran's effort to coordinate positions with major powers seen as counterweights to the US.

The Beijing visit is likely to reinforce China's emerging role as a diplomatic interlocutor in the crisis. Beijing has sought to position itself as a stabilising force, drawing on its longstanding policy of "noninterference" and its working relations with all sides in the conflict.

The diplomatic activity comes against the backdrop of a widening conflict that erupted on February 28, when the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran, assassinating Supreme Leader Sayyed Ali Khamenei, as well as top military commanders, marking a dramatic escalation that has since drawn in multiple regional actors.

Iran responded with retaliatory strikes and moved to assert control over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global energy shipments. Tehran has since restricted passage for vessels linked to the US and its allies, while Washington has imposed what Iran describes as an illegal blockade on its ports.

A temporary ceasefire brokered by Pakistan took effect on April 8, forty days into the conflict, but subsequent negotiations in Islamabad failed to yield a breakthrough. Officials on both sides have traded blame, with Tehran accusing Washington of adopting maximalist demands and the US continuing to issue military threats.

Iran has submitted proposals aimed at permanently ending the war, but these have reportedly elicited a contradictory response from the White House, leaving talks deadlocked and raising

fears of renewed escalation.

Against this volatile backdrop, Araqchi's meetings in Beijing are expected to test how far China is willing to go in leveraging its diplomatic capital to ease tensions - or whether its role will remain confined to that of a cautious mediator balancing ties across an increasingly polarised conflict.

We've 'not even started yet' Separately, Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said the situation in the Strait of Hormuz was becoming increasingly difficult for Washington.

In a post on X on Tuesday, Qalibaf said a "new equation" was taking shape in the strategic waterway.

"The security of shipping and energy transit has been endangered by the United States and its allies through the violation of the ceasefire and the imposition of a blockade," he wrote. "Of course, their evil will be diminished."

He added that Iran was aware of mounting pressure on the United States.

"We know very well that the continuation of the current situation is unbearable for the United States, while we haven't even started yet," he said.

Italy's Meloni Warns Over AI Deepfakes After False Photos Circulate

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Tuesday that fake images of her generated by artificial intelligence were circulating online, warning that such false photos could deceive the public and target people unable to defend themselves.

Meloni said in a statement that several fake photos of her had been created with AI and passed off as real by political opponents.

She posted one such image appearing to show her sitting on a bed wearing underwear. The original post included outraged comment that the photo was shameful and unworthy of an Italian prime minister.



"I must admit that whoever created them, at least in the attached case, has also improved me quite a bit," Meloni said, adding that the episode showed how "anything at all" was now being used to attack people and spread falsehoods.

"The point, however, goes

beyond me," she said. "Deepfakes are a dangerous tool, because they can deceive, manipulate, and strike anyone. I can defend myself. Many others cannot."

Meloni urged people to check the authenticity of online content before accepting or sharing it.

"One rule should always apply: verify before believing, and think before sharing," she said.

Meloni launched a libel suit two years ago against a man from Sardinia who is accused of making deepfake pornographic images using her face and posting them online.

Arab News

Delimitation Key Factor for NDA's Landslide Win in Assam

Press Trust Of India

Guwahati, May 5 : The delimitation of constituencies to reduce the impact of minority candidates in their earlier strongholds is one among the many factors that led to the NDA's stupendous performance in the Assam polls, securing a record win of 102 seats in the 126-member assembly.

The 2023 delimitation exercise, which redrew and realigned constituencies with some earlier Muslim-majority seats getting reserved for indigenous communities, played a significant role in the increase of seats for the BJP and its allies in the just-concluded assembly polls.

The minority votebank played a key role, particularly for the Congress and AIUDF, in all previous assembly polls in 35 seats but delimitation reduced its influence to less than 25.

The 24 seats that the opposition won, mostly in constituencies unaffected by delimitation, include 22 Muslim candidates with both the Congress and AIUDF showing a sharp decline in their erstwhile bastions.

The realignment led to the fragmentation of Muslim-majority constituencies, and their merger with areas dominated by the indigenous community resulted in the dilution of the vote-bank.

The delimitation exercise kept the number of assembly seats the same at 126 but reserved more constituencies for the Scheduled Tribe and the Sched-

uled Caste, with the former being increased from 16 to 19 and the latter to nine from eight.

Barpeta and Goalpara (West), seats having a significant number of Bengali-speaking Muslims, were reserved for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe, respectively, and the NDA wrested both from the Congress.

The impact of the delimitation was also evident in the other tribal reserved seats in the Bodoland region, where their number was increased from 11 to 15, as the NDA ally Bodoland Peoples' Front (BPF) won 10 of these seats while its sole Muslim candidate lost the polls.

Both the Congress and AIUDF have been severely impacted by the exercise, with most of its winning candidates restricted to the 25 seats, with only one achieving electoral success from the scheduled caste reserved Naochoicha seat.

The AIUDF, which had won 16 constituencies in the last polls, managed to secure only two seats this time, while one candidate each from Rajior Dal and Trinamool Congress also won from within these 25 constituencies.

The ruling alliance, with not much influence in the 25 seats where the Bengali-speaking Muslims are in the majority, made an effort to make an entry with the regional party AGP giving tickets to 13 from the community but none, including sitting MLAs who had shifted to the party following delimitation of their constituencies, could win a seat.

Top Cleric Shot Dead by ISIS in Pakistan

Press Trust Of India

Peshawar: A prominent cleric was on Tuesday shot dead by gunmen belonging to the Islamic State in a targeted attack in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said.

The motorcycle-borne gunmen ambushed the vehicle of Sheikh-ul-Hadith Maulana Muhammad Idrees in the Utmanzai area of Charsadda district, injuring two security guards accompanying him, they said.

Idrees, one of the senior and respected religious scholars in Pakistan, sustained critical injuries and died while being shifted to the district headquarters hospital. Two injured constables are currently receiving treatment.

The Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) claimed responsibility for the attack that killed Idrees.

The assailants opened fire on the cleric while he was on his way to deliver a lecture at Darul Uloom Utmanzai, police said.

According to initial findings released by the joint investigation team of the Counter-Terrorism Department and district police, the cleric was targeted by four terrorists.

Investigators have obtained images of the suspects using Safe City surveillance cameras, and a manhunt is currently underway.

The body was later taken to his native village, Turangzai, in Charsadda district, as a large number of followers gathered at the hospital upon hearing of his death.

The killing sparked protests in the area, with hundreds of demonstrators marching towards Charsad-



da city and demanding the immediate arrest of those responsible.

Protesters also blocked key roads and staged a sit-in at Farooq-e-Azam Chowk.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfiqar Hameed sought a report from the Regional Police Officer in Mardan, directing authorities to ensure the swift arrest of the perpetrators.

In a statement, the IGP described the services of Idrees as "unforgettable" and said those involved in the "heinous act" would be brought to justice.

He said that preliminary evidence suggests the incident was a case of targeted killing, adding that those involved will be brought to justice soon.

Idrees was also the Charsadda district chief of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) and was considered a close aide of party chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

His father-in-law, Maulana Hassan Jan, who was also a renowned religious scholar, was assassinated in Peshawar in 2007 by the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for opposing armed struggle.

NEWS MAKERS

17% Assam MLAs Face Criminal Cases, 85% Crorepatis: ADR

New Delhi, May 5 (PTI) Around 17 per cent of newly elected MLAs in Assam have declared criminal cases against themselves, while a striking 85 per cent are crorepatis, according to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The report, which analysed affidavits of all 126 winning candidates in the 2026 Assam Assembly elections, shows a decline in the proportion of candidates with criminal cases compared to the previous election. In 2021, 27 per cent, or 34 of the winning candidates had declared criminal cases against them, which has now dropped to 17 per cent, or 21 candidates.

This includes 19, or 15 per cent, candidates facing serious charges. This is also a decrease from 2021, when 28, or 22 per cent of MLAs had declared serious criminal cases.



Among specific offences, three winning candidates have declared cases related to attempt to murder, while two candidates have reported cases related to crimes against women.

The data reveals sharp variation across political parties. Among the

BJP, 7 out of 82 winning candidates, or 9 per cent, have declared criminal cases. In the Congress, 9 out of 19 winners, or 47 per cent, face such cases.

The report added that two winning candidates from the All India United Democratic Front and one

Trinamool Congress candidate have also declared criminal cases against themselves.

Notably, all 10 winning candidates from the Bodoland People's Front have clean records.

At the same time, 7 (9 per cent) out of 82 winning candidates from BJP, 7 (37 per cent) out of 19 winning candidates from INC, both the two (100 per cent) winning candidates of AIUDF, the one winner (100 per cent) from AITC, one (50 per cent) out of the two winning candidates from Rajior Dal and one (10 per cent) out of the 10 winning candidates from Asom Gana Parishad have declared serious criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

The report also highlighted a steep increase in the wealth of elected representatives. As many as 107 out of 126 MLAs (85 per cent) are crorepatis, up from 67 per cent in 2021.

Pak Navy Aids Crew Of Indian Vessel Stranded In Arabian Sea

Islamabad, (PTI) - The Pakistan Navy provided humanitarian assistance to the crew of an Indian offshore tug and supply vessel stranded in the Arabian Sea, according to a media report.

The crew was assisted by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) in the rescue and support operation, the Dawn newspaper reported on Monday, quoting security sources.

The assistance operation for the crew, which included six Indians and one Indonesian national, was launched after the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre in Mumbai contacted Pakistani authorities and requested assistance, the report said.

The crew had reported a technical fault on MV Gautam, which was en route from Oman to India, the sources said.



Emergency support, including food, medical aid and technical support, was provided to the stranded crew, while efforts to assist the vessel were continuing, the report said.

Stringent Enforcement, Faster Prosecution & Robust Rehabilitation Key to Curb Drug Menace: CS

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 17th Union Territory-level meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, who undertook a comprehensive review of the Union Territory's performance in stringent enforcement of drug laws, prosecution of offenders, and treatment and rehabilitation of victims affected by substance abuse.

The meeting was attended by the Director General, Police; Director General, Prosecution; Principal Secretary, Home; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; and other senior civil and police officers, while Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from all districts participated through video conferencing.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary laid emphasis on strengthening the legal framework and plugging procedural gaps in handling NDPS cases. He directed the Law Department to explore the feasibility of recording statements of in-service witnesses through video conferencing, particularly in cases where officials are transferred outside their districts, to ensure continuity and avoid delays in trials. Stressing accountability, he called for a thorough analysis of acquittals in NDPS cases and fixing responsibility wherever investigative or procedural lacu-



nae are identified. Highlighting the need for a more impactful enforcement strategy, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of investigating both backward and forward linkages in drug trafficking cases and actively challenging bail orders to enhance deterrence. He called for a well-defined strategy to dismantle drug peddling networks, with strict action against identified offenders by law enforcement agencies.

Advocating a broader approach, he stressed the use of non-kinetic measures against violators, including cancellation of driving licences, passports, and vehicle registrations, besides scrutiny of financial transactions through bank accounts to choke illicit proceeds.

He also emphasized capacity building in the rehabilitation ecosystem, directing for

the training of a large pool of counsellors to be made available across schools, colleges, Primary Health Centres, and at the block level through trained Self-Help Group members.

The Chief Secretary further directed the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IM-HANS) to create a pool of master trainers, ensuring at least three to four trained resource persons per district, supplemented with periodic refresher courses to continuously upgrade their skills.

The Chief Secretary also enjoined upon Deputy Commissioners to ensure the functionality of inpatient (IPD) facilities in drug de-addiction centres in all district hospitals and asked the Health Department to strictly adhere to protocols for the availability of essential medicines at all health institutions.

Additionally, he called for strict action in cases involving

seizure of vehicles under Section 52A of the NDPS Act to ensure effective enforcement of legal provisions.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi, gave a detailed presentation on the incidence and categorization of NDPS cases across districts, highlighting trends in intermediate and commercial quantity cases. He elaborated on delays in disposal of such cases, the ratio of cases instituted versus those disposed of in special NDPS courts, and the stages at which these cases are pending. He also suggested a series of remedial measures aimed at reducing backlog and ensuring expeditious disposal of cases.

Earlier, IGP Crime, Sarah Rizvi presented a comprehensive overview of enforcement efforts, acquittals, and actions taken by law enforcement agencies to combat the drug menace in Jam-

mu and Kashmir.

She informed that during 2026 so far, 542 NDPS cases have been registered across police stations, leading to the arrest of 716 individuals and seizure of 640 kilograms of narcotics valued at approximately ₹18.49 Cr.

The meeting was informed that a total of 10,956 NDPS cases are pending across various courts, including 6,156 cases in five Special NDPS Courts. In 2025, 1,991 cases were instituted while 483 were disposed of. It was further revealed that prosecution had challenged 91 bail orders in 2025 and 57 in 2026 so far in intermediate and commercial quantity cases.

Regarding convictions, the figures stood at 135 in 2024, 140 in 2025, and 23 in 2026 till date. Out of 1,435 prosecution witnesses who attended court proceedings, 839 were examined, while 596 returned without examination due to various reasons, indicating areas needing procedural improvement, the meeting was apprised.

The meeting also noted that in 24 cases, backward and forward linkages were successfully established, leading to attachment of properties worth ₹53.77 lakh and freezing of bank accounts amounting to ₹22.63 lakh. Non-kinetic measures were also actively pursued, with 489 driving licences recommended for cancellation and 700 vehicle registrations for suspension between January and March this year due to their involvement in illicit activities.

University of Ladakh to Host World Honey Conclave 2026 in Leh

LEH: University of Ladakh is set to host the World Honey Conclave 2026 from May 20 to 22, bringing together a diverse global community of beekeeping experts, scientists, entrepreneurs, and policymakers in the high-altitude region of Ladakh.

Organised by the Department of Zoology, the three-day conclave will focus on the growing importance of sustainable apiculture and the indispensable ecological services provided by honey bees. The event aims to highlight their critical role in environmental conservation, agricultural productivity, and strengthening rural economies.

According to organisers, the conclave will feature comprehensive discussions on modern honey management, advanced honey processing techniques, value addition, quality assurance, bee health, pollination services, and evolving market opportunities in the apiculture sector.

The gathering is expected to witness participation from leading beekeepers, researchers, and industry stakeholders from across India and abroad, making it a significant international platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Participants will engage in keynote sessions delivered by renowned experts, technical presentations by scientists, and panel discussions involving policymakers and industry leaders. Exhibitions showcasing startups, innovative technologies, and honey-based products will also form a key component of the event.

Importantly, the conclave will address pressing global challenges such as the impact of climate change on pollinators and the future of sustainable honey production. Organisers noted that the forum will serve as a space for dialogue on safeguarding pollinator populations amid changing environmental conditions.

Beyond technical deliberations, the event will celebrate the cultural and ecological significance of bees through interactive sessions and curated product displays, reflecting the deep connection between apiculture and local traditions. (Observer News Service)

Altaf Bukhari Calls for Empowering Local Talent & Creating Job Opportunities

Srinagar: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir should strengthen its business environment by using local talent and promoting local products. He said, "There is a pressing need to harness the growth potential of businesses and industries in Jammu and Kashmir. This is the most effective way to ensure sustained prosperity, drive economic development, and address the rising unemployment here."

He made these remarks at Cold Chain Asia and Kashmir food Expo which was organised today at Fun Fair Mela Ground Parimpora Srinagar. Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari graced the occasion as chief guest and inaugurated this event.

He said that "tapping into the potential of business, industry, and allied sectors—beyond horticulture and agriculture—will accelerate economic growth, support long-term development, and generate greater employment opportunities."

He further said, "I see great potential in Jammu and Kashmir and its people. The region has the ability and resources to expand its businesses, industries, and related sectors. If used properly, this potential can help Kashmir become strong and self-reliant in economic growth." "The best way to address rising unemployment in Kashmir is by focusing on business opportunities," he added.

He urged established businesses to create more jobs and support young and new entrepreneurs by guiding and assisting them.

The senior party leaders who were accompanying Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, included Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, Additional General Secretary Hilal Shah, Provincial President Kashmir Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Chief Spokesperson & State Secretary Muntazir Mohiuddin, Media Advisor Farooq Andrabi, State Youth President & Spokesperson Yawar Dilawar Mir, Provincial Coordinator Kashmir & Constituency In-charge Hazratbal Shabir Ahmad Reshi, Publicity Secretary Muzafar Reshi, Vice President Srinagar & Constituency In-charge Central Shaltang Zaffar Habib, Senior Leaders Imaad Mir, and others. (Observer News Service)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct the name in my Driving License bearing No. JK-0520080004196 from Riyaz Ahmad Bhat to RAYAZ AHMAD BHAT S/o Mohd Abdullah Bhat R/o Daweri Kocha Khan Kahi Mohalla Srinagar. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with RTO Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

No Drug Peddler Will be Spared: DC Budgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan on Tuesday said the administration has adopted a zero-tolerance approach against drug abuse, with massive public participation and intensified enforcement measures underway across the district.

Speaking during the anti-drug padyatra led by Manoj Sinha, which was held from New Bus Stand to Old Bus Stand in Budgam, the Deputy Commissioner, as reported by KNO, said that around 4 lakh people have participated in awareness programmes conducted across the district.

"Awareness programmes were conducted in which approximately 400,000 people participated. Our commitment is that no individual and no household in Budgam will remain untouched by this campaign," he said.

Highlighting enforcement actions, Khan said that in the last 25 days, 20 FIRs have been registered and 14 arrests made in connection with drug-related offences.

"A zero-tolerance approach is being adopted. No drug peddler will be spared, and all will be dealt with strictly under the

law," he said.

He added that poppy cultivation in the district has been brought down to zero, while strict regulatory mechanisms have been put in place to monitor pharmaceutical distribution. "Approximately 850 pharmacies have been equipped with CCTV cameras and computerised billing systems to ensure transparency and prevent misuse," he said.

The DC said strict action has also been taken against erring drug shops. "Licenses of 11 such shops have been revoked, 22 suspended and six sealed," he said.

He said action has also been taken against vehicles and individuals linked to drug activities. "Registration Certificates of 24 vehicles and 27 driving licences have been cancelled," he added.

On rehabilitation, Khan said the administration has strengthened treatment facilities in the district. "Addiction treatment facilities are operational round-the-clock at the District Hospital. A drug de-addiction centre is functional, and from April 11, a 15-bed IPD facility has also been made operational," he said.

In 18 months, Govt Filled Numerous Vacancies in Health Dept: Minister Sakeena

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday said that CM Omar Abdullah led Government has filled in numerous vacancies in the Health Department during the past 18 months.

Talking to reporters here in South Kashmir, Minister Itoo, according to KNO said, "The government has made significant progress over the past 18 months by filling numerous vacancies in the Health Department and initiating key reforms aimed at improving service delivery."

The Minister said that several posts have already been filled, while many more have been referred for recruitment. She added that infrastructure gaps are being systematically addressed, with a focus on ensuring that people can access quality healthcare within their own areas instead of travelling outside for treatment.

Accompanied by MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi, the Minister toured several areas including Parigam, Kakapora, and Ratnipora to review ongoing developmental works in the health sector. During the visit, she inaugurated a digital X-ray facility and a thyroid analyzer at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Parigam in the presence of



Director Health Services Kashmir Jehangir Bakshi. These new diagnostic facilities are expected to significantly enhance early detection and treatment capabilities for the local population.

The Minister also inspected the proposed site for a 50-bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital and Yoga Training Centre in Ratnipora. Stressing the importance of integrating traditional and modern systems of medicine, she said such institutions are essential to promote alternative healing practices alongside advanced medical care.

At Kakapora, Itoo reviewed the construction work of a 50-bedded hospital and directed concerned authorities to expedite the project

to ensure timely completion. She underlined that the government remains committed to delivering quality healthcare facilities at the grassroots level.

Meanwhile, the Minister referred to the recent directive by the Supreme Court of India mandating an examination for Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers within three years. "The interests of the teaching community will be safeguarded," she said.

Itoo said that proactive steps are being taken to overcome staff shortages across departments, with a special focus on strengthening the healthcare system through sustained recruitment and infrastructure development.

Haj 2026 Departures Conclude from Srinagar

3,952 Pilgrims Airlifted in 28 Flights

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The outbound Haj movement from Srinagar for Haj 2026 concluded on Tuesday with the final flight taking off, marking the successful completion of a coordinated and smooth airlift operation that saw thousands of pilgrims depart for the holy journey.

Executive Officer of J&K Haj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, told KNO that a total of 3,952 pilgrims departed from the Srinagar Haj Embarkation Point in 28 flights to Madina.

He said the departing pilgrims included 2,201 males and 1,751 females, while the overall number of pilgrims scheduled to perform Haj this year stands at 4,692.

"Remaining pilgrims are using Delhi and Mumbai embarkation points," Dr Qureshi said, adding that 12 pilgrims had to cancel their journey at the final stage due to health issues.

With the last flight taking off today, the embarkation process from Srinagar has officially closed.

Srinagar International Airport confirmed the successful culmina-

tion of the Haj operations, stating that all 28 flights carrying 3,952 pilgrims departed smoothly as part of a well-coordinated effort involving multiple agencies.

In a message, the airport authorities extended prayers and best wishes to the pilgrims for a safe and spiritually fulfilling journey, while thanking all stakeholders and staff for ensuring seamless operations.

The Haj departure process from Srinagar had commenced on April 18, with arrangements reviewed earlier by Haj Committee of India CEO Shanavas C. (IAS), who inspected facilities at Haj House Bemina and the airport, directing officials to ensure smooth, hygienic and pilgrim-friendly services.

Officials had earlier informed that around 4,700 pilgrims from J&K would undertake the pilgrimage this year, with departures conducted in phases.

Meanwhile, Dr Qureshi said that refunds ranging between Rs 17,000 and Rs 31,000 have been credited to Haj 2025 pilgrims, depending on deficiencies in facilities such as accommodation in the Markazia area of Madina and availability of transport services in the Mashair region.

Drivers Patch Vital Sopore-Kupwara road, Say Authorities Failed to Act

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Drivers in Sopore on Tuesday carried out repairs on a damaged stretch of the Sopore Kupwara road near Model Town, turning to self-help to keep traffic moving.

Drivers of e-rickshaws and eco vehicles told KNO that repeated appeals to authorities brought no response. They said the road had turned hazardous, with deep potholes posing risks to commuters and damaging vehicles.

"It has become an accident-prone spot. Our vehicles suffer daily damage," said one of the drivers present at the site.

The drivers, who were seen carrying construction material and filling damaged portions of the road, said the stretch falls under the responsibility of the administration, but no repair work was initiated.

"We waited for action, but nothing happened. That is why we took it into our own hands," another driver said.

Locals said the stretch is a vital link for daily commuters and transporters and demanded immediate intervention from the authorities for proper repairs.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SKIMS/ JVC, HQ: SKIMS SOURA

Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159 email: - mech-hospitalskims@jk.gov.in

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

e-NIT NO. MHD/SKIMS/JVC/ 01 OF 2025-26 dated: 02 /05/2026

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system (Technical and financial) on percentage basis from eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railway/State/Central Government organization for the below mentioned work:

Name of Work	Ceiling Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (In rupees)	Completion time/Period of contract	Budget Head	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS Accorded Vide:	Earnest Money (in Rs in Lacs)	Position of funds)	Tender opening authority
AMC for Manifold and Medical Gas Related jobs in various areas of SKIMS Soura Srinagar.	14.00	500.00	12 months from the date of issue of LOI/AO or upto a ceiling cost of Rs. 14 lacs (whichever is earlier)	M&R	114 of 2026-27 Dt: 24.04.2026	MHED/K/T/S/06 dt: 29.04.2026	280000.00	Available with the Intending Department	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department SKIMS/ JVC Soura.

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: -

01	Publish date	04.05.2026 (9:00 hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	04.05.2026 (9:15 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	04.05.2026 (9:30 hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	13.05.2026 (11:00 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	13.05.2026 (14.00 hrs)

No. MHD/SKIMS/JVC/727-33
Dated: 02-05-2026

DIPK-NB-384-26
DT: 05/05/2026

Executive Engineer,
Mechanical and Hospital Division
SKIMS/JVC

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KO VIEW

Kashmir In Overdrive

Italy calls it Dolce far niente, the sweetness of doing nothing, a way of valuing stillness as part of a full life. Kashmir once lived this idea without giving it a name.

People spent long afternoons in orchards, along riverbanks, and in gardens where they gathered without plans and stayed without checking the time.

Families still remember those days in places like Pari Mahal and Nishat Bagh. Artisans paused between demanding work cycles, and farmers rested after tending their fields. Tea came slowly, and conversations moved at their own pace. Those hours felt full even when nothing pressing needed attention.

Life now moves at a different pace. Phones fill the first moments of the morning and the last minutes before sleep. Students prepare for exams while professionals work toward stability, and even free time follows a schedule.

Each day feels driven by a need to stay active, as if every hour must show results.

Numbers show how this shift affects people. The World Health Organization reports a rise of more than 25 percent in anxiety and depression since the pandemic. Studies by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences estimate that one in seven Indians lives with a mental health concern. A 2023 report by Deloitte found that nearly half of young professionals experience burnout.

Kashmir sits within these trends, where uncertainty and ambition add to the pressure.

A culture built on patience now moves with constant speed. Many young people spend years preparing for the next step in life. Rest feels like something to earn instead of something that belongs to the day. Social anxiety grows silently, often seen in the need to stay busy and visible. Even simple moments turn into something to post and share.

Earlier ways of living left space for boredom, and that space often led to thought, connection, and creativity. Hearty conversations stretched without purpose, and time passed without pressure.

That way of living supported mental balance in ways modern routines find hard to match.

Ambition remains important in Kashmir, and discipline still defines its people. A life that keeps moving forward without break leaves little room to breathe, and that shows up in stress and emotional fatigue.

Late afternoons still show glimpses of another way of living. A group sitting by the water, a shared cup of tea, a relaxed conversation. Those moments point to a balance that once came naturally. Kashmir already knows how to return to it.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Wealth Blueprint

A clear path through shares, ETFs, gold, and REITs to help investors grow money with confidence.

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing can feel like a distant world, filled with complex terms and confusing charts. Understanding how to grow your money can transform financial security into a real possibility.

Shares offer a way to own a piece of a company you believe in. Dividends and growth over time reward patience and insight. ETFs, or exchange-traded funds, simplify diversification. With a single investment, you can spread risk across sectors and even across borders. Global ETFs open doors to international markets, letting Kashmiri investors tap into growth outside the local economy.

Gold and silver remain enduring stores of value. Investing in them through ETFs avoids the complications of physical storage while protecting against economic uncertainty. For those drawn to real estate, REITs provide a stake in property markets without managing buildings or tenants.

More advanced options like futures and options allow investors to plan around future asset prices, while expiry-day strategies can optimize returns with calculated risk. Commodities trading, company fixed deposits, and mutual funds offer additional layers of portfolio diversification, balancing potential growth with stability. Systematic investment and withdrawal plans help manage regular contributions or income, harnessing the power of compounding and providing steady support over time.

Kashmiri investors have a wide array of tools at their disposal. Each option carries its own balance of risk and reward. By understanding these choices and planning thoughtfully, building wealth becomes a deliberate and achievable journey, helping individuals secure their futures while contributing to the region's growing economic potential.

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

The White Coat Trap

A single exam has come to define success in the valley, crowding out talent, curiosity, and the freedom to choose.



Furqan Iqbal

A crisis grips Kashmir, unfolding inside homes and in long evenings of study, where teenagers absorb a dream before they understand it. One word defines this story: NEET.

Step back and consider the world young people inhabit today.

Career paths stretch in every direction, from technology and research to law, design, aviation, and public service. A teenager in Tokyo may build robots after school. A student in Berlin may train in a skilled craft. A young coder in Lagos may create tools used far beyond her city. Opportunity exists in many forms, driven by talent and curiosity.

Kashmir tells a different story. A single path dominates the imagination. A white coat stands as the ultimate goal, and every other ambition fades into the background.

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test serves as India's gateway to medical education. It remains one among many competitive exams, each opening a distinct path.

Engineering aspirants prepare for GATE, law students pursue CLAT, and civil service hopefuls take the UPSC route.

Each path demands effort and commitment. But Kashmir's social script elevates NEET above all others, turning one exam into a defining measure of worth.

Parents in the valley act from a place of concern defined by decades of uncertainty. Stability, respect, and financial security guide their choices for their children. Medicine appears to promise all three.

That instinct has sincerity, but the outcome reveals a different reality.

A hope for stability has hardened into a single expectation. Dinner table conversations shift early, coaching classes begin in adolescence, a plan becomes the only plan, and a child's voice grows faint over time.

Many young people begin with interests that feel alive and personal.

A student dreams of flying planes, another shows a sharp instinct for debate. A young writer fills pages with stories that draw readers in. A tinkerer spends hours taking apart machines and putting them back together.

These early passions often give way to years spent in coaching centers, working through mock tests for an exam that never aligned with their instincts.

Good intentions guide these decisions, though



Medicine stands as one of the most meaningful professions in any society. That meaning depends on choice. A doctor who enters the field through pressure may lack the commitment that patients deserve. Personal misalignment turns into a broader concern, touching the quality of care itself.

intention alone cannot guarantee a good outcome. "Doctor or disappointment" has become an unspoken verdict delivered far too early.

Real lives show the cost of this career trend and trajectory. Bilal from Srinagar spent four years attempting NEET after finishing school. Each year brought another attempt, another round of preparation, and another delay. Friends moved forward into careers and new cities. His eventual score fell short of a government seat, and private education remained out of reach. He now studies a subject he never cared for, while his interest in engineering has faded into something distant and uncertain.

Aasiya from Baramulla once saw biology as a window into the natural world. Research held her attention, and her academic record opened doors to strong science programs. Coaching replaced exploration at fifteen, and three years went into exam preparation. She later returned to a general science degree, though her earlier spark had dimmed.

Imran from Anantnag entered the process without a clear passion, which describes many teenagers. Space to explore might have led him toward a genuine interest. Structured preparation took over instead, and three attempts later, he stands without direction. A system meant to provide clarity left him with fewer answers than before.

An entire industry thrives on this demand. Coaching centers line the streets of Srinagar and district towns, promising success and rank lists. Families invest heavily, often stretching finances to secure what they believe is the best chance for their children.

Many students enter a cycle that extends through multiple attempts. Years pass, and peers in other fields gain experience and confidence. A sense of falling behind grows stronger with each passing season.

These years carry lasting importance. Ages fifteen to twenty mark the beginning of adult identity, when interests take root and direction becomes clearer. Total focus on a single exam can crowd out that process.

Anxiety and burnout among aspirants have become common experiences, visible in late-night study sessions where motivation feels forced rather than natural.

Social pressure deepens the burden. Academic performance often defines status, and a failed attempt can feel like a personal verdict. A more honest view sees it as information, pointing toward a different path that may suit a student better.

Medicine stands as one of the most meaningful professions in any society. That meaning depends on choice. A doctor who enters the field through pressure may lack the commitment that patients deserve. Personal misalignment turns into a broader concern, touching the quality of care itself.

Kashmir's history tells a richer story than this narrow focus suggests. The region has produced poets, scholars, and craftsmen whose work continues to inspire. Such a legacy supports a wide range of ambitions. Engineering can help rebuild infrastructure. Law can strengthen justice and rights. Research can address environmental and scientific questions unique to the region. Public service can bring local insight into governance. Each path demands dedication and can lead to a life of purpose when chosen freely.

This argument does not oppose NEET as an exam. It challenges the culture that elevates it above all else. Change must begin within families, where conversations about careers take shape early. Parents can ask what truly interests their children and listen closely to the answers. Schools can provide meaningful guidance that presents multiple options. Coaching centers can present realistic outcomes and encourage backup plans as a mark of practical thinking.

Kashmir has endured decades of difficulty with remarkable strength. That strength deserves direction toward futures that align with individual talent and interest. Many young people in the Valley possess the curiosity and ability to succeed in diverse fields. Some will choose medicine with full conviction, and they should receive full support. Others will find their place in different professions, and their choices deserve equal respect.

The problem lies in a culture that reduces success to a single outcome. A generation stands ready to contribute in many ways. It deserves the freedom to choose its own path and the support to pursue it with confidence.

The exam holds its place. The monoculture surrounding it demands change.

The author is an Ambassador SGD-6 and a civil service aspirant from Kashmir. He can be reached at furqanibaleco@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

The Language We Are Letting Die

Language carries memory. It shapes identity and turns emotion into expression. For Kashmiris, that language is Koshur, spoken for centuries across the valley.

It is inheritance that lives in lullabies, folk tales, and the verses of saints. But every day, fewer Kashmiris pass it on.

The Census of 2011 counted nearly 6.8 million Kashmiri speakers. The Constitution includes it in the Eighth Schedule. Its script even appears on Indian currency notes. On paper, the language holds recognition. Inside Kashmiri homes, however, the story is starkly different. Urdu and English dominate.

A recent study found that only two out of ten children in private schools speak Kashmiri fluently with their grandparents. In families that once prized the mother tongue, silence now fills the gap.

This erosion comes from our choices. Parents, convinced that Urdu or English signal upward mobility, abandon Kashmiri in their living rooms. Schools side-

line it in classrooms. The result is stigma.

Speaking Kashmiri now carries the false label of being less educated or less refined. The very people who inherited this language now look away from it.

History tells us another path. In the 14th century, when Persian ruled as the court's language, Sheikh ul Alam, the valley's most revered Sufi saint, wrote and preached in Kashmiri. His shruks, brief couplets of wisdom, elevated Koshur to a language of philosophy and faith. He made a deliberate choice: to speak to people in their mother tongue. His decision gave Kashmiri dignity and strength.

Today, the valley faces the opposite choice. If parents continue to prize English greetings over Kashmiri ones, and if schools treat Koshur as a token subject, the language will weaken into irrelevance. Once declared endangered, no official recognition can bring it back.

Preserving Kashmiri requires immediate action. Parents must speak it at home. Teachers must use it in classrooms. Private schools must stop treating it as an

elective. Artists and writers must create in Kashmiri, bringing the language into films, podcasts, and digital platforms. Each effort matters, because every word spoken keeps the language alive.

This is not about rejecting English or Urdu. Kashmir needs those languages to engage with the world. But no borrowed tongue can replace the intimacy of one's own.

Losing Kashmiri means losing the phrases that carried our ancestors' love, sorrow, humour, and wisdom. It means severing the soul's connection with its voice.

Sheikh ul Alam showed us that the mother tongue has the power to carry truth across centuries. The choice now rests with us.

If we speak Kashmiri, it survives. If we neglect it, we bury it.

Sincerely,

Basit Rasool Thokero
basitrasool765@gmail.com

Metal and Memory

Copper vessels once held Kashmir's rituals and routines, now endangered as artisans age and machine made imitations dominate consumer choices.

Tamana Jeelani

In Srinagar's Zaina Kadal, one shop still smells of charcoal, chalk, and cardamom. A family has worked this fire for three generations.

Outside, the world has turned fast and weightless. Inside, Mushtaq Ahmed listens to copper: heavy, slow, and stubbornly alive.

He is 63, born above the same copper shop he now runs. The room is gone. The river behind it still flows. His father's anvil still waits by the window.

"This is naqashi," he says, tapping a chisel against a polished surface. The sound is hollow, then firm. "We do it by hand, always have."

His hands bear fine scars, a record of all he's etched, carved, and shaped into permanence. The patterns are not random. They have roots in Persian design, Kashmiri nature, and memory: Flowers, vines, prayers.

Sometimes he adds a name, sometimes a date. The copper, he believes, remembers everything.

Long before machines hummed, Kashmir's copperware was functional art, a presence in every home. Families gathered around a trami to eat Wazwan, fingers brushing over the carved edge.

The samovar sat like an elder in the center of every winter morning, hissing out noon chai, green and salted.

Copper bowls cradled food, water, and ceremony. Even death had copper. The tasht-nari used to wash the deceased before burial.

They were the vessels of daily life, and held our routines, grief, and joy.

And they were heavy, both in mass and meaning.

For generations, the coppersmith community were the custodians of this craft. Their knowledge moved from wrist to wrist, across workshops.

A boy learned by sitting beside his father, watching the angle of his tools, the silence before each stroke. A real piece took days to make, sometimes longer.

Mushtaq still works like that. He refuses shortcuts. "If it's too clean, shiny, and fast," he says, "then it's fake."

He can feel the machine's lie in the metal. A handmade bowl has flaws: a line too thick, a swirl that veers. These are the human finger-



prints, the proof of presence.

And yet, the fakes are everywhere now.

Markets from Lal Chowk to Mumbai brim with factory-stamped copperware. They look close enough, with copied designs and traced patterns, but they lack depth.

Most come from Moradabad, mass-produced, hollow in body and soul. Some even carry forged "Kashmir Handicraft" labels. Tourists buy them. Even locals, pressed for cash or unaware of the difference, take them home.

"They sell faster because they're cheaper," Mushtaq says. "But what are they really buying?"

This flood of imitation has done more than confuse buyers. It has broken the chain.

When the market values speed over skill, fewer artisans remain. Fewer boys enter the trade. Apprenticeships shrink, workshops close, and with them, something ancient slips away.

"We are becoming fewer," Mushtaq says. "And older."

Some families still hold on. In the country-

side, copper vessels remain part of the dowry, wrapped in wool, packed like gold. In downtown Srinagar, old women polish their tramis on festive occasions, fingers moving as they did for their mothers.

There is still water drunk from copper cups. There are weddings where the samovar is placed in the center like a blessing.

And there is health, too, passed down from oral wisdom.

Copper is said to purify water, ease digestion, balance the body's energies. In homes across the valley, elders insist that copper cools the stomach and steadies the nerves. Science has confirmed some of it: copper kills bacteria and conducts healing.

Yet even this knowledge is thinning.

The challenge isn't only about protecting a product. It's about keeping a conversation alive, between generations, and between hands and memory.

For that, copper needs more than nostalgia. It needs investment, intention, and imagination.

Some steps have begun. Srinagar hosts an-

nual exhibitions where authentic copperware is placed beside carpets and Pashmina. NGOs have launched labeling campaigns to help buyers distinguish the genuine from the spurious.

Some schools have arranged field visits to copper workshops, letting students witness the slow pulse of handcraft. A few artisans have taken to Instagram, filming their chisels at work, reaching eyes in places they've never been.

But these are still scattered efforts. What's needed is a framework, a way to protect, promote, and pass on.

Artisan cooperatives could give collective strength. Certification systems could restore trust. Artist-in-residence programs and copper museum trails could turn artisans into teachers. Tourism can help too through real encounters. Let people walk into the workshop, touch the metal, smell the coal.

There is also hope beyond borders. The world is hungry for handmade, sustainable, heritage-rich objects. If properly branded and supported, Kashmiri copperware could find its



AT THE END OF THE DAY, A SAMOVAR IS NEVER JUST A SAMOVAR. It is history in hollow form. It holds the heat of a hundred winters, the sound of shared laughter, the smell of green tea poured in silence.

place on global tables, as art, utility, and story.

We've seen this happen before. Banarasi silk revived through storytelling. Pashmina saved through GI tags and ethical trade models. Kashmiri copper can follow the same arc, if its story is told with care.

The educator Aubaid Akhoo writes: "A legacy is a gift from our ancestors. It carries the pulse of tradition and values, which become our guide through modern life."

He calls for awareness, education, and inclusion to inspire new thinkers to reimagine heritage.

At the end of the day, a samovar is never just a samovar. It is history in hollow form. It holds the heat of a hundred winters, the sound of shared laughter, the smell of green tea poured in silence.

Mushtaq once carved his name into the base of a large serving bowl. He was 21. His father had died the year before.

"I wanted to leave something," he says. "So that someone, someday, might wonder who I was."

It's getting dark outside. He pauses, and then taps the copper bowl, just once.

The sound hums through the room. "It's still here," he says softly. "Still making its way back."

— The author is a student and heritage writer based in Srinagar. She can be reached at tamanajeelani85@gmail.com.

Men Who Don't Speak

Cultural expectations in Kashmir teach men to suppress emotions, leading to silent suffering, isolation, and a growing mental health crisis.

Sadam Bin Jameed

I grew up in Srinagar hearing the same words boys everywhere hear: "Be strong. Don't cry. Be a man."

At first, it felt like guidance, a way to survive in a world full of rules and expectations. Over time, it became a weight.

A silent, invisible weight that follows you into adulthood, shaping how you speak, laugh, and even breathe.

Men in Kashmir, including my friends, classmates, and neighbours, carry burdens no one asks about. There's the pressure to provide for the family, to perform at school or work, to protect loved ones from harm.

Fathers work long hours, often juggling multiple jobs, so the household runs smoothly. Sons push themselves to excel in exams, sports, or careers, trying not to disappoint their parents. And brothers act as anchors when the storms of life hit, silently taking on problems that never belong to them alone.

But rarely do we pause to ask how they are coping.

I've seen the subtle signs of men breaking silently in hallways of hospitals, on streets, and in classrooms. A long stare into nothingness, withdrawal from friends, late-night scrolling through old messages, laughter that seems a shade too loud.

These moments are expressions of the pain we teach men to bury.

Global reports show men are far more likely to die by suicide than women. This is reflected in the young Kashmiri men who juggle the expectations at home with dreams they cannot speak aloud. Society rewards endurance and strength while punishing vulnerability. We celebrate men as providers and protectors but rarely as humans who



Mental health conversations exist, but men are often left out. Campaigns speak of hope, hashtags spread awareness, but the young man who works three jobs or the student hiding tears behind textbooks rarely sees himself reflected.

need care, love, and understanding.

I know men cry. I've cried. We cry in showers, in dark rooms, through work, sarcasm, or anger. Our emotions don't disappear. They wear masks. Many of my peers carry these invisible scars, often alone.

I've watched friends joke through exhaustion, laugh off stress, and hide behind stoicism because we are told that showing emotion is weakness. We internalize these lessons, turning our hearts into vaults of un-

spoken pain.

The pressure can feel amplified in the valley. Political instability, economic uncertainty, and social expectations shape the environment in which men grow.

A young man might dream of leaving for higher education, but worry about supporting his family financially. A husband might feel exhausted from trying to be everything at home, while a father might carry generations of expectation on his shoulders.

Each silent struggle contributes to a pattern where men break alone, their pain invisible to those around them.

Mental health conversations exist, but men are often left out. Campaigns speak of hope, hashtags spread awareness, but the young man who works three jobs or the student hiding tears behind textbooks rarely sees himself reflected.

Husbands smile at dinner tables while carrying the weight of unspoken failures. Sons sit beside their mothers, longing to confess loneliness and fear but remembering the lessons of childhood: men must endure.

Real courage lies in facing these struggles, sharing them, and asking for help. Emotional health is not gendered. Pain does not discriminate between male or female. Permission to express it often does.

If you are a man reading this, your pain is valid. You don't have to carry it alone. Speak to someone: a friend, a family member, or a counselor. Let your words breathe. And if you love a man, including a father, brother, partner, and friend, look beyond the surface. Ask how he is doing, and listen. Your question could be the lifeline he needs.

Redefining manhood in Kashmir starts with permission: permission to feel, cry, break, and heal. The bravest thing a man can do is admit he is hurting and still choose to live. That honesty, finally, is strength. And when we allow that, we create a culture where men, too, can grow, recover, and live fully.

At the end of the day, strength is not silence. Strength is honesty. And in Kashmir, it is time for men to be heard.

— The author is a pre-final student at Government Medical College Srinagar and a youth mental health advocate.

Insect Brain Discovery Could Boost Faster, Efficient Ai And Robots

Press Trust Of India

The secret behind insects' lightning-fast reactions could offer a blueprint for more energy-efficient robots and self-driving cars, according to a new study challenging our understanding of how brains process information.

Published in Nature Communications, the University of Sheffield research shows that house flies and fruit flies do not process visual information passively, as previously believed. Rather than simply watching the world, insects twitch their bodies in sync with what they see. These tiny, jerky movements, such as rapid movements of the eyes called saccades, help their brains receive clearer, faster information about the world around them.

By studying flies' brains and eyes, observing their behaviour, and building digital simulations, researchers discovered a previously unknown 'turbo boost' feature called high-frequency jumping.

While nerves usually send information to the brain at a steady pace, this feature allows an insect's visual system to shift gears during fast movement - tripling the speed of data sent to the brain to effectively eliminate delays. This mechanism allows insects to react in milliseconds, sometimes even before visual signals have been fully delivered.

Beyond biology, the research has implications for artificial intelligence and robotics. Current AI systems often rely on large-scale computation and data processing, which can be slow, energy-intensive and expensive.

In contrast, insect brains achieve superior performance using minimal resources by tightly coupling sensing and action.

This suggests that future AI systems - particularly those used in robotics, autonomous vehicles and real-



time decision-making - could be revolutionised by adopting similar principles of movement-driven, adaptive information processing.

Professor Mikko Juusola, senior author of the study from the University of Sheffield's School of Biosciences and Neuroscience Institute, said: "Our findings reveal a fundamentally new way of thinking about how brains compute information - one where speed and efficiency emerge from active interaction with the environment. We've demonstrated how even the smallest brains can solve complex problems at extraordinary speeds."

"It shows that vision is not limited by the speed at which insect brains process information. Instead, the brain automatically speeds up to keep pace with the body, cutting out lag and making sure information flows as quickly as possible."

The study shows that when an insect makes a sharp turn, its brain 'jumps' into a higher gear. This opens up more room for data, allowing the insect to focus on the most important, fast-moving information.

The University of Sheffield's Dr Jouni Takalo, who led the development of the biophysically realistic statistical model underlying the work, said: "Our model shows how thousands of tiny sensors work together to reshape visual signals. By acting as a team, these sensors can instantly shift their focus to where it's needed most. This allows the

insect to produce fast, reliable reactions even when moving at high speeds in the wild."

Crucially, this mechanism enables insects to overcome physical and neural constraints that would otherwise limit their perception. This supports behaviours such as high-speed flight, predator avoidance and precise navigation in complex environments.

The findings challenge traditional models of neural processing, which assume that information flows through fixed pathways with built-in delays. Instead, the results support a new framework where sight is a collective effort between an insect's movement, its visual input and its brain's response.

The findings could revolutionise AI and robotics, suggesting that future robots can be smarter and more efficient by using movement to gather relevant information, rather than relying on huge, energy-hungry computer networks.

Professor Aurel A Lazar, co-author from Columbia University, New York, said: "Nature shows us that intelligence doesn't come from processing more data, but from processing the right data at the right time. By integrating movement directly into computation, biological systems achieve extraordinary efficiency."

"These principles could guide the design of faster, more robust and energy-efficient AI systems."



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India Tops Global Remittance List With \$137 Billion: UN

Press Trust Of India

UNITED NATIONS- India received more than 137 billion dollars in remittances in 2024, the top remittance recipient country in the world and the only nation to surpass 100 billion dollars, the UN agency on migration said.

"India consistently leads as the top recipient of remittances, followed by Mexico," the World Migration Report 2026, released by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Tuesday, said.

In 2024, India, Mexico, the Philippines and France were the top four remittance recipient countries globally.

"India, however, continued to be well above the rest, receiving more than USD 137 billion, and remained the only country to surpass USD 100 billion," the report said.

Since 2010, India has been the top remittance receiving country in the world, when it had received 53.48 billion dollars, which grew over the years to 68.91 billion dollars in 2015, 83.15 billion dollars in 2020 and 137.67 billion dollars in 2024.

The report said that the distribution of remittances varies across regions as well, with South Asia estimated to experience the highest growth in 2024 at 11.8 per cent, driven by continued strong inflows to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

High-income countries are almost always the main



source of international remittances. For decades, the United States of America has consistently been the top remittance-sending country in the world, with a total outflow surpassing USD 100 billion in 2024. It was followed by Saudi Arabia (over USD 46 billion), Switzerland (around USD 40 billion) and Germany (nearly USD 24 billion).

The report also said that countries in Asia continue to account for the largest share of internationally mobile students. In 2022, more than one million international students came from China, the single largest origin country worldwide. India ranked second, with over 620,000 students abroad.

Beyond these two leading countries, origin country numbers drop considerably: Uzbekistan (150,000), Viet Nam (134,000) and Germany (126,000) follow, while the United States, France, Nigeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and Nepal each had between 95,000 and 115,000 students studying abroad.

More than half of the world's internationally mobile students reside in countries in Europe and North America.

West Asia Conflict: Govt Unveils Credit Guarantee for MSMEs, Airlines

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday announced an Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) with an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore to provide relief for MSMEs and airlines impacted by the West Asia conflict.

The scheme -- expected to help in providing additional credit flow of Rs 2.55 lakh crore, including Rs 5,000 crore for airlines -- was approved by the Union Cabinet on Tuesday.

Briefing the media on the Cabinet decisions, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the ECLGS 5.0, having an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore, would help airlines as well as MSMEs impacted by the West Asia crisis.

"The scheme has been brought to address the stress in MSME and airline sectors due to the West Asia conflict," he said.

According to the minister, passenger airlines would be eligible for up to 100 per cent of peak credit up to Rs 1,500 crore while institutions can access up to 20 per cent of fund-based working capital up to Rs 100 crore.

In an official release, the government said the scheme aims to enable businesses to tide over the challenges arising from the West Asia conflict.

"Additionally, this is expected to help businesses maintain their operations, protect jobs, and sustain supply chains. The proposed credit guaran-



tee scheme is a major step to help businesses, particularly MSMEs and airline sector, to ensure their additional working capital needs are catered by the banks and financial institutions," it said.

By providing timely liquidity, the government said the scheme would sustain the businesses and prevent job losses. It will also promote uninterrupted domestic production and maintain the resilience of the ecosystem.

"The scheme aims to provide credit guarantee coverage of 100 per cent for MSMEs and 90 per cent for non-MSMEs as well as airline sector, to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) for the amount in default under the additional credit facility extended to the eligible borrowers to tide over any short-term liquidity mismatches in

view of West Asia crisis," the release said.

There will be conditions for availing the loans. The tenor for the airline sector would be seven years from the date of first disbursement, including a moratorium of two years, and for MSMEs and non-MSMEs, it would be five years from the date of first disbursement, including one year of moratorium.

The scheme would be applicable to all loans sanctioned during the period from the date of issue of these guidelines by NCGTC up to March 31, 2027.

MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) as well as airlines have facing substantial financial headwinds due to the West Asia conflict that started in February.

ECLGS was first launched in May 2020 to mitigate economic distress during the coronavirus pandemic.

Silver Surges To ₹2.51 Lakh/kg On Geopolitical Risks

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Silver prices climbed Rs 1,500 to Rs 2.51 lakh per kilogram in the national capital on Tuesday, tracking a firm trend in global markets as geopolitical tensions in West Asia kept the commodity sentiment supported.

The white metal had closed at Rs 2,49,500 per kg in the previous session.

However, gold of 99.9 per cent purity fell Rs 300 to Rs 1,52,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The yellow metal had finished at Rs 1,52,800 per 10 grams on Monday.

"Gold continued to face pressure on Tuesday as investors responded to escalating tensions in the Middle East and their implications for the overall macroeconomic outlook," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

The fragile security situation around the Strait of Hormuz, including reported missile strikes and competing claims of control, has reinforced concerns over energy-led inflation and a prolonged period of tighter monetary policy by central banks, he added.

"With the conflict now in its tenth week, in response to changing macroeconomic conditions, investors have increasingly turned to the US dollar and Treasury yields as their preferred safe-haven assets while remaining sidelined by gold, which adds to the downward



pressure on precious metals," Gandhi said.

In the international market, spot silver gained 1.08 per cent to USD 73.51 per ounce while gold was trading marginally higher at USD 4,549.57 per ounce.

Spot gold hovered near USD 4,550 per ounce as crude prices eased on expectations of American military escorts for commercial vessels, though the pullback in oil is likely to be temporary, Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said.

Meanwhile, upside in gold may remain limited as investors have largely priced out interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve, with the possibility of further tightening gaining traction, he added.

Renewed flare-ups in the region, including missile interceptions by the United Arab Emirates, have weakened confidence in the four-week ceasefire efforts, said Renisha Chainani, Head - Research at Augmont, adding that higher crude oil prices and global bond yields are expected due to tighter monetary policy ahead.

SEBI Cautions Markets Over AI Tools Like Mythos, Forms Task Force

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday issued an advisory cautioning regulated entities against emerging risks from advanced artificial intelligence (AI) tools used for vulnerability detection, including Anthropic's AI model Mythos.

To address these concerns, Sebi has constituted a task force named cyber-suraaksha.ai, comprising representatives from market infrastructure institutions (MIs), qualified registrar and transfer agents (QRTAs), regulated entities and other stakeholders.

In a circular, Sebi said the rapid evolution of AI-driven tools capable of identifying system vulnerabilities at scale could expose financial institutions to heightened cybersecurity risks, including potential exploitation of weaknesses, data confidentiality concerns and issues related to the reliability of outputs.

"Due to the interconnectedness and interdependency of market participants in the securities market ecosystem, a



periodic coordinated approach for vulnerability management, information sharing and monitoring/assessment is required to prevent a cascading impact," Sebi said.

The task force will examine cybersecurity risks arising from AI-based models, develop mitigation strategies, facilitate sharing of threat intelligence and best practices, and ensure timely reporting of cyber incidents and vulnerabilities, the regulator added.

The task force will also review the cybersecurity posture of third-party service providers and vendors.

The regulator said a meeting of the task force has already been held to assess risks posed by AI platforms like Mythos

and to discuss mitigation measures.

Based on these deliberations, Sebi has issued a detailed advisory outlining steps for strengthening cybersecurity frameworks.

These include regular vulnerability assessments using both conventional and AI-based tools, timely patching of systems, enhanced monitoring through security operations centres, strengthening API security, periodic risk assessments and adoption of measures, such as zero-trust architecture, to minimise attack surfaces.

Sebi has also asked market participants to closely coordinate with third-party vendors to ensure the timely deployment of security updates and undertake comprehensive risk assessments related to AI-led systems.

The regulator further directed eligible entities to onboard the Market Security Operations Centre (M-SOC) set up by exchanges for real-time monitoring and threat detection, in view of the rising risks from AI-driven cyber threats.

'India Smartphone Supplies To Decline 10-12 Pc In 2026, Vivo Tops Q1 Chart'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- India smartphone shipments are expected to decline 10-12 per cent this year due to rise in memory cost driving up prices, market research firm CMR said in a report on Tuesday.

According to the CMR India Mobile Handset Market Review Report, the country's smartphone market recorded a decline of 2 per cent in shipment on a year-on-year (YoY) basis due to a sharp rise in DRAM and NAND flash prices, which pushed up device costs and forced brands to increase pricing -- leading price-sensitive consumers to defer upgrades.

CyberMedia Research (CMR), VP-Industry Research Group, Prabhu Ram said India's 2026 smartphone market decline reflects a mix of structural cost pressures and cautious demand.

"Elevated DRAM and NAND prices have raised device costs, squeezing affordability in mass segments, while the premium end remains relatively insulated. At the same time, channel inventory corrections and more value-conscious consumers are extending upgrade cycles. Together, these factors are driving near-term volume pressure -- especially in the affordable and value-for-money tiers -- resulting in the projected 10-12



per cent decline in 2026," he said.

Apple shipments in India increased 6 per cent YoY and 9 per cent market share during the reported quarter.

Surprisingly, Apple shipments were driven by demand for iPhone 16 during the reported quarter.

"Apple reached 9 per cent shipment share in Q1 2026. The iPhone 16 series contributed 53 per cent of volumes, while the newly launched iPhone 17 series captured 28 per cent share -- a healthy upgrade cycle that validates the premium segment's relative insulation from memory-driven pricing stress," the report said.

The CyberMedia Research report estimates that shipment of only Vivo and Oppo grew in the first quarter (Q1) of 2026 by 1 per cent and 12 per cent respectively among top-five brands while Samsung, Xiaomi and Realme recorded decline in supplies by 8 per cent, 7 per cent, and 12 per cent, respectively, on YoY basis.

Rupee Rises 5 Paise To Close At 95.18 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The rupee recovered from all-time intra-day low to settle at 95.18 against the US dollar, higher by 5 paise, on Tuesday on possible RBI intervention after investors retreated from riskier assets amid renewed clashes in the Gulf and targeting of UAE infrastructure, which reignited supply chain fears.

Forex traders said Brent oil, hovering near USD 110 per barrel, is maintaining pressure on oil-importing economies like India. Moreover, factors such as unabated foreign capital outflows amid rising geopolitical uncertainties dented investor sentiments further.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.30 against the US dollar, then lost ground and touched an all-time low of 95.44 in intra-day trade. The rupee finally settled for the day at 95.18, registering a rise of 5 paise over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee fell 39 paise to close at an all-time low of 95.23 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on rising global crude oil prices as the Strait of Hormuz continues to remain closed. Dollar demand from importers and ongoing geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran may also pressure the rupee.

"However, RBI intervention may support the rupee at lower levels. US-DINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 95.10 to 95.55," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

"The rupee's fresh all-time (intra-day) low... is a direct reflection of the unrelenting pressure from West Asia. Hormuz remains the single biggest factor governing oil and gas prices, and elevated crude is exerting a dual squeeze on the rupee," Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities, said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.47, up 0.10 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.57 per cent at USD 112.64 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 251.61 points to settle at 77,017.79, while the Nifty fell 86.50 points to 24,032.80.

Foreign Institutional Investors sold equities worth Rs 3,621.58 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday strongly condemned the attacks on the United Arab Emirates' port city of Fujairah that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals.

RBI Tells SC: UDGAM Portal Aids Search For Unclaimed Deposits

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that the Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access Information (UDGAM) portal facilitates the registered user to search unclaimed deposits across multiple banks.

The submissions were made before a bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi which was hearing a plea filed by journalist Sucheta Dalal seeking a direction to set up a mechanism to inform the legal heirs of deceased depositors about the unclaimed deposits lying dormant in bank accounts.

The counsel appearing for the RBI informed the bench that around 44 lakh searches have been made on UDGAM, which is an interactive portal.

Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for the petitioner, said the issue is how does the legal heirs of deceased depositors find out about the unclaimed deposits lying in bank accounts.

He argued while the RBI has said that they have asked all the banks to put the details on the UDGAM portal, deposits were also being made in post offices and insurance.

"Nothing has been done to integrate them," Bhusan said, adding that the mechanism should be such that legal heirs can find out all these details in one search.

The counsel representing the



Centre told the bench that they have prepared an updated affidavit which would be filed in the court.

The bench asked the Centre to file the updated affidavit giving the relevant details within a week and posted the matter for hearing on May 19.

While hearing the plea on March 17, the top court asked the Centre and the RBI why details of bank accounts of deceased persons could not be disclosed to heirs, and said the government must come up with a policy on the issue.

Bhusan had argued that the RBI had also recommended the need to have a "centralised and searchable database" so that people can trace the accounts of their deceased parents.

Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman, appearing for the Centre, had said if a genuine heir comes forward, the amount was refunded to them from the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund.

The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund, established by the RBI in 2014, holds unclaimed deposits from commercial and co-operative banks.

Stock Market Falls Amid Rising Global Concerns

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure on Tuesday as fresh tensions flared in the Strait of Hormuz region and the ceasefire between the US and Iran came under strain.

Rupee hitting a record low against the US dollar amid elevated crude prices also made investors cautious.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 251.61 points, or 0.33 per cent, to settle at 77,017.79. During the day, it tanked 754.37 points, or 0.97 per cent, to 76,515.03.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged lower by 86.50 points, or 0.36 per cent, to end at 24,032.80.

"Domestic equities witnessed a volatile session, closing lower as post-election optimism faded and sentiment re-aligned with global weakness amid rising geopolitical tensions.

"Elevated crude prices continued to pressure the rupee, which slipped to record lows. Despite these headwinds, the ongoing earnings season, with results slightly ahead of expectations, provided some support and triggered selective bottom-fishing," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.



From the Sensex firms, ICICI Bank, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel and Larsen & Toubro were among the major laggards.

On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance were top gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE MidCap Select index dipped 0.12 per cent, while the SmallCap Select index went up marginally by 0.14 per cent.

Sectorally, Realty dropped 1.38 per cent, Top 10 Banks (0.79 per cent), Services (0.63 per cent), Consumer Durables (0.62 per cent), Private Banks (0.60 per cent) and Bankex (0.58 per cent).

In contrast, Power, FMCG, Commodities, Healthcare, IT, Telecommunication, Utilities, Auto, Capital Goods, Focused IT and MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt were the gainers.

Cabinet Approves Rs 5,659 Crore For Five-Year Mission To Increase Cotton Crop Yield

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government on Tuesday announced a five-year mission to increase the productivity of the cotton crop with an outlay of Rs 5,659.22 crore.

According to an official statement, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved "Rs 5659.22 crore for Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026-27 to 2030-31) to address bottlenecks, declining growth, and quality concerns in India's cotton sector."

India's cotton production stood at 291 lakh bales of 170 kg each during the 2025-26 crop year (July-June), according to the government's latest estimate.

The mission aligns with the '5F vision' (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign), and would focus on enhancing cotton productivity, the statement added.

The cotton yield will be improved through the development of high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds resistant to disease and pests, scaling up of existing and latest crop production technologies through state governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs).

There would be large-scale promotion and adoption of the latest

crop production technologies. The mission seeks to ensure a least contaminant cotton supply to the industry and promote high-quality cotton exports.

"The Mission envisages to accomplish the production of 498 lakh bales (170 kg lint each) of cotton by enhancing lint productivity from 440 kg/hectares to 755 kg/hectares by 2031," the statement said.

About 32 lakh farmers will benefit, leading to self-reliance.

The Mission, which was announced in the FY26 annual budget, will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Textiles, involving 10 institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), one institute of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and 10 centres of All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRPs) on cotton operating in different state agricultural universities (SAUs) of major cotton-growing states.

Initially, 140 districts will be focused in 14 states through the state department of agriculture and ICAR for upscaling technologies and 2000 spinning/processing factories.

Elaborating more, the government said this mission would prove to be a "milestone in making the country self-reliant in cotton sector".

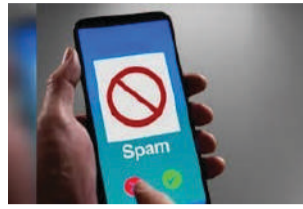
India Among World's Most Spam-Affected Nations, Ranks Fifth Globally: Truecaller Report

Press Trust Of India

Bangalore: India ranks as the fifth most spammed country in the world, according to the latest data released by Truecaller. Indonesia tops the list, followed by Chile, Vietnam, and Brazil.

Indonesia topped the global list of the most spam-affected nations, followed by Chile, Vietnam, and Brazil.

The insights, based on



anonymised and aggregated data from Truecaller's global user base of 500 million, revealed that the platform identified more than 68 billion

spam and fraud calls worldwide in 2025.

In India, which recorded a spam intensity of 66 per cent, the nature of unwanted calls showed a strong commercial bias.

Sales and telemarketing calls accounted for the highest share at 36 per cent, followed by financial services at 18 per cent. Scams contributed 12 per cent of all spam activity in the country.

BJP, TMC Worker Killed In Post-poll Violence In West Bengal

Press Trust Of India

Kolkata: A BJP and a Trinamool Congress worker were killed in separate incidents of post-poll violence in West Bengal on Tuesday, police said.

BJP worker Madhu Mondal died after being allegedly beaten up by TMC workers during a victory procession in the New Town area on Tuesday evening. TMC worker Abir Sheikh was hacked to death allegedly by BJP activists at Naoor in Birbhum earlier in the day, police said.

In New Town, Mondal was thrashed, allegedly by TMC workers following an argument, as a victory procession of the BJP was passing by in Bhalliguri area, a senior police officer said.

He was taken to hospital and declared brought dead, prompting attacks by BJP activists on residences of TMC workers in the area and a road blockade later on. The Central forces had to be deployed to bring normalcy, the officer said.

Earlier in the day, Sheikh was hacked to death in a clash in the Naoor area.

A senior police officer said Sheikh, TMC's Naoor Anchal Committee member, was hacked to death during an argument with "another group", at Santoshpur village under Naoor.

Sheikh died on the spot while another person, whose identity

was not known, was injured, he said, adding police reinforcements were rushed to the area where tension prevailed.

The TMC MLA-elect from Naoor, Bidhan Majhi, claimed that Sheikh was an active member of the party and was killed by BJP goons in the area.

However, BJP leader Shyamapada Mondal said none of their party members was involved in the attack and police should undertake a free and fair investigation to find out the accused.

TMC MP Sagarika Ghosh also shared a video of the body with a caption "horrifying, chilling". In a post on X, Ghosh said, "TMC worker killed in widespread violence".

The TMC said in its official X handle, "brutal murder of our party worker in Birbhum's Naoor. Modi's idea of poriborton begins. Deceased name Abir SK." The party in another post claimed an old woman was brutally attacked by BJP workers in Alipurduar town. "She has sustained multiple injuries on head too," the TMC said, attaching a purported image of the woman.

PTI, however, could not independently verify the authenticity of the video.

In earlier incidents of arson, the election office of TMC candidate and former minister Aroop Biswas was vandalised by

a mob at Bijoygarh-Netajinagar area of Tollygunje. Some among the crowd were seen kicking the broken hoarding before leaving.

At Ruby Crossing, Kasba, the office of TMC councillor Sushanta Ghosh was rampaged by a crowd holding BJP flags.

In Panihati Assembly constituency, where the RG Kar Hospital rape-murder victim's mother, Ratna Debnath, trounced TMC's Tirthankar Ghosh by 28,836 votes, an office of the Mamata Banerjee-led party changed hands overnight as a mob vandalised the room and tore down posters and hoardings.

"Their goons led a violent attack on our party office in Murshidabad. Vandalism and chaos -- this is the real face of the BJP. This marks the BJP's descent into gutter politics," it said.

Alleging that its candidate at Udaynarayanpur in Howrah was assaulted, the party said, "Brutal attack on our candidate Samir Panja was a testament to their violent mindset. This is not democracy; this is sheer thuggery."

TMC candidate in north Kolkata's Manikata, Shreya Pande, shared on social media a clip of a middle-aged party leader with his shirt soaked in blood and alleged that the man was her election agent who was beaten up by BJP workers

after the counting of votes.

She lost to the BJP's Tapas Roy by a margin of 15,644 votes.

The TMC posted on social media a video purportedly showing its party office in Siliguri being set ablaze. PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the footage.

Condemning the incidents, TMC posted on X to say, "The BJP has shown its true colours right after coming to power." An Election Commission official said strict action will be taken against those involved in the rampage and assault, and reports have been sought from the local police to initiate follow-up action.

BJP Leader Rahul Sinha, however, rejected the charge that any of his party's workers were involved in vandalism, saying it might be the handiwork of rival factions within the TMC, who were letting out their frustration at party leaders following the election results.

Sinha condemned the violence, but said that it "cannot be matched with the 2021 situation when our office bearers were attacked by TMC immediately after the counting and several party offices were set on fire, with the state police not taking action".

"This time, however, police and central security forces were taking prompt action," he said.

J&K Govt Orders Reshuffle In PDD

AGENCIES

Srinagar: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has ordered a significant reshuffle in the Power Development Department (PDD), transferring and posting multiple engineers across various divisions with immediate effect.

According to Government Order No. 111-JK(PDD) of 2026 dated May 05, the decision has been taken in the interest of administration to ensure smooth and efficient functioning of official work.

As per the order, several Executive Engineers, Assistant

Executive Engineers (AEs), and Assistant Engineers (AEs) have been transferred or assigned additional charges in different wings of KPDC, JPDC, and JKPTCL. Among the key changes, Mudasar Amin Baqal has been posted to S&O Division JKPTCL Kashmir, while Tassaduq Nabi Chowdhary has been assigned additional charge of Executive Engineer IT&C Division KPDC. Hamidullah Thokar and Umer Majid Kamli have also been given new postings with added responsibilities.

In addition, several AEs including Ghulam Qadir Mir, Nazir Ahmad, Irfana Chicken,

and others have been shifted across various divisions in Kashmir and Jammu regions. Some officers have been deputed, while others have been adjusted against available vacancies in different units.

The order further states that all concerned engineers shall be deemed relieved from their previous postings and are directed to assume their new assignments immediately.

The reshuffle is part of the government's ongoing efforts to streamline operations and improve efficiency within the Power Development Department (KNC)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Vande Bharat Sees

said, reflects growing trust in faster, more comfortable rail connectivity in the region.

What stands out is the sharp rise in demand within days of its introduction. On May 4, the service operated at about 82 per cent occupancy, with nearly 4,680 passengers travelling across two pairs of trains. A day later, the numbers surged, with occupancy touching 96 per cent when only a single pair of trains was operational under the weekly schedule. Around 2,744 passengers travelled in each direction on May 5.

Officials attribute the growing foothold to a mix of factors, including the ongoing tourist season and the appeal of a modern travel experience. The train's speed, premium onboard services and improved ride quality appear to be drawing both tourists and pilgrims away from conventional options.

Passengers have particularly appreciated the smooth, jerk-free ride along the region's winding terrain, along with upgraded seating and onboard catering services. For many, the journey itself has become part of the attraction.

Railway authorities in the Jammu division have been carrying out regular inspections to ensure that service standards are maintained as demand rises. The focus, officials said, remains on delivering a consistent and reliable experience.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said the strong start is indicative of the broader transformation underway in Indian Railways.

"The surge in occupancy from 82 to 96 per cent within two days is a matter of immense pride. We are glad that passengers are satisfied and are considering this train a reliable travel option," he said.

He added that passenger feedback is being closely monitored to further refine services. With the tourism season picking up pace, officials expect the Vande Bharat Express to operate at near full capacity in the coming days, reinforcing its place as a key link in the region's evolving transport landscape.

India Describes

"The attack on Fujairah that resulted in injury to three Indian nationals is unacceptable," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "We call for immediate cessation of these hostilities and the targeting of civilian infrastructure and innocent civilians."

Reiterating India's position, Jaiswal said New Delhi continues to advocate dialogue and diplomacy to ease tensions and restore stability across West Asia.

"We also call for free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the Strait of Hormuz in keeping with international law. India stands ready to support all efforts for a peaceful resolution," he added.

The incident comes amid renewed strain in the fragile ceasefire dynamics between the United States and Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy corridor through which nearly one-fifth of the world's oil and gas supplies transit.

Shipping through the narrow Gulf waterway has been disrupted in recent days, pushing up global oil prices and triggering supply concerns in multiple countries.

On Monday, the UAE defence ministry said its air defence systems intercepted 12 ballistic missiles, three cruise missiles and four drones allegedly launched from Iran, asserting that it remains fully prepared to counter any threats to national security.

Silence Won't

abuse and connect affected families with support systems.

"Our aim is to create a voluntary network that can intervene early, support families and prevent addiction from taking deeper roots,"

he said.

Calling upon the people of Budgam to take collective responsibility, the Lieutenant Governor said the district must stand firmly against what he described as a "poison destroying the souls of our youth."

"I believe that every young person lost to addiction is a loss of strength for our future workforce and a lost soldier for our police and army. Every family broken by addiction is a crack in the foundation of our society," he said.

Emphasising a compassionate approach, the Lieutenant Governor urged society to shed stigma around addiction and treat affected individuals with care rather than condemnation. "In this war against drugs, we must accept that many of our boys and girls are in the grip of narcotics. They are not criminals, they are victims. They need our embrace, care and compassion," he said, adding that silence within families must end if the crisis is to be addressed effectively.

He also flagged the wider implications of drug abuse, describing it not only as a public health concern but also a matter of national security. According to him, drug trafficking networks are closely linked to terror funding and radicalisation.

"The drugs entering our society are hollowing out the aspirations of our youth. At the same time, this trade is funding terrorism. These are not separate issues but two sides of the same threat," he said.

Referring to the ongoing Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir campaign, launched on April 11, the Lieutenant Governor said the initiative had entered a crucial phase, with 76 days remaining in its 100-day timeline.

He directed police and enforcement agencies to intensify their crackdown, stating that every police station in the Kashmir Valley has been tasked with identifying active smugglers and peddlers and taking decisive action within 30 days.

"We are monitoring financial transactions linked to drug cartels. Action will not be limited to small peddlers; major smugglers will be targeted. The palaces built with drug money will be razed," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also urged citizens to act as the "eyes and ears" of the administration by reporting suspicious activities, assuring that strict accountability would follow.

"I want to make it clear to those involved in narco-terror networks that their time is up. Our agencies know who you are, and action will follow," he said.

Reiterating that a united social response is critical, he expressed confidence that Budgam would lead by example in carrying forward the anti-drug campaign with collective resolve.

542 NDPS Cases,

and rehabilitation measures to curb substance abuse in the region.

The meeting was informed that 10,956 NDPS cases are currently pending across various courts, including 6,156 cases in five Special NDPS Courts, highlighting the need for expeditious disposal. In 2025, 1,991 cases were instituted while only 483 were disposed of, officials said.

Further, prosecution had challenged 91 bail orders in 2025 and 57 so far in 2026, while conviction figures stood at 135 in 2024, 140 in 2025 and 23 in 2026 till date.

Officials also noted that in 24 cases, backward and forward linkages were successfully established, leading to attachment of properties worth 53.77 lakh and freezing of bank accounts amounting to 22.63 lakh. Non-kinetic actions included recommendations for cancellation of 489 driving licences and suspension of 700 vehicle registrations between January and March this year.

The meeting was attended by senior civil and police officers, including the Director General of Police, Director General Prosecution, Principal

Secretary Home, Administrative Secretaries and Divisional Commissioners, while Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from all districts participated through video conferencing.

Reviewing the enforcement landscape, officials noted a rise in cases involving commercial quantities of drugs, with 31 such cases registered this year compared to 19 during the corresponding period last year. Details of major seizures linked to interstate drug cartels were also presented.

Chairing the deliberations, Dulloo stressed the need to plug procedural gaps in NDPS cases and strengthen the legal framework to ensure higher conviction rates. He directed the Law Department to explore the feasibility of recording statements of in-service witnesses through video conferencing, particularly when officials are transferred, to prevent delays in trials.

Calling for greater accountability, he sought a thorough analysis of acquittals and fixing of responsibility where investigative or procedural lapses are found. He also emphasized the importance of probing both backward and forward linkages in drug trafficking networks and actively challenging bail orders to enhance deterrence.

Advocating a broader enforcement strategy, the Chief Secretary underlined the use of non-kinetic measures, including cancellation of driving licences, passports and vehicle registrations of offenders, besides scrutiny of financial transactions to curb illicit proceeds.

On the rehabilitation front, he stressed capacity building and directed for training of counsellors across schools, colleges, primary health centres and at the block level through Self-Help Groups. He also asked the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) to create a pool of master trainers, ensuring at least three to four trained resource persons in each district with periodic refresher courses.

The Chief Secretary directed Deputy Commissioners to ensure full functionality of inpatient facilities in drug de-addiction centres across district hospitals and asked the Health Department to maintain adequate availability of essential medicines.

He reiterated the need for coordinated efforts across departments to strengthen enforcement, improve rehabilitation services and ensure speedy disposal of cases to create an effective deterrent against drug trafficking and abuse in the Union Territory.

HC Quashes PSA

appropriate orders thereon," a bench of Justice M. A. Chowdhary said while quashing PSA detention order against Tariq Ahmad Rah (35), a resident of Gundnowroz, Bijbehara in Anantnag district.

"There should be no slackness, indifference and callous attitude in consideration of the representation of a person who is detained," the court said, underlining that even unexplained delay would render the continued detention of the detainee as illegal.

"Every day delay in dealing with the representation has to be explained and the explanation offered must be reasonably indicating that there was no slackness or indifference."

The court observed that although the detainee had submitted a representation against his detention in June 2025 to both the Government and the District Magistrate Anantnag, the same was not considered.

This, the court held, amounted to a clear violation of Article 22(5) of the Constitution.

The detention order, issued on 16 May 16, under Section 8 of the J&K Public Safety Act, had been based primarily on two FIRs registered at Police Station Bijbehara involving allegations of cheating. The court found that apart from these cases, no substantive material or specific activities prejudicial to public order were cited.

Accordingly, the High Court quashed the detention order and directed that Rah be released forthwith, provided he is not required in any other pending criminal case.

Translate Announcements

coordinated action, strict adherence to timelines, and efficient service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar and Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; besides senior officers from key departments including Finance, Jal Shakti, Public Works and Planning.

At the outset, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Shailendra Kumar briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of Budget announcements across departments, outlining implementation status under different grants. Administrative Secretaries presented department-wise updates, highlighting achievements so far and measures taken to operationalise Budget provisions.

Departments reviewed during the meeting included General Administration, Planning, Development & Monitoring, Information, Science & Technology, Power Development, School Education, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Finance, Agriculture Production, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Culture, Public Works, Jal Shakti, and Housing & Urban Development.

During the deliberations, the Chief Minister issued a series of directions aimed at accelerating execution, improving inter-departmental coordination and removing procedural bottlenecks. He emphasized that delays would not be tolerated and called for regular monitoring mechanisms to track progress.

"Budget announcements must not remain on paper. They should be translated into visible, measurable outcomes for the people," he said, stressing efficiency, transparency and accountability in governance.

He also highlighted the importance of equitable development across regions, directing departments to ensure balanced allocation of resources and inclusive implementation of welfare schemes.

Reiterating the government's commitment to development and good governance, the Chief Minister asked all departments to intensify efforts and ensure that benefits under various Budget provisions reach the public in a timely manner.

J&K Bank Posts

1.37%. Cost to Income ratio of the Bank also improved for the fourth year running, being recorded at 56.18% for the year. The Bank's Return on Equity (RoE) was recorded at 16.85% for the FY 25-26.

Affected by the reduction in repo rates by the regulator, the Bank's net interest income for the financial year grew marginally to Rs 5875.77 Cr.

Commenting on the growth numbers, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Even against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties and a demanding local environment, the Bank delivered record profits for the fourth consecutive year - alongside sustained improvement in asset quality and strong capital adequacy - underscoring its resilience and disciplined execution. Significantly, the Bank has also been able to rationalize its operating expenses even as the business scales up, thereby enhancing operational efficiency and strengthening overall productivity."

"With historic profits of Rs 2363.47 Cr, a GNPA at 2.5%, PCR exceeding 90% and CRAR over 16.50%, our Bank stands well-positioned to accelerate the next phase of growth journey. This remarkable performance is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the unwavering

trust of our customers, and the steadfast support of our promoters - Governments of J&K and Ladakh", MD & CEO added.

Regarding the muted growth in overall earnings of the Bank, MD & CEO said, "Despite healthy growth in our loan book, the increase in interest income was relatively muted. This was largely on account of the cumulative 125 basis points reduction in policy rates by the Reserve Bank of India during the calendar year 2025, which resulted in lower lending rates across our repo- and MCLR-linked portfolios, impacting overall earnings. Additionally, intense competition among the banks for deposit mobilization exerted pressure on funding costs, further moderating the growth in net interest income."

Business Growth

Sustaining its healthy growth trajectory during FY 2025-26, the Bank's total business surged 13.61% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 290341 Cr as on March 31, 2026. Total deposits were up 11.30% YoY to Rs 165354 Cr, while net advances expanded sharply by 18% YoY to Rs 122641 Cr from Rs 104198 Cr recorded last year.

CASA deposits also grew steadily by 8.07% YoY to Rs 75478 Cr, with CASA Ratio increasing to 45.65% from 44.10% recorded last quarter.

In his remarks on the business growth and outlook, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Our performance for the year reflects the strength of our fundamentals and the consistency in our execution strategy. We have been able to scale our advances book at a healthy pace while maintaining stability in our liability franchise, which remains central to our growth approach."

"Going forward, we remain focused on leveraging emerging opportunities across geographies in rest of the country while deepening our presence in core markets of J&K and Ladakh. The strategic thrust continues to be on expanding retail lending, supporting MSMEs and enhancing credit flow to the agriculture sector," he added.

Asset Quality

The Bank's Gross NPA ratio declined sharply by 50 bps QoQ to 2.5% from 3% and 87 bps YoY from 3.37% recorded a year ago, while the Net NPA ratio stood at 0.64%. The Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) also remains strong at over 90%, underscoring the Bank's focus on prudential provisioning.

Commenting upon the improved asset-quality, MD & CEO said, "Our consistent improvement in asset quality reflects the discipline embedded in our credit processes and the robustness of our risk management framework. We remain committed to improving our asset quality while we support business growth."

Capital Adequacy: The Bank's CRAR stood at 16.55% as on March 31, 2026. "While the Bank continues to maintain a comfortable capital position, however in view of the ECL implementation with effect from 1st April 2027, the Bank will consider raising capital during the current year," MD stated.

Corporate Social Responsibility In his special mention on the Bank's CSR Program, MD & CEO said, "This time, our CSR program merits a special recognition. Over the past three financial years, the Bank has deployed close to Rs 100 Cr (Rs 96 Cr) towards effective interventions across healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, skill enhancement, and community development - touching lives and creating meaningful impact in line with our larger commitment to contribute towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

In his concluding remarks, MD & CEO thanked all the stakeholders including customers, promoters and shareholders for their continued trust and support. "The trust and confidence of our stakeholders continue to inspire us as we are on course to accelerate the next phase of our growth journey with renewed focus and commitment", he said.

Rohit, Ricketon Lead MI to Six-Wicket Win Over LSG

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Rohit Sharma (84) made a gratifying return from an injury-enforced layoff and Ryan Rickelton (83) gave another account of his hitting prowess as Mumbai Indians crushed Lucknow Super Giants by six wickets in their Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

Openers Rohit and Rickelton put on their third century partnership in the IPL -- this time 143 runs -- and laid the foundation for the much-needed win. MI overhauled LSG's 228/5 with 229/4 in 18.4 overs.

The win swelled MI's tally to six from 10 matches and stayed afloat in the IPL but LSG, who have just 4 points from 9 matches to be placed 10th, are now dangerously close to getting knocked out of the race to playoffs.

After Nicholas Pooran made the most of some ordinary bowling from MI with a 21-ball 63, Rohit and Rickelton made merry during their 65-ball stand.

The former Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit had missed five matches due to a hamstring injury which he sustained while batting against Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on April 12. But the 39-year-old showed

no discomfort while clobbering seven sixes and six fours during his 44-ball knock, and Rickelton continued his rich vein of form with commanding stroke play around the park.

But Rickelton fell to Mohsin Khan in the 11th over, playing one straight to cover after a two towering sixes previously.

Rohit looked set for his third IPL ton but he top-edged impact sub Manimaran Siddharth (2/47) to be caught at short fine leg in the 14th over.

Tilak Varma (11) failed to make a dent, while MI stand-in skipper Suryakumar Yadav (12) was once again caught near the ropes, instilling some nerves in the hosts.

But Naman Dhir (23 not out) and Will Jacks (10 not out) completed the task.

In the Power Play, MI weren't off to a flier but 50 odd runs came off in first five overs. The hosts found the launchpad in the sixth when Avesh Khan was pulverised for 21 runs by Rohit.

The LSG seamer constantly missed his lengths and Rohit followed a couple of fours with as many sixes.

Rickelton, who began with a six off Mohsin over deep square leg, lit up the chase with compelling shot-making against pace and spin alike.



Earlier, Lucknow Super Giants rode on a whirlwind 20-ball 63 from Pooran to survive a mid-inning slowdown and post a par 228 for five.

Pooran cashed in on poor line and lengths from MI bowlers to pepper the on-side with

eight sixes and a four in his minute-a-mile knock, which gave LSG the impetus along with Mitchell Marsh's 44 (25 balls; 4x4s, 3x6s) at the top.

While Jasprit Bumrah (0/45) remained wicketless and overstepped thrice, Corbin Bosch

(2/20) applied the brakes on LSG's charge in the middle-overs as they looked set for a total in excess of 240 at one stage.

Perhaps, jaded after months of T20 cricket, an off-colour Bumrah not only missed nail-

ing his yorkers twice but also overstepped on one and Marsh smacked fours on both the occasions.

As many as 21 runs came off the fourth over from Bumrah and there was further misery in store for MI in the powerplay.

Will Jacks fed Pooran with deliveries in his zone and the former West Indies skipper obliged with three massive sixes to race to 22 off eight from 3 off three.

Pooran then tore into AM Ghazanfar, clobbering two sixes and a four off the sixth over to fire LSG to 90 for one in the powerplay, which is now the joint second-highest score in that phase for any visiting side against Mumbai Indians here.

Pooran had gone without a half-century for 17 innings but he was certainly aided by MI's poor execution. He completed his 16-ball fifty with a six off Chahar in the eighth over and hit one more.

Pooran and Marsh put on 94 for the second wicket off only 35 balls and at 123 for one after eight overs, LSG had the game firmly in their control.

But Bosch derailed LSG's charge with a double-wicket over in which he dismissed both Pooran and Marsh.

From 123/1, LSG slipped to 160/4 after 12 overs and it might have been 160/5 had Bumrah not overstepped when he had Himmat Singh (40 not out) caught behind. Himmat did well to put on 68 runs unbeaten with Aiden Markram (31 not out).

India Retain No.1 Position in ICC T20I Rankings

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Three-time World Cup winners India on Tuesday retained the top spot in the ICC T20I rankings followed by England and Australia at second and third respectively.

India had created history by becoming the first team to successfully defend their T20 World Cup title and also win it for a record-extending third time in March, when they co-hosted the tournament with Sri Lanka.

"The latest rankings rate all matches played since May 2025 at 100 per cent and those of the previous two years at 50 per cent," the ICC said on its website.

"Sitting at 275 points, India see their lead over England (262 points) trimmed by merely one point, while Australia are placed closer to England at the third place with 258 points," it added.

While two-time winners England have 262 rating points, one-time champions Australia have 258 points.

In all, there is no change in ranking for the top seven teams in the ICC T20I rankings with New Zealand (247),



South Africa (244), Pakistan (240) and the West Indies (233) remaining at the following spots.

However, Sri Lanka (221) have lost six rating points and subsequently slipped to the ninth position while Bangladesh (225) moved up one place to be at eighth. Afghanistan (220) are at 10th with a close margin of gap with Sri Lanka.

Zimbabwe and Ireland are ranked 11th and 12th respectively.

"Cricket's rising force in North America, the USA have leapfrogged two spots after gaining six points, and see themselves rise to the 13th

place, overtaking Netherlands and Scotland who are at 14th and 15th ranks respectively," the ICC said.

"Namibia was unchanged at 16th place while Nepal (17th) and Oman (19th) jumped a spot each, overtaking UAE (18th) and Canada (20th) respectively."

The ICC informed that the number of teams being ranked are down from 102 to 98.

"The number of teams in the rankings is down from 102 to 98 as Fiji, Gambia, Greece and Israel didn't make the cut as they did not play the requisite eight T20Is in the past three years," the ICC said.

All India Inter-University Wushu Championship gains momentum



Observer News Network

SRINAGAR: The All India Inter-University Wushu Championship (Men & Women) is currently underway in Srinagar, drawing participation from universities across the country and highlighting the growing appeal of the sport at the university level.

The championship is being organized by the University of Kashmir under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi. The event was declared open by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha on Monday.

The championship features competitions in both men's and women's categories, with bouts

being conducted in an indoor sports complex Srinagar.

The event has attracted a large number of athletes, reflecting increasing enthusiasm and competitive spirit among participants.

Serving as a platform for young athletes, the tournament is witnessing intense and competitive bouts, with participants demonstrating skill, strength, agility, and tactical ability throughout the event.

In the men's Sanda division, competitions are being held across 12 weight categories: below 48 kg, 52 kg, 56 kg, 60 kg, 65 kg, 70 kg, 75 kg, 80 kg, 85 kg, 90 kg, 100 kg, and above 100 kg.

The matches have been marked by closely contested

bouts and strong performances across categories.

The championship is progressing through multiple rounds, maintaining a high level of competition and engagement among athletes.

The scale of participation and quality of performances underline the steady rise of Wushu in university sports.

The women's division is set to commence on Wednesday further adding to the momentum of the championship, while the men's events will continue into subsequent rounds.

Overall, the event reflects the expanding sports culture at the University of Kashmir and provides athletes with an important platform to compete at the national level.

IPL Mania Sparks Debate: Is the Yorker Dead?

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: There was a time when the final overs of a T20 contest carried a familiar script. As panic spread through the batting side and the equation tightened, captains would turn to specialists capable of delivering cricket's ultimate pressure-release valve -- the classical yorker.

But in an IPL era increasingly shaped by 220-plus totals, premeditated ramps, reverse scoops and batters willing to stand virtually anywhere on the crease, the delivery that once inspired dread is facing its sternest test.

The question increasingly being asked in dressing rooms and fan discussions is: Has the league's batting revolution killed the yorker? Has the yorker become a high-risk delivery that hapless bowlers prefer to avoid?

Not really. We can hold off on writing the yorker's epitaph, say the pundits.

The delivery that once defined an era built by Lasith Malinga and perfected by Bumrah still survives.

Only now, in a batter-dominated age, it demands even greater courage and precision to remain cricket's ultimate finishing weapon.

"The yorkers remain an important part of the game even though it has become a batter's game," Madan Lal, former India all-rounder, told PTL. "You have to be very consistent in your line and length for a yorker. You have to hit the lower side

of the bat. If it hits slightly higher it is a six. Same with wide yorkers. Your length is key," said Lal, a member of the 1983 World Cup winning squad.

"You have to keep practising for that. Yorkers and slower ones remain part of the game very much," he said.

Other experts echo Lal. The consensus view is that while IPL has not killed the yorker, it has exposed the cricketing nuclear option's vulnerabilities, increased the punishment for imperfection and elevated its execution into one of cricket's rarest acts of skill.

What has changed, experts say, is that T20 cricket has forced the yorker to evolve from a routine death-over option into a specialist skill requiring extraordinary precision.

There was a time when yorkers built reputations and decided championships.

From Lasith Malinga's toe-crushing precision for Mumbai Indians to Dwayne Bravo's slower-yorker variations for Chennai Super Kings and the near-mechanical accuracy of Jasprit Bumrah, the yorker was for years the definitive image of death bowling in the Indian Premier League.

Deep Dasgupta, a former India wicketkeeper-batter and TV analyst, believes the biggest transformation lies in the changing movement patterns of modern batters.

"The classical toe-crushing yorker that Wa-

sim (Akram) and Waqar (Younis) used to bowl back then were on toes that were static targets because batters didn't have big trigger movement or shuffle in ODIs or Tests," he said.

"But nowadays, with changing landscape of T20 cricket, the batter uses the depth of the crease. There are pronounced triggers. Gone are the days when toes were static. Now suddenly if you practice bowling a traditional yorker and suppose a batter goes deep, it is no longer a yorker but a half-volley.

"If he stands a foot outside the crease, the same delivery could be a full toss. The batters also now move sideways to make room, so toes are also not staying static for you to target and execute a traditional yorker," Dasgupta told PTL.

The shift is reflected in IPL scoring patterns. Death-over run rates have steadily climbed over the years as batters have transformed finishing into a science, using movement and anticipation to convert even marginal errors into boundaries.

The average death over (17 to 20th over) run rate in the inaugural IPL in 2008 was 9.41 which steadily climbed to 11.5 by 2025. Similarly, the average team score in 2008 was 157 which has shot up to 180 in 2025.

The introduction of the impact player rule in 2023 has also played a big part in the yorker being a less preferred weapon in the slog

overs. The much-debated rule has tilted the game heavily towards batters by allowing a team to substitute a player at any time of the match. In effect, it strengthens the batting line up.

The yorker's margin of error, always slim, has become microscopic. A delivery that misses by inches can instantly turn from a match-winning weapon into a boundary ball.

That is precisely why franchises have increasingly moved towards hard lengths, slower balls and wide-line variations as their preferred death-over strategies. The wide yorkers have also become an option to prevent the batsmen from improvising.

Dasgupta explained that modern bowlers are no longer simply aiming at the base of the stumps.

A traditional yorker is a delivery that targets the base of the stumps tailing in middle-leg. "But the flip-side is if you err during death (overs) and the leg-side is vacant, you will be punished. Hence wide yorker is a delivery where you play with the line and even if you miss the length, there are times when you can still stay away from batter's hitting arc because of the wide lines that you use," he said.

Former India opener and noted coach V V Raman said the tactical shift stems from the unforgiving nature of the classical yorker. "Very little margin when they are toe-crushers.

"The yorker is still the best ball especially when there is reverse swing. But it has to be executed properly. Bowlers are now going for wide yorkers. I would say the wide yorker is the toughest to master," Sarandeep Singh, former India spinner and selector, he said.

Sanju Samson Is Our Backbone, Says CSK Skipper After Big Win Over Delhi Capitals

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In his debut season for Chennai Super Kings, Sanju Samson has quickly become indispensable, with skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad hailing the keeper-batter as the "backbone" of the side after another impactful knock guided them to a comfortable win over Delhi Capitals on Tuesday.

Samson, following his two unbeaten centuries earlier this season -- one of them against DC in Chennai -- smashed an unbeaten 87 as CSK chased down a modest 155 for 7 to seal an eight-wicket win with 15 balls to spare.

With the victory, CSK moved to 10 points and sixth place on the table from 10 games, while DC remained on eight points after another underwhelming display with the bat.

"On the batting side, more than grateful to have Sanju after the tournament he had in the (T20) World Cup, he's our backbone," said Gaikwad after the easy victory.

The CSK skipper also praised his bowlers, with Akeal Hosein



returning figures of 1/19 in four overs and Jamie Overton removing the well-set Tristan Stubbs on 38.

Samson attributed his success to subtle pre-delivery movements, saying they help him better gauge

the line of the ball.

"I have been working a bit on my initial movement and it has been coming off. I've been doing it for the last few years and it's tactical as well depending on the bowlers and how you want to approach them," said Samson.

He added that his batting is built on a calm, composed approach -- a hallmark of his game throughout his career.

"...to be very honest I am always like this (calm) but you are seeing me more in the middle now so you feel I am calm, even outside I am calm," he said.

Samson said he would have had to be "too selfish" to convert his knock into a century, emphasising that winning the game mattered more than personal milestones.

"Hundreds are always special. There was a desire, but I had to be a bit too selfish to get it... my partner was playing well and winning the game gives you more confidence and happiness. A few more matches to come, let's see if (another century) comes around," he added.

Power Bank Fire on IndiGo Plane at Chandigarh; All Evacuated

PTI

Chandigarh: All passengers and the crew aboard a stationary IndiGo aircraft at the Chandigarh airport were evacuated on Tuesday after the power bank of a passenger onboard the aircraft caught fire, according to a source.

In a statement, the airline said that an incident involving a customer's personal electronic equipment catching fire was reported when IndiGo flight 6E 108 from Hyderabad to Chandigarh was stationary after landing.

"In the interest of safety, an immediate evacuation was carried out, and all the relevant authorities were immediately informed. All customers have been safely moved to the terminal and are being attended to by the team to ensure their well-being," the statement said.

The source said that soon after the aircraft landed, there was smoke coming from one of the



overhead bins and all onboard were evacuated.

The smoke was due to the power bank catching fire, the source said, adding that no one

sustained major injuries.

A passenger onboard the flight told media that the incident took place as soon as the flight had landed. The passenger said his wife,

who was also on the flight, suffered a twisted ankle during the evacuation of passengers. He said she and other passengers were being evacuated using sliders.

He said smoke started to come out from the power bank of a person on the last seat and the airhostess used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire. But a lot of smoke filled up inside the plane and there was panic, he said.

The airhostess tried to calm down the passengers but there was panic, the passenger said, adding that emergency gates were opened and evacuation was carried out.

Sliders were put up to help passengers come down, he said, and added that there were children and the elderly also who were travelling on the flight.

He said his wife was taken to a hospital in Zirakpur where doctors informed them that she had suffered multiple fractures and surgery could be required.

2 Indian Journalists Win Pulitzer for Cyber Fraud Reportage

PTI

New York, May 5: Indian journalists Anand RK and Suparna Sharma have won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for their work highlighting digital surveillance and cyber fraud.

Anand and Sharma won the award, announced on Monday, in the Illustrated Reporting and Commentary category. They share the award with Natalie Obiko Pearson of Bloomberg.

According to The Pulitzer Prizes website, the award-winning work titled "trAPPed", produced for Bloomberg, narrates the "riveting account" of a neurologist in India who was held under a "digital arrest" through her phone, using a blend of "visuals and words" to underscore the "growing global challenges of surveillance and digital scams".

The Pulitzer Prizes, administered by Columbia University, are regarded as among the highest honours in journalism, literature and music composition, recognising excellence in reporting and storytelling.

Pakistan Resumes Alcohol Exports After 50 Yrs

PTI

Karachi, May 5: Pakistan's only locally-owned brewery has started exporting alcohol - a product that continues to remain banned for the country's majority Muslim population for nearly five decades now.

Murree Brewery has started exporting its beers and other alcoholic spirits to countries which are not part of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, a bloc of 57 nations with significant Muslim populations.

In April, alcoholic drinks were exported to countries that include the United Kingdom, Japan, Portugal and Thailand, the company's export manager Rameez Shah told PTI on phone.

For several years now, Murree Brewery has been exporting non-alcoholic drinks - mainly products like packaged juice, mineral water and fruit-flavoured malts, among other

things.

In 2025, it received the Pakistan government's approval to export alcohol products, Shah said.

Murree Brewery was founded in the 1860s by British entrepreneurs Edward Dyer and Edward Whympster in a hill station named Murree (now in Pakistan) to ensure an adequate supply of beer to British troops.

It was later bought by a Parsi family before the partition of British India in 1947. The company's current chief is Isphanyar Bhandara, who is also a member of the National Assembly in Pakistan.

Bhandara is learnt to have lobbied for an export license after the Pakistan government allowed a Chinese-run brewery and distillery in 2021 to produce alcoholic beverages in the Balochistan province to cater to the thousands of Chinese nationals working on various projects, either private

ones or those that are part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Alcohol was available to all Pakistanis until 1977 when then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto banned it under pressure from Islamist parties.

The ban came as a major blow to Murree Brewery. After that, the company could cater only to non-Muslim residents of Pakistan and people from other countries visiting, who can buy from government-registered shops and consume only in designated places.

Before the ban, Murree Brewery used to ship its alcohol to many countries, including India, Afghanistan and the US, Shah said.

With export permission granted, Murree Brewery is now working with its distributors in other countries who were previously trading their non-alcoholic products.

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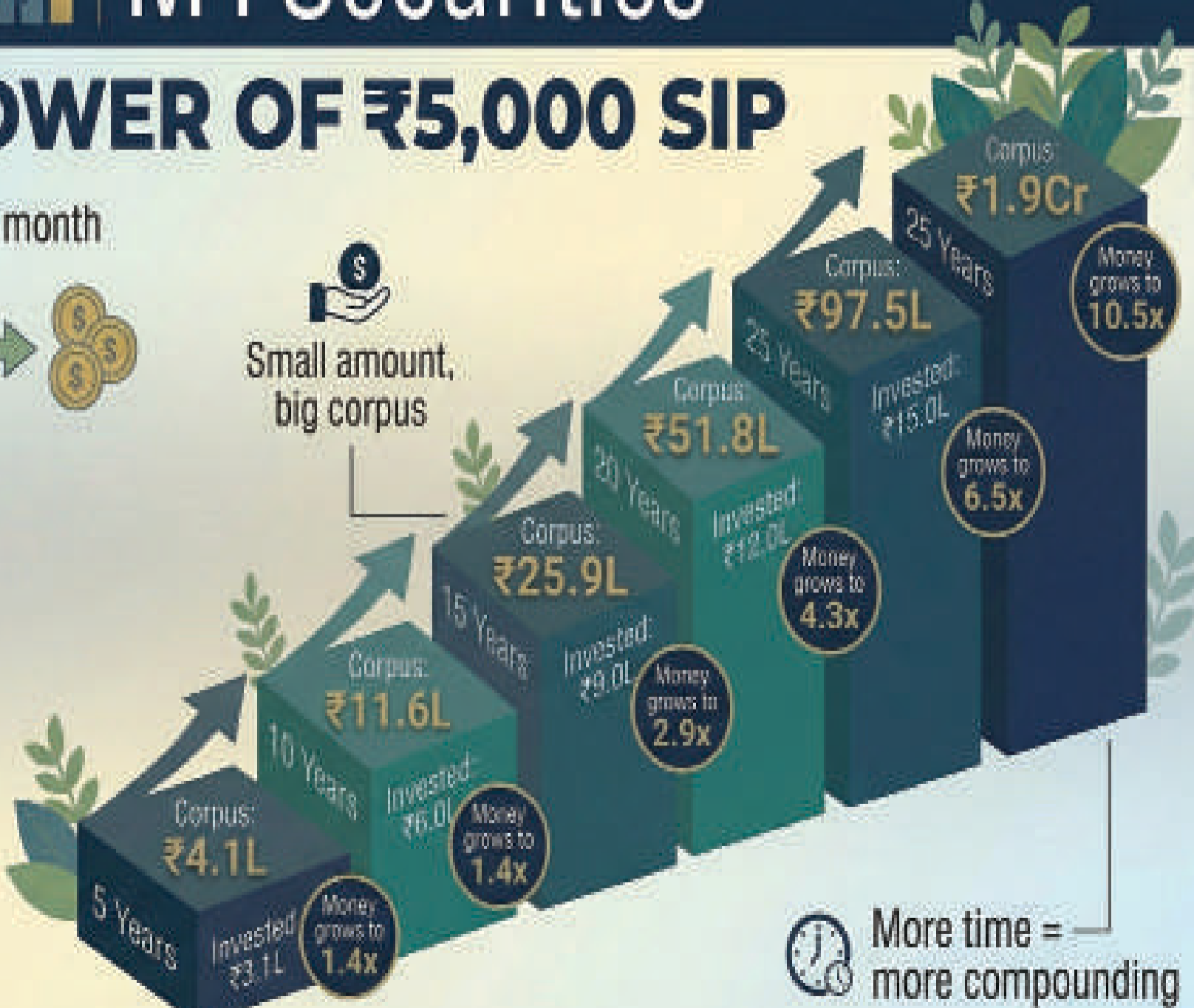
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