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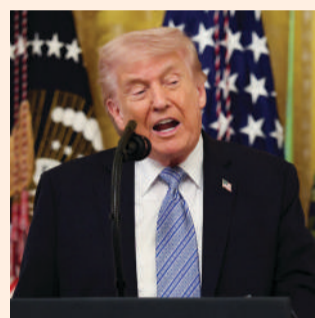
- PUBLIC NOTICES • NAME CHANGE • SALE/ PURCHASE • BIRTHDAY WISHES • OBITUARIES

## US Declares End To War, Pauses Hormuz Mission

Trans Asia News

London: The United States has abruptly declared the end of its military campaign against Iran while suspending a high-profile naval escort initiative in the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting a fragile ceasefire and a strategic recalibration in a conflict that continues to reshape regional power dynamics.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said "Operation Epic Fury" – a joint US-Israeli offensive launched on February 28 – had achieved its objectives and concluded. The announcement followed President Donald Trump's earlier



notification to Congress that hostilities had ceased under a ceasefire arrangement, even as Washington maintained military pressure in the region. Rubio stressed that while active combat | [More in P6](#)

### China-Iran Talks Signal Strategic Alignment

China hosted Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday in his first visit since the outbreak of the US-Israel war. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Araghchi, according to state-backed Xinhua News Agency, with Beijing | [More in P6](#)

### Iran Reviews US Proposal

Tehran said it is still reviewing Washington's latest proposal for a potential agreement to end the war, with no official response yet delivered, signalling continued friction in diplomatic efforts. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Bagaee said "genuine negotiation requires | [More in P6](#)

**NEGOTIATIONS MUST REFLECT A SINCERE attempt to resolve disputes, not coercion or deception."**

## A Year After Op Sindoor, LoC Villages Still Carry Scars Of Shelling

Say Silence Along Border Brings Relief, Not Closure

Agencies

Uri: A year after Operation Sindoor triggered one of the most intense phases of cross-border shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in recent years, residents of border villages in Jammu and Kashmir say the guns may have fallen silent, but the scars of conflict continue to

shape their lives.

From Uri and Boniyar in north Kashmir to Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu, families who witnessed heavy shelling in May last year say fear, trauma and loss still linger despite the return of relative calm along the frontier.

The escalation followed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 civilians were killed. In response, Indian forces launched strikes on terror targets across the border during the night of May 7-8 under "Operation Sindoor", triggering heavy artillery | [More in P6](#)

## HC Rejects Plea Against Judicial Seniority List

Dismisses Plea Of 4 Judicial Officers

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday dismissed a petition challenging the seniority list of judicial officers, holding that once finalised and acted upon, it cannot be unsettled at the instance of "fence-sitters."

"It needs no reiteration that seniority once settled and acted upon cannot be unsettled, that too, at the instance of those who are fence-sitters and approach the Court after long

delay," said a division bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar.

The bench further noted that the doctrine of delay and laches applies with greater force in matters of service, particularly seniority and promotion, as belated challenges adversely affect third parties who may have already progressed in service. "Raking up old matters like seniority and promotion after a long time is likely to result in administrative complications and difficulties." | [More in P6](#)

## Border Villages Now At Centre Of J&K's Progress: LG Sinha

Directs Officials To Ensure Every Household Must Have Connectivity, Electricity | Hands Over Appointment Orders, Scheme Benefits During Samba Visit

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said border villages are no longer the "last villages" of the country but have emerged as the "first villages" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while asserting that no border family should remain neglected in the new era of Jammu and Kashmir's development.

The Lieutenant Governor was addressing a public gathering during his visit to Regal border village in Samba district, where he laid foundation stones for



several developmental projects under the Vibrant Villages Programme.

The projects include establishment of a digital library at Government Primary School Regal, construction of

a community hall-cum-recreation centre, development of an Amrit Sarovar along with drainage channels, installation of three open gyms and solar street lights.

Addressing the gathering, Sinha said border villages are the backbone of India and carry a rich legacy of courage and resilience.

"Our glorious history was forged in the arduous paths of these villages. We are committed to safeguarding the dignity of every border village family and ensuring that those who faced neglect in the past are now accorded the highest priority," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the government is implementing a comprehensive strategy under the Vibrant Villages Programme to integrate border populations into the national mainstream through livelihood generation, infrastructure development and improved connectivity.

He said the programme focuses on saturation of villages in four major sectors including all-weather road connectivity, telecom access and electrification.

Directing officials to ensure basic facilities | [More in P6](#)

### Institutions Must Nurture Ethical, Courageous Minds: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said educational institutions must nurture ethical, sensitive and courageous personalities capable of leading society, while inaugurating the Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul at the historic Shri Narsingh Dev Temple in Ghagwal

area of Samba district. The Lieutenant Governor also dedicated a Nakshatra Park and Yoga Dhyana Kendra to the public and laid the foundation stone for Shri Narsingh Dev Public Library and an Open Air Amphitheatre. Addressing scholars, students and local residents | [More in P6](#)

## Statehood Delay Amounts To Breach Of Promise: CM

Questions Centre's 'Appropriate Time' Criteria, Says J&K Left In Limbo

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed disappointment over the continued delay in restoration of statehood to the Union Territory, saying nobody in the Centre has been able to explain what constitutes the "appropriate time" repeatedly cited by the government.

In an interview, Omar said the delay had gone far beyond the "early restoration" promised by the Centre in Parliament and before the



Supreme Court. "Of course it is disappointing. We are well past the point of early. Early would have been soon after the elections. We are 20 months into the government. It's no longer early. It has | [More in P6](#)

### Debunks PDP Claim Of NC MLAs Switching Sides

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Concerns are mounting over the circulation of fake e-Challan and traffic penalty messages carrying suspicious links and downloadable files, with cyber fraudsters allegedly attempting to trap unsuspecting mobile users into financial scams and data theft.

Several users have reported receiving SMS alerts claiming unpaid traffic penalties or pending challans, often accompanied by clickable links directing recipients to make immediate payments or verify details.

Cyber awareness experts have cautioned the public against opening such links, warning that these messages may redirect users to fraudulent websites designed to steal

banking credentials, OTPs and personal information or install malicious software on mobile phones.

According to cyber safety advocates, the messages typically create a sense of urgency



by threatening penalties, legal action or account suspension if payment is not made immediately, a tactic commonly used in phishing and online fraud schemes. Officials | [More in P6](#)



A farmer carries a basket filled with freshly harvested strawberries through a field on the outskirts of Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

## Fake e-Challan Scam Triggers Alarm Over Data Theft, Financial Fraud

Cyber Experts Warn Public Against Clicking Suspicious Links, Downloading Unknown Files

Observer News Service

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## 'Unsafe Preservative Levels' FDA Bans Batch Of 'Tops' Soya Sauce In Anantnag

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Anantnag has banned the sale of a batch of "Tops" Soya Sauce in the district after laboratory analysis declared the product unsafe for consumption due to excessive preservative content.

According to an order issued by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner and Designated Officer, Food Safety Anantnag, a sample of "Tops" Soya Sauce under the brand name Tops, bearing Lot No. 6A1617AK, was collected from the market by the Food Safety Officer Qazigund for testing.

The sample was subsequently analyzed at the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, which, in its report dated April 20, 2026, found that the product contained sorbic acid

beyond the maximum prescribed limit.

Officials said the excessive presence of sorbic acid rendered the product unsafe for human consumption under food safety standards.

The product is manufactured by G.D. Foods Manufacturing India Private Limited at Tarn Taran in Punjab and marketed from Janak Puri, New Delhi.

Citing public health concerns and powers vested under Section 36(3)(b) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Designated Officer Sheikh Zameer Ahmad ordered an immediate prohibition on the sale of the said batch within Anantnag district until further orders.

Authorities have advised traders and consumers to avoid the specified batch of the product pending further directions. (KNT)

### Smart City Bus Row Transporters Call Strike From May 12

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Days after a Valley-wide "chakka jam" over the Smart City bus row, transporters in Kashmir on Wednesday announced an indefinite strike from May 12, warning of a complete halt in public transport if the government fails to address their demands.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Transport Association Kashmir President Shabir Matta, said the decision follows continued "inaction" by the authorities despite repeated outreach by transport bodies after the April 20 shutdown.

"We have given the government time till May 11. If our genuine demands are not met, the entire Kashmir will observe a chakka jam from May 12," Matta said.

He said transporters from South, North and Central Kashmir had attempted to engage with the administration through visits and public outreach but received no response. "Had the government called us for talks earlier, this situation would be | [More in P6](#)



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for the information of general public that, I, Zamrooda Begum D/o Abdul Aziz Rather R/o Lalpora, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla has wrongly recorded her Date of Birth in Aadhaar as 07-06-1980 instead of her correct DOB 03-03-1971 (as per BMO Kunzer record).  
 Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.  
 Zamrooda Begum fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that Shaista W/o Zahoor Ahmad Yatoo R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla has her name wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9891 0372 5373 as Shahista Bano instead of her correct name Shaista.  
 Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.  
 Shaista fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that Javeed Ahmad Khandy S/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Khandy R/o Hardubani, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla has his name and father's name wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 3349 3190 6502 as Javid Ahmad Khanday S/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Khandy instead of the correct name Javeed Ahmad Khandy C/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Khandy (as per school record).  
 Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.  
 fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that Gulzar Ahmad Reshi S/o Abdul Rehman Reshi R/o Pariswani, Tehsil Kwarhama, District Baramulla has his ward's name and Date of Birth wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4934 1749 1380 as Gazi Burhan (DOB: 22/09/2015) instead of the correct name Gazi Burhan Reshi (DOB: 17/04/2017) as per Birth Certificate record.  
 Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.  
 APPLICANT  
 GULZAR AHMAD RESHI fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is an information for general public that the Aadhaar Card of my Son bearing Registration No:8402 0977 2932, his name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Muhammad Huzaifa Ibn Azad, while as his Actual and correct name as per his Domicile Certificate and Birth certificate issued by Municipal Council Bandipora is Muhammad Huzaif Hajam. 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 with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.  
 Azad Ahmad Hajam.  
 F/O Muhammad Huzaif Hajam.  
 R/O Ward NO:05, Bandipora, District Bandipora, jammu and kashmir, India, Pin code:193502. fko

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan  
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

Subject: Order for registration of Date of Birth in the records of Municipal Committee Pattan

**Public Notice**

The registrar Births and Deaths (Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pattan has submitted case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Hammad Bhat S/o Mohammad Ishaq Bhat R/o Wulhama Langate with verified DOB 10-06-2021 and the event has been shown to be occurred at SDH Pattan for issuance of Delay order . In this connection if anybody having any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall submit his/hr claim to this office within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained  
 fko Naib Tehsildar

**Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan  
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

Subject: Order for registration of Date of Birth in the records of Municipal Committee Pattan

**Public Notice**

The registrar Births and Deaths (Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pattan has submitted case file pertaining to birth of Ronak Zehra D/o Mohammad Yousuf Shera R/o Khanpeth Pattan with verified DOB 17-05-2021 and the event has been shown to be occurred at SDH Pattan for issuance of Delay order . In this connection if anybody having any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall submit his/hr claim to this office within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained  
 fko Naib Tehsildar

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the electricity connection bearing Consumer No. 021303001718 is recorded in the name of Musadiq Ahmad Lone, which is incorrect. The correct name of the consumer is Mohd Hussain Lone S/o Ghulam Mohammad Lone R/o Rashidabad Zaingeer.  
 Any person having any objection to this correction may file the same with the concerned department within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.  
 fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that I ABDUL KARIM SHEIKH Son of MOHD GULZAR SHEIKH Prop. of AAYAN CONSTRUCTION am holder of BEE class contractor issued by Superintendent Engineer R & B SB/BEE/1988 of 2019-20 , BEE to (A) change class.. If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Chief Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPDC, Bemina Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.  
 ABDUL KARIM SHEIKH Son of MOHD GULZAR SHEIKH R/O SARDAB GUREZ BANDIPORA . fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that I ROHIT SHARMA Son of BALIRAM SHARMA Prop. of MVD INFRASTRUCTURE LTD am holder of BEE class contractor issued by Superintendent Engineer R & B SB/BEE/1603 of , BEE to (A) change class.. If any body having any objection regarding the same they may submit their objection written to the Chief Engineer Civil investigation wing JKPDC, Bemina Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. No objection will be entertained after that.  
 ROHIT SHARMA Son of BALIRAM SHARMA R/O PANIYA DAGIR DUGAR JAMMU . mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my daughter bearing No 337157384314 the name is entered as Qamrun Nisa while her actual name is Qumroon Nisa. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
 Qumroon Nisa D/O Ali Mohammad Najar R/o Kremshore Budgam mcb

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that the name of my son has been wrongly recorded as Sharif Shabir in Aadhaar Card bearing No. 2899-3545-3099, whereas his correct and actual name is Sharif Shabir. Now, I have applied for correction of the same. Any person having objection in this regard may file the same within seven days from the date of publication of this notice; after that, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Shabir Ahmad Yatoo F/O Sharif Shabir R/O Gosha Bugh, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Mansoor Ahmad Dar, S/o Mohammad Ayoub Dar, R/o Dar Mohalla Awanta bawan, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that I was a student of 10th Class at Iqbal Public High School, Vicharnag Nowshera, Srinagar, during the academic year 2008 and appeared in the examination conducted by JKBOSE under Roll No. 819492. That the original 10th Class Marks Card was not collected from the school authority and is presently not in my possession. I have applied to the concerned authorities for issuance of marks card. If any person, has any objection or claim regarding the said marks card, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no objection exists and further necessary action will be taken accordingly.  
 Mansoor Ahmad Dar R/o Dar Mohalla Awanta bawan, Srinagar

**اطلاع عام**

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میں نے ایک گاڑی (SUMO) زرنمبر 0K06-5367 مورخہ 24-02-2026 کو خریدی ہے۔ یہ گاڑی مجھے اپنے باپ نے نرسفر کرنے سے اس گاڑی کا اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی بھی بین وین ہو تو برائے مہربانی سات دن کے اندر اندر بیچ دینے سے ہوتے نمبر پر رابطہ قائم کرے۔ یہ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

محمد یوسف ڈار ولد غلام رسول ڈار  
 ساکن شوئی پورہ بڈگام۔  
 فون۔ 9149721490 MBC

**ازنیات یومی**

عنوان:- درخواست نمائند زبیر احمد وانی ولد غلام احمد وانی ساکن بامبر زلوری بمراد عطا لنگی RBA تحت 176 SRO بجٹ خود  
**اشتہار ہر خاص و عام**  
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن/ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست نمائند RB سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ روکا دوائی ہے اس بارے میں ہنوزی حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے نمایاں ہے کہ ساکن/ساکنہ واقعی ایمبر زلوری میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور یہی جی ٹک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن/ساکنہ کا ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے  
 غلام احمد وانی ولد غلام قادر مزدوری 48 سال  
 جوہرہ بیگم زوجہ غلام احمد وانی گھر بیلوگام 46 سال  
 زبیر احمد وانی پسر غلام احمد زرنمبر 21 سال  
 سفینہ اختر دختر - 18 سال  
 فہرہ اختر دختر - 13 سال  
 ساکن مذکورہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور تین تین مہینوں میں 7,000 سے کم رقم سے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت خود کو پیش کرنا ہوتا ہے ورنہ اس کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 نائب تحصیلدار 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 Hafsa Mushtaq D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Khan R/o Ganiepora Buran Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 27/07/2020 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

**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 Mohammad Ibrahim Mir S/o Bilal Yousuf Mir R/o Newrun Chukar Tehsil kunzer with verified date of birth 10/11/2020 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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that my name has been wrongly recorded as Fawad Imran S/O Mohd Imran Rather R/O Archander Hama in school records, whereas my correct name is Fawad Imran Rather S/O Mohd Imran Rather R/O Archander Hama. Objections, if any, may be filed in the office of Celestial Buds High School within seven days from the date of publication. After that, no objection shall be entertained.  
 Fawad Imran Rather S/O Mohd Imran Rather R/O Archander Hama bmg

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) under Roll No. 221006003 Session: Annual Regular Oct-Nov Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my mother's name as Afroza Instead of Afroza Bano 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: ZAINUB ZEHRA  
 Father's Name: ALTAF HUSSAIN MIR  
 Mother's Name: AFROZA BANO  
 Date of Birth: 07/10/2010  
 Residence: DANGARPORA MAGAM  
 Mobile No. 9966112319 bmg\_r

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) under Roll No. 121005014 Session: Annual Regular Oct-Nov Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed against my mother's name as Afroza Instead of Afroza Bano 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: AIJAZ HUSSAIN MIR  
 Father's Name: ALTAF HUSSAIN MIR  
 Mother's Name: AFROZA BANO  
 Date of Birth: 07/10/2011  
 Residence: DANGAR PORA MAGAM  
 Mobile No. 9906112319 BMG\_R

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that the name recorded in the electricity bill is proposed to be changed as per the details given below:  
 Old Name: Ghulam Qadir Mir S/o Mohammad Ahasan Mir R/o Saria Dangarpora New Name: Mohd Ayub Mir S/o Ghulam Qadir Mir R/o Saria Dangarpora Sub-Division: Sumbal  
 Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned change may file their objection with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the name change shall be processed accordingly.  
 Consumer id 0215010005975 fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that the name recorded in the electricity bill is proposed to be changed as per the details given below:  
 Old Name: Ghulam Qadir Mir S/o Mohammad Ahasan Mir R/o Saria Dangarpora New Name: Mohd Ayub Mir S/o Ghulam Qadir Mir R/o Saria Dangarpora Sub-Division: Sumbal  
 Any person having any objection to the above-mentioned change may file their objection with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the name change shall be processed accordingly.  
 Consumer id 0215010005975 fko

**ازنیات پبلکل**

عنوان:- درخواست نمائند زبیر احمد وانی ولد غلام احمد وانی ساکن بامبر زلوری بمراد عطا لنگی RBA تحت 176 SRO بجٹ خود  
**اشتہار ہر خاص و عام**  
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 غلام احمد وانی ولد غلام قادر مزدوری 48 سال  
 جوہرہ بیگم زوجہ غلام احمد وانی گھر بیلوگام 46 سال  
 زبیر احمد وانی پسر غلام احمد زرنمبر 21 سال  
 سفینہ اختر دختر - 18 سال  
 فہرہ اختر دختر - 13 سال  
 ساکن مذکورہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور تین تین مہینوں میں 7,000 سے کم رقم سے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت خود کو پیش کرنا ہوتا ہے ورنہ اس کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
 نائب تحصیلدار FKO

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
 PW (R&B) DIVISION ZAINPORA**

e-mail:- randb-zainapora@jk.gov.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (up to Rs. 2.50 Crores)**

NIT No: 11/ZNP/RnB/e-Tendering/2026-27

Dated: 06-05-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Major Head Of Account	Advertised cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/Doc (Rs.)	Technical sanction No. & Date
1	(Kumar Mohalla Wachi Bridge) by way of Construction of RCC Wall/ Crate Work.	UT Capex Budget (Bridge Sector) 2025-26 (Flood Damaged Works)	Advertised Cost excl. GST: 33.273 Adver-tised Cost incl. GST: 39.26	78520/-	AA/BEE	30 Days	1100/-	13/TS/UT Capex (Flood) of 2026-27 Dated: 06-05-2026

Position of funds: - Committed

Project Authority: PW(R&B) Department Kashmir

AAA No. Date: 17-SE/PS of 2026 Dated: - 29-04-2026

The Payment shall be made strictly as per the release of funds by the Competent authority.

1. 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.jk-tenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-05-2026
2	Document downloading Start Date.	06-05-2026
3	Document Downloading End Date.	14-05-2026
4	Bid submission Start Date.	06-05-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date.	14-05-2026
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15-05-2026

1. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 PWD in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1.1 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. Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid Cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period beyond 60 Days.

1.2 Unbalanced Bid:

The successful bidder L1 shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR / FDR/ B.G before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply there to:-

1.21 Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/ security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

1.22 Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee Percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

1.23 The additional performance guarantee percentage shall be rounded off to the next lower percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is below 0.5% or next higher percentage based on whether the decimal point of the percentage of bid price is 0.5% or more.

1.24 The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance security shall be taken only after approval of next higher authority.

2 Bidders are advised to quote Rates without GST. GST @ 18% shall be added at the time of allotment by allotting authority

3 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

4 The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

d) The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on website in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora (Tender receiving authority).

NOTE: The "sum in dispute" shall refer to the aggregate of all the disputed amounts, both the claim(s) amount plus the counter claim(s) amount.

32. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

33. Any typographical error if found in the BOQ/BOQs/NIT will be rectified as per original estimate/DPR/SSR/GCC whichever is appropriate and will be paid accordingly.

No: R&B/ZNP/DIV/NIT/604-13

DIPK-1078/26 Dt: 06-05-2026

Sd/-

(Er. H.M Jahangir)  
 Executive Engineer  
 R&B Division Zainpora

## Srinagar Police Demolish Illegal Structure Linked to Alleged Drug Network

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Police have demolished an allegedly illegal residential structure belonging to a suspected habitual drug peddler in the Palpora Noorbagh area as part of its ongoing crackdown on narcotics networks.

Police identified the accused as Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, son of Feroz Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Zahidpora Hawal presently residing at Pamposh Colony Palpora Noorbagh.

According to police, the accused had allegedly encroached upon state land and constructed the structure without legal authorization.

Officials said the accused is involved in multiple cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, including FIR No.

06/2025 under Section 8/20 of the NDPS Act registered at Police Station Khanyar and FIR No. 47/2026 under Sections 8/20 and 22 of the NDPS Act registered at Police Station Safakadal.

According to KNT, Police said investigation and verification revealed that the structure had allegedly been raised on illegally occupied land using proceeds generated through narcotics trafficking.

"The construction was found to be in violation of revenue laws and established legal procedures," police said in a statement.

Officials further claimed that inquiries had indicated involvement of close associates and family members of the accused in multiple NDPS-related cases across Kashmir, suggesting the existence of a wider narcotics network.



Inside many old Dal Lake homes, Wagu (traditional Kashmiri mat) remains a symbol of warmth and tradition. KO Photo Abid Bhat

## SKIMS Bemina Establishes Model Anti-Rabies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant boost to public healthcare in Kashmir, the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Medical College, Bemina, has established a model Anti-Rabies Clinic (ARC) at its JVC Hospital in SKIMS Bemina, introducing full-fledged, free-of-cost treatment for animal bite cases.

The newly inaugurated facility is equipped to provide complete management for patients exposed to animal bites, including immediate wound care, administration of anti-rabies vaccines, and life-saving rabies immunoglobulin (RIG). The move is expected to reduce the burden on existing facilities and ensure timely treatment for patients across the Valley.

An official from SKIMS Bemina

told KNO that until now, the Valley had only one dedicated Anti-Rabies Clinic, located at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar. "Patients visiting SKIMS Bemina earlier had to be referred to SMHS after initial wound dressing, as advanced anti-rabies treatment facilities were not available here. This often caused inconvenience and delays," he said.

The official added that the establishment of the ARC at SKIMS Bemina has addressed a long-standing gap in emergency care. "As per the guidelines of the National Medical Commission (NMC), every medical college is required to have a functional Anti-Rabies Clinic. We had planned to start this facility much earlier, but were unable to do so due to financial constraints. Now, we have successfully

operationalised it," he said.

The official further said that all services at the clinic, including vaccines and immunoglobulin, will be provided free of cost, ensuring accessibility for patients from all socio-economic backgrounds.

"With this facility now in place, patients no longer need to travel to SMHS for complete treatment. SKIMS Bemina is now fully equipped to handle all aspects of anti-rabies care. We welcome patients to avail these services without hesitation," he added.

The initiative is being seen as a crucial step in strengthening emergency response to animal bite cases and preventing rabies-related fatalities, particularly in rural and underserved areas of Kashmir where access to specialised care has often been limited.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 941993745, 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**  
SHEIK 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)

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	4: 02
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5: 18
Magrib	7:21
ISHA	8: 53

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
19 Zil-Qadah  
1447

### This Day In History

- 558- In Constantinople, the dome of the Hagia Sophia collapses. Justinian I immediately orders the dome rebuilt.
- 1253- Flemish friar William of Rubruck sets off to convert the Mongols to Christianity, a mission ordered by French king Louis IX - one of the most famous travel accounts in the Medieval world
- 1274- 2nd Council of Lyons (14th ecumenical council) opens, convened by Pope Gregory X
- 1416- Monk Nicolaas Serrurier arrested because of heresy at Tournay
- 1429- English siege of Orleans broken by Joan of Arc and the French army

## US National Dies after Falling Unconscious

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An 83-year-old United States national was found unconscious in Srinagar and was later declared dead at a private hospital, officials said.

Police said the deceased has been identified as Anderson John David, son of John David, a resident of Washington DC, USA.

According to officials, the foreign tourist reportedly fell unconscious during

the morning hours while staying at House Boat located at Ghat No. 13 on the Dal Lake in Srinagar.

He was shifted to Paras Hospital Sonawar, where doctors declared him brought dead, officials said.

Subsequently, a police party from Police Post Nehru Park shifted the body to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for whole body CT scan and other medico-legal formalities.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ  
(Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.)

**Ruqia Qureshi**

With deep sorrow, I announce the passing of my beloved mother, Ruqia Qureshi, who has returned to the mercy of her Creator on 5th May 2026. The Fatiha Khwani (Rasmi Chaharam) will be held on the 4th day, in remembrance and prayer for her Maghfirah.

Venue: Qabaristan, Near Ahle Hadith Masjid, Shah-e-Hamdan Lane, Omerabad 2nd, HMT, Srinagar.

I humbly request all family members, friends, and well-wishers to join me in offering du'a for her forgiveness and for Allah (SWT) to grant her the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdaus. Ameen.

**Fateh Khawani**  
Saturday, 9 May 2026 | Time: 10:00 AM  
Dr. Mohammed Owais Qureshi (Son)  
8899112337

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR**  
Ganderbal (J&K)-191201 Website: www.cukashmir.ac.in

**ADMISSION NOTICE-2026 B.TECH (COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING)**  
(AICTE Approved Programme)

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to B.Tech. (CS&E) Programme offered by the Central University of Kashmir for the academic session 2026-2027.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- 10+2 with atleast 50% marks in aggregate or its equivalent on grading scale of respective Board/Universities with Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry/Biology as main subjects (45% for SC/ST/OBC/(non-creamy-layer) & PwD candidates).
- Positive score of Joint Entrance Examination JEE (Main) 2026.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Selection shall be purely based on merit secured by the candidate in JEE (Main) 2026.
- Reservation shall apply as per the Government of India norms.

**HOW TO APPLY**

- The candidates who are interested in applying for admission must fill the registration form online. The registration link is given below.

**ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR REGISTRATION**

Registration link & detailed information shall be available on:	<a href="https://cukashmiradm.samarth.edu.in">https://cukashmiradm.samarth.edu.in</a>
Registration link shall be open from:	April 30, 2026
Registration link shall close on:	May 15, 2026 (up to 11:55 PM)
Registration fee:	General Category (UR) = Rs. 1000/- SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PwD/Women Candidate = Rs. 500/-

**For queries related to registration process or any other, candidates are advised to contact on the following mobile numbers during office hours between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.**

- Academic Coordinator: 7006687396/7006563692
- Directorate of Admission Office/Technical Support: 7889593153/9797959391

No:CUKmr/DOA/Admission/B.Tech/2026/F.No:09/135 S/d

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Mrs. Javida Akhter, W/o Late Mohammad Ashraf Chattabali, R/o Soitang, Lasjan, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 02010007531 installed at the above-mentioned address stands registered in the name of my husband Mohammad Ashraf Chattabali, who expired on 24/11/2016.

In case any person(s) has any objection regarding the proposed transfer of the above-mentioned electricity connection, he/she/they may file objections, if any, along with supporting documents before the concerned office of KPDCI within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. In the event of no objection being received within the stipulated period, the said connection shall be transferred in my name as per rules.

inhko

**NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that we the parents of Hammad Bin Tehseen are applying for correction in the name of ward, father and mother who is studying in Tyandale Biscoe School Sheikh Bagh Srinagar under Admission No.4674-16B Class 9th Yellow Roll No 24. The correction is as follows:

From:  
1. Hammad Bin Tehseen  
2. Tehseen Bashir Bhat  
3. Sumaira Tehseen

To:  
1. Hammad Bin Tehseen  
2. Tahseen Bashir Bhat  
3. Sumer Jan

If any one has any objection may contact the Principal Tyandale Biscoe School within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after this period.

**Tehseen Bashir Bhat F/o: Hammad Bin Tehseen**  
R/o:Old Gagrival Road Sgr  
Contact: 7006809201

ab

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that Manzoor-ul-Islam S/o Khazir Mohammad Malik R/o Tarzoo Sopore is applying for issuance of a Death Certificate in favour of Gulzar Ahmad Malik, who expired on 17-04-1997.

Any person having any objection to this may file the same with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

APPLICANT  
MANZOOR-UL-ISLAM fko

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that Firdous Ahmad Ganie S/o Ghulam Rasool Ganie R/o Adipora seeks confirmation/record of Date of Birth of his wards as under:

- Tajamul Firdous Ganie – DOB: 16-07-2017
- Fozia Firdous Ganie – DOB: 10-08-2014

Any person having any objection to this may file the same with the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

APPLICANT  
FIRDOUS AHMAD GANIE fko

**Before The Court Of Tehsildar Pampore**

Subject:-Mst Khati wid/o Ghulam Hassan Mir R/O Konibal V/S 1. Mst Firdousa Wid/O Mohammad Ashraf Mir 2. Mohammad Abu-Bakar S/O Mohammad Ashraf Mir 3. Ayat Ashraf D/O Mohammad Ashraf Mir R's/O Konibal Tehsil Pampore a/p Ladhoo Pampore

**NOTICE**

An appeal against Mutation No's. 732 Dated 13-09-2021, 189 Dated 12-04-2021, 724 Dated 25-01-2021 & 508 Dated 03-12-2021 of estate Wuyan, Munpara, Konibal & Krenchoo respectively were under proceedings before the Hon'ble Court of Addl. Deputy Commissioner Awantipora and the said mutations have been quashed /set aside with a direction to undersigned to conduct a de-novo enquiry and attest fresh mutations of the left out property of deceased Mohammad Ashraf Mir S/O Ghulam Hassan Mir R/O Konibal Tehsil Pampore in favour of all legal heirs as per law.

Before proceeding further, the following legal heirs of deceased Mohammad Ashraf Mir S/O Ghulam Hassan Mir R/O Konibal (who are reportedly outside J&K Union Territory) are hereby informed through the medium of this notice to appear before the court of undersigned within a period of fifteen days from the publication of this notice. After the expiry of fifteen days, no objection/ statement shall be entertained & the mutations shall be attested as per law.

- Mohammad Abu Bakar S/O Mohammad Ashraf Mir R/O Konibal a/p Ladhoo Tehsil Pampore District Pulwama
- Ayat Ashraf D/O Mohammad Ashraf Mir R/O Konibal a/p Ladhoo Tehsil Pampore District Pulwama

No. TP-OQ/ 446-48  
DIPK-1089/26  
Dated: 06.-05-2026

Tehsildar Pampore

**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. 1390003215 Session: Bi Annual Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent, my name as Ashiq Hussain Instead of Ashiq Hussain Sofi

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:- Ashiq Hussain Sofi  
Father's Name:- Mohammad Shafi Sofi  
Mother's Name:- Shafiq  
Date Of Birth:- 25/10/2007  
Residence:- Meerak Shah Colony.  
Mobile No.:- 6005149674.

inf

## KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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# Kashmir's Cold Official Language

Official letters in Jammu and Kashmir speak the language of authority, while citizens expect the language of respect.



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat



### KO VIEW

## Kashmir's Imitation Age

Kashmir today lives in constant conversation with the outside world. Phones bring in new habits, routines, and aesthetics every hour.

A morning in Srinagar can begin with a Seoul-style skincare routine, move into a Silicon Valley work mindset, and end with a Dubai-inspired café visit.

This blend feels exciting and modern. It also raises a deeper question about how people build a life that truly fits where they are.

Lifestyle imitation has become a defining feature of this moment. Young Kashmiris pick ideas that promise efficiency, beauty, and success. Influencers present polished routines that look simple and effective. A five-step productivity plan or a minimal home set-up gives clarity in a place where daily life often feels uncertain. The appeal is clear. These models give structure and a sense of control.

The challenge begins when these borrowed ideas enter a different setting. Life in Kashmir runs on its own social logic. Family ties remain strong. Daily schedules depend on shared responsibilities, sudden changes, and local realities. A strict routine built for a fast-paced city struggles to fit into this environment. It creates tension between what people aim to follow and what their lives actually allow.

Food habits show this shift clearly. Smoothie bowls, calorie tracking, and packaged diets gain popularity through social media. Traditional meals once centered on local produce, seasonal variety, and shared eating. The new trends look clean and efficient. They often overlook taste, climate, and the social nature of food. Eating turns into a task rather than a shared experience.

Clothing offers another example. Global fashion trends arrive quickly and dominate local choices. Outfits appear polished and current. They also compete with weather needs and cultural comfort. A style that works well in a studio photo may feel out of place in everyday life. Fashion becomes more about display than ease.

This pattern extends to ideas of success. Many adopt productivity systems, career paths, and self-improvement goals that originate elsewhere. These frameworks promise progress. They also assume access to stable opportunities and predictable systems. Kashmir offers a different landscape. Aspirations grow, while pathways remain limited. This gap leads to strain and constant self-checking.

At the same time, imitation brings real benefits. Exposure expands imagination. People discover new ways to learn, work, and express themselves. It encourages ambition and curiosity. A borrowed habit can improve life when it adapts to local needs.

The real task lies in turning imitation into integration. A routine gains meaning when it fits daily life. A habit works best when it respects culture and environment. Identity becomes stronger when it grows from lived experience rather than assembled pieces.

Kashmir stands at an interesting point. Global influence flows in with ease. Local life continues to hold its own pace and values. The future depends on how these forces come together. A thoughtful blend can create a lifestyle that feels both current and rooted.

People do not need to choose between outside ideas and local ways. They can build something that belongs fully to them.

A government letter should feel like a bridge between the state and its people. Many letters in Jammu and Kashmir read like directives handed down from above. Tone matters in public life, and tone in official communication sends a clear message about how the state views its citizens.

A recent example captures the problem in plain terms.

A Station House Officer wrote to a local NGO seeking help to rehabilitate people with mental disabilities. The request read like a command. The letter opened without a salutation and ended without any courteous sign-off.

It carried the weight of authority, though the situation called for cooperation and empathy. The document circulated in a WhatsApp group and drew attention for the wrong reasons.

A senior police officer promised to address the issue, though similar patterns continue in many departments.

This trend appears in civilian offices as well. Junior assistants and senior officers often send replies that skip basic greetings. A simple "Sir" or "Madam" rarely appears. Responses under the Right to Information Act reveal the same approach.

Citizens file applications seeking information guaranteed by law, and many receive replies that read like terse notes. Language sets the tone of public service, and current practice signals distance rather than respect.

Experience over two decades with RTI applications shows a consistent design.

Hundreds of replies from government offices in Jammu and Kashmir share a similar style. Most letters begin abruptly and close without courtesy. Many omit the sender's contact details. The format suggests an internal memo rather than a communication with a citizen.

Such writing choices shape public perception more than any official slogan about service.

A different standard exists within central government offices.

Replies from Government of India departments usually follow a structured format. Letters begin with proper salutations and end with formal closings. The Ministry of Personnel and Training has laid out clear guidelines through the Institute of Secretariat Training in New Delhi.

These guidelines describe each part of an official letter, including the salutation and closing line. They emphasize clarity, structure, and respect.

A standard government letter includes a letterhead, file number, date, and the names of sender and recipient. The subject line states the purpose in clear language. The salutation sets the tone at the start. A letter to a citizen begins with "Dear Sir" or "Madam," while official correspondence may use "Sir."

The closing line reads "Yours faithfully," followed by the signature and designation.

These details may appear small, though they signal professionalism and regard for the recipient.

Replies from Government of India departments usually follow a structured format. Letters begin with proper salutations and end with formal closings. The Ministry of Personnel and Training has laid out clear guidelines through the Institute of Secretariat Training in New Delhi. These guidelines describe each part of an official letter, including the salutation and closing line. They emphasize clarity, structure, and respect.

Language in official communication defines a deeper idea about governance. Public officials draw salaries from public funds. Citizens fund the state through taxes, and those funds build schools, hospitals, and roads.

Every official, from the highest office to the entry-level position, serves the public. The term "public servant" captures this relationship. Words in a letter should align with that idea.

A courteous tone does not weaken authority. It strengthens trust. Citizens who feel respected engage more openly with institutions. Clear and respectful communication reduces friction and

builds cooperation.

A simple greeting and a proper closing line require little effort, though they carry lasting impact.

Jammu and Kashmir adopted RTI laws in 2009 and now follows the national law after constitutional changes. The law grants citizens the right to seek information, and that right includes a basic level of respect in communication.

A reply that reads like an order undermines the spirit of the law. Citizens approach public offices as stakeholders, and official responses should recognize that role.

Administrative reform often focuses on technology, efficiency, and timelines. Courtesy rarely appears in policy discussions, though it sits at the heart of public service.

A well-drafted letter shows discipline, clarity, and respect. It also signals that the office understands its role in a democratic system.

Leadership can correct this course with clear direction. The General Administration Department can issue a circular that enforces standard letter formats across departments. Training programs can include modules on official writing. Supervisors can review outgoing communication and ensure compliance with guidelines.

These steps need attention and consistency rather than large resources.

Change in tone can begin immediately. Every officer who drafts a letter holds the power to set a better standard. A greeting at the start and a respectful closing at the end can transform the message. Citizens notice these details, and they remember them.

Public trust grows through daily interactions, and official letters form a large part of that experience.

A respectful tone affirms the citizen's place in the system. Jammu and Kashmir needs that shift in its administrative culture.

A government that speaks with respect earns respect in return, and that exchange forms the foundation of a healthy relationship between the state and its people.

*The author is an environmental activist and policy analyst based in Kashmir. He chairs the J&K Climate Action Group and founded the Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement.*

### Letter to Editor

## The Endless Contract Cycle for College Teachers

Each year in Kashmir, a strange cycle repeats itself. Hundreds of highly qualified college lecturers, many with PhDs and national-level credentials like NET, SET, and JRF, line up to reapply for the very jobs they've held for years. They fill out forms, attach degrees they've earned through sacrifice, update their CVs, and wait, again.

These are not rookies or part-time tutors. They are the backbone of government colleges across Jammu and Kashmir. They've held the system together in remote districts, volatile towns, and disrupted semesters.

And yet, the state pays them 28,000 a month. That's less than the salary of a freshly appointed peon.

The injustice is not new. It's just growing old, and harder to excuse.

Across the Union Territory, the Higher Education Department has refused to bring these lecturers under the University Grants Commission (UGC) pay structure, despite their qualifications and years of full-time service. Meanwhile, institutions such as the University of Kashmir, IUST, and SKUAST-K have already implemented the UGC-recommended pay scales. They follow national academic standards. The colleges under the Higher Education Department do not.

This disparity has left lecturers fuming.

"How is it justifiable that someone with a PhD and UGC qualifications earns less than a non-teaching staffer?" asked Dr. Sheikh Afaq of SP College, Srinagar. "What is the value of education if the state treats its educators like this?"

A question worth repeating.

In J&K's higher education landscape, these lecturers have stepped up again and again. When permanent posts remained vacant year after year, they filled the gaps. When colleges in rural belts needed staff, they moved without protest. When the pandemic forced cam-

puses online, they carried the weight of continuity on their shoulders, with no allowances, security, and institutional gratitude.

The state, in return, gives them neither a contract nor a career path, just an honorarium. The word sounds ceremonial, as if they're being thanked for a favour. In reality, it's a monthly reminder of a broken system.

They are appointed on academic arrangement, a vague term that means nothing in terms of service recognition. There is no provident fund, pension, leave benefits, and medical coverage. And at the end of the academic year, they are asked to leave, only to apply again.

This cycle has played out for over a decade now. And every year, new memorandums are written. Protests are staged, delegations meet bureaucrats, and promises are made.

Even Chief Minister Omar Abdullah publicly assured regularization and pay parity for these lecturers. But those assurances dissolved into silence once the cameras turned off.

The present administration has inherited this backlog of broken promises. And it has added its own indifference to the mix.

Lecturers say they are no longer just underpaid, they are invisible. Their files sit untouched, appeals unread, and their future remains undecided.

A 2022 RTI filed by an education advocacy group in Srinagar revealed that nearly 63% of sanctioned teaching posts in government colleges remained vacant. Yet instead of filling them with permanent faculty or upgrading existing ones, the department has leaned entirely on these temporary appointees while refusing to pay them fairly.

This is exploitation in slow motion. It is eating into the morale of Kashmir's most educated generation. Some of these lecturers have taught for eight or ten

consecutive years without a single raise. Others have crossed 40 with no sign of job security.

It is not just a professional crisis. It's a mental and social one.

"We're constantly living on the edge," said a lecturer from Baramulla. "One year you're teaching, the next year you're out. You can't plan your life, your child's education, or even apply for a home loan."

The tragedy is that the state needs them desperately. With the government's renewed focus on skill development, digital education, and research, the higher education system cannot function without competent, committed faculty. But it seems unwilling to build that system on respect.

This is a betrayal of every student in J&K's colleges. When your teachers feel disposable, how do you expect them to inspire?

At the core of this crisis is a question of dignity. These lecturers are not asking for favours. They are asking for fairness. A lecturer with a PhD and teaching experience deserves to be treated at par with national standards. Anything less is institutional discrimination.

The government must act. The UGC pay scales must be implemented. These teachers must be regularized through a transparent framework. And the annual charade of reappointment must end.

It's hard to speak of "Viksit Bharat" and digital universities when your educators are still begging for dignity. The future of Kashmir's education depends on those who teach in its classrooms with conviction. It's time they are seen, heard, and paid what they're worth.

Sincerely

*Dr. Sheikh Afaq Gowhar  
gowharafaq49@gmail.com*

### CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

## Property Void

Kashmir's real estate market runs without a regulator to enforce trust or timelines.

Irshad Mushtaq

In most Indian states, the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) protects homebuyers from fraud, delays, and shady deals. In Kashmir, there's no such safety net.

RERA, created in 2016, makes builders register their projects, follow timelines, and face penalties if they fail. It also offers buyers a formal channel to resolve disputes.

In states where it's enforced, trust in real estate has grown. But in Jammu and Kashmir, the system hasn't taken root.

For ordinary Kashmiris, this means navigating a web of unclear rules and unpredictable outcomes. If you want to buy land, you'll need a registered sale deed. If you want to prove ownership, that requires a mutation, a bureaucratic update in revenue records.

And if you want to build, you need municipal permission. Each step is loaded with delays and paperwork.

Local revenue and municipal offices often lack staff, transparency, and public trust. Citizens frequently turn to courts, believing them more reliable than government departments.

In contrast, institutions like SEBI and RBI are widely trusted, because they follow clear rules and protect people's interests.

The absence of RERA in Kashmir leaves the real estate sector exposed. Buyers are unsure, builders are unaccountable, and investment suffers. A functioning RERA could change that, by making property deals safer and encouraging market growth.

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

# Kashmir's Fields Need Hul Sheeri Again

A traditional system of collective farming lifted Kashmiri villages and its absence now leaves farmers working alone and paying the price.



Mohammad Ilyas Bhat

I learned the true cost of farming's isolation while working in Budgam.

Experience on the ground showed me that agriculture depends as much on people as it does on soil and seed.

Villages once acted as a unit during the cropping season, and that collective energy gave farming both strength and stability.

But today, each farmer stands alone in the same fields, and the results tell a troubling story.

A field trial in Chravani village made this shift impossible to ignore. One farmer stood out with an oilseed crop that came close to its full potential. His field drew attention from nearby villages, and farmers visited to understand what set his work apart.

He greeted them with pride and explained his harvest in simple terms. Sixteen tins of oil came from his land, roughly 250 kilograms of pure edible oil.

That figure held real impact for a small farmer.

Two other demonstration plots in the same village produced lower yields. Another farmer in a neighbouring village matched the first farmer's results almost exactly.

This contrast pushed me to examine the details more closely. Patterns soon became clear, and they pointed to something deeper than soil or seed quality.

Most farmers relied on hired la-

bour to manage their fields. Two farmers who achieved the best outcomes depended on their own families. That difference changed everything.

Family-managed plots showed strong plant populations, even crop growth, and timely execution of every key operation. Hired labour plots showed gaps in plant stand, uneven growth, and delays in essential tasks such as weeding, fertilizer application, and pest control.

Numbers confirmed what the eye could see.

Fields handled through hired labour delivered yields that fell short by 10 to 20 percent. Costs of cultivation climbed by 30 to 40 percent at the same time. Precision and timing suffered when responsibility shifted away from the farmer.

Older generations built a system that solved this problem with remarkable efficiency.

Hul Sheeri brought villagers together to work on each other's fields during peak seasons. Sowing, weeding, and harvesting happened through shared effort, and labour shortages rarely entered the discussion.

Every family contributed, and every family benefited.

Hul Sheeri created more than efficiency. It built trust, strengthened relationships, and ensured that every field received proper attention at the right time.

That system gave farming a sense of belonging and purpose that extended beyond individual gain. Its decline has left a visible gap in both productivity and community life.

Young people in rural Kashmir now approach farming with hesitation. Degrees in engineering, agriculture, and other fields often lead them toward government jobs, which hold higher social value in their eyes. Farming struggles to attract their interest, and this shift affects both output and continuity.

A saffron grower once shared his own experience with me. He spoke of harvests that once reached three times their current levels, support-



**FIELD OBSERVATIONS LEAVE LITTLE ROOM FOR DOUBT.** Farming managed without hired labour can increase profits by 20 to 60 percent when operations follow proper timing and care. These gains matter, though the larger issue goes beyond income. A way of life stands at risk, and its loss affects both the economy and the social fabric of rural Kashmir.

ed by almonds and wheat grown alongside saffron.

Climate pressures now affect yields, and the absence of youth participation compounds the

problem.

Personal choices also play a role in this decline. I remember a colleague who scheduled official tours during peak paddy operations at his

own farm. He placed professional appearances above direct involvement in his land.

That mindset distances educated individuals from agriculture at a time when their knowledge could make a real difference.

Global examples show a different path.

Masanobu Fukuoka in Japan, Joel Salatin in the United States, and Subash Palekar in India built successful farming models by combining knowledge with direct engagement. Their work proves that education strengthens agriculture when it meets the field with commitment.

Kashmir's farms now face rising costs and uncertain labour availability. This situation calls for practical solutions rooted in local realities.

Reviving cooperative labour systems stands as the first and most effective step. Modern versions of Hul Sheeri can take shape through gen-

uine farmer groups that exchange labour during critical periods.

Shared effort reduces costs and ensures timely operations without dependence on external workers.

Redesigning farming systems provides another path forward. Crop choices can shift toward varieties that require less labour. Farmers can adopt tools and methods that save time and effort. Low-input approaches can reduce dependence on expensive resources while maintaining productivity. Mechanization offers benefits, though affordability remains a barrier for small and marginal farmers in the valley.

Field observations leave little room for doubt. Farming managed without hired labour can increase profits by 20 to 60 percent when operations follow proper timing and care. These gains matter, though the larger issue goes beyond income.

A way of life stands at risk, and its loss affects both the economy and the social fabric of rural Kashmir.

Hul Sheeri once anchored that way of life. It gave farmers a system built on cooperation, efficiency, and mutual respect. Its revival can restore balance in agriculture while rebuilding connections that once defined village life.

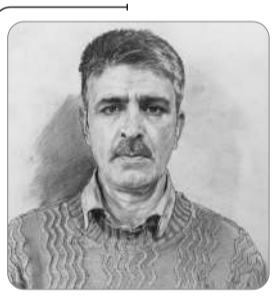
The future of farming in Kashmir depends on choices made today. Young people hold the key to that future through their education, energy, and willingness to engage with the land. Their return can transform agriculture into a field that combines knowledge with purpose and income with meaning.

Kashmir's fields ask for participation, shared effort, and a renewed sense of responsibility. Hul Sheeri showed how that could work. Its spirit still holds the answer, waiting for a generation ready to bring it back to life.

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

# A Sermon-Led Fight

Kashmir mosques emerge as key spaces in the effort to curb rising drug abuse.



Mohammad Amin Mir

A 100-day government campaign against drug abuse came at a decisive moment, backed by the formation of parents' brigades meant to guard children and guide families.

This initiative sets a strong foundation, though its success depends on a deeper current of community action that reaches into daily life.

Public policy can disrupt supply lines and expand treatment, while awareness drives can inform and alert. Lasting change, however, grows through influence that people trust and hear every week.

Religious leaders in Kashmir hold that influence with rare reach and credibility.

Imams stand before congregations that span generations, professions, and social lines, and their words often travel far beyond mosque walls.

That position creates an opening to turn a government campaign into a shared social mission.

Drug abuse thrives through a mix of pressures that include stress, isolation, and lack of direction. A response that addresses only enforcement leaves gaps that allow the problem to persist.

A broader effort that blends education, family engagement, and moral guidance creates stronger ground for prevention and recovery.

The current campaign recognizes this reality through its focus on awareness and parental involvement, though it needs a sustained push from voices that shape everyday choices.

Mosques in Kashmir function as hubs of social engagement, advice, and collective learning. Friday ser-



mons draw large gatherings, with listeners who return week after week and carry messages into their homes.

That platform gives imams a direct channel to address drug abuse with clarity and consistency. A focused plan that dedicates three consecutive sermons to this issue can turn passive awareness into active concern.

The first sermon can center on awareness, with clear explanations of how addiction takes hold and what it does to the body and mind. Young listeners often encounter substances without a full sense of long-term harm, while parents may miss early signs that signal trouble. Real stories, delivered with care, can make the risks tangible and immediate. A tone that shows understanding encourages listeners to absorb the message rather than turn away from it.

The second sermon can turn to moral responsibility and spiritual clarity. Islamic teaching places strong emphasis on protecting health and preserving the intellect. References from the Quran and Hadith can ground the discussion in values that resonate deeply with the audience. At the same

**YOUNG PEOPLE IN KASHMIR SEARCH FOR DIRECTION IN A FAST-CHANGING WORLD.** Imams can meet that need by engaging youth through discussions, outreach programs, and collaboration with schools and colleges. Positive guidance, grounded in shared values, can steer them away from harmful paths and toward purpose-driven choices. Partnerships with educators and youth groups can extend this influence well beyond weekly sermons.

time, the message can open a door for those who struggle with addiction, presenting a path toward change that rests on faith and effort. This approach strengthens resolve without pushing people into silence.

The third sermon can move toward action, with a clear call for families and communities to step forward.

Parents' brigades gain strength when mothers and fathers feel equipped to engage their children with confidence and care. Imams can guide families on how to maintain open talks, identify warning signs, and seek help when needed. Community members can learn how to support recovery efforts and welcome those who seek a sec-

ond chance.

Stigma often stands as one of the toughest barriers in this fight. Families fear public judgment, which leads to delay and deepens the crisis.

Open discussion from the pulpit can shift that dynamic by presenting addiction as a challenge that calls for support and collective effort. A community that replaces silence with understanding creates space for early intervention and sustained recovery.

Young people in Kashmir search for direction in a fast-changing world. Imams can meet that need by engaging youth through discussions, outreach programs, and collaboration with schools and colleges.

Positive guidance, grounded in shared values, can steer them away from harmful paths and toward purpose-driven choices. Partnerships with educators and youth groups can extend this influence well beyond weekly sermons.

Parents' brigades stand as a central pillar of the campaign, with families positioned as the first line of defense.

Many parents seek practical advice on how to address this issue at home.

Guidance from imams can help them build trust with their children, set clear expectations, and act early when concerns arise.

Community programs that include mothers can strengthen this effort, as their role in shaping behaviour remains vital.

Broader social pressures such as unemployment and stress contribute to the spread of drug abuse. Religious leaders can use their voice to highlight these concerns and encourage solutions that expand opportunity and support.

A message that links moral guidance with social awareness can inspire a more comprehensive response that reaches beyond immediate symptoms.

Mosques can also host workshops, counseling sessions, and awareness programs in partnership with health professionals and social workers.

This practical support adds depth to the message delivered during sermons and gives families access to real help. Digital platforms can carry these efforts further, with recorded talks and short videos reaching audiences who engage online.

An inclusive approach that brings together leaders from different communities can strengthen the campaign's impact.

Drug abuse affects people from every background, and a united response can build momentum that no single group can achieve alone. Shared responsibility fosters a sense of common purpose that strengthens the entire effort.

The 100-day campaign can act as a powerful starting point, though sustained engagement will determine its long-term impact.

Continued focus in sermons, active parents' networks, and regular evaluation of progress can keep the issue at the center of public attention.

Clear goals and honest feedback can guide future efforts and sharpen results.

— The author is a policy commentator and legal researcher based in Jammu & Kashmir. He writes on land governance, rural administration, and social justice.

## J&K HC Bar Association Jammu Registered After 99 Years

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu, has been formally registered with the Registrar of Societies, nearly 99 years after its establishment, marking a historic milestone for the legal body.

Chief Justice Arun Palli of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh congratulated the Bar on the achievement, while terming it a significant step forward for institutional recognition.

Neelam Khajuria formally handed the registration

certificate to the Association's office bearers in the presence of the Chief Justice and companion judges of the High Court.

Bar Association President Nirmal Kotwal described the occasion a "historic day".

"The registration of an institution is of immense importance as it provides legal recognition and enables members to avail various benefits," he told reporters here.

Kotwal said the lack of registration posed challenges for stakeholders in the past, but the formal recognition would now facilitate institutional support and streamline the Association's

functioning.

He acknowledged the contributions of several officials in the process, including SSP Jammu Tajinder Singh Rana, SSP CID GL Sharma and former Director Industries Arun Raina, among others.

Kotwal also announced plans to introduce group insurance schemes for lawyers and extend multiple welfare benefits to members in the near future.

He expressed gratitude to the Chief Justice for various developmental initiatives, including providing space for clerks and the Advocates' Club, which addressed long-pending issues faced by legal staff.

## KPs Protest In Jammu Against NFSA Integration, Minor Scuffle With Police

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Displaced Kashmiri Pandits protested here on Wednesday against the Jammu and Kashmir administration's move to integrate their relief rations into the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Minor clashes broke out between demonstrators and police as they attempted to march towards the Relief Commissioner's office.

Terming the move a "conspiracy" to dilute their migrant and genocide victim status, the protesters vowed to intensify agitation if the decision is not

rolled back.

The administration is integrating migrant ration cards, including those of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) in Jammu, into the NFSA database. This process began in early 2026. As of April 2026, officials said over 17,500 migrant ration cards have been integrated, with more than 50,000 families ultimately set to be included to enable access to wider social welfare schemes.

Hundreds of members of the displaced community, representing groups such as the United Alliance of Kashmiri Displaced Community, Panun Kashmir and various migrant

camp residents, joined the protest march, which was also supported by Shiv Sena.

The protesters, including residents of Jagti, Purkhoo, Nagrota and Muthi migrant camps, assembled on the road outside the Relief Commissioner's office and raised slogans against implementation of the NFSA.

As they tried to move towards the office, a heavy police contingent stopped them, leading to brief scuffles and pushing between the two sides, said officials.

Police later dispersed the crowd. Afterwards, the protesters staged a sit-in and raised anti-government slogans.

Community leaders described NFSA as a "black law" and a "trap" for Kashmiri Pandits, alleging that its implementation would dilute their distinct identity as displaced persons and affect their rehabilitation rights.

"It is a black law and a trap for the community to dilute their identity as genocide survivors. The discrepancies in this law amount to outright injustice. For 36 years, Kashmiri Pandits have suffered after their displacement, and now under NFSA, our identity is being diluted," said Panun Kashmir convenor Dr Agnishaker.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### US Declares End

operations had ended, the broader confrontation remained unresolved. "We would prefer the path of peace," he said, signalling continued US readiness to respond to escalation, particularly over Iran's nuclear programme and maritime disruptions.

Within hours, Trump announced the suspension of "Project Freedom," a US-led mission to escort commercial vessels stranded by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The initiative, launched only days earlier, had aimed to restore shipping through the vital waterway.

In a Truth Social post, Trump cited "great progress" in negotiations with Iran and requests from regional countries as reasons for pausing the operation. He said the blockade of the strait would remain in force while talks continued toward a potential agreement.

The reversal underscores the delicate balance between military pressure and diplomacy, as Washington seeks to reopen the strait without triggering renewed conflict. US officials had described Project Freedom as a defensive effort to guide vessels and rescue thousands stranded in the Gulf, with engagement rules limiting force to self-defence.

Iran, however, viewed the initiative as a breach of the ceasefire and an attempt to undermine its control under the guise of a humanitarian mission. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warned that any maritime movement not aligned with its directives would face "serious risks," with vessels liable to be forcibly stopped. Iranian state media decided the move as an "interventionist" effort cloaked in humanitarian rhetoric.

Despite the ceasefire, tensions remain acute. US officials said Iranian actions — including attacks on vessels and harassment of shipping — had continued below the threshold of "major combat operations." Iran, meanwhile, accused Washington of undermining regional security and signalled it had yet to fully respond to US attempts to reopen the strait.

The Strait of Hormuz remains effectively constrained under Iranian control, with shipping companies reluctant to resume transit without clearance. The waterway, which carries roughly a fifth of global oil and gas supplies, has become a focal point of geopolitical leverage, pushing up energy prices and unsettling global markets.

The conflict's outcome reflects a complex strategic picture. While the US and Israel demonstrated overwhelming military capability, Iran has retained key levers of influence — including its grip over Hormuz, regional alliances and elements of its nuclear programme.

#### China-Iran Talks

having initiated the invitation. While no formal agenda was disclosed, Iran said discussions would cover bilateral ties as well as regional and international developments.

Analysts say the timing underscores growing coordination between Tehran and Beijing ahead of President Donald Trump's expected meeting with President Xi Jinping, even as China seeks stability in the Gulf to safeguard trade and energy flows.

#### Iran Reviews US

good faith, not dictation or extortion," adding that Iran would convey its response through Pakistani mediators once its review is complete.

In comments to ISNA and in a post on X, Baqaei said negotiations must reflect a sincere attempt to resolve disputes, not coercion or deception. Iranian officials have repeatedly criticised the US approach as imposing conditions rather than engaging in mutual compromise.

Informed sources cited by Tasnim News Agency said the latest US proposal contained "unacceptable provisions" and was delivered shortly before Washington launched its Hormuz escort initiative, which Tehran described as a "reckless" move that disrupted ongoing diplomatic exchanges.

The sources said Iran had earlier submitted a 14-point proposal and resumed reviewing the US plan only after Trump suspended the operation. They added that US pressure tactics had historically proven counterproductive.

The diplomatic strain comes as Washington maintains a naval blockade of Iranian ports, which Tehran considers illegal and a violation of the ceasefire brokered in early April.

Baghaei reiterated that inconsistent US actions and "contradictory messaging" risk undermining any path toward renewed negotiations, reinforcing the fragile and uncertain nature of the current truce.

#### Border Villages

for all border residents, Sinha said every household in border villages must have electricity, mobile connectivity and economic independence.

"We must ensure that by 2030 not a single

family in the border villages of Samba remains below the poverty line," he said.

Responding to demands raised by Ramgarh MLA Devinder Kumar Manyal, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated the administration's commitment towards providing land ownership rights to displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and West Pakistan Refugees.

He also said completion of the Shahpur Kandi Dam project would significantly boost agricultural productivity in the region.

During the visit, Sinha handed over appointment orders to Special Police Officers (SPOs) and sanction letters to beneficiaries under HADP, Mission Yuva and other government schemes.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded Regal village for becoming TB-free and urged people to remain vigilant about clean drinking water and intensify the fight against drug abuse.

Later, Sinha visited the Regal Border Out Post (BoP), where he interacted with security personnel and praised the jawans for their role in safeguarding the country's borders and their contribution during Operation Sindoor.

Several senior officers of the civil administration, police and army, besides local residents, were present on the occasion.

#### Institutions Must

during the inaugural ceremony, Sinha described the establishment of the Sanskrit Gurukul as a meaningful reconnection with India's civilizational roots.

"It is a significant step towards cultural renaissance and the strengthening of the ancient Indian knowledge tradition," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the land of Ghagwal has historically remained a vibrant centre of learning where Vedic teachings flourished and the Guru-Shishya tradition guided generations in the art of living, critical thinking and pursuit of truth.

Highlighting India's progress in science, technology and innovation, Sinha said the country's true strength lies in its cultural consciousness and ethical foundations, with Sanskrit playing a crucial role in preserving that balance.

"Sanskrit has been a source of essential values and knowledge systems for humanity for centuries," he said, while recalling the contributions of ancient Indian scholars including Kautilya, Charaka, Sushruta, Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Bhaskaracharya and Varahamihira in shaping global traditions of mathematics, medicine and philosophy.

He stressed the need to make the vast repository of Sanskrit knowledge accessible in simple and modern language so that it remains relevant for contemporary society.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the Gurukul management to maintain high educational standards by combining traditional wisdom with modern learning systems.

"The institution must go beyond providing degrees and focus on nurturing sensitive, ethical and courageous personalities who can lead society," he said.

Expressing confidence in the institution, Sinha said the Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul has the potential to evolve into a centre of excellence by integrating traditional values with modern education.

He also appreciated the efforts of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Shri Narsingh Dev Temple Management Committee and district administration Samba for establishing the Gurukul.

Among those present on the occasion were MLA Samba Surjit Singh Slathia, Director ACB and President of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan Shakti Pathak, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti, DIG JSK Range Shridhar Patil, Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan, senior officials and Vedic scholars.

#### Transporters Call

not have arisen," he said.

Matta said the protest is driven by "survival concerns" of thousands associated with the sector. "We are not against the government or development. But our employment is being snatched. First save our livelihood, then we can discuss other issues," he added.

Referring to the April 20 strike, he acknowledged the hardship caused to the public, particularly students and patients. "We understand people suffered; students missed exams and patients faced difficulties. We don't want to repeat that, but we are being forced," he said.

The transport leader reiterated concerns over the expansion of Smart City bus services into routes traditionally operated by private transporters, alleging that local stakeholders are being sidelined in the process.

He urged the government to initiate dialogue, stating that the sector supports thousands of drivers, conductors and vehicle owners across the Valley. "We want to work with the government, not against it. But if ignored, we will be compelled to intensify agitation," he

said.

Transport bodies have further appealed to operators across Kashmir to support the proposed strike, which, if implemented, is likely to severely disrupt daily life, affecting commuters, students and patients across the Valley.

Notably, a Valley-wide "chakka jam" on April 20 had paralysed public transport across Kashmir, leaving commuters stranded and forcing authorities, including Kashmir University, to make alternate arrangements for affected students. (KNO)

#### Statehood Delay

been needlessly delayed," he said.

The chief minister said the Centre had earlier outlined a three-step roadmap for Jammu and Kashmir comprising delimitation, elections and restoration of statehood, adding that the first two processes had already been completed.

"The sad fact is nobody is able to explain why. You hear every time that Jammu and Kashmir statehood will be restored at the appropriate time. But nobody tells us when the appropriate time is," Omar said.

Questioning the lack of clarity from New Delhi, he asked what benchmark was being used to determine the timeline for restoring statehood.

"What is the yardstick to measure appropriate time? At least if we knew what the appropriate time would be, how to measure it, we would work towards it," he said.

Omar termed the delay "deeply unfair" to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and said the promise made to them was not being honoured.

He also questioned whether the delay was linked to the BJP not being able to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir after the elections.

"Is it because the BJP was not allowed to form a government here? Is that why the people of J&K are being punished?" he asked.

The National Conference leader said if that was indeed the case, the BJP should have made its position clear before Parliament and the Supreme Court.

"They should have stood up and said that till the BJP's chief minister does not sit in Jammu and Kashmir, you will not get statehood. Then the people of J&K at least know what to expect," Omar said, calling the present situation "deceit".

Referring to remarks made by Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma questioning why statehood should be restored to Omar Abdullah's government, he said such statements only strengthened doubts among the people.

The chief minister, however, said the National Conference remained committed to its core political agenda but would not "befool" people by making unrealistic promises regarding restoration of Article 370.

"Talking to the current government of India about Article 370 is a waste of time; it is tantamount to befooling people," Omar said.

"Those who are not ready to give you statehood, will they be ready to give you Article 370?" he added.

Asked whether his government would move the Supreme Court seeking clarity on the timeline for restoration of statehood, Omar said all options remained open but cautioned that such steps carried risks.

"Let's just say that all our options are on the table," he said.

In August 2019, the Centre abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. In 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the move while observing that statehood should be restored "at the earliest".

#### Debunks PDP Claim

"baseless" and accusing the PDP of spreading rumours.

Speaking to reporters after a function in Tangmarg area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, Omar said there was no dissent within the NC and asserted that none of the party's MLAs would support the BJP.

"Do you think I would be attending these functions if some MLAs were preparing to leave? These are baseless reports. These are the same people who helped the BJP in the Rajya Sabha polls. It is not that we are saying this, it was revealed by RTI," Omar said.

He said there was "no such MLA" in the National Conference who would leave the party to support the BJP.

The chief minister was referring to an RTI disclosure which reportedly showed that the PDP did not appoint a chief polling agent during last year's Rajya Sabha elections, allegedly helping J&K BJP president Sat Sharma win a seat despite the party lacking sufficient numbers.

The remarks came after PDP MP Waheed Para claimed on X that internal dissent was growing within the NC and that some legislators were

in touch with PDP president Mehbooba Mufti.

Para had also questioned Omar's silence over the Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to declare Jamia Siraj-ul-Uloom in Shopian an "unlawful entity" under the UAPA.

Responding to the criticism, Omar said neither he nor his government had remained silent on important issues.

"I do not work according to what some other party says. When I have to say something, I say it. Neither my government nor I am silent. Wherever issues come up on which we have to talk, we talk either on behalf of the government or the party," he said.

On being asked about the controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, Omar said several voters were allegedly deleted from the list and the matter was not heard before the elections concluded.

"What will the hearing now achieve? Elections are over and those people did not get an opportunity to vote. If the BJP had to do it for winning, then be it, they have won now. We will have to see what impact it will have in the rest of the country," he said.

When asked about the possibility of a cabinet expansion, Omar said, "Why are you people so concerned about it? When we have to do it, we will do it."

He also said tourist destinations that remained shut after last year's Pahalgam attack would be reopened in phases.

"Many places have been reopened, some remain, and they will also be reopened gradually," Omar added.

#### A Year After

and mortar shelling from the Pakistani side across multiple LoC sectors.

The shelling hit residential areas, schools, religious structures and commercial buildings, forcing hundreds of families to flee. At least 15 civilians were killed and dozens injured during the escalation.

Residents say that while life has gradually resumed, many continue to live in damaged homes and under the constant fear of another flare-up.

"It is exactly a year after the shelling damaged our houses. We still remember the horrors we faced," said Talib Hussain, a resident of Salamabad Uri in Baramulla district.

"Our houses are still incomplete. The government gave us Rs 1.30 lakh first and then Rs 2 lakh. What can we do with that?" he asked.

Hussain said the compensation provided for damaged homes was insufficient to rebuild houses destroyed in the shelling.

He also raised concerns over the absence of bunkers in vulnerable border villages.

"We don't have bunkers. They should have been constructed first. Whenever firing happens, the government promises bunkers, but nothing has been done," he said.

Referring to official statements that Operation Sindoor remains ongoing, Hussain said residents feared that hostilities could erupt again at any time.

"Firing can start again. There is no certainty that it will not happen again, so we need bunkers," he added.

In Uri, Karnah, Tangdhar and Gurez, residents said the recent calm along the LoC has brought relief and allowed people to slowly return to normal life.

"For now there is peace and we are thankful. Children are going to school and people are working in their fields," said a resident of Uri.

"But the fear of escalation is always there." Villagers in Tangdhar and Gurez said agricultural activities, abandoned during the shelling last year, have resumed this season.

"This year we are focusing on crops again. Last year everything stopped," said a farmer in Tangdhar.

However, many said peace alone was not enough without long-term safety measures in place.

"Peace is important, but preparedness is also important. We still need bunkers and better facilities," a resident of Gurez said.

For several families, the impact of shelling was not only emotional but also economic. Saima, another resident of Uri, said her family continues to struggle after their house was damaged.

"It has been a year and we still live under fear. We don't have our house now and live in a small quarter. My father is a labourer. How can he rebuild the house?" she asked.

"The government gave us Rs 3 lakh. What can be done with that? We need a roof over our heads," she added.

In Poonch and Rajouri, where some of the heaviest shelling was reported, families recalled nights of panic and chaos as mortar shells landed near residential areas.

"We were having dinner when explosions began. Children were crying and people were running everywhere," said Muzaffar Hussain, a resident of Poonch who lost a relative in the shelling.

"By morning, we had lost him. There was nothing left to say," he added.

Among those injured during the shelling was Zeenat from Uri, who said she was forced to flee after her house caught fire.

"I was injured in the firing. I had to run as the house was burning," she recalled.

Zeenat said she received Rs 1.06 lakh under the partial damage category and another Rs one lakh for treatment.

"The money for treatment was spent on medicines. What can be built in one lakh?" she asked.

Families who lost loved ones said compensation could never replace those killed in the shelling.

"He was the only earning member of the family. Now we struggle even for basic needs," said a woman in Karnah who lost her husband during the escalation.

Residents said children in border areas continue to suffer psychologically from memories of shelling and displacement.

"Children still get frightened by loud sounds. They remember everything," said a local resident in Uri.

Although calm has largely prevailed along the LoC in recent months, villagers say peace remains fragile and incomplete without a sense of security.

"We just want this peace to continue. People here have suffered a lot," said a resident of Boniyar.

Officials said the situation along the LoC remains under close watch, with security forces maintaining heightened vigilance while trying to minimise disruption to civilian life in border areas.

#### HC Rejects Plea

the court emphasized while dismissing a petition filed by four judicial officers. The court pointed out that the seniority list issued in 2011 was challenged only in 2018, after it had already been acted upon and promotions had been granted.

Referring to Supreme Court rulings, the bench said a seniority list remaining unchallenged for three to four years should not ordinarily be disturbed unless the delay is satisfactorily explained.

"In the case on hand, there is no satisfactory explanation rendered for approaching the court after seven years, that too, when impugned seniority stood acted upon and promotion to the rank of Sub-Judge had been made."

The petitioners had sought quashing of the 2011 seniority list, contending that they should be ranked according to their merit positions (16, 17, 18, and 26) in the selection conducted by the Public Service Commission. However, the court found that only 31 vacancies existed at the time, and the petitioners were among four additional candidates selected due to a clerical error that led to the advertisement of 35 posts.

While 31 candidates were appointed in April 2011 against available vacancies, the petitioners were appointed later in September 2011, and therefore could not be treated as part of the original selection batch, the court held.

It was also noted that upon detecting the discrepancy, the High Court had initially recommended appointments only against the 31 available posts, leading to the appointment of 31 Munsiffs on April 1, 2011. The petitioners were excluded at that stage.

Subsequently, following promotions in 2011—when 16 Sub Judges were elevated as District Judges and 15 Munsiffs promoted as Sub Judges—fresh vacancies arose. In view of the petitioners' legitimate expectation of appointment after their selection by the PSC, the High Court recommended their appointment, and the Government sanctioned the same on September 27, 2011, by utilising four future vacancies.

#### Fake e-Challan Scam

said fraudsters often imitate official language, formatting and government-style notifications to make the messages appear genuine, increasing the chances of users falling victim to scams.

Citizens have been advised to verify any traffic challan or penalty only through official government portals and authorised mobile applications. They have also been urged not to share OTPs, ATM details, passwords or banking credentials with unknown callers, websites or links received through SMS.

Officials further advised the public to immediately delete suspicious messages, avoid downloading unknown attachments and report fraudulent communication to cybercrime authorities if they encounter such attempts.

The growing use of digital payments and mobile banking has led to a rise in phishing and impersonation scams across the country, with fake e-Challan messages emerging as one of the latest methods being used by cybercriminals to target users.

# With Unmatched Beauty, Kashmir Can Emerge As Premier Education Hub: CM Omar

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art multi-purpose indoor sports complex at Government Degree College (GDC) Tangmarg, developed at a cost of ₹2.75 crore under the CAPEX budget, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and youth engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The newly established facility, located within the college premises, is equipped with modern indoor sports infrastructure, including arenas for badminton, table tennis, carrom, and billiards. The complex aims to promote a vibrant sports culture and encourage greater participation of youth in physical activities, particularly during harsh weather conditions in the region.

Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirezada Farooq Ahmed Shah, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Commissioner Secretary Ram Niwas, Director Colleges, Principal GDC Tangmarg, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Following the inauguration, the Chief Minister toured the complex and interacted with students. In a lively engagement, he also participated in indoor games including billiards, table tennis, and badminton alongside students and colleagues, drawing enthusiastic applause and appreciation from the gathering.

Earlier, the Chief Minister launched the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan signature campaign from the college premises, urging students to actively contribute towards building a drug-free society. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasized the



pivotal role of youth in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our children are our future. We are making every possible effort to secure a brighter tomorrow for them, but it is equally important to prepare them for the responsibilities ahead. The development of Jammu and Kashmir in the coming years will largely depend on the role played by our youth," he said.

Highlighting the challenges faced by students in accessing quality higher education within the region, Omar Abdullah noted that the lack of private universities had compelled many families to send their children outside Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in significant financial burden.

"We estimate that every year, nearly ₹1,000 to ₹1,200 crore is spent on tuition fees alone by students studying outside J&K, excluding travel and living expenses. This places immense pressure on families," he said.

He said that the government has taken a landmark decision to allow the establishment of private universities in Jammu and Kashmir, with the necessary legislation already passed and rules

being finalized.

"Once the framework is in place, we will invite reputed institutions to set up campuses here. With our unmatched natural beauty and climate, places like Tangmarg can emerge as ideal education hubs, attracting students from across the country," he added.

Recalling his earlier tenure as Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah noted that the GDC Tangmarg project was conceptualized and approved in 2011, expressing satisfaction at witnessing its growth and the enthusiasm of students.

He also lauded the newly constructed indoor sports complex, stating that such facilities are essential in regions with prolonged winters and frequent rainfall.

"In a place like Tangmarg, where outdoor activities are often restricted due to weather, such indoor infrastructure ensures that our youth remain active and engaged throughout the year," he said, adding in a lighter vein that he looks forward to returning and playing badminton with students.

The Chief Minister further highlighted key initiatives un-

## CM Chairs BoD of J&K Cable Car Corporation at Gulmarg

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the meeting of the Board of Directors of Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation at the Convention Center, Gulmarg. During the meeting, the Managing Director, JK Cable Car Corporation, presented a detailed agenda and gave a comprehensive presentation on key projects and initiatives of the Corporation. The agenda items were discussed threadbare.

The Board deliberated on the upgradation of the Gulmarg Gondola Project aimed at enhancing its carrying capacity, operational efficiency and safety standards through modernization of critical infrastructure.

The Chief Minister emphasized timely execution of

projects, adoption of modern technology and adherence to high safety standards to meet the growing tourist inflow. He underlined the importance of strengthening tourism infrastructure to further boost the local economy.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Ashish Chandra Verma; Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation, Shreya Singhal; Director Tourism Kashmir/Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Syed Sajad Qamar; Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta; Director General, Budget; Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, and other concerned officers.

undertaken by the government for youth empowerment, including free bus travel for women in government buses, large-scale government recruitment, and self-employment support through the Mission Yuva programme.

"We aim to provide 20,000 to 25,000 government jobs this year. At the same time, we are enabling young entrepreneurs by facilitating easy access to loans without the need for guarantees, with the government acting as a guarantor," he said.

He also spoke about the government's focus on skill development in sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and horticulture

to make youth self-reliant and strengthen the region's economy.

"Our goal is to build a self-sufficient Jammu and Kashmir where we rely on our own strengths and resources. The youth will be at the forefront of this transformation," he added.

Later, the Chief Minister inaugurated a new block of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Gulmarg, constructed at a cost of ₹203.80 lakh under CAPEX.

He inspected various sections of the facility, including the OPD, Emergency Room, pharmacy, X-ray unit, and wards, and reviewed the healthcare services being provided to locals and tourists.

## Food Safety Authorities Ban Batch of 'Tops' Soya Sauce After Lab Report

**ANANTNAG:** The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Anantnag has banned the sale of a batch of "Tops" Soya Sauce in the district after laboratory analysis declared the product unsafe for consumption due to excessive preservative content.

According to an order issued by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner and Designated Officer, Food Safety Anantnag, a sample of "Soya Sauce" under the brand name Tops, bearing Lot No. 6A1617AK, was collected from the market by the Food Safety Officer Qazigund for testing.

The sample was subsequently analyzed at the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad, which, in its report dated April 20, 2026, found that the product contained sorbic acid beyond the maximum prescribed limit.

Officials said the excessive presence of sorbic acid rendered the product unsafe for human consumption under food safety standards.

According to KNT, the product is manufactured by G.D. Foods Manufacturing India Private Limited at Tarn Taran in Punjab and marketed from Janak Puri, New Delhi.

Citing public health concerns and powers vested under Section 36(3)(b) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Designated Officer Sheikh Zameer Ahmad ordered an immediate prohibition on the sale of the said batch within Anantnag district until further orders.

Authorities have advised traders and consumers to avoid the specified batch of the product pending further directions. (Observer News Service)

## Operation Theatre at SDH Dooru Shut for Week

**ANANTNAG:** The Operation Theatre (OT) at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Dooru in the Shahabad area of south Kashmir's Anantnag has remained non-functional for the past one week, sparking serious concern among residents and raising fears of a looming healthcare crisis in the region.

The disruption in surgical services comes in the wake of the superannuation of at least four hospital employees last month, including a crucial anaesthesia technician, leaving the facility without adequate technical staff to run the OT.

Residents told KNO that the closure has severely impacted patient care, particularly emergency and maternity services, forcing people from far-flung areas to seek treatment elsewhere under challenging circumstances.

"We are the worst sufferers. Patients from dozens of villages used to rely on SDH Dooru for emergency procedures. Now, they are being referred without any option," said Abdul Rashid, a resident. "In emergencies, every minute counts, but now people are left helpless."

The absence of surgical services has especially heightened risks for pregnant women requiring urgent procedures such as Lower Segment Caesarean Sections (LSCS).

Locals said that expecting mothers are being referred in advance to Maternity and Child Care (MCH) Hospital Anantnag, adding to the burden on an already overstretched facility.

"A pregnant woman in labour cannot afford long travel. Shifting them to Anantnag is risky and stressful. We fear a tragedy if the situation continues," said Shaameera Begum from Dooru. "The government must act immediately."

Residents pointed out that the referral of patients to Anantnag is increasing congestion at the MCH hospital, which is already grappling with space constraints and heavy patient inflow. (Observer News Service)

## 22% Jump in Enrolment in J&K Education Sector: Sakeena Itoo



Observer News Service

**TANGMARG:** Education Minister Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday said student enrolment across schools and higher education institutions has increased by over 22 per cent in the past one and a half years, attributing the rise to improved infrastructure, accountability and policy focus.

Speaking in Tangmarg, the minister, as reported by KNO said the education sector earlier faced low enrolment, which led to the clubbing of more than 2,500 institutions. "People believed institutions were being shut down due to poor enrolment. That was the situation earlier," she said.

Itoo said the government prioritised upgrades in infrastructure, faculty strength and playgrounds to improve the learning environment and keep youth engaged. "We worked to ensure students stay connected with education and remain away from the drug menace," she said.

The minister added, "There has been over 22 per cent increase in enrolments in the last one and a half years of the government in both school and higher education sectors, a clear shift from earlier

trends when low admissions had even led to the clubbing of more than 2,500 institutions."

Itoo said the administration is also revising academic offerings. "We are trying to introduce subjects that match student needs and market demand," she added.

The minister said around 15,000 works are currently being executed under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, adding that the past issues of mismanagement have been addressed through stricter accountability and monitoring mechanisms.

Referring to healthcare, she said the sector has also seen significant improvements. "Many health institutions lacked basic facilities earlier. There were places without gates and even stray dogs inside the hospital premises," she said.

Itoo said the government has since focused on strengthening healthcare infrastructure, including the installation of advanced equipment such as MRI machines, cath labs, and CT scans, along with improving doctor availability.

"Our aim is to ensure people feel the difference and trust that this government stands with them," the minister said, adding, "We do not make false promises. We deliver on what we commit."

## Chief Justice Inaugurates Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In a significant step towards ensuring child-friendly and victim-sensitive justice delivery, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli, today inaugurated Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre at District Court Complex, Jammu.

Present on the occasion were Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Shahzad Azeem Judges of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Yash Paul Bourney Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu, Registrar General Mohinder Kumar Sharma of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Ravinder Nath Watal Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu, Registrar Vigilance Rajiv Gupta, Officers of the registry, Nirmal Kishore Kotwal Bar President along with Bar members, Judicial officers of District Court Complex, Jammu, Monika Kohli Additional Advocate General and Anil Sharma, Chief LADC Jammu.

The facility aims to prevent the secondary victimization and ensure fair, sensitive recording of evidence. This marks a significant step towards victim-centric justice delivery in the Union Territory. The Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre has been established to provide a safe, non-intimidating and conducive environment for vulnerable witnesses, including children, victims of sexual offences and persons with disabilities, to depose before the court.

The center is equipped with modern facilities including separate waiting areas, live-link video conferencing, one-way mirrors, and child-friendly infrastructure to prevent secondary victimization during trial proceedings, in line with Supreme Court guidelines.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice emphasized that establishment of VWDC reflects the judiciary's commitment towards upholding the rights and dignity of vulnerable witnesses and ensuring fair trial without fear or trauma.

## Ladakh Signs MoU with Jal Shakti Ministry

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a major push to strengthen drinking water infrastructure in Ladakh, the Union Territory Administration, led by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti for the effective implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0, with the Ministry bearing 100 per cent central funding for water connections in each household in Ladakh.

Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, Minister of State V. Somanna, and Ministry Secretary Ashok K.K. Meena were present during the signing ceremony.

One of the most striking features of the MoU, accessed by KNO is the 100 per cent central funding for water connections in each household in Ladakh, as declared by Minister Patil.

Treating Ladakh as a special case, the Ministry will bear the entire cost of ₹4 lakh per water connection in

Ladakh. Notably, in the case of other states and Union Territories, 10 to 40 per cent of the cost is borne by the respective state or UT.

The development follows the proactive engagement of LG Saxena with the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, where-in key issues related to water security in Ladakh were deliberated upon. The Lieutenant Governor has consistently advocated for enhanced central assistance and interventions in development projects in Ladakh, tailored to its unique ecological and geographical context.

According to the MoU, a structured framework has been established to ensure the commissioning and handover of piped water supply systems to local institutions such as Gram Panchayats and Village Water & Sanitation Committees. The MoU was signed between the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department of the UT Administration.

## GDC Pulwama Hosts Lecture on Neurodegenerative Disease Therapies

**PULWAMA:** Government Degree College (GDC) Pulwama organised an extension lecture on neurodegenerative diseases, with speakers highlighting recent advances in treatment strategies for such disorders. The lecture, organised by the Department of Biotechnology in the college auditorium, focused on the theme "Development of therapeutic modalities for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases".

Principal of the college, Dr Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, in his address said such lectures are important for supplementing classroom teaching and exposing students to current research developments. Dr Niyaz Naik introduced the speaker and outlined the objective of organising extension lectures.

According to KNS, the session was delivered by Dr Suhail Rasool, Senior Vice President and Director of Neurodegenerative Diseases Research at Trubinding Inc and Suniflam Inc, California. He spoke about advancements in therapeutic approaches targeting disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, officials said.

Faculty members and students from the college, as well as participants from nearby paramedical institutes, attended the lecture and interacted with the speaker.

Organisers said the session provided a platform for exchange of ideas and discussions on potential research collaborations. They said such initiatives are aimed at promoting academic engagement and strengthening research culture among students. (Observer News Service)

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHANSAHIB.**

Subject: Self-Enumeration for Census 2027 within the limits of Municipal Committee Khansahib  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Through the medium of this notice, the general public of Khansahib residing within the Municipal limits is hereby informed that the first phase of Census 2027, comprising House Listing and Housing Census, shall be conducted from 01 June 2026 to 30 June 2026 across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

In this regard, the Government of India, for the first time, has provided the facility of Self-Enumeration through the Self-Enumeration Portal to facilitate smooth and convenient participation of the general public at their doorstep. Accordingly, all residents of Khansahib Town are hereby advised to complete self-enumeration using the Self-Enumeration Portal during the prescribed period w.e.f 17 May 2026 to 31 May 2026.

Self-Enumeration Period: 17 May 2026 to 31 May 2026

Official Portal: <https://se.census.gov.in>

**Steps for Self-Enumeration:**

1. Visit the official Self-Enumeration Portal.
2. Register using your mobile number.
3. Fill in household and individual details carefully.
4. Verify the information and submit the form.
5. Save the reference number for future use.

The residents of Khansahib Town are requested to provide correct and complete information to ensure accurate Census records, which are essential for planning and development.

In case of any difficulty, residents may contact the Census Cell at the following numbers:

7006085728, 9906512629, 9906439976, 7006952095.

All residents are requested to complete the process within the stipulated time and extend full cooperation in making Census 2027 successful.

No: MC/KSB/2026/479-82

Dated: 05/05/2026

DIPK-NB-392-26

DT: 06/05/2026

Charge Census Officer

Municipal Committee

Khansahib

## EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTT. DIVISION-VIII, SRINAGAR JAMMU AND KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION J & K SRINAGAR



TELE FAX 0194-2491342

### TIME EXTENSION NOTICE-II

(e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/TS/ 03 of 2026 Dated: 28-03-2026.)

No-TLMD-VIII/TS/600-605

Dated: 06 : 05 : 2026

To invoke better response, the Critical Dates of e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/TS/ 03 of 2026 Dated: 28-03-2026 issued by this Division under endorsement No. TLMD-VIII/TS/6628-32 Dated: 28-03-2026 for "Supply and Installation of Three Phase CT/PT Operated Smart ABT Feeder Meters (0.2S Class) With NIC-enabled Communication, Control Cabling, Digital Input Facilities, Cloud Storage, Backend IT Hardware Support and all associated Installation Works Including all in One PC for Energy Monitoring, Reporting and Data Analysis at Grid Level at all 220/132/33kV Grid Sub Stations of JKPTCL- Kashmir are further extended as under.

#### EXTENDED CRITICAL DATES

S.#	Description	Extended Date/Time
1.	e-Bid Submission (end) Date & Time (Submission of e-Tender Fee, EMD and Other Supporting Documents in PDF formats)	18-05-2026. (4.00PM)
2.	Online Techno-Commercial e-Bid Opening Date and Time.	19-05-2026 (3.30 PM)

All other Terms & Conditions as detailed in the e-NIT/SBD shall remain unchanged.

DIPK-NB-391-26  
DT: 06/05/2026

Sd./-  
Executive Engineer  
TLMD-VIII Srinagar.

# Congress Backs TVK, to Join Vijay-Led Cabinet

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** The Congress party, a long-time ally of the DMK, on Wednesday announced its support to actor-politician Vijay's TVK to form a government in Tamil Nadu and severed ties with the Dravidian major.

The Congress asserted that it would be part of the new government to be led by TVK and share the responsibility of governance.

The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee's (TNCC) move to breakaway from the DMK's fold paves the way for a new political realignment in the state.

The TNCC and the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) have decided to extend its full support to the TVK to form the government, AICC Tamil Nadu in-charge Girish Chodankar said, citing TVK chief Vijay's request seeking support.

Congress workers burst fire-crackers at the party state headquarters Sathyamurthi Bhavan here to welcome the announcement.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Vijay, Chodankar said the Congress party would be part of the new government. "We will not just support from outside," he said, adding his party would have responsibility and

accountability and be part of the government.

"For us the people's mandate is supreme. We respect people's mandate," he said.

Vijay had assured in 2024 that his party would give a share in power to allies.

The TVK won 108 seats in the 234-member strong Tamil Nadu Assembly in the recently held elections. 118 is the majority mark to form the government.

Chodankar, in a statement, said Vijay has formally requested the Congress party to extend its support for forming a government in Tamil Nadu. The people of Tamil Nadu, especially the youth, have delivered a very clear, strong and overwhelming verdict for a secular, progressive and welfare government that believes in constitutional principles. They have chosen the TVK led by Vijay to form the next government.

He said: "The Indian National Congress stands for, and is the founding political party for, secular, progressive and welfare politics in India. It is our constitutional duty to respect, uphold and help fulfil this mandate of the people of Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee and the Congress Legislative Party (CLP)



have decided to extend its full support to the TVK to form the government."

The Congress, however, came up with a condition and asked the TVK to ensure that communal forces that do not believe in the Constitution of India are kept out of the alliance fold. The alliance between the TVK and the Tamil Nadu Congress will strive to bring back iconic leader Perunthalaivar (great leader) Kamaraj's "glory days of Tamil Nadu," with a strong commitment to Periyar EVR's social justice and Dr B R Ambedkar's constitutional ideals in the years and decades to come.

He said: "This alliance - founded on mutual respect, appropriate share, and shared responsibility between the two

parties is not only for the formation of this government, but also for future elections to the local body organisations, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha."

Vijay and Rahul Gandhi jointly pledge to respect this historic verdict of the people of Tamil Nadu for a secular and progressive government, and to fulfil the dreams and promises of the people, especially the youth of Tamil Nadu, Chodankar underlined in the statement.

Chodankar, TNCC president K Selvaperunthagai, Legislative party leader S Rajesh Kumar and party office-bearer Praveen Chakravarthy, called on Vijay at TVK party office at Panaiyur here and handed over a letter of support to form the government. TVK leaders, including K

Sengottaiyan were present.

DMK is one of the oldest allies of the Congress party and the two parties j 65% Bengal MLAs Face Criminal Cases, 61% Crorepatis

New Delhi, May 6 (PTI) As many as 65 per cent of newly elected legislators in the West Bengal Assembly have declared criminal cases against themselves, marking a sharp rise from the previous election, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The report, which analysed affidavits of all 292 winning candidates in the 2026 Assembly polls, found that 190 MLAs (65%) have declared criminal cases, up from 142 (49%) in 2021. Of these, 170 legislators (58%) face serious criminal charges, compared to 113 (39%) in the previous Assembly.

Among serious offences, 14 winning candidates have declared cases related to murder (IPC Section 302), while 54 face charges of attempt to murder. Cases related to crimes against women were declared by 63 winners, including two candidates who have disclosed rape charges.

A party-wise analysis showed that 152 of 206 winning candidates (74%) from the Bharatiya Janata Party have declared crim-

inal cases, followed by 34 out of 80 (43%) from the All India Trinamool Congress.

All winning candidates from smaller parties like the Aam Janata Unnayan Party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and the All India Secular Front have declared criminal cases. In contrast, both winning candidates from the Indian National Congress have no criminal cases.

The trend is similar for serious criminal cases, with 68 per cent of BJP winners and 31 per cent of Trinamool Congress winners facing such cases.

The ADR report also highlighted the growing wealth among elected representatives. Of the 292 winners, 178 (61%) are crorepatris, up from 54 per cent in 2021. The total declared assets of all winning candidates stand at Rs 1,091 crore, with an average asset of Rs 3.73 crore per MLA, significantly higher than Rs 2.53 crore recorded in the previous Assembly.

Among major parties, the TMC MLAs have average assets of Rs 5.36 crore, followed by BJP legislators at Rs 2.97 crore. The two Congress MLAs reported the highest average assets overall at Rs 17.92 crore.

On educational qualifications, 63 per cent of the winning can-

didates are graduates or above, while 32 per cent have studied between Class 5 and Class 12. A small number of legislators reported minimal formal education, including one candidate who declared himself illiterate.

The age profile shows that the majority of MLAs (63%) fall in the 41-60 age group, while only 16 per cent are between 25 and 40 years. Around 20 per cent of the legislators are aged between 61 and 80, with three candidates above 80 years.

Women remain underrepresented, with only 37 out of 292 MLAs (13%) being female, a slight decline from 14 per cent in 2021, the report noted.

The ADR report underscored persistent concerns about the criminalisation of politics and the rising concentration of wealth among elected representatives in one of India's key states.

oined hands for the first time in 1971 when Assembly and Lok Sabha polls were held together. DMK was part of the UPA regimes from 2004 to 2013. In 2016, the Congress revived its ties with the DMK.

The DMK has dubbed the act of Congress to snap ties with it and join forces with TVK as "backstabbing."

## 65% Bengal MLAs Face Criminal Cases, 61% Crorepatis

Press Trust of India

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MEDIA

## 'Brash & Outspoken': CNN Founder Ted Turner Dies at 87

AP

**NEW YORK:** Ted Turner, a brash and outspoken television pioneer who raced yachts, owned huge chunks of the American West and transformed the news business by launching CNN in 1980, has died at age 87.

CNN reported that he died Wednesday, citing a Turner Enterprises news release.

Turner owned professional sports teams in Atlanta, defended the America's Cup in yachting in 1977 and donated a stunning USD 1 billion to United Nations charities. He married three

women — most famously actress Jane Fonda — and earned the nicknames "Captain Outrageous" and "The Mouth of the South."

He once bragged: "If only I had a little humility, I'd be perfect."

He was slowed in later years by Lewy Body Dementia. Long since out of the television business, he concentrated on philanthropy and his more than two million acres of property, including the nation's largest bison herd.

His garrulous personality sometimes overshadowed a driven, risk-taking business

acumen. By the time he sold his Turner Broadcasting System to Time Warner Inc. in a 1996 media megadeal, Turner had turned his late father's billboard company into a global conglomerate that included seven major cable networks, three professional sports teams and a pair of hit movie studios.

Turner's signature achievement was creating CNN, the first 24-hour, all-news television network in 1980. At a time news is instantly available at anyone's fingertips, it's hard to recall that the idea of letting consumers decide when they

choose to learn what's going on in the world was once revolutionary.

In part, Turner's own frustration with television news was the instigator. He often worked past 8 pm, after the ABC, CBS and NBC nightly newscasts had already gone off the air, and was in bed by the time his local stations did their own newscasts at 11 pm.

He took a chance by starting the operation sometimes derided as the "chicken noodle network" in the early days of cable television, living in an apartment above its Atlanta office.

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30	18.0L

**Small amount, big corpus**

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

**More time = more compounding**

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